



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Fall 1986

Happy 50th Birthday, Minnesota!

With a combined membership of 42, the EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB OF MINNESOTA opened the year's festivities with a reunion meeting to which all past members were invited. The program, "Fifty Years of Glass Study" was comprised of two segments: "Beginnings" by Rose Ernst, member since 1946, and "New Approaches," by Bea Smith, chapter member since 1970, giving a review of the club's history and an examination of the more recent activities undertaken to broaden the scope and purpose of the organization. Although MINNESOTA's by-laws permit the presentation of programs on subjects other than glass, in this anniversary year all lessons will pertain to glass. In October, member Joan O'Brien spoke on the glass creations of Louis Comfort Tiffany. A talk on Christmas ornaments by Dorothy Peterson will complete the year's agenda. As part of their year-long celebration, the club will mount an exhibit of 19th century art glass at the central Saint Paul Public Library during April and March. Congratulations, MINNESOTA! May your fiftieth year include many wonderful glass finds along the way!

In other NEAGC chapter news, UNIT FOUR of the NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB in Seattle, Washington, reports that fall programs include "Variations In Glass Patterns" by Mrs. Jacque Houser and "Canadian Glass" with Mrs. John Shields as speaker. In December, "Christmas and Religious Motifs In Early American Glass" will be the topic of a talk by Mrs. Hugh Davis.

After hosting NEAGC's super glass seminar last spring, the PITTSBURGH CHAPTER commenced their fall season with a field trip to the homes and glass collections of Earl and Joanne Autenreith and Ken and Phyllis Locke. Afterwards, a picnic box supper was enjoyed by more than fifty club members in the beautiful surroundings of the Autenreiths' garden. Following the Lowell Innes glass collection auction, numerous writeups in national antique publications mentioned a #7 bidder from Pittsburgh who bid by telephone to Maine for the entire five hours of the auction. Who was indefatigable #7? None other than Pittsburgh's own Tom Crawford and Frances Taylor who added numerous pieces to their private and shop stock, many

of which are pictured in Innes' "Pittsburgh Glass" book. Did you see the write ups on NEAGC's April glass seminar in the *Antiques Review* and *The Antique Trader*? Kudos once again to the PITTSBURGH CHAPTER for an outstanding job!

Grace Carolyn Dahlberg, Vice President of the CHICAGO CHAPTER, writes that the CHICAGO GLASS COLLECTORS' CLUB is "perking along, in this our 19-20th year, with interest unabated." Many excellent summer finds were shown by club members at the September "Summer Serendipity" meeting, including: New England Peachblow, Greentown glassware, Sandwich Lacy, open salts, Exposition pieces and pattern glass . . . all at wonderful bargain prices, confirming once again, according to Grace Carolyn, "this is the best place in the nation to find 'sleepers' in glass." CHICAGO's winter agenda includes a program on glass bells. "Ben's Wonderful Armonica" will feature music and armonica, the property of a club member who first heard one at the Corning Museum of Glass. In the spring, members will take a bus trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to the Anna Safely Houston Museum. Anna, a rather eccentric

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Edward W. Tinney, D.M.D. *Lecturer, Museum Trustee, Past President NEAGC*

Dr. Edward W. Tinney, Trustee of the Sandwich Historical Society and the Jones Gallery of Glass and Ceramics, died suddenly in Quincy, Massachusetts, on the evening of September 21, 1986. A Past President of the National Early American Glass Club, 1971-1973, Dr. Tinney served in many officerships and chairmanships for our organization, before and after his tenure as president. He was a member of the Founders Chapter of NEAGC. A retired dentist living in Plymouth, Massachusetts,

Dr. Tinney was Senior Deacon of the Faunce Memorial Church there and taught Sunday school to seventh grade children. He also played organ for the children's service each Sunday.

Wherever glass people gathered, there was always extra joy if Ed Tinney was present. Next to family and friends, glass was closest to his heart. Whenever he lectured on his favorite subject, his love and enthusiasm fostered learning in others.

