

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 1989

What Is Seminar?

It's the dry wit of Paul Hollister . . . it's the warm glow within, after sharing dinner with old friends and new acquaintances . . . it's hoping young curators Kirk Nelson and Gary Baker will be there, because you like them and they like to share their glass knowledge . . . seminar is waiting to see beloved friends who live too far away . . . it's the twinkle in Paul Gardner's eyes as he tells still another tale of his days as Frederick

Carder's assistant . . . it's the graciousness of Miriam Mucha . . . it's missing people like Dr. Ed Tinney . . . it's being happy that those who really care will continue to carry on NEAGC's fine 56 year tradition . . . it's the warmth of Lib Williams and the sparkle of little sister, Ginny Rockwell . . . seminar is saying "hello" to the shy person next to you and finding out you both collect glass whimsies . . . it's watching Ellen Roberts

coolly carry out her duties as though saying, "There's nothing to doing all this" . . . it's sharing glass history and learning from our many fine speakers . . . it's knowing that it's not just the glass, but oh!—the *people* who make it so worthwhile. How about you; are you going to miss out on all of this?? Come to Chicago for the time of your life; call Betty Iber at (312) 442-1624 and tell her you'll be there. (The memories are forever.)

—Sylvia Lyon

President's Letter

Dear Members:

When I accepted the gavel from Miriam Mucha in 1985, little did I realize that my tenure as your President would be four years! As the end of the first two years came into view, it seemed clear to me that I knew best where we were and what had to be done—in order to turn over the smoothest possible operation to an ensuing administration.

We have truly benefited by having a great and dedicated team of officers, directors and committee chairpersons to lead us through these critical years. At their own expense, they have flown and driven across the country, stayed in hotels, etc., just to attend and participate in scheduled and special board meetings. By careful and timely actions, they have improved and strengthened our professional image and reputation as a nationally recognized educational organization. Without their efforts and caring, there would be no NEAGC.

With many of the more difficult tasks now behind us, we are beginning to experience solid growth, having added over 80 new members just in the past sixty days. The potential is out there! — and with your enthusiasm and assistance, we can double our ranks and consequently, our available resources and talent in the next two years—thus serving our basic goals better than ever before!

Most Sincerely,
Ken Lyon

Summary of 1988 Questionnaire Suggestions

In early 1988, we mailed a questionnaire to the entire membership, seeking your input to improve NEAGC. While only 93 responded, it proved to be most helpful. While we cannot list each and every suggestion that was received, it was clear that the majority of them should be seriously explored and actions considered. Many have since been implemented and we are better off in having done so. We sincerely appreciated your participation. Summarized, your ideas were as follows:

1. There is a definite need for an "open" club, to meet in a public place in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area.
2. An attractive membership brochure is needed, with a space for rubber stamping a local club name or contact person and telephone number.
3. *The Glass Club Bulletin* should include more articles on pattern glass.
4. We should consider expanding both the *Bulletin* and *Glass Shards*.
5. Additional features requested in our publications should include: New Finds, a list of museums and factories to visit, news about repros, disposing of collections, and more articles by our members.

6. We need a closer relationship with our chapters, providing them with a speaker roster, more video-taped programs, etc.
7. We should canvass our members to determine their areas of interest, using those results as a guide to subjects covered in our publications and at our seminars.
8. NEAGC should consider a name change, perhaps by dropping the word "Early."
9. Establish modest research grants and publication awards to encourage writing.
10. Maintain a closer tie with museums and consider occasional one-day special topical sessions in various areas.
11. Our Household Membership dues should be reduced to \$20; the additional \$5 being more reasonable for just a second vote only.
12. In addition to our seminar, we should have more regional seminars, shows, etc., on a smaller scale.
13. The majority of our members are very pleased with both of our publications.
14. From their comments, it's obvious many of our members don't read our publications, and are therefore not aware of our benefits and services. (*Their* comments are not listed here.)



Chapter and Museum News

With the formation of the WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN GLASS CLUB the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., area will have ten NEAGC chapters! Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month at the Greenbelt Library in Greenbelt, MD; the May meeting will be held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 4812 College Avenue, College Park, MD. Congratulations to Jessie Ward for her initiative in getting this club underway! Anyone wishing further information may call Jessie at (301) 927-3652.

The DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP recently donated money for the purchase of a glass display cabinet for the new DORFLINGER GLASS MUSEUM at the Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary in White Mills, PA. The Fifteenth Annual Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale is now underway, with Peggy Hall and Mary Rutley as co-coordinators. Last month, members met at the home of Roz Hopkins in Potomac and thoroughly enjoyed a program on marbles now available through NEAGC's Educational Resources.

In Boston, THE FOUNDER'S CHAPTER, NEAGC has enjoyed a diversified group of programs this season. In February, Frank Maloney spoke to members on "Early 20th Century Glass Houses" and Dorothy Lee Jones, Curator and Founder of The Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics (and a past president of NEAGC), chose as her topic, "The How and Art of Glassmaking, Both Free Blown and Mold Blown." Ring vases will be the subject of Dr. Jon Wetz's program when the club meets on May 10th.

THE EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB OF MINNESOTA will meet at the home of Lois Grossmann on April 21. Sunny Beaulieu will do a program on the Pairpoint Glass Company. Natalie Kinkead and Mary Mugg will be co-hostesses.

At the April meeting of the PHILADELPHIA AREA CHAPTER OF NEAGC, Edward H. Berg, club member, will speak on the subject of open salts dating from 1800-1987. In June, Richard Parsons, President of the Empire Chapter of the American Cut Glass Association, will give a talk on Dorflinger glass. For further program information call (215) 699-3816; President Walter Bostick invites you to be a guest of the chapter.

THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER of NEAGC continues to offer programs covering the full spectrum of glass. Miriam Mucha, Past President, NEAGC was guest speaker this winter, covering the foreign influences in American glassmaking. Victorian art glass was the subject of a program by Victor Harris, dealer and collector, and brilliant cut glass was the focus of Robert and Bobbi Michael's April 11 presentation. Pittsburgh will finish their season on May 16 when Bill Thomas will speak on art nouveau glass. Meetings are held at The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 4338

Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh. Phone (412) 828-2224 for further information.

THE COLUMBIA (MARYLAND) GLASS CLUB recently heard an educational and entertaining program by members Dick Flagg and Gary Baldwin: "Identification and Classification of Glass Using Ultra Violet Light" tested many theories and exploded a few myths as members learned about the chemistry of glass. COLUMBIA members also enjoyed a most interesting program on glass knobs and tiebacks. NEAGC Director, Francis Allen, was their speaker.

THE CHRYSLER MUSEUM Glass Forum II will be held April 13-15. A full agenda includes the following lectures: "Early American Glass in the Chrysler Collections" (Gary Baker); "Studio Glass & Pilchuck" (Dale Chihuly); "French Pate de Verre" (Paul Hollister); "French Art Nouveau & Glass" (Penelope Hunter-Stiebel); "Tiffany of the Chrysler" (Dr. Robert Koch); "European Glass After the Renaissance: The Triumph of Technique" (Dwight Lanmon); "Collecting American Glass: Can You See Your Way Clear?" (Gary Stradling); "American Glass From the Time of the 1853 New York Crystal Palace to the Turn of the Century" (Kenneth M. Wilson). For further information call Nancy Merrill, (804) 622-1211.

Dr. David W. Steadman has recently been appointed as director of The Toledo Museum of Art. Currently director of The Chrysler Museum, Dr. Steadman will begin his tenure in Toledo in July.

Congratulations to the New Bedford Glass Museum on receiving a grant from *Country Home Magazine* through its 1988 Cultural Events Support Program. The awarded grant of \$2,500 was used to underwrite the costs of their annual Festival of Homes which raises funds for the museum, while giving the public a glimpse of New Bedford's historic past. This holiday season, eight residences were open to the public, ranging from an 1855 Italianate villa to a 1920 Georgian Revival mansion.

After five years of planning, *The American Craftsman and the European Tradition, 1620-1820* exhibition will open at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts on September 22, 1989. The National Endowment for the Humanities has given \$270,000 to support the project in three separate grants.

