



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 1987

NEAGC Goes West!

On May 14-16, the National Early American Glass Club will sponsor its third annual National Glass Seminar in Beverly Hills, California. Seminar Chairman Ellen Roberts has planned a diversified agenda for registrants, commencing with an opening reception at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, hosted by The Decorative Arts Council.

Friday morning, Sidney Goldstein, Associate Director of the St. Louis Art Museum, will open NEAGC's first western glass seminar, lecturing on: "Ancient and Not So Ancient Glass." Mr. Goldstein, one of the country's leading authorities in this area of glass study, was formerly Curator of Ancient Glass at the Corning Museum of Glass.

Also on Friday morning, Leslie Greene Bowman, Associate Curator of Decorative Arts at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, will give a presentation on that museum's collections.

Following the morning lectures, Friday's luncheon will include a program by Kenneth Wilson, Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts at the Henry Ford Museum. Mr. Wilson, one of America's

most respect glass researchers and authors will be speaking on Victorian art glass, the chosen title of his lecture a direct quote from an April 1986 issue of *Crockery & Glass Journal*: "For the Present—Art Glass Is All the Go."

A dinner-dance featuring Paul V. Gardner as after-dinner speaker will conclude Friday's activities. Mr. Gardner, Curator Emeritus of Glass and Ceramics at the Smithsonian Institution, was Frederick Carder's only assistant when Mr. Carder was head of the Steuben Glass Works in Corning, New York. Author of the definitive work: "The Glass of Frederick Carder," Mr. Gardner has chosen as his subject: "A Thread of Glass," which traces the evolution of this decorative glass technique from ancient times to the present.

Saturday morning will start bright and early for NEAGC members with our annual meeting scheduled from 8:30-9:30 a.m. President Ken Lyon will conduct the meeting and at that time the new officers for the coming two years will be announced, following a vote tabulation by club secretary, Nancy Sheriff.

Miriam Mucha, Special Assistant in the

American Art Department of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, will give the first Saturday morning lecture, speaking on the "French Lacy Connection" in pressed glass of the Lacy period. Later that morning, Sheldon Butts, Maryland collector and glass researcher, will speak on "To Have and To Hold," his presentation focusing on wedding gifts of glass given to persons of note over the past two centuries. The closing lecture of the seminar will be given at the Saturday luncheon when Martin Eidelberg, Professor of Art History at Rutgers University, defines "Glass of the 1920's—Art Deco and Not."

Four afternoon tours are scheduled for seminar participants, including a visit to the glass collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Ken Kercheval, television star, will open his Beverly Hills mansion where glass lovers may view his extensive pressed glass collection. A visit to the studio of internationally known glass sculptress Pascal, and the Paul Getty Museum, promises to make the third National Glass Seminar a must for anyone interested in the decorative arts. NEAGC members are urged to register early.

Mucha Awarded Rakow Grant

Past President of NEAGC

Miriam E. Mucha, special assistant in the American Art Department of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, will receive the 1987 Rakow Grant for Glass Research, awarded by The Corning Museum of Glass.

Announcement of the award was made by the museum's director, Dwight P. Lanmon.

"The grant is intended to fund new and important research in the history of glass," Lanmon said. "We received 18 applications from scholars working in nine different countries. All of the projects were excellent, and it was very difficult to decide which one should receive the grant. Mrs. Mucha's project was viewed as highly important to the understanding of American glass and 19th-century mass-produced glass."

Mrs. Mucha's project concerns the

method of manufacture of French pressed tablewares produced between 1825 and 1848. Preliminary research shows that, while the outward appearance of American and French pressed glass of this period is similar, the manufacturing technologies employed were different. She will gather evidence to support her theory that French factories produced hollow ware using a piston or bellows rather than a plunger press.

Because firsthand study of samples is essential to the project, her research will take her to France and Belgium, where she will visit the factories of Saint-Louis, Baccarat, and Val-Saint-Lambert. These were the most significant glassworks in the production of pressed glass during this period. Mrs. Mucha, who will also study museum pressed glass collections as part of

her project, intends to publish her findings in a book.