Donations in Dr. Tinney's name may be made to his church, Faunce Memorial Church (non-denominational), for the building fund, care of Barbara Bongiovanni, church treasurer, East Long Pond Road, Plymouth, MA 02360.

The National Early American Glass Club sends its deepest condolences to Dr. Tinney's wife, Mary, and their family.

This gregarious, gentle man will be sorely missed: a resplendent personality has left our midst.

President's Letter

Dear Members:

Since the spring issue of *Glass Shards*, two new NEAGC directors were elected by mail ballot: Kenneth Locke of Beaver Falls, PA, and Rosemond Van Etten of Olympia, WA. These two new directors fill the three outgoing director vacancies. I wish to thank William Thomas of Baltimore, Md., Harriet Roberts of Wilton, CT, and Elizabeth Williams of Winchester, MA, for their fine contributions and years of service while serving on the board.

Our 1986 Glass Seminar in Pittsburgh was a most memorable event, reaching our maximum capacity of 150 registrants. Since that time, we have decided to hold future National Glass Seminars in May of each year so as not to conflict with any religious holidays. We will also devote a greater amount of time to the Annual Meeting at each seminar so as to encourage more participation by our members.

As I seek volunteers for various tasks, I am meeting little success. Perhaps we need to do some "whistle blowing" or pointing to other persons talented in various areas, who would be helpful to NEAGC as we forge ahead. (I'm listening!)

Do have an active and exciting 1986-87 season!

Sincerely,
Kenneth W. Lyon
President NEAGC

GLASS SEMINAR

The third National Glass Seminar *will not* be held in Santa Barbara, California, as originally announced. However, Ellen Roberts and her committee are working on a western location for next May. As soon as all speakers and plans are finalized, a special mailing will go out to all NEAGC members outlining details. **DON'T MISS SEMINAR!**

NOTICE

All reports, original material and articles published in *Glass Shards* are the property of the writer or the National Early American Glass Club and may not be published elsewhere without consent of author or NEAGC.

Any comments or submissions for this publication should be sent to: Sylvia Applebee Lyon, Editor, 1111 University Blvd. West, #613, Silver Spring, Md. 20902. Please type and double space all submissions.

NEAGC INFORMATION

Bill Sheriff, Education Chairman, reports the following museum glass exhibition catalogs for sale: *The Queen's Choice: Burmese, 1885-1985*, illustrated, \$4.95. Send money and request to: The New Bedford Museum Store, 50 N. Second St., New Bedford, MA 02740. *Happy Birthday, Burmese* and *But Is It Sandwich Glass?*, \$1.75 each. Send money and request to: The Jones Gallery of Glass and Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine 04024.

In addition, Carl Fauster, Antique & Historic Glass Foundation, Box 7413, Toledo, OH 43615, offers the following FREE; you only pay postage and insurance: *Taped Reminiscences of Glassblowers* by Fauster. Video Tapes of PBS programs: *Libbey Cut Glass*, Fauster & George Michael; *Cut Glass*, interview of Mary Luttrell by Marilyn Hart, and the 1982 *Libbey Glass Show Exhibition*, featuring glass from the collection of the Glass Collectors Club of Toledo. Write to Mr. Fauster at the address above.

Back issues of *The Glass Club Bulletin* and three slide presentations, as listed in the last issue of *Glass Shards*, are still available by writing Bill Sheriff, 1222 Pinecrest Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Incidentally, *do not* send payment when ordering old Bulletins. You will be billed later.

Two free pamphlets are available from the Commissioner of the Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231: *General Information Concerning Patents*, a *Brief Introduction to Patent Matters* and *General Information Concerning Trademarks*, which explain in detail how to go about researching glass patents. Any club or individual with slide presentations or video tape programs on glass, suitable for NEAGC Chapter programs, are urged to contact Bill Sheriff at the address above. (He also has good information on how to make a slide presentation.)

If you are in an area where there seems to be many collectors of varied types of glass and would like to take the lead in forming a new club or chapter, we will forward a suggested procedure and by-laws that can be easily adapted to your circumstances.

