



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

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Remembering Lowell Innes

Lowell Innes was foremost a teacher. He delighted in having glass collectors visit him at his home in Saco, Maine. He once told a friend: "I'd like to be remembered in two ways: first as a teacher and secondly as a friendly guy."

Recently, three friends shared their memories of Lowell. Nancy Sheriff, Mid-western glass collector, remembers: "We count the few years that we were friends of Lowell Innes as a highlight of our study of glass. He instilled in us an enthusiasm to study history and the techniques of glass-making, and how to learn from each piece of glass we handled. On our first visit to Saco with Ken Lyon, we were fetching and handling glass right out of the pages of his book; how fortunate we were! Later visits included fish chowder, lobster rolls, his famous gelatin fruit salad, and the making of elderberry jam—and all the time talking about glass. How we looked forward to each visit to see him and the piece of glass he had just acquired to add to his collection! Lowell loved to go to his favorite apple orchard at the foot of the White Mountains where he seemed to restore his soul while picking apples. There we learned the difference between a McIntosh and a Cortland apple. Even these trips included history lessons on the early Maine countryside, the details of the latest exhibit at the York Museum in Saco where he was guest curator, and his early life growing up in Maine, including long trolley rides to see Ethelinda during their courting days. Each day was full of activity as he made certain we saw the best New England had to offer. With fond memories, we will always remember our trips to Lowell's farmhouse on Jenkins Road, grateful for the time we were able to spend with him."

Miriam Mucha related the following: "Visits with Lowell recall memories of standing in the barn having apples counted out from three separate baskets . . . sitting with Ethelinda in early morning while Lowell 'harvested' raspberries for our breakfast . . . of lunching on

freshly prepared lobster roll (that he wouldn't eat) and then the chats: the unimportance of exact identification of glass, the twinkle sparked by the Sandwich/French syndrome and the 'awesome' neglect of his beloved Pittsburgh companies. Above all, the questions: those encouraging thoughtful research pursuits, those regarding source material from primary to literary rehash, and those regarding an inability to accept criticism of one's own collection. Lowell was always the teacher, ever trying to sharpen and stimulate the thought processes. We argued a lot; doesn't the French lacy syndrome prompt it? We agreed and we differed and we shared a world of glass. With one exception, he kept me on his yearly list of 'special' valentines, me and 499 others! Now his cards and letters are beribboned. As I recall all of the above, I'm grateful our paths crossed."

Jane Shadel Spillman, Curator of American Glass at the Corning Museum shared two of her favorite anecdotes about

Lowell and his beloved wife, Ethelinda.

"Lowell's visits to Corning after I came here were always related to Seminar. He would come a few days ahead, bring apples and chocolates for the museum staff, and spend a day or so in research. He and Jerome Stauss were great friends and Jerome often couldn't resist interrupting Lowell's lectures with his own stories. In 1965 or 1966, Jerome interrupted nearly every lecturer to contribute his own information. When he raised his voice during Lowell's lecture, Lowell walked to the front of the platform and said to a woman in the front row, 'I win, young lady. I told you he would interrupt me before the first fifteen minutes were up!'"

But there was more than one "character" in the Innes family, as Jane's next anecdote reveals.

"At our 1976 seminar, I was still on maternity leave since Beth was barely six weeks old. However, I came in for Lowell's

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PITTSBURGH, HERE WE COME!

Second Annual NEAGC Glass Seminar Agenda — "The Way West"

Apr. 24 - Thursday

8:00 p.m. — Reception - Historical Society of Western Pa. Museum

Apr. 25 - Friday

9:30 a.m. — "Siegel and His Contemporaries" - Arlene Palmer Schwind

11:00 a.m. — "John Frederick Amelung" - Dwight Lanmon

12:00 p.m. — "Pittsburgh Glass" - Kenneth Wilson

2:30 p.m. — "The New Geneva Story" - Peter Chillingworth

3:30 p.m. — "On the Trail of the Scent Bottle" - Marion Schreitmüller

6:30 p.m. — "It's Just Great Glass—It Says Here" - Paul V. Gardner

Apr. 26 - Saturday

8:30 a.m. — Annual Meeting — NEAGC

9:30 a.m. — "Wheeling Glass" - Gary Baker

11:00 a.m. — "Glass of the Pittsburgh Subway Digs" - Michael Hochrein

12:00 p.m. — "Christian Dorflinger" - Sheldon Butts

2:30 p.m. — "Glass of the 50's and 60's" - Barbara Lessig

3:30 p.m. — "Contemporary Paperweight Making" - Paul Stankard

Dedicated to the memory of Lowell Innes. All meetings at Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Museum. Seminar Information: (412) 828-2224.

