



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 1988

Fun & Fellowship - Seminar '88!

Are you registered? Have you submitted your stemware photographs to Don Ferland for the glass exhibit? Have you made your motel reservations? If not, why not? NEAGC's Fourth National Glass Seminar in Sandwich, Massachusetts, on May 12, 13 and 14 offers plenty of fun, learning and fellowship for all who participate!

For those of you who have never been to the famous Sandwich Museum of Glass,

prepare yourself for an exquisite array of exceptional glass in rare forms and jewel-like colors. The picturesque, storybook beauty of Cape Cod's most famous village is the perfect setting for some of America's finest glassware. So make your reservations today, before the May 2 deadline; call Lib Williams at (617) 729-4062 and tell her your \$135.00 is in the mail! Once again, remember YOU are responsible for your motel reservations. Admission to

the glass museum is free throughout the seminar, as long as you are wearing your name tag proving registration; please comply with this requirement and avoid being charged admission. Lib tells me registrants from sixteen different states and a delegation of 30 from Canada have already made reservations! Make plans now to participate in what promises to be one of our most interesting seminars, in one of America's most beautiful settings, Cape Cod. See you there!

Golden Anniversary for Seattle!

Fifty years of membership in the National Early American Glass Club was celebrated by the members of SEATTLE UNIT FOUR this fall. Seattle's 50th anniversary celebration was prepared by Beth Merz, Librarian-Historian who gleaned numerous items from the club's past members and their glass collections. Many wonderful pieces from these old collections were shown and admired. Gladys Severance, a member since 1951, holds the longest membership in UNIT FOUR. As an added note to UNIT FOUR's celebration, anniversary committee members scoured the country gathering old pressed goblets which were then engraved with a special logo reading: "The National Early American Glass Club, Seattle Unit Four, 1937-1987." Margaret Ellen Forland writes: "Our members were delighted with this anniversary memento, and it is our sincere hope that UNIT FOUR continues with the same enthusiasm for the study of glass that inspired its first members." Congratulations, Seattle! We are looking forward to greeting and meeting your members at seminar in May!

The EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB OF MINNESOTA opened its winter meetings with a lecture on Roman glass by Natalie Kinkead. In February, Margery Rogge spoke on "Women and Glassmaking." For their April 15th meeting, Ruth Flom will give a talk on Irish glass at the home of Grace Moor.

After a two-year search, DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP members of Silver Spring, Maryland, were successful in locating an outstanding piece of Dorflinger glass with which to honor their mentor and teacher, Helen Barger. A handsome cut-to-clear cracker jar in the Marlboro pattern, featuring a rich emerald green overlay, was presented to Mrs. Barger by club president, Peggy Hall, at a recent DORFLINGER meeting. At some future date, Mrs. Barger will donate this exceptional piece to a museum of her choice. At the same meeting, DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP members enjoyed a program by Ruth Suppes, local glass teacher and noted collector, whose glass appears throughout the Grover's *Art Glass Nouveau* book. Mrs. Suppes entertained members by relating her numerous adventures associated with finding the glass featured in her slide presentation. DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP members are rejoicing that the Stiegel goblet, which they were instrumental in locating, has finally found its permanent resting place at the Corning Museum of Glass.

The AMELUNG CHAPTER of Maryland will close its spring programs with a lecture on Rainbow glass and another on reverse paintings on glass.

