

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Fall 2000

Tiffany's 1893 Chapel Reconstructed

Louis Comfort Tiffany's most impressive achievements were interiors - notably those of his own houses (in New York City and Long Island), the Havemeyer House in New York City and a chapel he made for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. That chapel, not seen by the general public for more than a century, has been under conservation for the last two years and has been reassembled at the Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park, Florida.

Tiffany enjoyed international acclaim for his work starting with his 1893 chapel and continuing after the turn of the century. Then his reputation waned until the 1950s when it reemerged, but it has grown in recent years largely on the basis of individual objects.

Tiffany's general popularity, as well as a rising scholarly interest and opinion of his work, made the prospect of rebuilding his 1893 chapel, not only exciting but important.

When first constructed it was reported at the time that visitors to the chapel were so affected by religious emotion that men doffed their hats in response. In reality, the chapel was a setting for liturgical costumes and ritual objects offered for sale by Tiffany Studios.

Associated with the chapel were two great leaded windows each depicting a religious theme while

demonstrating Tiffany's stylistic range. The "Madonna and Child" was in Italian Renaissance style and was also known as the "Botticelli window" after the Italian Renaissance artist whose work was the main source for the window. The other, a lamentation, was in Northern Renaissance style and also served as a vehicle for Louis Comfort Tiffany to present a portrait of his father whose face he used as the source of his depiction of Joseph of Aramathea.



Vase amber glass from LCT's personal collection

In its time, Tiffany's chapel proved an astounding success with the general public, national leaders in design and even the international design

world which was not generally disposed to find merit in American art. Louis Comfort Tiffany's success was so great that his reputation crossed the threshold into the ranks of the international design masters of the period.

Mrs. Celia Whipple Wallace bought the chapel for The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Never placed as it was intended, the chapel was relegated to a basement crypt where its arches were cut to fit under a low, broadly vaulted ceiling.

In 1916, Tiffany succeeded in rescuing his great work, albeit in very poor condition, from the threat of oblivion and brought what remained to Laurelton Hall, the vast house he built for himself from 1902 to 1904 on Long Island.

As fate would have it, the chapel trail had still not reached its

end. Tiffany died in 1933, leaving his estate including the chapel to the foundation he created. In 1957 it suffered a devastating fire which left the house a ruin though the chapel was spared. A Tiffany daughter contacted Hugh McKean hoping that the McKean's would save a window from Laurelton Hall. Jeannette McKean



Spring from Four Seasons, Laurelton Hall

visited the ruined site with her husband and purchased all of the leaded windows and

architectural elements bringing them to Winter Park. Later the McKean's acquired the remains of the chapel interior.

As years passed, they acquired the chapel furnishings that had been dispersed by the Tiffany Foundation and eventually assembled virtually all the elements Tiffany had installed at Laurelton Hall, thus concluding the second rescue of Tiffany's great work.

Please visit the web site at www.morsemuseum.org (407) 645-5311

Copyright© 2000 The Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation Inc.
All rights reserved.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

I hope the summer of 2000 has held exciting glass adventures for everyone, whether traveling to the ends of the earth or simply prowling through the dusty second-hand shop around the corner. It continually amazes me what wonders are out there to be discovered, and although you can't always add these discoveries to your personal collection, you almost always can send notice of them to your Shards editor (maybe even squeezing in a little research for the edification of your collecting colleagues). Which can be just as satisfying! For example, this July my family and I had the good fortune to spend some time on Prince Edward Island, Canada. Cycling through the green rolling hills along the southwestern shore of the island, we "unexpectedly" came across a sign proclaiming that the famous "Maisons de Bouteilles" (Bottle Houses) were just ahead. I tried to act surprised, but I think my traveling companions suspected premeditation. Fortunately they were feeling indulgent, so we pedaled down the drive, paid our admission fee, and encountered what fully lived up to its hype in the promotional brochure (carefully concealed in my back pocket) as "a French-Canadian curiosity not to be missed!" Standing before us in the midst of a carefully tended flower garden, with the gorgeous blue of the ocean for a backdrop, stood three structures constructed of concrete and some 25,000 glass bottles.