NEAGC Chapter & Institution News

The WESTCHESTER GLASS CLUB of New York will hold their 10th Annual Collectors' Show on April 26-27 at the White Plains Women's Club, 305 Ridgeway Avenue. Glass from the ancient to contemporary will be on sale; through the participation of 30 dealers. Raymond Barlow and Joan Kaiser, authors of "The Glass Industry in Sandwich" will lecture.

In Boston, April 12, THE FOUNDERS CHAPTER OF NEAGC will hear a lecture, "American Glass Wines" by John Imbrie, collector and Professor of Oceanography, Brown University. May 14, Miriam Mucha

speaks on, "Curiosities in Glass." CAPE COD GLASS STUDY GROUP leader, Virginia Cutler visited SUN CITY CHAPTER, NEAGC Pres. Jim Helmericks and wife Jemmie in Prescott, Arizona. While attending a meeting, Virginia was most surprised to find Fran McClendon, formerly of the Boston Chapter, as one of 16 members present.

THE EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB OF MINNESOTA'S winter lectures included one on glass beaded bags, shown and discussed by Rosemarie Beaulieu and Shirlee Hegg and Mary Mugg spoke on the influence of Venetian glass in glassmaking.

THE BETHESDA CHAPTER, Maryland, reports 140 books on the Barger-Suppes bookshelves at the Chevy Chase Library. This Bethesda project, started in 1978, honors Ruth Suppes and Helen Barger, local glass teachers. Numerous books have been donated by Bethesda as well as other Maryland NEAGC chapters and individuals.

The AMELUNG CHAPTER of Maryland has had three programs on historical glass recently. "Engraved English Historical Glass," which traced three centuries of England's royal political and cultural history; "The Lady Is 100," featuring glass commemorating the Statue of Liberty, and "Space, Comets and Glass." Advanced historical glass collectors, AMELUNG members Harriet and Demmie Blackstone, have loaned several pieces to Corning's April-October exhibit, "Glass from World's Fairs, 1851-1904."

In Silver Spring, THE DORFLINGER STUDY GROUP is already working on their Montgomery County Antique Glass Show, Nov. 8-9, 1986, at a new location—Armory Place at Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street in Silver Spring, Maryland. By a unanimous vote, five Dorflinger Study Group slide tapes will eventually be reproduced and made available to NEAGC members for chapter programs.

THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO house over a thousand pieces of American glass, some of which is on exhibition and the rest available for study. They have no publication to offer at present, but would be happy to answer inquiries from collectors and students. Their collection also includes European examples, all of which are in the process of being catalogued. Interested members may write, Lee Hunt Miller, Assistant Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Calif. 94114.

The ESSEX INSTITUTE in Salem, Massachusetts recently purchased nine pieces of Anglo-Irish cut glass (which descended in the illustrious Derby family of Salem), dating from late 18th century to mid 19th century.

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

April 12

Glass Collectors' Sale Armory Place, Wayne Ave. & Fenton St., Silver Spring, Md. (9 Md. Chapters of NEAGC, sponsors)

Apr. 19-Oct. 19

Exhibit: "Glass From World's Fairs", Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York.

Apr. 25 & 26

Seminar: Second National Glass Seminar, Pittsburgh, Pa., co-hosted by Pittsburgh Chapter NEAGC and Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Apr. 26 & 27

Glass Show: Westchester Glass Show, White Plains Women's Club, 305 Ridgeway Ave., White Plains, NY.

May 16, 17, 18

Seminar: Paperweight Collectors Weekend, Wheaton Village, Millville, N.J.

May 17-Nov. 2

Exhibit: "Flowers & Flame: American Lampwork Paperweights," Museum of American Glass, Wheaton Village, Millville, N.J.

June 14-Oct. 26

Exhibit: "New American Glass: Focus 2 West Virginia," Huntington Galleries, Park Hills, West Va.

July 17-19

Convention: American Cut Glass Association, Dallas, Texas.

Oct. 15-Oct. 18

Seminar: Glass of Victorian Era, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York.

Nov. 8 & 9

Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale, Armory Place (new location), Wayne Ave. & Fenton St., Silver Spring, Md.

President's Letter

Dear NEAGC Members:

We hope that you have noticed the many NEAGC press releases in recent antique-oriented publications, thanks to our publicity chairperson. Despite the subject, most of them end up with an invitation to join. As the budget permits, we will also seek membership inquiries by paid advertising. Preliminary efforts indicate that this should be productive. One way or another, we are indeed growing at a slow but steady pace!

I encourage all of you to take an active part in our growth. If you are associated with or live near a museum having a glass collection, well-placed applications there would be a real asset. Approaching a glass-collecting acquaintance, a fellow chapter member, or a dealer who specializes in glass, especially with a hand-written invitation, will indeed bring results. We have an excellent supply of membership applications, so let us know how many you need.

