



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Fall 1985

Glass Scholar Accepts Editorship of the Glass Club Bulletin

Arlene Palmer Schwind, former Associate Curator of Glass and Ceramics at the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, has accepted the position of Editor of *The Glass Club Bulletin*, official publication of The National Early American Glass Club.

Ms. Schwind graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Goucher College with a B.A. in History and received her M.A. degree in Early American Culture as a Fellow in the Winterthur Program at the University of Delaware. Following graduation, she served as Assistant Curator at Winterthur, where she later became Associate Curator in charge of Glass and Ceramics.

Since retiring from Winterthur, Ms. Schwind, a Baltimore native, has continued her career as a museum consultant, lecturer and author in the field of early American 17th, 18th, and 19th century glass and ceramics. She is now living in the town of

Yarmouth, Maine, with her husband, fine arts and antiques dealer, Wilmont M. Schwind, Jr.

Her lectures on the history, identification and function of early American glass have been heard before such prominent institutions and organizations as The International Association for History of Glass, The Corning Museum of Glass and the International Glass Conference.

Widely published in the area of glass study, Arlene Palmer Schwind's by-line has appeared on numerous scholarly articles in the last decade: "American Heroes in Glass: The Bakewell Sulphide Portraits," *The American Art Journal*, "English Glass Imports in New York, 1770-1790," *Journal of Glass Studies*, and "Pennsylvania German Glass," *Arts of the Pennsylvania Germans*, are representative of her diversified glass research. In addition,

Ms. Schwind has authored several handbooks and catalogues on glass, among them, *The Wistarburgh Glassworks: The Beginning of Jersey Glassmaking*. With Dwight P. Lanmon she wrote, "John Frederick Amelung and the New Bremen Glassmanufactory." Last year, Ms. Schwind co-authored, *Bristol Glass*, published in Bristol, England. She is currently preparing a catalogue of the glass collection of the Winterthur Museum.

A member of The International Association for History of Glass, The Glass Circle of England, and the Decorative Arts Society, Ms. Schwind also serves on the Board of Directors of the American Ceramic Circle and The Victoria Society of Maine.

A Special "Thank You" From a Special Lady, Past President, Miriam E. Mucha:

I want to thank the entire NEAGC for the gift I received on the completion of my two-year term as president of the club. The molded French salt and handsome French goblet hold a very special place in my memorable service to NEAGC. Merci Beaucoup to all.

In May, I passed the Gunderson glass gavel, the symbol of the NEAGC presidency, on to Kenneth Lyon. I hope the membership will support him in every way. We are NATIONAL, we have glass studies to share, we want to reach out to all those with like interests, namely, "the study and appreciation of ALL glass."

A "sparkling" 1985-1986 season to all and I hope to see you at the 1986 NEAGC Seminar in Pittsburgh.

—Miriam E. Mucha
Director NEAGC,

Immediate Past President, 1983-1985

President's Letter

Dear NEAGC Members:

As you peruse this first issue of our newsletter, *Glass Shards*, I'd like for everyone to understand its purpose. With the mechanics of our structural change now in the past, we must not only grow but also find ways to involve our members west of the Atlantic Seaboard. We want to report on newsworthy chapter activities, as well as experiences and ideas of individual members everywhere. We prefer not to rehash news that has already been in every national antique publication.

Our National Glass Seminar, an outgrowth of the popular National Capitol Glass Seminar, sponsored in Maryland by the Bethesda chapter of NEAGC for many years, is moving west to Pittsburgh for its

second year as a national activity. (How appropriate that this year's seminar happens to be entitled, "The Way West!") We encourage you to mark April 25 & 26 on your calendar now, as plans are well under way. Having this event in a different location each year will bring us closer together, thus achieving a better geographic balance of members and creating better prospects of involving them in our administration.

Your new officers, directors and committee chairpersons are unanimous in desiring to accomplish the goals stated here. Sharing your thoughts, ideas and suggestions will help us in the years ahead.