Have you had trouble getting to meetings lately? Consider the BETHESDA CHAPTER of Maryland when they attempted to get to Ellen Roberts' residence at 16th St., N.W. in

D.C. On the same day, just one block away, the Russian delegation was also holding a meeting at the Russian Embassy. Downtown D.C. traffic was very restricted as members tried to reach 16th Street, with police and security guards everywhere. BETHESDA members were watched and even questioned as they entered Ellen's building. Only special cars were allowed in the area. At one intersection BETHESDA members encountered a demonstration of several hundred people; black balloons were sent aloft and a conflagration was lighted by the demonstrators! Undaunted, Ellen presented a super slide program featuring stained glass windows seen on her recent European tour. Dianne Gregg, one of the featured speakers at our forthcoming seminar, recently mounted an exhibit at the Potomac Public Library. Glass books, bottles, opaline glass and contemporary glass created in the Memphis style, all relating to NEAGC seminar topics, were exhibited. BETHESDA member, Doris Poore, sent a note reminding D.C. area glass club members and local residents that the BETHESDA CHAPTER is chartering a bus for transportation to our Cape Cod seminar. The bus will be available for traveling to seminar functions while on Cape Cod. Seats will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis at a cost of \$55.00 per person, not \$50.00 as originally reported. For further information, call Doris at 320-4189 or Betty Francisco at 654-2351. Checks should

CHAPTER NEWS, Continued

be sent to Doris Poore, 4932 Sentinel Dr., Apt. 201, Bethesda, MD 20816.

The EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB, PITTSBURGH CHAPTER, reports that their recent all glass show and sale was very successful. Olga Melograne, Chairman, received many compliments on the overall beauty of this annual event. At their February meeting, Michael Hochrein gave an update on the Gateway Station Archeological Project being conducted in Pittsburgh. Michael demonstrated his talk with slides showing artifacts of glass and other materials which give historical evidence that Pittsburgh was once an upper middle-class neighborhood.

In Chicago, the GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER OF NEAGC recently enjoyed a presentation by Edith Balslev on her extensive compote collection. Edith's program was taped, as was the recent exhibit at the DuPage Historical Museum, which the GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER was instrumental in presenting. (Editor's note: Will the GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER make these programs available to NEAGC members? Let Bill Sheriff know, Chicago!)

Marion Schreitmüller, founder of THE COLUMBIA GLASS CLUB of Columbia, Maryland, spoke on "German Influence on Glassmaking" at a recent club meeting. Marion illustrated her talk with glass examples and colored slides, followed by an identification session for members bringing examples to the meeting.

Well, this is it until the Winter issue of *Glass Shards*. I thank all of you who take the time to send information, newsletters and personal letters covering your chapter's activities; all are greatly appreciated. Have a marvelous summer and remember, our deadlines are Nov. 1 and Mar. 1, annually, but copy may be sent *anytime*.

Sylvia



Rosemond VanEtten NEAGC DIRECTOR

NEAGC members were saddened to learn of the death of Rosemond VanEtten on January 6, 1988, at the age of 91. Mrs. VanEtten was the first person from the west to serve as a director of the National Early American Glass Club. She was instrumental in establishing NEAGC's Memorial Fund. Mrs. VanEtten was the last surviving founding member of the Olympia (Washington) Unit One Chapter of NEAGC, and a key person in organizing Olympia Unit II in the 1930's. During her lifetime, Mrs. VanEtten's glass collecting interests included blown, pressed, cut, Corder's Steuben, and Erickson glass. NEAGC offers its deepest sympathy to Mrs. VanEtten's son, Leigh. We are grateful he has agreed to serve out his mother's directorship on our board of directors.

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

April-November 6

Exhibition: "Distinctively Durand—The Art Glass of Vineland, New Jersey," Wheaton Museum, Vineland, NJ 08332.

April 22-July 4

Exhibit: "Flights of Fancy, Faces In Glass"—New Bedford Museum of Glass, New Bedford, Massachusetts. 100 pcs. Highlighting the glass enameling work of Frank H. Guba, his sketch books, patent papers, trade catalogues; also includes Smith Bros., N. E. Glass Co., and Boston & Sandwich enameling.

April 23

Exhibit Opening: "The Ernesto Wolf Collection — 300 Years of Decorated Glass, 1500-1800," Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY.

