

Fairy Lamp Club Newsletter

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MURANO FAIRY LAMP WITH APPLIED GLASS DECORATION by Jim

Members of the Fairy Lamp Club have documented scores of fairy lamps imported from Murano, Italy, by Koscherak Brothers. They came in several styles and various types of art glass including Millefiori, MOP satin, and Burmese. None of these previously known fairy lamps had applied glass decorations.¹



There were, however, many other forms of Murano glass produced in the 1960's that have such decorations.² Given that this type of fairy lamp is unknown to our Fairy Lamp Club members, I think it is safe to assume that it is of very limited production and relatively rare.

¹ Fairy Lamp Club Newsletter, Issue 32, August 2004.

² Confusing Collectibles, Dorothy Hammond, 1969.

The lamp is two-piece with the dome resting on the smooth shoulder of the matching base. The color is a very unusual brown with a very smooth satin finish. The true brown color is difficult to photograph due to the reflective nature of the satin glass. It is cased on the interior with a layer of lighter brown glass.



The matching base has a waisted bulbous shape with a hand-tooled flared and crimped rim. The base is polished flat and has a polished pontil scar.



The applied glass decoration consists of green leaves and deep "amber red" fruit. They are connected by an "amber brown" vine. The fruit reminds me of figs but I do not know what they are intended to be.

Backlighting the shade reveals bright red fruit and green striations in the leaves. The brown

satin glass glows "amber red" when backlit.
It is very impressive to say the least.



The shade and base are triple-cased consisting of a thick outer layer of brown, cased with a white layer, followed by a thinner layer of lighter brown glass. The shade only has one notch cut in the rim for air which is typical of many Murano fairy lamps.

Needless to say, this fairy lamp is very unusual and would be a welcome addition to any fairy lamp collection, contemporary or Victorian.

The overall height is approximately eight inches and the lamp weighs over two pounds!

FRATELLI TOSO FAIRY LAMP by Jim

Not too long ago I came across a Murano fairy lamp on eBay auctions. We have seen this style before and it almost went unnoticed until I read the seller's description.



The seller of this lamp not only attributed this lamp to the Koscherak Brothers³ but also to Fratelli Toso, an Italian glass company.

Fratelli Toso Glass has a long family history beginning in 1854 and continues today under the name Antica Vetreria Fratelli Toso.⁴

The seller cited *Fratelli Toso, Italian Glass 1854-1980* by Leslie Pina, page 77, as the source of the attribution. This reference book is unknown to me. I do not know if there are other fairy lamps illustrated or even discussed. On-line booksellers describe it as having over 400 color photos on thick glossy paper with values. In addition, they indicate that this is the only book written exclusively on the work of Fratelli Toso published in English.⁵

It is a rather expensive book which sells for about \$70 on Amazon.com. If you happen to own this book, or have knowledge of it, we would all appreciate hearing from you.

³ New York importers of European art glass in the 1950s to early 1960s. They used a blue and silver label with the initials "KB."

⁴ www.fratellitoso.it

⁵ www.trademe.co.nz/Books/index.htm