



No 8

The National
Early American Glass Club
Newsletter

This issue finds your correspondent hold up in his garret listening to the quartets of Berwald and delighted that he has received a little mail from the membership. For those of you who feel the urge to abet him in his further lucubrations, the address remains: John Gotjen, 7 Lyndon St., Warren, R.I. 02885.

Ourselves, As Others See Us. . . It is always instructive, and sometimes not a little unsettling, to step back and listen to criticism of what we hold dear. When this can be done from the safety of 85 or so years' distance, the experience is well worth it as I recently discovered when I found that the writings of Samuel Bing were englished and in print. The volume is called Artistic America, Tiffany Glass, and Art Nouveau (MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., and London, 1970. 260 pages, 100 illustrations. \$9.95 in paperback) and has an introduction by Robert Koch.

What Bing has to say about L.C. Tiffany is, alas, too short. But his perspective on Art Nouveau (he is, of course, responsible for the term) is interestingly biased as is his appreciation of early 19th century architectural and artistic styles.

Along the same lines, I offer a couple of quotations which may find sympathetic accord in some readers. L. Francis Herreshoff: "If the antiquarians and museum curators stopped trying to classify something that never existed, they would save themselves much confusion and bickering." And P.G. Wodehouse: "I have always maintained fearlessly that the spiritual home of all these fellows who collect things is a padded cell in a loony bin." --- Finally, I submit this amusingly distressing headline in an advertisement for alarms: "Glass Won't Discourage a Burglar."

Save April 24 & 25 for the Collectors' Glass Show (Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5), sponsored by the Westchester Glass Club, and to be held at the Women's Club, 305 Ridgeway Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. --- While you're about it, remember that November 6 & 7 are the dates for the Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale, managed by the Dorflinger Glass Study Group, and held at the White Oak Armory, East Randolph Road, north of Silver Spring, Maryland. (Times are, Sat. 11-10, Sun. 11-6.)

Congratulations go to our Board member Miss Barbara J. Bishop who has assumed the position of Director of the Sandwich Glass Museum. Long may she serve!

Paul Hollister, our Bulletin Editor, is interested in learning of graffiti on old window panes. Members are asked to write him at: Apt. B1206, 200 E 66th St., New York, NY 10021.

Grace Carolyn Dahlberg has written to report that the Greater Chicago Glass Club have mounted an exhibition entitled "70 Years of American Pressed Glass: A Sparkling Heritage" at the Elmhurst Historical Museum, 120 East Park, Elmhurst, Illinois. The show will run until April 25 and sounds well worth seeing. Grace Carolyn also mentioned that Beatrice Smith of the St Paul, Minnesota, Early American Glass Club was visiting fellow glass-clubbers in Chicago recently.

Carl U. Fauster writes to inform members that the engraved glasses of Louis Vaupel which were offered for sale through the Antique & Historic Glass Foundation have been withdrawn due to litigation since the death of John Vaupel, the engraver's grandson, in 1980. Collectors who wish to be informed if and when the Vaupel pieces will be released for sale should contact Mr Fauster at P.O. Box 7413, Toledo, Ohio 43615.

The Wheaton Historical Association is sponsoring a Paperweight Collectors' Weekend, May 14-16, for up to 200 people. The fee is \$95; and for another \$25 you can make your own weight! If interested, contact Don Pettifer, Wheaton Village, Glasstown Road, Millville, N.J. 08332, or telephone 609-825-6800.

The Corning Museum will exhibit CAMBO GLASS from May 1 through November 1. Included will be the entire output of John Northwood as well as works from Roman times to the period of the brothers Woodall and their contemporaries.

A book review by Nancy O. Merrill, NEAGC past president:

American and European Pressed Glass by Jane Shadel Spillman, published by the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, N.Y., 1981. 404 pages.

Congratulations to the Corning Museum and author Jane Shadel Spillman for the publication of American and European Pressed Glass. This second of the Corning Catalog series contains 1536 entries representing all of this type glass acquired by the Museum through 1980, with the exception of the pressed drinking vessels in the Jerome Strauss Collection.

The introduction and essays preceding the various divisions give a sensible review of the history of pressed glass as reflected in Corning's collections. The concise individual descriptions, each combined with a good photograph, are meaningful and will be valuable for all glass students. The 16-page center with 43 good color plates further illustrates many rare and unusual pieces.

The strength of Corning's pressed glass is the prelacry and lacry including cup plates, salts, miniatures (toys), and early lamps.

