



MM June 1981 No. 5
Indexed

**The National
Early American Glass Club
Newsletter**

Discoveries and upcoming shows of interest will pretty much fill out this Summer's Newsletter. I'd appreciate receiving news and views from all over. John Gotjen, 7 Lyndon Street, Warren, R.I. 02885. Thanks.

The following is stolen in its entirety from our sister club's Glass Circle News. The exclamation marks and editorial inclusions marked "Ed." may be laid wholly at the feet of David Watts and Gabriella Gros who consistently write a fine publication.

Devine Madness or the Pre-Raphaelite Road to Poona.

The following lovely bit of reporting recently cheered our Sunday reading: "A BURNE-JONES DISCOVERY. Two Burne-Jones stained glass windows, together worth £250,000 have been discovered at a disused Anglican church in the foothills of the Himalayas. The grandson of Sir John Wassace, who drafted the Indian Constitution, flew out to pack them for shipping to London. However, Sir John's grandson has taken the Orange Robe and now answers to the name of Swami Deva Pagal (Devine Madman). His plan is to use the money raised at auction to sew magical plants and hallucinatory (!) flora to turn a 100-mile long valley near Poona into a healing centre. A film is to be made about the discovery of the windows and the ensuing vegetable activity (!). The windows are said to have been commissioned by Lord Elgin, are 11 x 5 ft. and depict Salomi and Herod Antipas (not to be confused with Salami and Antipasta which is not a vegetarian dish/Ed.). To preside over the whole venture a committee has been formed in New York which, for some reason, contains Norman Mailer (not yet Naked nor Dead/Ed.), the Swami, and the mother of the Dalai Lama's secretary. If this sounds confusing then all will, doubtless, become clear as soon as the Swami writes his threatened book on the whole subject." --- So now we know? no wonder so many of those mysterious Pre-Raphaelite beauties with half-closed eyes and auburn hair are swooning so ecstatically - they must have grown their hallucinatory flora in the back yard!

And elsewhere in England, Haverhill, Suffolk, to be precise, the auction house of Boardman's will sell the largest stained glass parish church window in the U.K. on 17 June. It measures 60 x 25 ft. and was designed by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Nathaniel H. J. Westlake (1833-1921). It comprises eleven scenes of the Exodus. Boardman's feel the window could be adapted to a "wide variety of uses" but don't name any.

On the home front, I thank Francis Allen of Maryland for sending me a clipping about a lady who attended an auction in southern Maryland and came home with two chairs and a dozen bottles. With fortune which smiles upon few of us, the lady's son's mother-in-law is Orva Heissenbuttel the well-known lecturer who spotted one of the bottles, an amethyst checkered-diamond flask from Amelung's New Bremen Glassmanufactory. The bottle is now on loan to the DAR Museum in Washington where it keeps company with engraved tumbler that Frank Innes discovered a few years ago.

The only disquieting note in this otherwise happy occurrence is that the newspaper headlines an enormous figure as the value of this flask. This is likely not only to prove a source of too great expectation when the owner sells, but also to feed the flames of greed amongst the fraternity of commercial antiques hucksters. In the past month I have observed two cases of this. Messrs Shreve, Crump & Low of Boston have

for sale a common Germanic tumbler with crude engraving which they have deemed to call "Amelung-type". And from the subintelligent to the ludicrous, the Washington auction house of C.G. Sloan & Co. in mid-June are selling what looks to be an Anglo-Irish decanter with engraved (they say "etched") eagle, "bright-cut" monogram, and the guess that it is "Probably Amelung, c. 1810". It is something less than comforting to know that someone at C.G. Sloan & Co. is not put off by the fact that Amelung's glassworks closed down in 1795. Perhaps it's only an example of forward thinking.

From Arlene Schwind in Maine: "A new chapter of the NEAGC, the Glass Study Group of Greater Portland, has successfully completed its first year and members are looking forward to the 1981-82 season. The club was the brainchild of Bobbe Welch, an active member of the Christian Dorflinger club in Maryland until her move to Maine. Under Bobbe's enthusiastic and committed leadership the club has thrived. There are currently 15 members, including area collectors, dealers, and museum professionals. From September to May the club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the homes of its members. Programs over the past year have included talks on iridescent glass, Portland glass, and glass used in early Maine. On May 16th the club traveled to Cambridge and Boston to see the Blaschka glass flowers in the Harvard Botanical Museum and the various collections of glass in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Newly-elected officers for 1981-82 are: President, Bill Schwind; Vice-President, Arlene Palmer Schwind; Secretary, Janice Swales; and Treasurer, Gini McFarland."

While we are in that part of the country, don't forget that the Jones Gallery in Douglas Hill, Maine, is having a series of special events for NEAGC members on 18-20 September 1981. A mailing will go out, but if you think you might be missed, you might write the Gallery directly.

The Corning Museum has currently mounted an exhibit of Czechoslovakian glass from the period of the Middle Ages to the present. I am told it is well worth seeing; and to that end, I'm even giving serious consideration to getting out there myself!

In addition to the schedule in the last Newsletter, the Habatat Galleries in Michigan are showing: 25 JUL-8AUG, an exhibition of the work of 8 glassmakers; 12 SEP-3 OCT, work by Dan Dailey, Linda MacNeil, Dale Chihuly, & Bertil Vallien; 7-28 NOV, Mark Peiser and Kurt Wallstab; & 5-31 DEC, glass by Michael Glancy.

At the Marilyn Faith Gallery in Chicago: 5 JUN-15 JUN, Dale Brownscombe, art glass; 19 JUN-31 JUL, Christopher Ries, glass sculpture; & 7 AUG-25 SEP, David Huchthausen, glass sculpture.

At the Heller Gallery, New York City: 4-27 JUN, Steven Weinberg, cast glass sculpture, and William Carlson, glass constructions. 11-27 JUN, Stephen D. Edwards' sandblasted images, this at the Contemporary Art Glass Gallery, NYC.

Carl U. Fauster has sent me a fine article about the restoration of the 1895 mansion of Edward Drummond Libbey, the great glassmaker and benefactor of Toledo, Ohio. "Toledo area decorators are restoring the old West End home to its original splendor" under the auspices of the Junior League: good work all around.

The Milwaukee Public Museum this Spring has an exhibit of "botanical" paperweights by Paul Stankard from his own and other private collections, plus one of his four windows. Another exhibit at the Museum is "Giants in Glass" showing the work of Louis C. Tiffany and Frederick Carder as well as that of Dominick Labino and Harvey Littleton.