



Open Doors

One of the things visitors to the museum saw during Open Doors South Milwaukee was a new display of **Uranium Glass**.

So...What is uranium glass: It's glass that has had uranium added to it before melting to create colors. Usually they were made with "low" levels of uranium, 2%-25%.

It was used for decorative tableware or household items. The uranium was added for the fluorescent effect it created and was very popular across Europe and North America. The easiest way to tell if uranium glass is real is to look at it under UV light (black light). Real uranium glass will glow green. The brightness of the color depends on the uranium content.

I first became aware of uranium glass during a visit to our sister museum in Mukwonago, WI. I was excited to find that we have a number of examples at our own museum and set up a display in the kitchen.

Manufacture of uranium glass dropped dramatically in the 1940s as a result of WWII because uranium was needed for other uses.

If you missed it during Open Doors, stop in during one of our open Saturdays and check it out then.

Richard Thinner



A couple of our favorite pieces