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. Remember that there are two types of chapters, one which limits membership to 15 or 20, enabling meetings to be held in member's homes; the other being an "open club" which has no membership limit and meets in public places. Positive action on your part will reward you and your members handsomely with lifetime friendships and associations.

Sincerely,
Kenneth W. Lyon
President

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES REPORT

In surveys conducted during the reorganization of NEAGC, two themes ran through the answers from regional members: "Where do we start to study glass and where can we get ideas for programs?" The purpose of the Educational Resources Committee is to serve as a conduit of information within the national organization, so that our chapters may share their information and resources. This will require the participation and cooperation of *all* members. Perhaps someone in your chapter has made a slide-tape program which NEAGC could use. There must be many films, video tapes and lectures of which I am unaware, available from companies, clubs, librarians, museums or glass enthusiasts. Please send me sources and/or suggestions for NEAGC programs and I will publish them here. With your help, the educational program can serve as a clearing house for all glass information.

Resources

The first resource is your local library. The inter-library loan system is a most useful tool in the search for glass research material. Librarians are generally most helpful. The Rakow Library of the Corning Museum of Glass is currently microficheing much of their collection which is available through the inter-library loan. They will be publishing an index of their extensive collection of glass catalogues sometime this year. (I hope that some of our members will let us know the resources of this library which have been particularly useful.)

The Library of Congress is a mixed blessing. Before using this facility, it is advisable to order their publication *Guide to the Library of Congress*, by Charles A. Goodrum and Helen W. Dalrymple. This is available for \$5.95, plus \$2.00 shipping, by writing: Library of Congress, Information Office, Box A, Washington, D.C. 20540. Checks should be made payable to the Library of Congress. When ordering, request their free catalog, *Publications in Print, 1985*. Although it does not have anything specific for glass, the range of publications is breathtaking.

We need information on using the National Archives and the Patent Office. Genealogical research is a relatively untapped resource in the search for glass history. Any information on the facilities offered by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Church of the Latter Day Saints should be forwarded to me.

The Smithsonian Institution has some programs on the conservation of collections, but none specifically on glass. These programs may be rented or purchased. For information write: Office of Museum

Programs, Smithsonian Institute, Arts & Industries Bldg., Room 2235, Washington, DC 20560. (I believe these are slide lectures.)

Films and VCR tapes are another source for programs. The Fenton Glass Co. has an excellent film, *The Fenton Film of Glass-making*, that is available in 16mm film and in VCR tape, both Beta and VHS formats. To order, send \$10.00 to: Fenton Glass Co., Attn: Mary Berry, 700 Elizabeth St., Williamstown, WV 26187. Specify the desired format and the date of your program. Note your affiliation with NEAGC. They pay postage out, you pay return.

Corning has a film called *Assignment in Glassmaking*. This may be borrowed by writing or phone: Steuben Glass, Public Relations Dept., 717-5th Avenue, Third Floor, NY, NY 10022; Tel. (212) 752-1441. This film is free, but they request sufficient advance notice.

There is an excellent 16mm film out called *Glass* produced by Bert Haanstra of the Royal Glassworks at Leerdam, Netherlands, features glassmaking to a jazz accompaniment. Check your public library for availability. Another film, *Men of Murano*, exists but I do not have any information on this yet.

The Education Program, NEAGC, has three slide shows available, *History of American Glass*, prepared by the NEAGC in collaboration with the Corning Museum, is a rather elementary history of the glass industry in America, suitable for beginning students of glass. The other two are more advanced and are very good lectures on *Open Master Salts*, by Dr. Edward Tinney and *American Pattern Glass* by Harriet Roberts. These are available for a rental fee of \$15.00. Write to me at the address below. We pay postage out, you pay return.

We also have available for sale back issues of *The Glass Club Bulletin*. Free indexes are available for Nos. 1 through 118 on request. If anyone would like to bring this index up to date, I would be glad to make it available. The "almost" complete sets lack a few of the early publications. Checks should be made out to NEAGC and remitted with order. Bulletins #1-119, 50¢ each; Bulletins 120 to present, \$1.00 each; 25th Anniversary brochure, \$1.25 each; 40th Anniversary (includes #106-#110) Bulletin, \$2.00 each; 50th Anniversary Bulletin, \$3.00; almost complete set of Bulletins, \$125.00, including postage; rental of slide lectures, \$15.00 per lecture. Except where stated, postage is extra.

NEAGC slide tapes and Bulletins are available by writing me, Bill Sheriff, 1222 Pinecrest Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Our individual members include scholars, historians, glass dealers and collectors, all studying glass, both as a vocation and avocation. All share a common love of glass. In the past, the national members in the Boston area carried the torch by sponsoring local glass exhibits and publishing occasional booklets. Now it is up to *all* of us. If we are to expand the scope of the NEAGC educational program we need your help to do so. Please share your program ideas and resources. We will disseminate this information in *Glass Shards*. If enough material is contributed, I will undertake to collate it and make it available to all members.

