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MR. AND MRS. C. KENNETH VINCENT

who especially wish to thank

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who not only have made this collection possible,
but whose friendship they consider the rarest
and most precious item of all.

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POPULAR AMERICAN RUBY-STAINED PATTERN GLASS

by

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One aid to the identification of anything, is a common understanding of the meaning of terms used in descriptions. There is great confusion in what to call glass which is fundamentally clear, but which has a surface red color added to the decorative detail. An understanding of the various terms and what they mean is absolutely necessary to intelligent collecting. The terms which need clarification are "Ruby Glass", "Ruby-Flashed Glass" and "Ruby-Stained Glass".

"Ruby Glass" is properly used to describe glass which is made of a comparatively expensive gold solution formula, and is red in color all the way through, solid color. True "Cranberry" glass falls into this group, although it usually has applied clear glass parts.

"Ruby-Flashed" is the proper term for a less expensive method of making a piece of glass appear to have been made of solid color. A small quantity of ruby glass is blown slightly, cooled a bit, and then dipped into a batch of clear, molten glass, and the desired item is then made. This gives the finished article a thin colored coat, a mere film of color in relation to the amount of clear glass used.

"Ruby-Stained" is the name for the least expensive way of obtaining red color on a piece of glass. The item is fashioned in the usual way from clear, molten glass, usually pressed in one of several thousand patterns. The staining material, usually ruby-red in color, was painted onto the annealed glass with a brush, wherever it was desired for decorative effect, and fired on for permanency. This enabled one factory to produce the glass items and to sell them to various decorating companies, where different portions of the same pattern could be stained. The glass in this book is of this variety.

Many of the items illustrated herewith have only been previously recorded as having been made in clear glass. In addition to many of these patterns being shown in ruby-stained glass for the first time, many of the articles illustrated have never been previously recorded as having been made in the pattern listed, neither in clear nor ruby-stained.

Ruby-stained glass was a late Victorian introduction, and frequently was used to decorate souvenir pieces, etched with place names, people's names and dates. It is enlightening to note that most of this production came from the fabulous Pittsburgh area during the 1880's and 1890's.