The early pattern glass ca. 1840-1870 is less well represented. This was the period when the New England area factories must have been producing in tremendous quantity. The best known ones, New England Glass Company and Boston & Sandwich Glass Company, each employed between 500 and 600 "hands." The second factory in Sandwich, the Cape Cod Glass Company, was turning out about a quarter of the total glass made in that town between 1858 and 1869. A list of glassware by this manufactory, ca. 1863, has been published. Utica, a honeycomb style, and Cape Cod, a diamond point band, are illustrated. Some familiar names listed are Star and Punt, Mirror, and Huber. It would seem that some of this period glass could be attributed to several companies.

The divisions of the later pattern glass, the reproductions, and that made outside the United States are revealing, but as Jane Spillman states in her last essay on page 359, "The pieces shown here are but the tip of a very large iceberg."

If, for any reason, you do not want your name or address printed in the next Year Book, please notify the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs James A. Collins, 195 Follen Road, Lexington, Mass. 02173. She must know before August.

Members in the Capitol area will be interested to learn that there will be a Glass Collectors' Sale at Armory Place, Silver Spring, MD, April 17th from 8a.m. to 6p.m.

The Chrysler Museum of Norfolk, Virginia, have more than sixty pieces of glass in an exhibit of "Recent Glass Accessions" which span a period of two millennia. The highlight of the show is a Tiffany window of about 1890 called "Shepherds Keeping Watch". It is four feet wide and nearly six high, and depicts three shepherds near a blazing fire, who gaze toward the stars. In addition to the glass, five paintings are also part of the exhibit. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 4; and on Sunday from 1 to 5.

From the Glass Circle News we quote a letter from Dwight Lanmon: "A 1982 International Glass Conference, sponsored jointly by the Corning Museum of Glass, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Toledo Museum, will begin on Monday morning, June 7th, 1982, and will end on Saturday evening, June 12th. Following that, an optional Post-Conference tour lasting six days will allow you to visit museums between Norfolk, Virginia and

New York City." This Conference is being organized because original plans for the 9th Congress of the International Association for the History of Glass which was to have been held in the U.S., were cancelled because it was felt it would be too costly for European participants. For more information on this, write the Corning Museum.

In England the Whitefriars Glassworks has closed after some 300 years. This unhappy news is tempered by the fact that the Museum of London has not only acquired all the remaining old tools and artifacts but also documents, ledgers, deeds, pattern books, and other papers. Would this were the case with other old glassworks.

Closer to home, the Cambridge (Ohio) Glass Company buildings are being restored for the purpose of housing a museum of the old company's glass, antique shops, and space for a flea market. The former glass-working areas will be tidied up but otherwise left intact for the public to see.

In an effort to give second Wednesdays greater allure, the Boston group are holding study sessions at 10.30 followed, after lunch, by the regular meeting at 1.30. All members are invited to participate.

The University of Pennsylvania is giving a six-week course in American Glass beginning March 24th. Under the guidance of Dr Arthur Green, sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings with a special Sunday afternoon class at the Philadelphia Museum of Art where the Lorimer collection will be studied. Further details can be obtained by writing: Special Programs, College of General Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 210 Logan Hall/CN, Philadelphia, Penn. 19104, or by calling 215-243-6493. (Although this notice is likely to reach readers after March 24th, perhaps if enough interest is shown, they might do it again.) And, I have just learnt the guest lecturer for the Sunday afternoon session will be our First Vice President, Miriam Mucha.

June 9th is the date set for the Glass Club's field trip to "Beauport", the beautiful estate of Henry Davis Sleeper in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The estate, now open to the public, has an interesting glass collection (see Bulletin 131) housed in a building which is an architectural treasure. So plan to attend. As yet, the day's cost has not been determined; but it is unlikely any member will have to float a loan! To learn all the facts about the field trip, when they are known, write to Mrs W. Gordon Rockwell, 33 Elm Street, Webster, Massachusetts 01570.

The Newark (N.J.) Museum has two exhibits currently, through June. At the Museum, a selection of drinking cups called "Pleasures by the Glass"; and at Ballantine House, an exhibit of the glass of L.C. Tiffany, Victor Durand, Steuben Glass Works, and Quezal Art Glass & Decorating Company. -- And in Morristown, N.J., at the Morris Museum, from April 3 to May 30, one can see American Glass Art: Evolution & Revolution, being mainly art glass, 'twould seem. -- The Glass Gallery, Bethesda, Maryland, is showing new work by James Nadal, April 3-24; and new work by Meredith Wenzel, May 8-26. Farther afield, the Habatat Galleries of Lathrup Village, Michigan, are showing the 10th Annual National Glass Exhibition in April; a sculpture group exhibit in May; works by Dale Chihuly in June.