Miriam Mucha is well known to American glass collectors and students. She has been president of The National Early American Glass Club and a director of the advisory board of The Creative Glass Center of America (Millville, New Jersey). She is a trustee of the Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics (Douglas Hill, Maine), and she has lectured on glass at The Corning Museum of Glass, The National Capital Glass Seminars, and the Portland Museum of Art (Maine).

The Rakow Grant for Glass Research was founded by Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Rakow of New York City to recognize and promote excellence in the history of glass. The award, which initially provides \$5,000 each year, will eventually be endowed and grow to \$25,000 annually.

PROFILES IN GLASS

There is no beginning and no ending for a BORN GLASS COLLECTOR. But, there are many exciting plateaus of growth. As a B.G.C. my first plateau was unexpected. In the 1960's I was asked to share my modest French lacy collection in a program at my NEAGC Regional Club in California. I enthusiastically accepted, but before long a feeling of panic came over me. What would I say?

I frantically tried to recall every glass talk I had ever listened to and the good reasons I remembered them. For me, the summation was brief, it was: enthusiasm for the subject, adherence to the time limit, pertinent illustrative examples and THE TOPIC. I knew I controlled 75% of the requirements, all but THE TOPIC. Most revealing to me was my lack of knowledge on MY glass, THE TOPIC. I could identify it, but how did it differ from the American look-alikes? What historical background could I offer, and what significant points could I make without knowledge of the historical American competition? What did I really know that would enlighten my listeners?

Faced with the challenge and a tight time schedule, I learned a lot about American authors, and I began learning more about my collection as well as American glass. Pandora's box (glass, of course) was opened, and I was on my way to the first plateau.

The introduction to search and research has made my French lacy collection the pivotal point in an exhilarating glass journey. Companion collectors, shared collections, and a glass library have resulted from a request to speak on a modest collection, and it has developed into an exciting and an unending pursuit for me.

—Miriam Mucha

NEAGC NOTES

Members needing help with glass identification should write to: Dorothy Lee Jones, Curator-Founder, The Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics (formerly The Jones Gallery ...), Douglas Hill, Maine 04024. Enclose a self-addressed STAMPED envelope and a clear photograph with any pertinent information relating to the glass item you wish to have identified.

Bill Sheriff reports he is still looking for educational resources suitable for chapter programs, but was grateful for the response to his letter. Back issues of *The Glass Club Bulletin* are selling well, so get your request in as soon as possible. Bulletin indexes are now available upon request.

NEAGC member Carl Fauster reports that the PBS-TV documentary, "The

Fragile Art: The Midwestern Heritage of Glassmaking," is available as a videotape program. Write him c/o Antique & Historic Glass Foundation, P.O. Box 7413, Toledo, Ohio 43615.

Membership dues are \$15.00 a year...

and if you attend NEAGC's annual glass seminar, the 10% member discount automatically gives you back your annual dues. Send your dues to: Donald Ferland, Membership Chairman, NEAGC, Box 757, Kendall Square Branch, Cambridge, MA 02142-9998.

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

April-May 10, 1987

Exhibit: "American Glass Art of 1950's—A Forgotten Era," Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ, featuring glass of Eckhardt, Heaton, Francis & Michael Higgins.

April through Sept. 7, 1987

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

April 25, 1987

Glass Show & Sale: Armory Place, Wayne Ave. & Fenton, Silver Spring, MD. Sponsors: 9 D.C. Area Chapters of NEAGC.

April 25, 26, 1987

Glass Show & Sale: Women's Club, 305 Ridgeway Ave., White Plains, NY. Sponsors: Westchester Glass Club of Westchester County, NY. Info: (203) 531-7004.

April 25-Oct. 18, 1987

Exhibit: "Glass of the Caesars"—Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY. (Please note 6-week extension on date): 150 objects illustrating outstanding and major glass types and techniques dating from about 100 B.C.-A.D. 600.

May 14-16

Seminar: Third National Glass Seminar, Beverly Hillcrest Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA. Sponsored by The National Early American Glass Club. Info: (301) 588-6809.

May 16

Seminar: "Glass Connoisseurship"—New Bedford Museum of Glass, New Bedford, MA. Lectures by Charles Hajdamach & Janie Chester Young. Identification clinic, 3 items only. Tel. (617) 994-0115. \$15.00 fee.