April 30-May 1

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

May 12-14

Seminar: Fourth National Glass Seminar, Sandwich, Mass.; National Early American Glass Club and Sandwich Glass Museum, sponsors.

May 20, 21, 22

Paperweight Collectors Weekend. Write: Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ 08332 for flyer.

May 31-November 13

Exhibits: Two Tenth Anniversary exhibits at Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine 04024. Major glass and ceramic exhibit; also outstanding gifts to Jones Museum exhibit. Write museum for special tours and additional information.

June 6-November 13

Exhibit: Catherine Thuro Lamp collection — "Making the Light Fantastic," Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine (August lamp seminar in planning stages; write museum for particulars).

June 17-October 23

Exhibit Opening: Albert & June Lauzon, 40 year collection of early American blown glass. Rare examples of free blown, pattern molded, blown-three-mold, late 18th to early 19th century, also English &

Continental tablewares. Lecture: "The Art of Early American Blown Glass" by Arlene Palmer Schwind followed by reception evening of 6/17, public invited. Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., Box 8, Williamstown, MA 01267. Tel. (413) 458-9545 for further info.

June 25

Exhibition & Symposium "Cameo Instruction—The Great Sulphide Show"; Major loan exhibit of cameo incusted glass. Lectures by Dwight Lanmon, Theresa & Arthur Greenblatt, Dena Tarshis. Sponsored by New York-New Jersey Paperweight Collectors Assoc. Write: John Walsh, 49 Oleander Dr., Northport, NY 11768 for flyer. To be held at the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY.

July 13-16

Convention: American Cut Glass Association, Toledo, Ohio, Hotel Sofitel. Lectures, cut glass auction, etc. Tel. (509) 337-6528 for particulars.

September 24-25

Lectures: Three glass lectures by Charles Hajdamach, Curator of Broadfield House, Siourbridge, England; Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine;

October 8 and 9

Lectures: Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine. Robert Copeland, Historical Consultant to Spode Corporation, will give three ceramics lectures.

October 19-22

Seminar: 28th Annual Seminar on Glass, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY. Lectures on Ancient, Islamic, European, Stiegel, American Cut, Sandwich, French and Belgian and Contemporary glass.

November 5 and 6

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

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Information for Glass Calendar is always solicited; copy deadlines, Nov. 1 and Mar. 1 annually; may be sent *anytime* prior to those dates.

President's Letter

Dear NEAGC Members:

"Let's Communicate" was the title of a questionnaire which all members should have received recently. It focused on (1) suggestions for our improvement, (2) whether you were willing to offer assistance to NEAGC in any way, and (3) asked you to point out persons whom you felt may be well qualified and willing to help. We still hope to hear from you and if you can't find the form which was enclosed, just write a note to me about the above three matters, at Box 57, Fishers Hill, VA 22626. I can already determine that the results of this query will prove to be very interesting and helpful, I plan to give a thorough analysis of all responses in either the next issue of *Glass Shards* or by a special letter during the summer. **YOUR RESPONSE WILL PROVIDE A BROADER INSIGHT AS TO YOUR IDEAS**, so remember, "Let's Communicate!"

Many have inquired about the success of our special fund drive, the first in our 55 years history. I am planning to cover those results at the same time as I come forth with the above mentioned questionnaire analysis; both

subjects being somewhat intertwined. It is important that you **PLEASE CONSIDER OUR FUND DRIVE TO BE AN ONGOING EFFORT**. If you meant to forward a contribution but just didn't get that far, it can be easily remedied by forwarding it to our treasurer, Sibley Higginbotham, 93 S. Central Ave., Wollaston, MA 02170. While there are both encouraging and discouraging aspects thus far, I am happy to report that donations received to date have made it possible to acquire the needed computer to improve our membership maintenance procedure and associated costs, and to add some videotape programs as described elsewhere in this issue.

While each of us leads a busy life, whenever your thoughts do wander in the direction of NEAGC, remember that the survival of America's oldest glass club rests solely upon the shoulders of its members. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to seeing many of you at seminar time in Sandwich!