Sincerely,
Kenneth W. Lyon
President

NEAGC Chapter News

With the new structure of NEAGC, the Boston group recently met and elected Ruth Sparks as their President. Our newest chapter voted to name themselves, "FOUNDERS CHAPTER OF NEAGC." An exciting program, under the direction of Past NEAGC President, Dr. Edward Tinney, is planned for the coming year. As you may know, your Board of Directors has been working on an inter-library loan system with the prestigious Boston Athenaeum on Beacon Street in Boston. In honor of this new affiliation, the FOUNDERS CHAPTER has invited all NEAGC members to a reception at the Athenaeum on November 16 at 1:30 p.m. Following the Marion C. Lufkin Memorial Lecture by Donald Pettifer, Director, Interpretations & Collections, Wheaton Village Museum, entitled: "American Whimsies: Fun, Fancy & Function," a social hour and tours of the library will complete the day.

Virginia Cutler, Leader of the CAPE COD GLASS STUDY GROUP reports that they will meet at the Sandwich Glass Museum on the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. There is no meeting planned for December and January. This year's program includes speakers on cut and pressed glass, bottles and historical flasks, how science can help glass collectors, and photographing and cataloguing a glass collection. The October meeting included a luncheon and visit to the New Bedford Glass Museum.

THE AMELUNG CHAPTER OF MARYLAND is observing its 30th anniversary this year! The fall season has included a special celebration and a lecture by Ruth Suppes, noted glass researcher and fellow member, speaking on English historical glass. Helen Barger, longtime collector and glass authority in the D.C. area, was recently honored by having the HONESDALE PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER, which she founded, renamed the HELEN BARGER CHAPTER. *Gatherings*, the tri-annual newsletter of the Maryland and Northern Virginia chapters, begins its ninth year as an Amelung edited and circulated project. (For subscription information write: Fran Armentrout, Editor, *Gatherings*, 6309 Winston Dr., Bethesda, Md. 20817.)

The CHRISTIAN DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP of Silver Spring, Maryland, is hard at work preparing for their eleventh consecutive antique glass show and sale, November 2 & 3 at the White Oak Armory on E. Randolph Rd. in Silver Spring. Special educational features this year include a new Sheldon Butts slide tape, "A Toast to Drinking

Glasses" — a light-hearted look at English and Continental traditions that have influenced American drinking glasses and habits since Colonial times, and a special exhibit of Dorflinger glass on loan from chapter members.

The EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB OF MINNESOTA enters its 49th year of being in existence this fall! Under the direction of President Rose Marie Beaulieu, an interesting 1985-1986 program will include a lecture by Karen Clouse, "Deming Jarves—Reminiscences of a Glass Maker" for the October 18th meeting.

In Pennsylvania, the PITTSBURGH CHAPTER OF NEAGC is diligently at work in conjunction with the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society, in preparation for the second annual National Glass Seminar on April 25th and 26th. John Labanish, director of the museum, has been most cooperative and promises to have their collection in top condition for the seminar! All meetings will be held there; luncheons at the 20th Century Club (next door to the Historical Society) and an optional dinner will be held at the University Club.

As requested in a letter addressed to your club in July, *Glass Shards* wants a reporter from your chapter to keep us informed of your club's happenings. Please volunteer to your chapter president. This newsletter can become the link (the missing link?) between chapters, bringing us closer together. Address all questions, comments, newsletter contributions to: Sylvia Applebee Lyon, Editor, *Glass Shards*, 1111 University Blvd. West, #613, Silver Spring, MD 20902. Copy for the spring issue should be in my hands by March 1.

Special thanks to Ken Lyon for our masthead design.

From the November 2, 1876 Crockery & Glass Journal: "The charms which glass may combine expresses much. Next to porcelain, which uses color so delicately, nothing is more fascinating than fine glass. In itself it has the sparkle of a mountain brook, the purity of a girl of sixteen; it may have the perfect lines of a Greek vase, the inexplicable decoration of a Japanese cup, and the brilliancy of a faceted (sic) diamond. In it cream and all its compounds are creamier than when in the udder of the loveliest of beasts, the Jersey cow; and fruit is fruitier, jelly is jellier, when glorified by being held in a beautiful glass than in any other receptacle."

— C. W. Elliot

(Submitted by Miriam E. Mucha)

Glass Calendar

A phone call to listed institutions to confirm dates and schedules is recommended. Information on glass shows, museum exhibits, seminars is solicited. Spring issue deadline: March 1, 1986.