The National Early American Glass Club extends its deepest sympathy to past president Mildred E. Lurvey (1969-1971) on the loss of her husband, Robert, this past June. Mrs. Lurvey's address is P.O. Box 46, Groton, MA 01450.

Remember

Errors on address labels for *The Glass Club Bulletin* or *Glass Shards* may be corrected by writing Nancy Sheriff, Secretary NEAGC, 1222 Pinecrest Circle, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. Questions on membership and dues should be addressed to Donald Ferland, Box 757 Kendall Square Branch, Cambridge, MA 02142-9998. Dues are \$15.00 a year.

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

November 1986-September 7, 1987

Exhibit: "Glass, A Timeless Art"—400 glass items. Tours - Lectures - Identification - Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, WI, Tel. (414) 278-2751 for details.

Ending November 14, 1986

Exhibit: "But Is It Sandwich?" and "Portland Glass"—Jones Gallery of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine.

January 24 - May 10, 1987

Exhibit: "American Glass Art of 1950's—A Forgotten Era" - Glass of Edris Eckhardt, Maurice Heaton - Francis & Michael Higgins - Wheaton Village, Millville, New Jersey

April 25 - September 6, 1987

Exhibit: "Glass of the Caesars"—Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York

Mid-May 1987

Third National Glass Seminar: National Early American Glass Club (info forthcoming)

June 1 - November 8, 1987

Exhibit: "Clevenger Bros. Glass Works—The Persistence of Tradition." Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ

November 7 & 8, 1987

Glass Show: Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale, Armory Place, Wayne Ave. & Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD.; Dorflinger Glass Study Group sponsors.

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NEAGC Institution Members and clubs sponsoring events: Please send *Glass Shards* information on your glass exhibits, lectures and show info for inclusion here.

"Glass of the Caesars"

In 1987, The Corning Museum of Glass will combine its resources with those of The British Museum (London) and the Romisch-Germanisches Museum (Cologne) to present an international exhibition entitled "Glass of the Caesars." It will be the most important exhibition of Roman glass ever assembled anywhere in the world, and one of the most important exhibitions of glass of any period ever seen in the United States.

The 150 objects in the exhibition will illustrate all the major types of glass and glassmaking techniques in use between about 100 B.C. and A.D. 600. Every item will be an outstanding example of its kind.

"The Romans made more glass than any other ancient civilization. They made everything from cheap kitchen wares to some of the most sumptuous luxury glass ever produced," said Dr. David Whitehouse, Chief Curator at The Corning Museum of Glass and coordinator of the exhibition when it is shown in Corning.

The exhibition, which consists of ten sections, will include mosaic glass, cameo glass made during the reign of Augustus Caesar, some of the earliest blown glass, vessels with trailed "snake-thread" decoration, wheel-cut and engraved glass, painted and reverse-painted glass, "gold-glasses" from the catacombs, and spectacular open-work cage cups.

The highlight of the exhibition will be the Rothschild Lycurgus Cup, on loan for the first time from The British Museum. One of the most sophisticated examples of Roman glass cutting, the cup is carved with a scene showing the death of the mythical King Lycurgus. The cup contains minute amounts of powdered gold and silver which cause it to change color: it is olive-green in reflected light and wine-red in transmitted light. "This is a unique work of art in glass and a technical tour de force, made more than 1,500 years ago," Dr. Whitehouse said.

"Glass of the Caesars" will open at The Corning Museum of Glass April 25 and remain on view there until September 6, 1987—its only showing in America. The exhibition will then travel to The British Museum and the Romisch-Germanisches Museum. The final showing of the exhibition will be at The Capitoline Museums in Rome.

At each exhibition site, there will be a seminar devoted to the study of Roman glass. The one-day colloquium at Corning will give the public a rare opportunity to learn from authorities about glassmaking in ancient Rome.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a 300-page catalog, containing more than 150 color plates. The catalog was written by curators from the Corning, Cologne, and London museums and produced in collaboration with Olivetti.