This important exhibit will compare European and American furniture, glass, silver and ceramics for the first time in a large museum context. The show's intention is to shed new light on two fundamental questions in the study of American art and culture: (1) what constitutes "Americanness" in early American objects; (2) why did an identifiable American style evolve in the decorative arts. Through visual analysis and comparison to European objects, the exhibition will explore the attitudes and assumptions present in this country in its early

years. In this way the exhibition will fulfill its purpose: to reconsider the so-called American nature of objects made in this country from the time of its first European settlement to the early years of the nineteenth century. Eleven scholars, all prominent in their respective fields, have written essays for the catalogue. (Included is Arlene Palmer Schwind's "To the Good of Province and Country: Henry William Stiegel American Flint Glass.") After opening in Minneapolis on September 22, 1989, the exhibit will close December 31, 1989, traveling next to the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh where it will be on view from April 14-June 10, 1989.



Huntington Museum Gift Announced

Huntington Museum of Art in Huntington, West Virginia, has announced the gift of two hundred fifty-six pieces of nineteenth century American pressed glass from Louise S. and Harrison B. W. Hoffman of Greenwich, Connecticut, in honor of Mrs. Louis Elkins Sinkler.

The works, to be known as the Louise Elkins Sinkler Collection of Nineteenth Century American Pressed Glass, will be exhibited at the Museum from May 21 through September 4, 1989.

The collection includes many rare examples of glassware: early matched sets of covered sugar bowls and creamers with applied handles, pitchers with wheel-cut decorations, salt dishes, covered egg cups and horseradish containers. The collection also contains over one hundred goblets manufactured during the nineteenth century. Some of the goblet patterns are very scarce today: "Lyre," "Sandwich Star," "Jumbo," "Horse, Cat and Rabbit," "Magnet and Grape with American Shield" and "Pigs in Corn."

"The museum benefited from the energy, commitment and research that Mrs. Sinkler gave to the building of her collection. She was a careful and inspired collector who was searching for nineteenth century glass when you could actually find it," says museum chief curator G. Eason Eige. "The covered pieces alone constitute a treasure found in no other American museum."

The Huntington Museum of Art has acquired one of the nation's finest collections of Ohio Valley glass. The Sinkler collection includes many superb examples of Ohio Valley glass that "dovetail perfectly with our collection," says Eige, "as well as very rare Eastern pieces which offer excellent examples for comparison and study. The Sinkler collection enables the museum to present a balanced picture of American glass."

From the Letterbox

For a forthcoming article on Thomas Cains, his predecessors and contemporaries, Donald Fernald, NEAGC Membership Chairman, would like to know the whereabouts of three chain decorated pieces sold through the Arman Auction house in 1985. The three pieces are as follows: 1. A colorless deep bowl with two chain bands, formerly in the John Gotjen collection, sold January 9, 1985. 2. An amber vase with one chain band, sold March 20, 1985. 3. A colorless lantern with one chain band in metal holder, sold March 20, 1985. Donald would also like to hear from anyone who

has a single chain band decorated pan under 6 3/4 inches in diameter. He is also interested in hearing of ANY unusual chain decorated forms attributed to Thomas Cains' South Boston operations. Incidentally, Don is looking for these pieces for photographic purposes. You may write him care of NEAGC, Box 757, Kendall Square Branch, Cambridge, MA 02142-9998. As a footnote, Don mentioned his goal for 1989 is to add a Keene GHI-19 BTM quart decanter to his collection!

From California, Vernon Spaulding inquires if anyone out there collects King's Crown, clear to etched. Vernon says: "In my forty years of collecting this pattern, I have never met another King's Crown collector."

You may write Vernon at 2914 Colton Road, Pebble Beach, California 93953.

The Greensboro Historical Museum, 130 Summit Avenue, Greensboro, North Carolina, recently sent a press release announcing that they have purchased the Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKinney collection of American historical glass. The collection numbers nearly 650 pieces and contains practically every item pictured in *American Historical Glass* by Bessie Lindsey.

If you have a quest, a question or a query relating to glass, send it to GLASS SHARDS, Box 57, Fishers Hill, VA 22626. As space allows it will be published here.

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

April 12-14

Symposium: Sponsored by the Society for Glass Science & Practices (representing the handmade glass artisans of America) - Lectures on new melting technology, automated hand gathering and pressing techniques, process controls, energy issues, etc. Tel: Randy Settimo (412) 941-9550.