Sept.-Oct. 25

Centennial Exhibit of Burmese Glass. Brookside Antiques Art Glass Gallery, New Bedford, MA.

Sept.-Nov. 3

Exhibit: "Down In Jersey, They Made Glass," Monmouth County Hist. Assoc., Allen House, Shrewsbury, NJ.

Sept.-Nov. 3

Exhibit: "Glass by Jersey Hands 1985." Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ.

Sept.-Nov. 7

Exhibit: "Mastering the Elements." Glass of Frederick Carder, Rockwell Museum exhibit at Chemical Bank Gallery, 277 Park Ave., New York City.

Sept.-Nov. 15

Exhibits: "Happy Birthday Burmese"; "Glass and Ceramics from Sebago Homes." Jones Gallery, Douglas Hill, Maine.

Sept.-Dec. 29

Exhibit: "The Queen's Choice: Burmese 1885-1985." New Bedford Glass Museum, New Bedford, MA.

Oct. 26 & 27

Seminar: "The Luxury Glass Productions of Mt. Wash.: Amberina, Burmese, Peachblow & Others." Kenneth M. Wilson, Jones Gallery, Douglas Hill, Maine.

Nov. 2 & 3

Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale, White Oak Armory, E. Randolph Rd., Silver Spring, MD. Glass of all periods. Slide-tape: "A Toast to Drinking Glasses," Sheldon Butts—Display of Dorflinger Glass. Nov. 2, 11-9, and Nov. 3, 11-6.

Oct.-Nov. 1

Exhibit: Glass Decorators of Sandwich. Sandwich Museum, Sandwich, Mass.

Nov. 16 - 1:30 p.m.

Reception for NEAGC members, Boston Athenaeum, Beacon St., Boston. Marion C. Lufkin Memorial Lecture by Donald Pettifer, "American Whimsies: Fun, Fancy & Function."

Apr. 25 & 26, 1986

Second Annual National Glass Seminar, Western Pennsylvania Historical Society Museum, Pittsburgh, PA. Pittsburgh Chapter, NEAGC.

PROFILES IN GLASS

(Editor's note: For this feature, we asked several prominent people in the glass community to share with us the origins of their interest in glass. This issue: Dwight P. Lanmon, Director of the Corning Museum of Glass.)

I contracted most of the boyhood collecting diseases. Indian relics came naturally (growing up in Colorado); so did stamps and coins. The area that really caught my attention (*why*, I don't know) was glass. I well remember the day I opened the cupboard in my grandparents' home to inspect a cherished set of cut glass berry dishes, only to have them all crash to the floor into smithereens! I don't remember any punishment (is there a lesson there?), but I shall never forget seeing all those glistening fragments on the floor.

Those who know that my particular interest now is the field of European 17th- and 18th-century glass may be surprised to learn that the first piece of glass I bought was a gold Carnival Glass bowl, at auction; the second, at the same auction, was a gold Tiffany finger bowl. I don't have either of those pieces today, but I do have the third and fourth purchases: a pair of gold Aurene compotes. (Is there any doubt that I enjoyed working on this summer's special Corning exhibit of Frederick Carder's glass?)

I "moved" to earlier glass when I moved to California. I studied to become a physicist in college, and worked in southern California in the aerospace industry for six years. While there, I took night school courses at U.C.L.A. Two were on American decorative arts. They were taught by Gregor Norman-Wilcox, the first Curator of Decorative Arts at the Los Angeles County Museum. Both he and his wife, Grace (an authority on Chinese art), graciously gave me all the time and attention I ever asked for, and shared both their knowledge of and—just as important—their enthusiasm for the decorative arts. Gregor had collected 18th-century English drinking glasses, and he educated me in their subtleties. I was hooked.

My initial collecting aim was to assemble a comprehensive range of types, dating from 1690 to 1790, for under \$10 each, and I did get about half the types. As I read more, my tastes were refined, and my goals increased gradually as my "disposable" income grew. I was not just hooked on English wine glasses, however. As I got to know Grace and Gregor better, I began to sense that working as a museum curator might be a satisfying career.

