

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

When you sit down at the dinner table for a meal, you probably don't spare too much thought on the dinnerware you eat off. If your dinnerware is an uncommon color, however, you might stop for a moment to admire it. This could be the case if your meal was served on an eye-catching seafoam green piece of Fire-King jadeite glassware. This month's artifact, collected on the Brighton Reservation, is a shard of what we believe was once a piece of Fire-King jadeite.

Fire-King jadeite was a line of glassware produced by the company Anchor-Hocking beginning in the 1940s. They were not the originators of jadeite glassware, however.



The Tattered Pew

Jadeite was first popularized by the McKee Glass Company in 1930, and its competitor Jeanette Glass Company quickly jumped on the trend in response to the success of McKee's jadeite line (Keller & Ross, 1999; Vettel, n.d.). Although these two rival glass companies pioneered this kind of glassware, it was Anchor-Hocking that became the powerhouse of jadeite production, as they were responsible for much of the jadeite that appeared in many American households from 1945 to 1975 (Keller & Ross, 1999).

Today, original Fire-King jadeite pieces are coveted finds for antique collectors, but modern replicas are widely sold, so anyone can acquire and enjoy this unique glassware.



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Works Cited

Keller, J. & Ross, D. (1999). *Jadite: An Identification & Price Guide*. Schiffer Publishing Ltd. Retrieved April 7, 2025, from <https://archive.org/details/jaditeidentifica0000kell/page/n5/mode/2up>

Vettel, C. (n.d). *Jadeite Dishware: A Collector's Guide*. American Farmhouse Style. Retrieved April 7, 2025, from <https://americanfarmhousestyle.com/collect-jadeite-dishware/>