Built between 1980 and 1984 by the late Edouard Arsenault, retired carpenter and lobster fisherman, the first of these folk art oddities was a six-gabled "house" standing about 15 feet high. Following its completion and encouraged by visitor interest, Arsenault built a second bottle structure nearby to serve as a souvenir shop. The final structure to be completed before

Arsenault's death at age 60 in 1984 was a small chapel boasting bottle-studded walls and pews composed entirely of glass votive candle holders. Viewed from the inside, these structures surround the visitor with vivid patterns of green, amber and colorless glass. Viewed from the outside, one's suspicion of contrivance notwithstanding, the bottle houses are surprisingly quaint. Now, a full month after our trip, my wife and daughter still thank me regularly for having brought them there. Well, perhaps not, but we did enjoy our visit, and what I found most intriguing was the discovery that the bottle houses are by no means a unique phenomenon.

Arsenault's efforts had been inspired by a post card showing a much larger house, constructed from some 180,000 bottles, that was built in 1962 on Vancouver Island. Subsequent to our visit I came across a reference to yet another bottle house (see *The Antiques Journal*, July 1969, p.26), this one located in the "ghost town" of Rhyolite, Nevada. It apparently predates 1952 and actually was inhabited, but details regarding its origin are not discussed. I'm looking forward to learning more about these curious structures, and would be happy to hear from anyone with information to contribute. For that matter, I and your fellow glass club members would be happy to learn about any interesting glass discoveries you have made, recently or not so recently. Drop us a note and share your insights with the group - it's part of the joy of studying glass!

—from Kirk Nelson

NAGC at Corning in 2001

May 30 - June 2, 2001, come join the fun - celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of The Corning Museum of Glass, 150th anniversary of The Corning Glass Works and the NAGC in its 67th year. Three days of non-stop activity; time to look, time to shop and time to blow creatively if you wish. We like to go "where the glass is" and this is it - doesn't get any better - the glass collector's Mecca; from the mundane to the magnificent.

The Corning Museum of Glass is no longer as you once knew it. It has been renovated, redesigned, reconfigured, refocused and all with great flourish and panache. Don't miss it! An awesome, mind blowing experience.

A word of warning -

This is a gigantic event, and hotel rooms are tight. They are not available at the Radisson and possibly not at the Comfort Inn. We suggest that you book a room now. Holiday Inn (607) 962-5021, Hampton (607) 936-3344, Fairfield (607) 937-9600, Days Inn (607) 936-9370, Comfort Inn (607) 962-1515. This is a Corning Museum of Glass - National American Glass Club venture. Ask for the Glass Convention rate.

As always, the program is spellbinding and fascinating.

More later....

— Carmen Freeman
Seminar Chair

West Virginia Glass Gathering

Two days of actual glass factory tours, conversations with the owners, craftsmen, artist and creators in their own hometowns and factories! There is no experience like the informal, very informative Glass Gathering. Presentations will include, *Stretch Glass*, *Carnival Glass* by Joe and June Roberts, *Canadian Glass* from the 1800s forward, *Wilkerson Art Glass*, and a spotlight on lesser known mid 20th century *WVGlass Houses* by Don Smith.

October 20 & 21, 2000 at the Jacksons Mill State 4-H Conference Center, Weston, WV.

Mail registration to: PO Box 574, Weston, WV 26452

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

Through October 22, 2000
WHEATON VILLAGE, Millville, NJ at the Museum of American Glass. (800) 998-4552. "American Glass: 1900-2000" Annual Exhibition.