REFLECTIONS

Editor's note: The first meeting of The National Early American Glass Club was held on January 18, 1933, at the home of Mrs. H. H. Freeman in Boston. At that time temporary officers were elected and tentative plans for the future activities of the club were discussed. Here, in excerpts from a newspaper article by Charles Messer Stow, (then) Arts Editor of the New York Sun, we get a glimpse at NEAGC's past.

"In Boston on Wednesday of this week, about 175 persons gathered for the April (1933) meeting of the Early American Glass club. The organization now has about 350 members, double the charter membership at the founding of the club on January 18 of this year. It has extended far from its birthplace, and members living in some twenty-seven states fairly entitle it to be known as a national organization. This club represents a significant phenomenon. The enrollment of 350 collectors of similar tastes in three months is an index to the prevalence of the instinct for collecting in this country. In the second place, it betokens the existence of a strong incentive. In the third place, it indicates the strength of a hobby.

In spite of the great interest in American glass, our knowledge of it is still elementary. We have learned enough so that we no longer call all blown glass "Stiegel," nor do we dub all blown in a mold glass "Stoddard." We have even advanced to that height of wisdom where we refer to the "Sandwich type" rather than attach the name "Sandwich" to pressed glass in general.

All of this is negative knowledge, however, and one of the objects of the Early American Glass Club is to unearth, if possible, positive and proveable facts regarding glass, so that we may be more certain of our attributions.

Niggling Nelly - Sylvia Lyon



The meeting last Wednesday gave a suggestion of one way in which this knowledge is to be brought out. Various members had brought examples from their collections and these were displayed. Those exhibiting gave talks on the articles they brought, then there were questions and a general discussion. I. J. Healey of Worcester, Mass., brought about forty pieces of canary yellow from his collection of 2,600 pieces of yellow and amber glass. Mrs. Charles F. Hutchins, also of Worcester, showed examples from her huge collection, among which were some that none of the members had seen, especially a sapphire blue bellflower syrup pitcher and some colored lacy glass compotes.

Mrs. Wallace P. Hood of Danvers, Mass., showed a collection of egg cups in pressed glass, among them an opalescent bellflower. In the discussion, Frank W. Chipman¹ of Sandwich contributed the information that egg cups were among the early products of the Sandwich factory, as proved by records of the factory, which he had seen.

Albert C. Marble² of Worcester gave an interesting talk on glass cup plates, classifying the designs found on them into six groups and showing examples from his large collection.

At a meeting of the executive board of the club held in the morning it was decided to preserve the information brought out of the meetings, either copies of the talks given or abstracts of them, and eventually to publish the proceedings of the club so that this knowledge may be accessible.

At this meeting of the executive board it was decided to hold a meeting and glass exhibition at the Mayflower Hotel in Manomet, Mass., in July, and another exhibition and meeting at the Town Hall in Sandwich in August. These get-togethers are expected to be productive of much knowledge of glass, especially of the types made in the Sandwich factory.

First year officers of the club are as follows: President, Frank W. Chipman, Sandwich, Mass.; First Vice President, Albert C. Marble, Worcester, Mass.; Second Vice President, Mrs. Clara Berwick; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Frank H. Dillaby, Waban, Mass.; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. A. R. Marehall, Monponsett, Mass.; Research Secretary, Mrs. William Preble Jones, Somerville, Mass.; Treasurer, Mrs. Henry H. Freeman, Boston, Mass."

¹Frank W. Chipman, first president of NEAGC, was also author of the book, *The Romance of Old Sandwich Glass*, published in 1932.

²Mr. Marble's cup plate collection and classification system was used by the McKearns in their *American Glass* book, first published in 1941.

(The rich history of NEAGC, and the roles played by many prominent names in glass history, will continue in future issues of *Glass Shards*.)

