

FROM KING FEATURES WEEKLY SERVICE,
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KOVELS ANTIQUES AND COLLECTING

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By Terry and Kim Kovel

PHOTO CREDIT: Fontaine's Auction Gallery

PHOTO CAPTION: This iridescent glass vase

was made by Arthur Douglas Nash, whose

father created the famous Favrile glass for

Tiffany Studios.

Iridescent Glass

Arthur J. Nash worked for the Thomas Webb & Sons art glass factory in his native England, but didn't do his best, most innovative work until he came to America. His glassmaking expertise made him a perfect fit for the Tiffany Glass & Decorating Company, founded in 1892. Although Louis Comfort Tiffany achieved fame as a glass designer, he did not make his own glass. Nash established Tiffany Furnaces in Corona, New York, where he created the formula for the company's famous Favrile iridescent glass.

Like many glassmakers, Nash's work was a family affair; his sons followed in his footsteps. One of his sons, Leslie, is said to have been the only other person who knew the Favrile glass formula. Another son, Arthur Douglas, took over Tiffany Furnaces in 1919. After Tiffany Furnaces closed, he started the A. Douglas Nash Corporation. His wares included his own iridescent glass.

The flower-shaped vase shown here, which sold for \$300 at Fontaine's Auction Gallery, is one of his pieces. The gold color and molded texture are characteristics of A. Douglas Nash glass. Even if it resembles Tiffany glass or the iridescent glass made by many other companies at the time, it is definitely Nash's work; it has his signature. His company closed in 1931, but Arthur Douglas continued making glass. The Libbey Glass Company hired him to create its luxury glassware lines.

Q: I am curious about an old children's pedal bike shaped like the Road Runner from "Looney Tunes." It has three wheels and is marked "Hedstrom Corp., Bedford PA." What can you tell me about it, and what is it worth?

A: The Hedstrom Corp. was founded in Ashland, Ohio, in 1914 to make balloons. They expanded into plastic toys, making balls by 1923 and riding toys by 1936. Their Bedford, Pennsylvania, plant opened



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in 1966 and closed in 2004. It made blow-molded toys. Hedstrom is still operating today in Ashland as a division of Ball, Bounce & Sport, Inc., making children's plastic and inflatable toys with licensed characters. There was a Hedstrom bicycle company in Massachusetts that was apparently not related. We have not found a specific date of manufacture for your Road Runner tricycle, but it is very rare and desirable to collectors of "Looney Tunes" toys. One sold online for \$400 some years ago.

TIP: Don't use ammonia to clean glass if it is decorated or iridescent. Wash it in warm water with mild dishwashing liquid or soap.

CURRENT PRICES

Lunch box, Fireball XL5, rocket, man and woman in lower corner, futuristic background scene, yellow trim, tin, Thermos, red cup, Independent Television, 1964, \$110.

Opalescent glass, pitcher, water, cranberry, seaweed pattern, globular, ruffled rim, clear handle, Hobb's, 9 inches, \$300.

Weathervane, fish, bluefish, wood, carved, painted, carved gills and fins, round eye, folk art, 7 x 31 inches, \$1,420.

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