September 14 - 16, 2000
ROCKWELL MUSEUM, Corning, NY (607) 974-4830. The 9th Annual Carder Steuben Symposium 2000 includes lectures, panel discussions, workshops and tours. A special feature this year will be a celebration of Bob and Hertha Rockwell, dedicated Corning philanthropists who have donated 2000 Carder Steuben pieces to the Museum that bears their name.

September 23 & 24, 2000
13th Annual Glass Show & Sale: Sponsored by the SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM (508) 888-0251. Held at the Sheridan Four Points off the Mid-Cape Highway, exit 6, on Rte 132, Hyannis, MA. 55 nationally prominent glass dealers. Lecture on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 9am by Louis St. Aubin, Jr. "The Art Glass of Mt. Washington Glass Company, 1870-1910".

September 29 & 30, 2000
GREEN VALLEY AUCTIONS, 2259 Green Valley Lane, Mt. Crawford, VA (540) 434-4260. Early American Glass & Oil Lamps Auction of over 4000 pieces featuring the private collection of Bette & Chub Wicker of Millbrook NY; Mr. & Mrs. Dale Stock of Dillsburg, PA; and glass de-accessioned by the Sandwich Glass Museum. Visit the web site for catalog and other information.

October 11 - 15, 2000
CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, Corning, NY (607) 974-4084. The 39th Annual Seminar, co-sponsored with the Eastern Lakes Chapter of the AMERICAN CUT GLASS ASSOC.,

will focus on glass cutting and engraving from antiquity to the 20th century. Along with the new galleries and lectures, there will be an antique show and sale, "Brilliant Weekend" featuring cut & engraved glass, and demonstrations of glass cutting and engraving at The Studio. See article on page 4.

October 13 & 14, 2000
VASELINE COLLECTORS CLUB, INC., Annual Glass Convention at the Holiday Inn Select, 5000 E. Skelly Dr, Tulsa, OK. There will be auctions, "Swap & Shop", lectures and a special souvenir. Please see article on this page. www.icnet.net/users/davepeterson/

October 20 & 21, 2000
WEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF AMERICAN GLASS presents "WV Glass Gathering 2000," a regional glass history conference, at Jacksons Mill State 4-H Conference Center (off US I-79) (304) 269-5006. See article pg. 2.

November 4 & 5, 2000
MARYLAND GLASS SHOW & SALE, at MD State Fairgrounds, 4-H Building, Timonium, MD (north of Baltimore off I-83). 50 Nationally prominent dealers selling 18th to 20th century glass. Free lecture on Sandwich Glass by curator Lynne Horton, Sat & Sun at 1:00pm. (410) 538-5558.

Nov. 17 - 19, 2000
EASTERN NATIONAL ANTIQUES SHOW & SALE State Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA. Call (610) 437-5534 for further information.

May 30 - June 2, 2001
17th Annual NATIONAL GLASS SEMINAR. The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY (607) 937-5371. 2001 celebrates NAGC in its 67th year, the 50th anniversary of the founding of The Corning Museum of Glass and the 150th anniversary of the Corning Glass Works!

See article on page 2.

Vaseline Glass Convention

The 2nd annual Vaseline Collectors Club, Inc. Glass Convention will be held on October 13 & 14 at the Holiday Inn Select, Tulsa Oklahoma. This year's Convention Souvenir is an opalescent perfume bottle made by Gibson Glass Company and limited to 120 pieces made.

This popular event will feature international speakers, auctions and sales. John Bell, from New Castle-upon-Tyne, UK will speak on *English Glass*. John Sample will lead an informal session on *Rosso Glass*. There will be a question and answer period concerning L.G. Wright Co., followed by the auction.

Bruce Schiwitz will conduct a seminar on *Reproductions, Reissues and New Glass*. Finally Nadene Stockard, NAGC member, will be the keynote speaker.

Attendees may place selections from their private collections on display. This year there will be tables with different themes; Novelties, Fenton, Toothpicks and Salts, Table Settings, Contemporary, and Art Glass.

