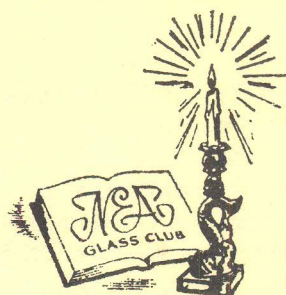


Jan. 1982
No. 7



The National Early American Glass Club Newsletter

The Season is in full swing. In November we had a fine glass sale at which everyone seemed pleased, and the Club actually made a few much-needed dollars. There have already been two glass auctions in New England with more in the offing, I'm told. And the loudly heralded sale of the collection of our past member (and my friend) Cal Ewing is going on piecemeal, though, alas, all his best pieces have been held back. The good advice of Wallace Nutting might be apropos: "We would beseech buyers to take care lest the result of zeal without taste should be ridiculous." -- And I would beseech you to write your unworthy Newsletter coordinator, John Gotjen, 7 Lyndon St., Warren, R.I. 02885.

A book review by Miriam Mucha:

M'Kee Victorian Glass, Five Complete Glass Catalogs from 1859/60 to 1871, by M'Kee and Brothers, with an introduction and text by Lowell Innes and Jane Shadel Spillman. The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, in association with Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, N.Y. 10014. (Dover #0-486-24121-1) 1981. \$5.

At long last there is a new handbook for the collector, M'Kee Victorian Glass. It presents, for the first time, an opportunity to look at a decade of 19th-century Pressed Glass, both through illustrations and price lists. The authors have skilfully introduced the reader to the value of studying both the catalog and the price list by noting: the increase in forms as pressing techniques improve; the rapid increase of lighting devices as kerosene replaces other lamp fuels; and the omission of the term "sets" for these dates. As collectors become motivated by this entrée into reading catalogs and price lists, they will be surprised at the additional revelations: matching pattern stoppers were not made for each decanter; the choice of either rough or grained bottoms were available on many tumblers; and R.L., so well known as Bellflower, appears in fine rib, coarse rib, single vine and double vine.

The regrets are: there is no example of the patented M'Kee design Sprig (Ribbed Palm) on the cover; the authors' summary charts are not on a single page; and the undated price list with a suggested 1863 date does not appear before the 1864 catalog price list.

Kudos to the authors and The Corning Museum of Glass for their contribution to the furtherance of knowledge of 19th-century glass study. This book is a "must" for glass collectors, scholars, and historians.

Dover Publishing is also handling other Corning Museum publications and catalogues. Their extensive catalogue is well worth perusing. Also, the G.K. Hall & Co. Publishers of Boston, Mass., in association with Corning are issuing The History and Art of Glass: Index of Periodical Literature, 1956-1979. The price after 31 JAN 82 is \$85.!

Wrong again: In the third Newsletter I mentioned that Phoebe Phillips' Encyclopedia of Glass had been aborted in publication. Well, I now see that it is out at \$30. From an highly reliable person, I am told that this book is "slipshod" and to be avoided. One well known East Coast museum has even returned its copy!

The National Capital Glass Seminar will be held April 1 and 2, 1982, at the Kenwood Country Club, Bethesda, Maryland. Among the speakers will be Mildred Ward, Chester Cassel, Paul Hollister, Diane Dogan, Gail Krause, and Mendel Peterson. There will also be a special program by Sheldon Butts as well as a reception at the D.A.R. Museum.

As recently as last September, 44 Club members and guests enjoyed the gracious hospitality of Dorothy-Lee Jones at her beautiful house in Douglas Hill, Maine. Therefore, it is particularly sad to report its loss by fire in the early hours of November 9th. Dorothy and her husband Larry got out, but in jumping off the library roof (!), Dorothy broke an ankle. She is now doing all right. And the Gallery down the hill was not damaged, fortunately.

The Census of Stained Glass Windows in America, 1840-1940, was founded in 1979 to make and preserve a published record of this endangered portion of our national artistic heritage. The CSGA will publish both scholarly studies and regional guidebooks. Information is currently needed on the location of stained glass windows with emphasis on windows in obscure places, those in poor condition, and windows in jeopardy of demolition. The removal and/or sale of stained glass windows is also of interest to the CSGA. Please write the CSGA co-ordinator Ms Barbara Dirlam, 138 Biscuit City Road, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881 with any information.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is currently exhibiting a group of bottle molds of the 1850-1868 period. Research leading up to this exhibit was done by our Vice President Miriam Mucha who now probably knows more about 19th century molds than anyone alive.

The Magazine ANTIQUES for October 1981 has an interesting article by Phelps Warren on the differences between the cut glass of Cork and that of Waterford. His forthcoming book Irish Glass, published by Faber and Faber, will explore the entire subject.

Nancy Merrill has sent me the programme for the Tidewater Chapter for 1982.

Feb 4: to the Renwick Gallery, Washington, to see the Venini glass. (See below)

Mar 4: at the Chrysler Museum, Ellen Roberts will talk on The Satisfaction and Trials of Appraising.

Mar 26-28: a two-day trip to New York City.

Can anyone top that?!

Also at the Chrysler Museum, on Apr 21 Dr Martin Eidelberg will deliver the Mable Brown Memorial Glass Lecture on glass of the Art Nouveau/Art Deco era. And on Jun 13, the Chrysler hosts foreign glass dignitaries under the guidance of some of the Corning Museum staff as part of the 1982 International Congress which also has stops in Corning, New York City, and Toledo.

The Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art is showing the work of Paolo Venini through March 21, 1982. In all, 154 objects from the Venetian firm, founded in 1921 on the island of Murano, will be exhibited. Thomas Buechner, the President of the Corning Museum, writes in the show's catalogue about "the number, richness, and variety of glasses which have come from this small factory..." and about the glass being "both traditional and innovative at the same moment...". The Renwick is on Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street, NW, and is open seven days a week from 10 to 5.30.

Should any of you be in Boston on second Wednesdays, the programme of the New England chapter for 1982 is as follows:

Jan 13: Glass with a history, a show and tell featuring glass with a story.

Feb 10: Dr Richard Schultes speaking about the Blaschka Glass Flowers at Harvard.

Mar 10: Dr L. van Zelst of the Museum of Fine Arts talking on glass conservation.

Apr 14: Larry Hilbert, our member, will talk on Frederick Carder's glass.

May 12: Two slide/tape lectures from the Christian Dorflinger Glass Study Group on Joseph Locke and the Art of Glass Engraving.

Come one, come all!

One note about the Index of Periodical Literature mentioned on page one, the sample page printed in the publisher's flier shows that one of the 16000 is an article by our member Rae Bloch, "Notes on Tiffany and Rival Wares" which appeared in the NEACC Bulletin in 1975. One can never be sure when fame will strike.

I hope each of you had very happy holidays.