PROFILES IN GLASS

The late Charles B. Gardner of New London, Connecticut was probably America's most avid bottle collector. In 1935-1936 he served as first vice president of NEAGC. In a 1934 speech entitled "The Lure of the Empty Bottle," given before a gathering of the National Early American Glass Club in Plymouth, Massachusetts, "Charlie" revealed the origin of his interest in collecting early American bottles and flasks:

"My opportunity for exploration in the glass field has been rather limited and most of my information has been gathered from the writings of other collectors. At one time I collected guns, and later, living up to my name, became an amateur gardener. My attention was first attracted to bottles by a display of colored bottles, arranged in the window of a friend's summer cottage, with a few of the large demijohns scattered about the house. This was in August 1929. Within a week I had purchased my first bottle, a large bubble of olive green glass holding about five gallons. I then began to attend the nearby auctions and to comb the shops within a radius of fifty miles, buying practically all the bottles bearing a pontil mark that came within the range of my pocket book. My first flask was a Horn of Plenty with Basket of Fruit for which I paid \$3.00."

"Charlie" went on to build one of the finest early American bottle collections ever assembled in one lifetime. When his famous collection was put up to auction at Skinner's in 1975, "The Grand Old Man of Bottles," then in his 80's, had a front row seat. As extremely rare flasks brought (then) record prices, Charlie, in true Yankee fashion, couldn't resist calling out the meager prices he had originally paid for them.

Chapter News

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woman, hung her 15,000 pressed glass pitchers from the ceiling! (And you thought you had run out of space!?)

In Maryland, THE AMELUNG CHAPTER opened their season with an all-member participation program on stemware. In November AMELUNG members continued their study of "Important Glass Factories," under the tutelage of Helen Barger, local glass teacher. In December members will be looking into a fellow member's curio cabinet.

THE BETHESDA (Maryland) CHAPTER of NEAGC has recently acquired 26 volumes of the Corning Museum of Glass *Journal of Glass Studies*, for the years 1959-1985, which will be donated to the Chevy Chase Library as soon as processed. In October, BETHESDA took a trip to see the private collection of Dick Stark, authority and collector of Victorian and Art Nouveau glass.

The DORFLINGER STUDY GROUP of Silver Spring, Maryland, started their fall activities with a visit to the Eastern Shore home of fellow member, Ray Foster, and his outstanding collection of 18th-20th century stemware. After their twelfth successful Montgomery County Antique Glass Show and Sale on November 8 & 9, members will gather for a holiday party at the home of Ken and Evelyn Pinkard; Peggy Hall will present a program on "Holiday Lights."

For their opening program in September the COLUMBIA GLASS CLUB of Columbia, Maryland, heard a lecture on Swedish glass by Dianne Gregg, President of the Bethesda Chapter. "Introduction to Bottle Collecting" was the subject of a talk given in November by Nick Benedict, past president of the Baltimore Bottle Club. In

December, COLUMBIA, in conjunction with the BALTIMORE GLASS CLUB, will host a Christmas buffet with Leonard Padgett, nationally-known author of two books on Pairpoint glass. A fairly new club and one of NEAGC's youngest chapters, COLUMBIA already provides members with short monthly news bulletins covering pertinent glassmaking information and club activities.

Up in Massachusetts, the CAPE COD GLASS STUDY CLUB programs for the coming year include one on the subject of marbles and another entitled: "Bird, Beast or Fish," which will be illustrated with glass items depicting these forms. Candy containers, miniatures and a film on "A Country Auction" will also add variety to the season's agenda.

In Boston, the FOUNDER'S CHAPTER OF NEAGC deeply mourn the death of fellow member, Dr. Edward Tinney, who was instrumental in organizing this club when Boston became a chapter instead of the seat of NEAGC, as in years past. Fall lectures included one on "Burmese Glass, Centennial Appreciation" by Louis O. St. Aubin, outstanding New Bedford art glass dealer, and another in November with Dr. Jon H. Wetz, Associate Professor at Tufts, speaking on the subject "Edward Haines—Portrait of a Sandwich Gaffer."

If your chapter news is missing in this column, it is because none was received. Why not submit something about your chapter's activities sometime *prior* to March 7, 1987, for inclusion in our spring issue of *Glass Shards*? Address all questions, comments and newsletter contributions to: Sylvia Applebee Lyon, 1111 University Blvd. W., #613, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

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