

## Summary

### Bohemian Baroque Cut Glass

Bohemian Baroque cut glass dates back to the reign of Rudolph II., when numerous artists came to Prague including gem cutters and, later on, also glassmakers such as Caspar Lehmann. The promising development was interrupted by the Thirty Years' War. However, that was followed by a prosperous period and advances in perfecting the glass, which came to be known as "Bohemian crystal" due to its properties that were similar to rock crystal produced at an earlier time. Bohemian crystal triggered a development in engraving and cutting techniques for which it was suitable due to its unusual hardness, and soon the Bohemian cut glass attained an exquisite quality. The development of Bohemian glassmaking was also influenced by other countries with their own specific glass production, such as Italy and Germany. The products, which were purely status symbols at first, gradually became popular and reached the wider public. The motifs of the Bohemian Baroque cut glass came primarily from graphic works and coins, and were further influenced by the style of the time and clients' wishes. Two regions with the highest concentration of glassworks gradually developed in the lands of the Bohemian Crown. The first was South Bohemia and the second North Bohemia, which also became a centre for refining techniques. The Bohemian Baroque cut glass became a very popular and desirable item worldwide. It was exported in large quantities to foreign countries and competed considerably with Venetian glass that had dominated the glass trade until that time. Any historical and economic upheaval had a negative effect on Bohemian glass production, and particularly the historical events of the second half of the 18th century brought about the end of this famous era.

Number of signs: 128 789

151 600

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