June 1-Nov. 8, 1987

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

June 6-Sept. 27, 1987

Exhibit: "Mt. Washington Art Glass of the 1887 New Bedford Centennial," New Bedford Glass Museum, New Bedford, MA. Tel. (617) 994-0115.

July 8-11, 1987

Cut Glass Convention & Glass Sale—American Cut Glass Association. In Arlington, VA. For details (217) 399-0607, Bob Hampton.

Sept. 13-Nov. 8, 1987

Exhibit: "New American Glass: Focus West Virginia"—Four artist invitational Huntington Galleries, Park Hills, Huntington, WV 25701. (304) 529-2701.

Oct. 10, 11, 1987

Seminar: Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics (address: Douglas Hill, Maine 04024). Lectures by Donald Pettifer, Exec. Dir. Historic Cold Spring Village (formerly director of the Wheaton Museum). Lectures: "Southern Jersey Glassmaking and Its Influence" and "Glass Whimsies." Tel. (207) 787-3370 for details.

Oct. 14-17, 1987

Seminar: Corning Museum of Glass, 27th Annual — Lectures on 20th Century Glass. Tel. (607) 937-5371.

Oct. 24, 1987

Members Day—Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics. Lecture by Franklin D. Lenthall, Curator of Boothbay Theatre Museum in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, on that museum's glass collection.

Nov. 7 & 8, 1987

Glass Show & Sale: Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale, Armory Place, Wayne Ave. & Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD. Sponsors: Dorflinger Glass Study Group. Info: (703) 465-4040.

Dec. 13, 1987-Jan. 18, 1988

Exhibit: Contemporary Glass (from their permanent collection). Huntington Galleries, Huntington, WV.

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NEAGC Institution Members and NEAGC Chapters; Information for "Glass Calendar" is solicited. Send annually, prior to March 1 and Nov. 1 deadlines.

CHAPTER AND INSTITUTION NEWS

After a January visit to the early home and glass collection of their chapter Vice President, Mrs. Bradford Ketchum, THE EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB OF WATERVILLE, MAINE, looks forward to a spring program which includes talks on Sydenstreiker glass and Bohemian glass. In April club members enjoyed a visit to the home and pressed glass collection of Mrs. Harriet Tilley in Bangor, Maine.

THE WESTCHESTER GLASS CLUB of Westchester County, New York, will sponsor their 11th Annual Collector's Show and Sale on April 25 & 26 at the Women's Club, 305 Ridgeway Avenue, White Plains, New York. Kirk Nelson, Curator of Arts and Decorative Arts at the Bennington Museum, will be guest lecturer for the two-day event. His Saturday topics will be: "Glass at Bennington," "Vermont Glass" and "Pressed Glass." On Sunday, Mr. Nelson will present two other programs: "Art Glass" and "New Acquisitions at Bennington." Thirty-five glass dealers will exhibit. An identification booth, book exhibit, glass repair and a visit by Ray Barlow and Joan Kaiser, co-authors of "The Glass Industry in Sandwich," will round out the offerings of the show. Hours are Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 12-5. Call (203) 531-7004 for further information.

THE EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB OF MINNESOTA began 1987 with a program on "Art Glass of Joseph Locke," presented by Bea Smith, and "Other Nineteenth Century Art Glass" by Virginia Frenzel. "Cambridge (Ohio) and Heisey Glass" were the subjects of a program by Anna-Marie Ettel in March. April and May programs consisted of a talk on "Venetian Glass and Its Influence" by Mary Mugg and "The Blaschka Glass Flowers at Harvard University" presented by Jean McIntosh. Minnesota's 50th year closed with a picnic and some thoughts on "Reproductions: Collector, Beware" by Eleanor Hovelsrud and Bea Smith.

In Maryland, THE BETHESDA CHAPTER OF NEAGC reminds all NEAGC members that they always welcome gift books which are not currently on the Barger-Suppes Book Shelf at the Chevy Chase Public Library in Chevy Chase, MD. If you or your glass club would like to make a donation to this Bethesda Chapter project, write: Frances Baldwin, 5101 River Road, Apt. 816, Bethesda, MD 20816, telephone (301) 654-6078, who will also forward a list of current library holdings.