Sincerely,
Kenneth W. Lyon
President, NEAGC

EUROPEAN GLASS MASTERPIECES AT CORNING

The first exhibition of the most important private collection of Renaissance and Baroque glass will be shown at The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY.

"European Glass, 1500-1800: The Ernesto Wolf Collection" will be on view from April 23 through October 23. This will be the only American showing.

More than 200 masterpieces will be on display. They will include Venetian enameled glass, diamond-point-engraved glass, the northern European enameled, engraved, and double-walled glass of extraordinary craftsmanship and importance.

This collection was started by Alfred Wolf in Stuttgart, Germany, in the 1920s. His son, Ernesto Wolf, continued the collection after World War II. Ernesto Wolf, a distinguished art collector, now resides in Brazil.

During the Middle Ages, the church was the most active patron of glassmaking, commissioning countless stained glass windows decorated with scenes from the Bible. A new kind of patron emerged in the Renaissance and Baroque periods, when kings and princes employed the best glassmakers to produce masterpieces for use and display.

Many of these masterpieces are now part of the Ernesto Wolf collection, which covers the entire history of this golden age of glassmaking. Among them are intricate and beautiful Venetian glass objects from the 15th and 16th centuries.

One example is an exquisite drinking glass with a bowl, stem, and foot comprised of vertical bands of twisted delicate white threads. This stately goblet stands more than 17 inches tall.

One of the exhibition's most outstanding examples will be a 1731 Dresden goblet designed by and made for Augustus the Strong, elector of Saxony and king of Poland. It is a classic royal object befitting the elegance of the Dresden court.

The relief carving on this goblet illustrates one of the most difficult and costly decorating techniques in glass artistry. The stem and finial have the repeated monogram "AR" (Augustus Rex) carved in relief on the sides, surmounted by the crown of Poland.

This relief-carving technique is also used lavishly on an 18th-century goblet made in Silesia, now part of Poland. The carving is attributed to one of the masters, Friedrich Winter. Elaborate drinking vessels such as this were created to impress and to be admired. There are accounts of fabulous early 18th-century German banquets where engraved goblets were paraded ceremonially around the hall.

This goblet, like the other treasures in the Wolf collection, has a fascinating history. It was created for the wealthy Schaffgotsch family, who owned the glasshouse where the goblet was made and the cutting mills where it was decorated. The designers strove for luxury and drama with this vessel; clearly, cost was no object.

Many of the works, previously thought to have been destroyed during the two world wars, are signed by noted glassmakers, thereby

confirming their authenticity. A 17th-century beaker with an enameled scene of gypsies is signed by Johann Schaper, one of the greatest glass artists of his time.

The delicate engraved and enameled glass in the Wolf collection depicts hunting scenes, shipping vessels, portraits, family crests, and scenes from classical mythology. These objects are priceless examples of an art that was prized by both the nobility and wealthy merchants throughout Europe.



NEW CHAPTER PROGRAM RESOURCES

Bill Sheriff reports the availability of the following as possible chapter programs.

1. VHS Video Tape: "Robert Dane: Making Marbles"—50-minute program produced by The Marble Glass Collectors' Society of America—shows the process by which handcrafted, contemporary marbles are made. Available free on a loan basis to clubs, organizations and museums, but a \$100.00 refundable deposit is required. Write: The Marble Glass Collectors' Society, P.O. Box 222, Turnbull, CT. When writing, identify yourself as a chapter of NEAGC and state your intended use of the video.
2. "Happy Birthday, Burmese"—slide program accompanied by a checklist examining in detail the methods used to produce four heat-sensitive types of glass: Amberina, Peachblow, Opalescent and Burmese. Write Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine 04024 for further details.
3. Four VHS Video Tape Programs, produced by the Dorflinger Glass Study Group of Silver Spring, MD. (Available after May 15, 1988): "A Toast to Drinking Glasses," "Lighting the Way With Glass" (lamps), "Our Nation's Story in Glass," "Glass Whimsies & Curiosities." All of these tapes run 20-25 minutes each. Write Bill Sheriff, 1222 Pinecrest Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20910 for availability.
4. Four VHS Video Tapes produced by New Hampshire Public Television. Each is a 30-minute program with George Michael as interviewer. Dorflinger Glass—Mrs. Helen Barger; European Glass—Dorothy-Lee Jones; 19th Century American Glass—Lowell Innes; Sandwich Glass—Raymond Barlow. Available after May 15, 1988. Write Bill Sheriff for availability.