By then, I was corresponding with (that is, sending my problem pieces for authentication to) Paul Perrot and Ken Wilson at Corning. At the age of 27, well into a career in "defense," I wrote to ask Paul Perrot how I might prepare myself for a job at a museum like Corning. He advised me to apply to the Winterthur Program.

So did Gregor Norman-Wilcox. I applied, miraculously was accepted, sold everything but my books (which I sent East) and anything that wouldn't fit into a tiny sports car (the glass was in the back seat; clothes

went into the trunk), and headed for Delaware. (Yes, I had a blowout in Colorado, but only the clothes had to be piled on the roadside!)

My time as a student at Winterthur was both fruitful and satisfying, but the program was extremely demanding. Nonetheless, I made the time to attend my first Seminar at Corning in 1966. Later, Corning generously provided a scholarship which made it possible for me to take a bus from Wilmington, Delaware, to Baltimore, MD, every day during the summer to do my thesis research. In 1968, Paul invited me to lecture at Seminar. Gradually, my ties with Corning and its staff became stronger and stronger. When the offer came to join the staff as Chief Curator in 1973, there was only one answer.

Elected Officers, Directors, Appointees and Committee Chairpersons, May 1985

President — Kenneth W. Lyon, Silver Spring, MD

1st V. Pres. — Paul V. Gardner, Washington, D.C.

2nd V. Pres. — Wilmont M. Schwind, Jr., Yarmouth, ME

Secretary — Nancy Sheriff, Silver Spring, MD

Treasurer — Sibley Higginbotham, Wollaston, MA

Librarian — Barbara Crowley, Boston, MA
Director, 3 yrs. — Dorothy-Lee Jones, E. Baldwin, ME

Director, 3 yrs. — Miriam E. Mucha, Langhorne, PA

Director, 3 yrs. — Paul Hollister, New York, N.Y.

Director, 2 yrs. — Helen Collins, Lexington, MA

Director, 2 yrs. — Robert W. Lufkin, Melrose, MA

Director, 2 yrs. — Virginia S. Rockwell, E. Sandwich, MA

Director, 1 yr. — Harriet Roberts, Wilton, CT

Director, 1 yr. — William Thomas, Baltimore, MD

Director, 1 yr. — Elizabeth S. Williams, Winchester, MA

Editor, *Glass Club Bulletin* — Arlene Palmer Schwind, Yarmouth, ME

Educational Resources — (To be assigned)
Institution Liaison — Miriam Mucha, Langhorne, PA

Membership — Donald Ferland, Cambridge, MA

Nominating — Lorraine Hilbert, Haddonfield, NJ

Publicity & Editor of Newsletter, *Glass Shards* — Sylvia Applebee Lyon, Silver Spring, MD

Research-Identification — Gary E. Baker, Norfolk, VA

Seminar — Ellen Roberts, Bethesda, MD

Special Consultant — Jane Shadel Spillman, Corning, NY

Special Projects — Susan Milzman, Rockville, MD

GLASS UP-DATE

If you have been using as a reference guide on Sandwich glass, a 1969 handbook published by the Sandwich Historical Society, entitled "The Sandwich Glass Museum Collection," perhaps you do not realize that this *same* booklet was re-issued in 1981 with numerous pieces pictured no longer attributed to the Sandwich glass factory. They are as follows: *Front cover*: top row, #1; bottom row, #2, 3, 5; *Page 6*: 2nd row, #6; *Page 12*: 2nd row, #2; *Page 20*: top row, #2; *Page 24*: 2nd row, #6; *Page 28*: 2nd row, #1; third row, #1, 2, 7 & 8; fourth row, #1, 2, 4; *Page 30*: top row, #1, 2; third row, #1, 3, 5, & 8; fourth row, #4. (This information taken from the last page of the 1981 reprint.)

NEAGC

INFORMATION

Do you know of anyone who would like to become a member of NEAGC? Membership applications are available by writing our membership chairman, Donald Ferland, Box 757, Kendall Square Branch, Cambridge, MA 02142-9998. Dues are \$15.00 a year. Any inquiries or changes regarding address, membership, dues, receipt of *The Glass Club Bulletin* (now mailed directly to members with our new mailing privileges), should also be directed to Donald.

