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Figure 28, Czech hen, clear blue, Figure 30, Czech hen, clear red, Figure 32, Czech hen, opaque green slag  
 alle Fotos Sammlung Judi Morrell, aus Shirley Smith, <http://henonnest.com/doc/MakerUnknown.htm>, 2. "Czech" Hen  
 Hersteller und Datum des Originals unbekannt, Tschechien, um 1995, VITRUM, spol. s r.o., Sklárna Janov, Janov nad Nisou, CZ

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Oktober 2005

## Zwei Hennen auf Körben mit „XXX“, Vitrum Sklárna Janov, um 1995 Zu den Deckeldosen als Korb mit „XXX“: Wildschwein, Fuchs, Kaninchen, Hennen, Schwan, ???, Hersteller weiter unbekannt

Im Oktober 2005 konnte ich im Programm einer Tagung tschechischer Glashistoriker an einer Besichtigung in einem der kleineren der noch arbeitenden Glaswerke in Janov nad Nisou [Johannesberg], nördlich von Jablonec nad Nisou [Gablonz a.d.N.] teilnehmen. An einem der beiden Glasöfen arbeiten noch 4 Mannschaften mit Pressmaschinen, der zweite Glasofen ist zerstört. Bei der Besichtigung wurden sehr einfache Pressgläser hergestellt. Das bekannteste Pressglas ist eine kleine Deckeldose in vielen transparenten und opaken Farben, die immer wieder als Glas aus den 1930-er Jahren angeboten wird. In Wirklichkeit ist sie eine Nachahmung einer Deckeldose von František Halama aus den 1930-er Jahren. Auch andere Dosen aus den 1930-er Jahren werden weiter nachgeahmt und von den Trödlern der Gegend als alt verkauft. Einiges davon kann man auch im Werksverkauf finden. Die interessanteren Pressgläser konnte man im Schauraum finden.

Die interessantesten Gläser im Schauraum waren drei **Deckeldosen, zwei davon Hennen auf einem Korb, auf dessen Unterseite „XXX“ eingepresst** ist. Der dritte Korb hat einen einfachen Deckel mit Griff. Einer der Hennenkörbe war transparent hellblau, der andere war opak-dunkelgrün marmoriert. Die Hennen haben eine so markante und unverwechselbare Form, dass ich sofort an die Website von Shirley Smith dachte. Und da habe ich diese Hennen auch gefunden.

Leider konnte ich die Gläser im Schauraum nicht fotografieren. Deshalb kann ich die Details der Körbe nicht vergleichen. Sicher ist, dass die Hennen vollständig identisch mit denen aus der Sammlung Morell sind, die auf der Website von Shirley Smith dokumentiert wurden.

Auch die Maße der drei Deckeldosen konnte ich nicht feststellen, sie waren geschätzt rund 17 cm lang = 6 ¾ Zoll. **Siehe auch PK 2005-4, eBay ..., Abb. 2005-4/xxx**

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Figure 27, Czech hen, milk glass  
 Figure 29, Czech hen, base bottom  
 Figure 31, Czech hen, clear turquoise (photo Judi Morrell) aus Smith, <http://henonnest.com/doc/MakerUnknown.htm>  
 2. "Czech" Hen



<http://henonnest.com/doc/MakerUnknown.htm>

## 2. "Czech" Hen

Note: Since there are **two totally different style HONs with the "XXX"** moulded on the bottom of the base, I am dividing them into **two categories: "Czech"** and **"Polish"**.

These have been seen with a sticker that says **"SPECEK-GLASS Czech Republic Hand Made."** They have also been seen referred to as "Bohemian" glass. They have also been seen with an oval and gold sticker that said **"HAND-MADE / for / CASTLE ANTIQUES / CZECH REPUBLIC"**.

Size: Base 6-3/4" x 4-5/8", Top 5-1/8" x 4-1/8"

**Colors:** Milk glass, yellow (vaseline?), amberina, turquoise blue frosted, turquoise blue clear, green slag (no white), blue slag (no white), dark blue clear (not cobalt), red clear.

### Reference:

Blalock, Jill. GlassHen e-list post, April 2, 2002.  
Chiarenza, Frank. "New Findings on 'XXX' Covered Dishes", Opaque News, Sep 95:4; Mar 96:5  
Grizel, Ruth. Who's Who in the Hen House. Self-published, nd (1998?), p. 7. She is wrong about the head being straight ahead; it is cocked to the left.  
Morrell, Judi. E-mail and pictures, November, 2002.

<http://henonnest.com/doc/MakerUnknown.htm>

## 2. "Polish" Hen

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Figure 17 "Polish" 5-inch variant  
Figure 16 "Polish" I, 5" Base Bottom  
aus Smith, <http://henonnest.com/doc/MakerUnknown.htm>  
2. "Czech" Hen



c. 5 inch: Base 5-1/4" x 4-1/4" Top 4-13/16" x 3-5/8"  
Head turned left' XXX marking on bottom of base.  
Milk glass, green, amber, blue, and clear. This hen dish also shows the variation in the base rim.

d. 4 inch variant: Base 3-7/8" x 3" Top 3-5/8" x 2-3/4"  
Head turned right. No eggs; Milk glass, pink, amber, green, blue.

e. 4 inch: Base 3-15/16" x 3" Top 3-1/2" x 2-5/8"  
"XXX" moulded into the bottom of the base.  
[see [Zabkowiec](#)]

### Marks:

Many of these have been seen with a sticker that says **"Made in Poland."** Some sizes have "XXX" molded into the bottom of the base as noted above.