Each of the video tapes must be requested individually, *not* collectively, so as to make them available to as many chapters as possible in any given year. The Dorflinger Study Group programs were donated and the New Hampshire Public Television programs were purchased with money from NEAGC's spring fund raising campaign.

BITS & PIECES

The Sandwich Glass Museum was *not* able to get a glass show together in time for our Fourth National Glass Seminar. A set of the Elsholz collection of early American glass auction catalogs has been given to NEAGC by Bourne's Auction House. (Thank you, Mr. Bourne!) They are now available to members through the Boston Athenaeum.

For directions on ordering from NEAGC's library, see your NEAGC book list, published in our membership directory, 1986-1987. In case you have been wondering, the IRS publication #526, which covers donations to organizations, states that only such portion of a member's dues which is "more than the value of the benefits received" is now deductible on your income tax. With that in mind, NEAGC members with Household Memberships of \$25.00 would be reasonably safe in claiming only \$10.00 as a deductible, because NEAGC's cost per member is close to \$15.00; possibly making an Individual Membership of \$15.00 non-deductible!

The Currier Gallery of Art, 192 Orange Street in Manchester, NH 03104 has re-installed a portion of their glass collection. Some rarely seen glass is now on display from their collection of 4,000 pieces, which includes 18th to 20th century examples of looped and pulled, pressed, blown and cameo glass.

The new (and magnificent!) conference and seminar center at the Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics in Douglas Hill, Maine, will be opening in August.

This spring, Janie Chester Young, Director of the New Bedford Glass Museum, will be conducting a series of classes entitled "Knowing Glass." Twelve students will attend eight classes which will use slide lectures, hands-on analysis of glass and informal identification as learning tools. Glass history, stylistic developments and techniques of glassmaking are among the subjects being covered.

Gay LeCleire Taylor, Curator at the Wheaton Village Museum of Glass in Millville, NJ, asks NEAGC members to support her request to create a stamp honoring Wistar's 250th anniversary as a glass manu-

facturer. The post office wrote back that they receive thousands of stamp subject proposals each year. The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, which is comprised of individuals from outside the Postal Service, meets six times annually to consider the proposals, then recommends a limited number for approval. Relatively few new stamps can be issued, so the number is small. Committee members already have considered the proposal to honor glass, but *did not* recommend that such a stamp be issued. The committee, due to interest in the subject of glass, *will be reviewing the matter again*. Write: United States Postal Service, Philatelic Affairs Dept., 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260-

6700, requesting that your letter supporting the glass stamp honoring Wistar be passed on to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. There is no word on when the committee meets again, but it is terribly important that they know of our desire to see this proposal carried through, so please drop a note today!

Once again, please send *all* material for *Glass Shards* to: Sylvia A. Lyon, Box 57, Fishers Hill, VA 22626. Some institutional members have been forwarding their material to our Cambridge, Massachusetts address which is for membership dues only. Deadlines are Mar. 1 and Nov. 1 annually; copy may be sent *anytime*... thanks!

Notice: DUES ARE DUE!



What a wimp! He just promised to love, honor and support her glass collecting!

The National Early American Glass Club

Box 757, Kendall Square Branch
Cambridge, MA 02142-9998



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