In Columbia, Maryland, THE COLUMBIA GLASS CLUB commenced its third year of activities with visits to the homes and collections of two fellow members. In March, the club welcomed Helen Harris, Washington area dealer and collector, who spoke on the subject of pressed glass.

Shortly after a visit to the outstanding historical glass collection of Col. & Mrs. Demmie Blackstone, the DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP of Silver Spring, MD., set the wheels in motion for their 1987 Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale. (Mark November 7 & 8 on your calendar now!) Two tours highlighted the spring activities for Dorflinger members, one to the National Building Museum in D.C., to view the special exhibit of nineteenth century decorative window glass, the other to the Walters Gallery in Baltimore to see Corning's traveling exhibit of Frederick Carder's Steuben glass.

On April 25th the nine D.C. area chapters of NEAGC will co-sponsor an all glass show and sale at Armory Place, corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Streets in Silver Spring, Maryland. Only members of NEAGC are invited to have a table at this annual event. If interested, call Bill & Nancy Sheriff at (301) 588-6809. Show hours are Saturday 10 to 4:30. Tables are only \$12.00 each, while they last! Admission, \$2.00.

In Pennsylvania, THE PHILADELPHIA AREA CHAPTER OF NEAGC concluded their 1986 activities with a program on "Copper Wheel Engraving in the Bohemian Tradition," presented by Donald Ferland, guest speaker and Membership Chairman of NEAGC. In February, member Marge Parsons presented a program on "Hawkes Glass: A Reflection of History," focusing on the work of Thomas Gibbons Hawkes.

THE SUN CITY, ARIZONA CHAPTER OF NEAGC started their year's activities with a public meeting at which Ken Wilson's slide tape, "American Glass—Its Origins & Development," was presented to the public at the Sun City's Art Museum. Fifty-two people attended the showing and the club reports three prospective members as a result of this program.

In Boston, a glass auction highlighted the March meeting of THE FOUNDERS CHAPTER, NEAGC. At the April meeting, David DiPerma, V.P. of a local insurance company, spoke on the topic: "Insurance, Am I Properly Covered and Protected?" After the club's annual meeting at the Natick Hilton on May 16, members will take a field trip to the Bushee Museum in Newburyport.

The 1987 agenda for UNIT FOUR OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB in Seattle, Washington, included a February meeting at which the NEAGC slide program, "History of American Glass," was shown. In March, Mrs. William Forland revealed "The Truth About Mary Gregory" and April's meeting featured a talk by Mrs. James Trumbull on

Ohio glass companies. A program on Amberina glass by Mrs. Lantz Warrick will conclude Seattle's year, until the club convenes again in September.

THE JONES MUSEUM OF GLASS & CERAMICS in Sebago, Maine, is planning a major exhibit of sulphide glass for 1987; however, plans were not finalized as this goes to print. On June 27, the museum will dedicate their library as the "Edward W. Tinney Memorial Library." Norma P. Jenkins, Head Librarian of the Rakow Library at the Corning Museum will be the featured speaker. Lunch and dedication of the library by Dr. Paul Toms of the Park Street Church in Boston will complete the day's activities. Jones Museum members and area librarians will be invited. Dr. Tinney was NEAGC President 1971-73.

In Neenah, Wisconsin, NEAGC institution member, BERGSTROM-MAHLER GLASS MUSEUM, has established a memorial fund in memory of Dominick Labino in recognition of Mr. Labino's monumental influence, technically and artistically, on glass as an art medium. Entitled "The Dominick Labino Memorial Purchase Fund," money raised will be used to perpetuate Mr. Labino's deep interest in glass by encouraging the creation of museum-quality art glass. Donations may be made to the fund by writing BERGSTROM-MAHLER MUSEUM, 165 North Park Avenue, Neenah, WI. 54956. Mr. Labino passed away on January 10 of this year, after 50 years of dedication to glass as a world-renowned glass artisan, inventor and engineer.