Registration may be sent to: Sharyn Ferre, Secretary, VGCI, PO Box 391, Owasso, OK 74055.

To make a reservation at the hotel please call (918) 622-7000. Please visit the club's website, www.icnet.net/users/davepeterson/ for a registration form and information about the club.

Bottle Collectors

The Little Rhody Bottle Club held an open house on Sept. 12th at the Pontiac Library, Warwick, RI. The club meets monthly on the second Tuesday, and offers members lectures, sales, and seminars. (401) 461-6083

Please visit the website for membership information. www.home.earthlink.net/~oaklawn/lrbc.htm

39th Annual Seminar on Glass

The 2000 Seminar on Glass at The Corning Museum of Glass (October 11-15, 2000) will include several new facets that we hope will be of special interest.

The lectures, focusing on glass cutting and engraving from antiquity to the 20th century, will be co-sponsored by the Eastern Lakes Chapter of the American Cut Glass Association (ACGA). Demonstrations of cutting and engraving techniques will be presented at The Studio, where participants will also have an opportunity to try their hand at cutting glass.

Another highlight of the Seminar program is the ACGA's semi-annual "Brilliant Weekend." The centerpiece of that event is an antiques show featuring American Rich Cut glass of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. On October 14th and 15th a dozen dealers will offer an extensive selection of cut and engraved glass for sale in the Museum's auditorium. Proceeds from the show will be used by The Corning Museum of Glass for acquisitions of American glass.

Seminar participants are invited to tour the Museum's renovated Art and History Galleries and "Crystal City," a new display that traces the history of the cut glass industry in Corning. The Juliette K. and Leonard S. Rakow Research Library, which has a new home near the Museum, will also be open. Tours of the library will be offered during an open house on October 13.

The Corning Museum of Glass
(607) 937-5371
publicprograms@cmog.org

Corning Acquires New Dale Chihuly Sculpture

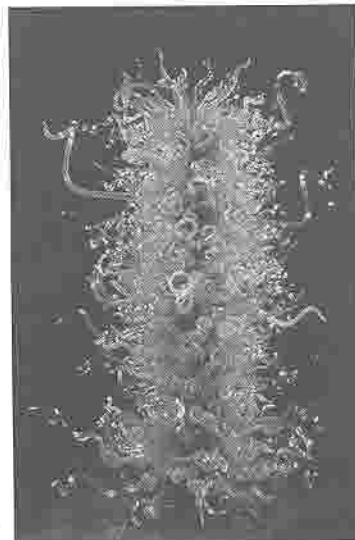
"Fern Green Tower," a new glass sculpture by the internationally recognized artist Dale Chihuly, is on view in the Lobby of The Corning Museum of Glass. This monumental sculpture is 13 feet high, 6 feet in diameter, and weighs 1,400 pounds. It is made of blown glass supported by a steel structure.

David Whitehouse, executive director of the Museum, said " 'Fern Green Tower' is a major acquisition and it will occupy a prominent place in the Museum's Lobby. Indeed, it will be one of the very first works of art seen by visitors when they enter the Museum. The installation is a gift from the artist and all of us - the Museum, its staff, and our visitors - are indebted to him for his generosity."

"In the last decade, Dale Chihuly has transformed public spaces around the world with his 'Chandeliers' and 'Towers,' enchanting international audiences with the ambition of his vision," said Tina Oldknow, curator of modern glass. "We are honored to have a major new work by this acclaimed artist."

Arguably the world's most widely recognized artist working in glass, Dale Chihuly's art is included in over 170 museum collections from New York to Kyoto.

The Corning Museum of Glass, in Corning, NY, is open daily from 9am to 5pm. From July 1 through Labor Day, it is open from 9 am to 8 pm. The Rakow Research Library is open to the public without appointment Monday through Friday, 9 am until 5 pm (607) 974-8797
www.cmog.org



New Home for World's Most Comprehensive Glass Library

The Juliette K. and Leonard S. Rakow Research Library, the world's most comprehensive library on the history and art of glass, opened the doors of its new permanent home at Five Museum Way, Corning, NY, to the public on July 21, 2000.

