

Victorian Perfume Bottles

Queen Victoria reigned in England from 1837 to 1901. The years of her reign are called the Victorian period. We see a great variety of styles in the perfume bottles of that time, far more than can be shown here. Different materials were used to make them and they were decorated in many beautiful ways.

Perfume bottles were bought empty and kept on a lady's dressing table. Small ones she carried in her purse. Perfume was purchased at the drugstore in plain containers and then poured into the pretty bottles at home.



*Cameo Glass**

Colored glass was encased in white glass. The white glass was cut away to show the color underneath, leaving the white layer, carved in a pretty design. The cap is of sterling silver. Thomas Webb was a maker of fine cameo glass.



Meissen Scent Bottle

All kinds of porcelain were produced by the Meissen company, the first to produce porcelain in Europe. This porcelain scent bottle has little flowers applied to its surface.



Cut to Clear
"Cut to clear" describes how this type of bottle is made. Clear crystal is encased in a colored crystal. The colored layer is then cut down to the clear layer, leaving the surface of the colored layer.



Often, the smaller Victorian bottles had a hinged cap that enclosed a small glass inner stopper. Because they were so tiny, the stoppers were easily lost.



Hand painted porcelain with sterling silver top.



Double Ended Scent Bottle

These were two bottles fused together. One end was for perfume, the other for smelling salts. They were made in clear glass as well as colors, and also cut and faceted.



Sterling silver scent bottles were heavily embossed with all-over designs. This one has a floral design.



A curved laydown bottle of cut crystal with a silver top represents Victorian bottles in the IPBA logo.