In other institution news, from May 8-253, the NEW BEDFORD GLASS MUSEUM will hold a Director's Choice benefit sale and exhibition. Selected antiques and decorative arts will be featured, the proceeds to benefit the NBGM Acquisition Fund. Mr. Charles Hajdamach will lecture before the New Bedford Glass Society at 7:30 p.m. on May 18th. Mr. Hajdamach will speak on: "The Golden Age of English Glass" at the theater of the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Admission fee for the general public is \$2.00. The NEW BEDFORD GLASS MUSEUM is also organizing a tour of England's great glass and china collections for November 1-14, 1987. The tour will be limited to 25 passengers and further information may be had by writing or calling the museum at (617) 994-0115.

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President's Letter

Dear Members:

A national organization should serve and be appealing to members from all parts of the country. Our every action for the past two years has been influenced by this principle.

Our second National Glass Seminar in Pittsburgh a year ago was a wonderful beginning of our change to true national status, as we worked hand in hand with the Pittsburgh Chapter. It was a "sellout" with over 150 registrants. The friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to make new glass acquaintances from other states was most rewarding. Our third National Glass Seminar will be especially exciting as we go all the way west to Beverly Hills, California, on May 14-16!

This very newsletter is also designed to encourage interest and participation on the part of members in all states. We continue to urge you to send in any glass news of any nature that would be of national interest.

As you attend our Annual (business) Meeting at our California seminar, I encourage everyone to participate and to pay particular attention to our annual financial report. While many assume that there are monetary benefits to being an officer or director of NEAGC, it should be noted that none receive any compensation whatsoever, nor are we even reimbursed for travel costs, seminar registration and the like. Each of us has something in common, however, the love of glass and a willingness to work and share with those having similar interests. Can we count on you to perpetuate this tradition by saying "yes" to accepting a more active part in NEAGC this year? See you in Beverly Hills!

Cordially,
Kenneth W. Lyon
President, NEAGC

Reflections

(Editor's note: This is the second in a continuing series on the rich history of NEAGC. The following article was published in July of 1933, seven months after NEAGC held its first meeting. It was written by Charles Messer Stow, Arts Editor of the New York Sun at that time.)

"An event worthy of chronicling in the annals of collecting is to befall next week at Manomet, near Plymouth, Massachusetts, when the Early American Glass Club will hold an "exhibition meeting" in the Mayflower Hotel. From the indications now it will be more than that, it will be in the nature of a national convention of those who collect American glass.

The informality of the whole proceeding is what will make it valuable. There are to be no lectures. There will be talks by those qualified to speak the language of the collector of glass, and if I mistake not, many of these talks will evolve into round-table discussions which will bring out information of great value. This information will be preserved, for there will be a shorthand reporter present to take down all the facts about glass that will be brought out, and eventually the proceedings of this conference, as of all other meetings of the club, will be made available to members.

Part of the attraction of this meeting will be the exhibition which is in charge of Mrs. Gustav Goerner of Buzzards Bay. Harry Hall White of East Cleveland has a large collection of early glass, including Stiegel, which he will show. He will also show fragments that he has obtained by excavations on the sites of old glass factories.

George S. McKearin of New York City will show glass of various types, and other exhibitors will be William T. Howe of

Cincinnati, a collector of early glass of the Stiegel type and Maud Pollard Hull of Richmond, Va., who has made valuable researches on the site of the first glass factory in America, at Jamestown."

(to be continued)

Bigglinggilly - Sylvia Lyon



THE World's
Only Living
GLASS EXPERT
EXPERT GUESSES "10"



"Well, appears my young niece is 10 or 15! It's a piece of America glass, made at Stiegel - Shannock for 1830!"

PLEASE NOTE: Ken and I will be moving to our home in the Shenandoah Valley within the near future. Therefore, after this issue, all submissions to *Glass Shards* must be mailed to our new address: Sylvia Applebee Lyon, Box 57, Fishers Hill, VA 22626. Please remember to send material for inclusion in the future issue *sometime prior to November 1*. Due to the fact most chapters don't start their activities until fall, future issues of *Glass Shards* will be entitled "Winter" and "Spring." If your chapter news is missing, it is because none was received. Volunteer to report for your club in the year ahead! It is the responsibility of each chapter to remember *Glass Shards* deadlines of March 1 and November 1 twice a year.

The National Early American Glass Club

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