The new Rakow Library building is a radical reconstruction of Corning Incorporated's "E" Building. The new 32,000-square foot library features state-of-the-art environmental technology, an improved workplace, user-friendly research facilities, and greatly increased collections capacity. Proper archival storage conditions for the library's growing collections were the paramount consideration. Precisely controlled temperature, humidity and air

quality will conserve both paper- and film-based materials, ensuring that these resources will remain available over the decades.

Extraordinary glass detailing characterizes the "building within a building" which houses the collection, as well as special features such as glass-floored stairs and bridges. A glass sun-screen protects the south-facing windows from the heat and ultraviolet radiation of the sun. A large environmental sculpture, the sunscreen has completely transformed the character of the former office building. It consists of large glass plates with linear patterns on both sides. The ceramic and etched lines interact prismatically with seasonal sun angles to maximize visual transparency while excluding direct sunlight.

Portland 2000 16th Annual Seminar

The NAGC 16th annual Seminar on Glass held in Portland, ME was everything that chairwoman Carmen Freeman promised. The city of Portland is charming and quite the cultural center. We began our weekend with a reception at the Stein Gallery. On sale were artistic creations covering the full spectrum of color, complexity and cost.

The next day Arlene Palmer presented the lecture "Putting American Glass on the Map: Collector's and Researchers of the 20th Century." She explained how the 1876 Centennial Exhibition sparked an interest in our country's history and specifically its artifacts. The Colonial Revival movement had now begun, and with it an interest in anything to do with our founding Fathers.

Referring to many out-of-print volumes written by some of the earliest of decorative arts enthusiasts of the 19th and early 20th centuries, Ms. Palmer noted how the information offered to readers contained errors in attribution, offered personal prejudice, unsubstantiated claims, yet she explained that their true legacy is not in accuracy but in the ignition of the glass collecting fire.

Douglas Hawes, curator of the Historical Collections at the Maine State Museum, presented "Glass in the Maine Stream" and shocked us with photos of thousands of nameless bottles that had been hidden away, on floor after floor, in an old Maine warehouse. But with good humor and academic prowess, he tackled this project and discovered the bottles' secrets along with some old-fashioned backwoods lore. His exhibit, opens this fall entitled "Glass in Maine Project", will show the history and significance of glass-making from the early part of the 19th century through present day.

Conservator Sharon Smith Abbott took us through her workshop filled with broken or poorly repaired glass treasures.

Each project brought to her offers a new challenge and tests her 14 years of experience in the field of glass and ceramic conservation. She was as a magician, confounding and amazing her audience with repairs that defied common sense. She uses her imagination, experience, very expensive and temperamental adhesives along with lots of patience.

Next, Dr. David Whitehouse, the Executive Director of the Corning Museum of Glass, presented a true treasure hunt. His lecture "Before Venice: 1500 Years of Glassmaking in Europe and the Middle East" posed the question of whether the distinctive glassmaking techniques seen during the Venetian Renaissance was accomplished by building upon earlier traditions or was this creative movement an original inspiration? He led us on a chase through early medieval Northern Europe and Islamic regions following a path of decorating and production techniques. We followed him across Germany and Italy during the Dark ages, then on to 11th and 12th century Constantinople and Istanbul in the search of similarities that might lead to 15th century Venice.

Contemporary glass artist Dan Dailey treated those present to a beautiful presentation of his work, both palatial and practical. From a 1300 pound door that he created for a home set in the Southwest, to work for the famous French company, Daum, he was often lyrical in his designs.

The seminar culminated at the Jones Gallery of Glass and Ceramics. As a teaching museum, the collection is available for scholars and collectors to examine the forms, colors, and signatures of their subject. Its founding curator Dorothy-Lee Jones is a wealth of knowledge, sharing years of study and the 6000 volumes she has at her library. After a gracious luncheon, participants chose either the tax specialist lecture or a primer on fakes and reproductions.