### Comments:

Several eBay sellers have listed this hen as made in England in the 1930s. Has been noted as being purchased in Germany in 1975.

Note the similarity between the "Polish" I hen and the British Beswick pottery hens. Of course, we don't know which one came first!

Shirley Smith, Oktober 2005:

Dear Siegmur,

The latest e-mail which you sent had a catalog page from Riedel. The hen on nest #362 shown on that page is NOT the same as the one which you found in the factory!!! I recently won this eBay auction 7183664666. This, I think, is a Riedel hen on nest #362. It has the XXX on the bottom of the base. It is very, very old. I am attaching the pictures from the auction. I can take more pictures if you want me to. I can show the Czech XXX hen and the Riedel hen side by side in the picture. I note that the strands [SG: hier Weidenruten] woven on the sides of the base of the Riedel hen #362 are NOT 3 strands as shown in the drawing in the Riedel catalog page. The Riedel hen dish which I have is 2 strands woven. I think that the artists who drew the pictures for the old catalogs often did not draw them accurately. This might be why the #362 is shown with 3 woven strands. Perhaps the artist drew both pictures and did not look closely at the base of the smaller hen dish. The head of #361 is very different from the head of the Czech XXX hen which you found in the factory. So is the wing and the tail.

I have found that I cannot trust the artist's drawings in old catalogs to be accurate. Do you know the sizes of the hen dishes shown in the Riedel catalog pages? What is the name of the glass factory in Janov, Czechia? Thank you very, very much for sharing your information.

Shirley in Charleston, WV

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eBay England, Art.Nr. 7183664666, (£ 3,25) ca. € 4,79  
 "GLASS TWO PIECE CHICKEN DISH in clear glass, and  
 its been painted on the front and the tail, only the lid has  
 paint on it theres no name, but theres a small mark on the  
 back of the chicken that maybe something"  
 H 12,5 cm, B xxx cm, L 15 cm  
 SG: Hersteller unbekannt, im Boden eingepresst „XXX“



SG: Dear Shirley,

Of course You are right that the Riedel hen is not identical with the Janov hen, it is however very similar. The design in the catalogue from 1885 is not always identical with the figures they produced then and later until 1914. Of course you are right not to trust designs for pressed glass items, most of the very old designs in catalogues differ in details, they were merely first suggestions for mould makers and selling agents.

We do not know the measures of Riedel figures. Mr. Stopfer from Vienna, near Bohemia, collects these figures maybe for more than 20 years and has many of them (see PK 2005-3), he never saw or got a Riedel hen and he never saw other figures than such in clear glass with no paintings. Nobody ever found an original Riedel hen here!

There could be a connection between Riedel figures and VITRUM Janov a.s.: after 1945 all original press moulds from Riedel were nationalized, most of them were in his glasswork in Polubný, today Ornela, Desná. There they were used to produce many of the small figures until today. Glasswork Janov is very near to Polubný, some 20 kms. Some of these Riedel moulds in Polubný were stolen in the first years after WW II and got to other glassworks in the region of Jablonec. Glasswork Janov like Desná produced reproductions from original moulds until today. Maybe the moulds of the hen on nest from Riedel were lost in Desna, but got to Janov and were used there.

I asked Mr. Borek Tichý, in Ornela, Desná, whether he knows something about it. Desná never reproduced the 2 hens on nest from Riedel. No moulds of Hens on Baskets exist there nowadays.

I would of course be pleased when you send good pictures of this hen and the "Janov" hen to compare them!

#### Siehe auch:

- PK 2004-1 Boschet, Fehr, Chiarenza, Neumann, SG, Deckeldosen als Korb mit Wildschwein, Fuchs, Kaninchen und zwei Hennen, Hersteller unbekannt; Korb mit „XXX“
- PK 2005-3 Anhang 01, SG, Tichý / Ornela, Musterbuch Josef Riedel, Polaun [Polubný], um 1885 (Auszug)
- PK 2005-4 SG, Glaswerk VITRUM, spol. s r.o., Sklárna Janov, Janov nad Nisou, CZ, 2005 Reproduktionen von Deckeldosen aus den 1930-er Jahren und ...
- PK 2005-4 Chiarenza u.a., "XXX" Animal Covered Dishes - New Findings on "XXX" Covered Dishes Deckeldosen mit Tieren auf Körben mit eingepresstem XXX-Muster
- PK 2005-4 Stopfer, Zwei Deckeldosen von Vitrum s.r.o., Sklárna Janov, Original und Nachahmung Originale Halama und Vogel & Zappe