Cameo glass is a luxury form of glass art produced by cameo etching and carving through fused layers of differently colored glass to produce designs, usually with white opaque glass figures and motifs on a dark-colored background. The technique is first seen in ancient Roman art of about 30 BC, where it was an alternative to the more luxurious engraved gem vessels in cameo style that used naturally layered semi-precious gemstones such as onyx and agate. Glass allowed consistent and predictable colored designs.

The Corning Museum of Glass was founded in 1951 to serve as an educational institution sponsored by Corning Glass Works, one of the preeminent and longest-standing glass companies in the United States, now based across the street in the town that shares its name - Corning, New York. Despite its original business affiliation, the museum was established as a non-profit; it was intended to preserve and document an already significant collection of glass artwork owned by the company, with the intention of adding more in the years to come. 19th Century European Glass, the Corning Museum of Glass. I Ray & Lee Grover English Cameo Glass Book