Cambridge Glass Museum will Reopen

After the disastrous flood in June of 1998, The National Cambridge Collectors is proud to announce that they are "under contract" to purchase the former Ohio Power Building on 9th Street in Cambridge, OH.

Their new home will be 4,500 square feet of space; giving the museum room for a research library, offices, glass and manufacturing display areas, and plenty of storage.

The NCCC would like to thank all the clubs and the many individuals who donated to the Museum Fund.

For further information, please contact them at PO Box 415, Cambridge, OH 43725-0416

Winterthur Research Fellowship Program

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library encourages applications for its 2001-2002 residential Research Fellowship Program. Approximately twenty-five fellowships will be awarded: NEH appointments, 4-12 months at \$2500 per month; dissertation fellowships, \$6500 per semester; and general grants, 1-3 months at \$1500 per month. Library resources support research in American history, culture, art history and material culture through the 1930s; museum collections include objects made or used in colonial America to 1860. Several fellowships, including the new Dwight Lanmon Fellowship, are earmarked specifically for the study of glass and ceramics.

For more information, visit www.winterthur.org and follow links to the library; email pelliot@winterthur.org; or contact Advanced Studies, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, Winterthur, DE 19735 (302) 888-4649.

Application deadline is January 15, 2001.

Chapter News

The Founder's Chapter of Boston, MA is thrilled to have Dr. David Whitehouse, executive director the Corning Museum of Glass, as the featured speaker for their holiday meeting on December 13th. The chapter enjoys this special annual meeting which begins with a colorful display of holiday related glassware. This year, Peggy Hooper will led the group with *Ring in the New Year with New Glass*. Members will participate in a group discussion about recently made glass. After a catered luncheon at the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill, Dr. Whitehouse will captivate and entertain this fortunate gathering.

A New Chapter on Cape Cod, Massachusetts

The newest chapter of the NAGC is the Cape Cod Glass Club. This newly formed chapter will meet at the Sandwich Glass Museum, 129 Main Street, Sandwich, MA. All meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month beginning with an organizational meeting on October 3, 2000 at 7:30pm preceded by a half-hour reception. The election of officers will take place on October 3rd after which the founding members will present a

short program.

New and advanced collectors and scholars of all types of glass are invited to become members. The Sandwich Glass Museum provides a central location well within driving distance for on-Cape and off-Cape glass enthusiasts.

The club extends its appreciation to the Sandwich Glass Museum's Director, Bruce Courson and Curator of Glass, Nezka Pfeifer for their enthusiasm and assistance in forming this new chapter.

Members as Authors

To further share the talents and interests of our members, this publication will provide a place where authors can tell the membership about their recently published books, articles or videos concerning glass. Please send the title, subject matter and where copies may be obtained to:

Glass Shards, Alice Walsh, Editor, 11 Bentwood Street, Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035 & as@practice-corp.com

Coudersport Glass 1900-1904 by Tulla Majot. This book contains 48 pages of color photos, value guide, and the interesting history of this American company. HB \$34.95 PB \$24.95 • Antique Publications, PO Box 553, Marietta, Ohio 45750 (800) 533-3433.

ATTENTION READERS!

The Glass Shards is now Quarterly

The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be **DECEMBER 1, 2000**. Submit by mail to: **Alice Walsh, Editor, *Glass Shards*, 11 Bentwood Street, Foxborough, MA 02035 or reach us through email at: as@practice-corp.com**

The National
American Glass Club
Box 8489
Silver Spring, MD 20907



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE PAID
SILVER SPRING, MD
PERMIT NO. 6498

visit NAGC web page:
<http://www.glassclub.org>

**NEXT ISSUE'S
DEADLINE
DECEMBER 1, 2000**

First Class