Some Glassmaking Terms and Techniques

Applied dots
A decorative technique made by applying chips of colored glass to the surface of a vessel.

Blownpipe
A hollow tube usually made of metal and used to blow glass.

Gob
A thick thread of glass applied to a vessel as a handle, a base, or as a decoration.

Core-formed glass
A vessel made by rolling molten glass around a core of clay, sand, or organic material made in the shape of the desired vessel.

Faience
A glazed, non-clay ceramic substance used for amulets, jewelry, and small sculptures in ancient Egypt.

Free-blown glass
A vessel made by blowing air through a blownpipe into the center of a gob.

Furnace
A vessel or object made by pouring molten glass into a mold.

Glasseye
A bird's eye made by melting together at least 1150 degrees Fahrenheit to transform the raw material into a molten state.

Glass
A material made by melting together at least 1150 degrees Fahrenheit to transform the raw material into a molten state.

Gob
A mass of molten glass picked up on the end of a blowpipe.

Mandrel
A solid iron rod used to hold the molten glass while it is shaped and decorated.

Petrol red
A solid iron rod used to hold the molten glass while it is shaped and decorated.

Red-formed glass
A vessel fashioned on the end of a mandrel.

Trails
A streak of glass applied to the surface of a vessel as a rim, handle, or base, and often as surface decoration.
A ncient Glass

There is a story that once a ship belonging to traders in natural soda put in here at the mouth of the Belus River, which flows from Mt. Carmel to the Mediterranean Sea. Now, it is said, this was the origin of glass. When these became heated and were completely molten, they probably would not cool down, and their heat remained unchanged.

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At the beginning of the 18th Dynasty (c. 1539–1292 BCE), aushabti is a small figure to answer for the deceased in the afterlife. When transformed into a funerary amulet, it could be an independent glass industry developed in Mesopotamia, where cone-formed vessels similar to those made in Egypt were being produced.

The Roman did much to spread glassmaking technology. With their conquests, elaborate network of roads, trade relations, and strong political and economic influence, the Romans created the conditions for the flourishing of glassmaking throughout the Mediterranean and in Rome. During the Augustan Age, for example, glass vessels began to appear throughout Italy, Gaul, Germany, and Spain. Roman glass has even been found at as far west as China, shipped along the silk routes. The popularity of Roman glass waned post its unification and sustainable price base on its transparency and the beauty of its form and color.

During the 1st through the 3rd centuries CE, the major centers of glass production centered in Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and in the Rhine Valley in Germany. A host of different shapes emerged, including comports and perfume containers, drinking and serving vessels, bowls, and other shapes and forms meant to suit various occasions and metals.

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