—Bill Sheriff

PROFILES IN GLASS

(Editor's Note: I asked several people in the glass world to share with us the origins of their interest in glass. This issue, Paul Hollister, paperweight authority, author, and former Glass Club Bulletin Editor.)

Last September 27 in Madrid, I delivered a paper before the 10th Congress of the International Association for the History of Glass, a group I've belonged to since the sixties and before which I've delivered two other papers, all on millefiori glass. My subject was twelve millefiori glass bowls presently in Munich, that were made in the period ca. 1775-1825, probably in Italy and probably to pass as ancient.

That occasion continued my interest in millefiori glass, which began in childhood with my fascination for glass paperweights my parents brought home from trips to Europe, and remained mystifying to me until I began to investigate the subject in the mid-1950's. The many hours devoted to that investigation led to two books and two museum catalogs on paperweights, and over 125 articles and reviews, which in turn opened up my curiosity about other kinds of glass, including Renaissance Venetian glass (for which I received a tiny grant in 1979 from the Renaissance Society of America), 19th-century Bohemian/American/French/English cased glass, and the use of glass in windows. As we all eventually realize, glass study is a bottomless pit; and I am now down in the third sub-basement, with miles of digging to go. In all this time my most prestigious title was editor of *The Glass Club Bulletin*.

—Paul Hollister

NEAGC INFORMATION

The books and periodicals that were in the NEAGC library have been absorbed into the Boston Athenaeum Library on Beacon Street in Boston, but they are still available to all members of NEAGC for study and research. If available, use the inter-library loan system or your LOCAL library who will

contact the Athenaeum for you. Otherwise, one may make arrangements with NEAGC Librarian, Barbara Crowley, 14 Melrose Street, Boston, MA 02116, who will make arrangements with the Athenaeum for you. However, there is a \$10.00 fee per book for shipping and insurance. *All requests must be*

made to Barbara in writing. Length of time for keeping a book will be a month. Books may be renewed by calling the Athenaeum, Tel. (617) 227-0270. Ask for the reference room and speak with Donald Kelley, Helen LeFleur, or Cynthia English. (The only exception to the above procedure would be for members of the Founder's Chapter of NEAGC in Boston; there the club librarian will sign out the book and deliver it personally at the next meeting.)

Rakows to Fund New Glass Scholarship and Art Programs

New programs to provide grants for glass scholarship and glass art will be inaugurated in 1986 at the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, N.Y. Announcement of the grants was made by Dwight P. Lanmon, museum director.

Dr. Leonard S. and Juliette K. Rakow, Fellow, friends and benefactors of the museum for many years, will endow the two grants. Each fund will initially provide \$5,000 per year but will eventually grow to \$25,000 annually.

The Rakow Research Grant will cover

costs (including travel expenses) for scholarly research in the history of glass and glass-making. Application forms are available from the Corning Museum of Glass.

The Rakow Commission, awarded by a committee of museum staff members, will permit glassmakers to venture into new areas which they might otherwise be unable to explore because of financial limitations. Commissioned works, which will enter the museum's collection, will be displayed publicly for the first time at each annual Seminar on Glass.

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.

Any comments or submissions for this publication should be sent to: Sylvia Applebee Lyon, Editor, 1111 University Blvd. West, #613, Silver Spring, Md. 20902. Fall issue copy deadline, September 1. NEAGC chapter news and institution members news always solicited. Have a great summer!

Remembering Lowell Innes

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lecture at 11:00 one morning. At noon, Lowell was nowhere near finished and he just kept going. Finally, around 12:20, Ethelinda marched to the front of the room. 'Now, Lowell, you've got to stop,' she said determinedly. 'Jane must go home to nurse the baby!'

Lowell's reputation for talking way beyond the appointed hour was never more obvious than at the 1983 Montgomery County Antique Glass Show in Maryland, where he was the featured lecturer. On the

second day, Lowell wasn't feeling well. "Too weak to talk," he asked Bill Sheriff to speak for him. As Bill was talking, Lowell stepped forward "to interject a word or two." He continued to speak for a record two and a half hours!

In October of 1984, Lowell Innes was the after dinner speaker at the Corning seminar. He had come to talk about old friends, George McKearin, Jim Rose and Jerome Strauss. Awash with boyish innocence, aglow with love for his departed friends and

favorite subject, his face illuminated the darkened room. As he lingered there behind the podium, all notes lost, one could feel definite warmth rising from the audience, whom he regaled with one glass story after another. But unlike many times past, no one wanted Lowell to stop talking. Finally, when he stepped down amid a standing ovation, a sudden melancholia swept the room. Somehow we knew: Lowell Innes had just said goodbye.

— Sylvia Applebee Lyon

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