Members with glass identification questions should send their inquiries to NEAGC Research & Identification Chairman, Gary Baker, Assistant Curator of Glass, the Chrysler Museum, Olney Road and Mowbray Arch, Norfolk, VA 23510. Be certain to include a self-addressed envelope for a reply. Please remember this service is for NEAGC members only!

Masterpieces Installed at Corning Museum

Three masterpieces—one of them described by museum officials as the most important object in the collection—have been installed at the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY.

"The objects are of such extraordinary quality and historical importance that their display at the Corning Museum of Glass should be of worldwide interest," said Dwight P. Lanmon, director, who announced the additions.

The treasures include:

—The Corning Ewer, a wafer-thin vessel, considered to be the most important example of Islamic carved glass known;

—The Behaim Beaker, a beautifully enameled Venetian object commemorating a 1495 marriage; and

—The Constable-Maxwell Cage Cup, a superb example of an ancient style of Roman glass cutting.

The museum acquired the Islamic and Venetian vessels during the past year with funds from endowments given by private donors. The Roman cup arrived in May on long-term loan from an anonymous European collection.

The Corning Ewer, created in Persia about 1000 years ago, is six inches high. It is made of colorless glass with a translucent green glass overlay. The decoration was produced by carving away most of the layer of green glass, leaving the decoration standing relief. The cameo surface depicts a huge bird of prey attacking a gazelle, which stumbles as it turns to look at the attacker.

Lanmon said he believes that the Corning Ewer is the most important piece of glass in the museum's collection. "It is the most refined example known of Islamic carved glass, a highpoint in the history of glassmaking. The design is of unparalleled elegance and subtlety and the execution is miraculous, for the cutter was working on a vessel with sides of eggshell thinness," he said.

The Behaim Beaker is a vessel about five inches high of colorless glass with enameled decoration. The decoration and ornament indicate that the beaker was made around 1496 in Venice, which was then one of the great glass production centers in Europe.

The beaker is enameled with pictures of the saints Michael and Catherine as well as the coat of arms of Behaims, an aristocratic family of Nuremberg. There, on July 7, 1495, Michael Behaim married Catherine Lochner. Assuming that the beaker was commissioned to commemorate their wedding, the vessel is a milestone—one of the

earliest *precisely* datable Venetian glasses to be sent abroad.

The Constable-Maxwell Cage Cup, made in the Roman Empire about 300 A.D., is considered a tour de force of glassmaking. The cage cup was produced by carving a thick blank of glass, leaving a delicate mesh of glass rings attached to the bowl by needle-like struts. "There are only

five relatively complete specimens of this astounding Roman glassmaking technique known to exist today, and the Constable-Maxwell Cage Cup is the only one in the Western Hemisphere," Lanmon said.

The three glass objects are on display at the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Glass Seminar News

Reserve the weekend of April 25 & 26, 1986, on your glass calendar . . . those are the dates of the second annual National Glass Seminar at the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Co-hosted by the Pittsburgh Chapter of NEAGC and the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society, a behind-the-scenes peek from Chairman Ellen Roberts reveals that the chosen theme this year is "The Way West!" Program speakers and topics are not completely finalized as we go to press, but Dwight Lanmon, Arlene Palmer-Schwind, Lowell Inness, Paul V. Gardner, Sheldon Butts, and Peter Chillingworth are among those who will lecture on the progress of America's glass industry from the 18th century to the present. Proposed workshop titles include: photographing glass, fakes and reproductions, glass of the 1950's and 1960's, paperweights and scent bottles, led

by a host of glass specialists including Barbara Lessig and Marian Schreitmuller. Seminar brochures will be out in January or February stating costs and available lodging.

As our glass seminars move across the country, one of them will eventually be closer to your home. When that happens, come! . . . speak to the stranger seated next to you . . . a whole new world of discovery and friendship awaits you! In addition, the knowledge gained will become a valuable tool as you go about building your glass collection. (And where else can you meet the authors of glass books which all of us use for reference???)

We regret that *Glass Shards* couldn't be published before the Corning Glass Seminar in mid-October. Our original plans were to publish in September, but the computerization of our mailing list couldn't meet *OUR* deadline!

The National Early American Glass Club

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