

Ubiquitous, but Largely Ignored



Figure 2. a. Wineglass cooler, c. 1800-50, H. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " D. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Probably English or Irish. Blown-molded of clear, colorless, lead glass in the form of a deep bowl, with two tooled lips, ground pontil and the lower half with vertical fluting.

b. Water plate, c. 1800-50, D. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Probably English or Irish. Molded of clear colorless lead glass in the form of a dish with fluting lower half and ground pontil.

c. Wineglass, c. 1760, H. 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". English. Blown clear, colorless lead glass with ogee bowl applied to a straight cotton twist stem applied to a plain foot with rough pontil. Anonymous collector.

THE OBJECTS: The early coolers are primarily of English origin with a few known continental examples. Presumably they were also made in America, at least by the mid 19th century, as their use continued into the 20th century. However, the degree of usage in America appears not well documented, and perhaps it was not nearly as pervasive as in England. The first example is of an unusual, rare style with rounded bowl base, an applied foot and attractive pinched trellis ('nipt diamond wais')—decoration harkening back to that of George Ravenscroft in the late 17th century. The applied foot is uncommon. When struck with a finger, this piece has a prolonged bell-like resonance (Fig. 1). The second example is of a more common form and decoration. However, it has a matching water-plate, which is quite rare. It is uncertain whether this is an original or an assembled set. The plates rarely survive, or at least they are no longer with their bowls, whereas the bowls are common and now often used as flower holders (Fig. 2).

¹ G. Bernard Hughes, *English, Scottish & Irish Table Glass*, Bramhall House, 1950

² M. S. Dudley Westropp, *Irish Glass*, Herbert Jenkins Limited, 1978.

³ McKearin, *American Glass*, Crown, 1978.

⁴ Dwight P. Lanmon, *The Golden Age of English Glass, 1650-1775*, Antique Collectors' Club, 2011.

⁵ Arlene Palmer, *Glass in Early America*, A Winterthur Book, 1993.

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