April 13-15

Glass Forum II - The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, Virginia, Tel: (804) 522-1211. (Roster of lecturers and their topics under Chapter & Museum News.)

April 29-30

Glass Show: Annual Collectors' Glass Show & Sale, Women's Club, 305 Ridgeway Avenue, White Plains, New York. Westchester Glass Club, Sponsors. Information: Tel: (203) 531-7004.

April 30-October 15

Exhibition: "Dining at the White House: Two Centuries of Presidential Tableware" - Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York.

May 8

One Day Seminar: Paperweights - Murray Rosofsky Speaker - New Bedford Museum of Glass, New Bedford, Massachusetts, Tel: (508) 994-0115.

May 10-13

Glass Seminar: National Early American Glass Club's Fifth National Glass Seminar - Midland Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. The Greater Chicago Glass Collectors' Club Hosts. Registration info: Betty Iber, Tel: (312) 442-1624.

May 12-14

Glass Lovers Weekend - National Conference focusing on contemporary art glass issues; collectors, gallery owners, displays, lectures. Advanced registration required, Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ, Tel: (609) 825-6800.

May 15

One Day Seminar - "4000 Years of Glass" - Janie Chester Young, Curator New Bedford Glass Museum, New Bedford, MA, Tel: (508) 994-0115.

May 22

One Day Seminar - "Knowing New Bedford Glass," Janie Chester Young, Curator, New Bedford Glass Museum, New Bedford, MA, Tel: (508) 994-0115.

June 1-November 12

Exhibit: "In Celebration of Flowers: Holders Rare & Fanciful," Bough pots - epergnes - wall pockets - rosebowl - Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine, Tel: (207) 787-3370.

June 19-November 12

Exhibit: "Arch Square & Compass" - The historic significance of Masonic symbolism in American Decorative Arts; loan exhibit of 107 objects. Selections from a collection of 900 Victorian salt and pepper shakers, recently given to the Jones Museum, will also be on display this summer. Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine, Tel: (207) 787-3370.

September 22-December 31

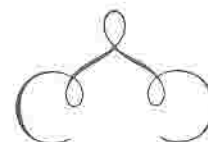
Exhibit Opening: "The American Craftsman & The European Tradition, 1620-1820" - The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN, Tel: (612) 870-3000, European & American Furniture, Glass, Silver & Ceramics. (See note on this exhibit under Chapter & Museum News.)

October 11-14

Seminar - 29th Annual Seminar on Glass, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY. Tel: (607) 937-5371 for seminar brochure.

November 4-5

Glass Show - 15th Annual Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale; Armory Place, Silver Spring, MD. Tel: (301) 589-1806, Peg Hall, for info. Dorflinger Glass Study Group, sponsors.



CULLET

Helen McKearin, America's first lady of glass, bequeathed \$500.00 to the National Early American Glass Club in her will. If you or your club are donating to NEAGC's Memorial Fund, perhaps a donation in Helen McKearin's memory would be the most beneficial, in terms of contributing to glass education.

Carlyle Eubank, early American glass collector and dealer of Beverly Hills, California, has agreed to complete the director term of Jim Helmericks on NEAGC's board of directors.

Don't forget the 20% discount on books available to NEAGC members through Mad Anthony Books, 702 W. Wayne St., Maumee, Ohio 43537, telephone (419) 893-5404. There is no postage charge on orders over \$50.00 and you may order one or more books.

As the result of a recent, special mailing to those having an interest in glass, NEAGC had 81 new memberships during the months of February and March! If you are one of those new members, WELCOME! (Your comments and suggestions are always welcomed, also.) Perhaps you are unaware of NEAGC's identification service to members. Anyone wishing help with glass identification should mail a photograph with request to: Dorothy Lee Jones, Curator-Founder, The Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine 04024.

The Board of Directors of NEAGC suggests that members unable to attend Seminar, consider making a donation to our Memorial Fund, thereby supporting our educational programs and glass seminars.

Glass Shards solicits your help in reporting Chapter and Museum News. Copy deadlines are March 1 and November 1 annually. Write: Sylvia Lyon, Box 57, Fishers Hill, VA 22626. See you in Chicago! Have a happy summer!

NEAGC - Info

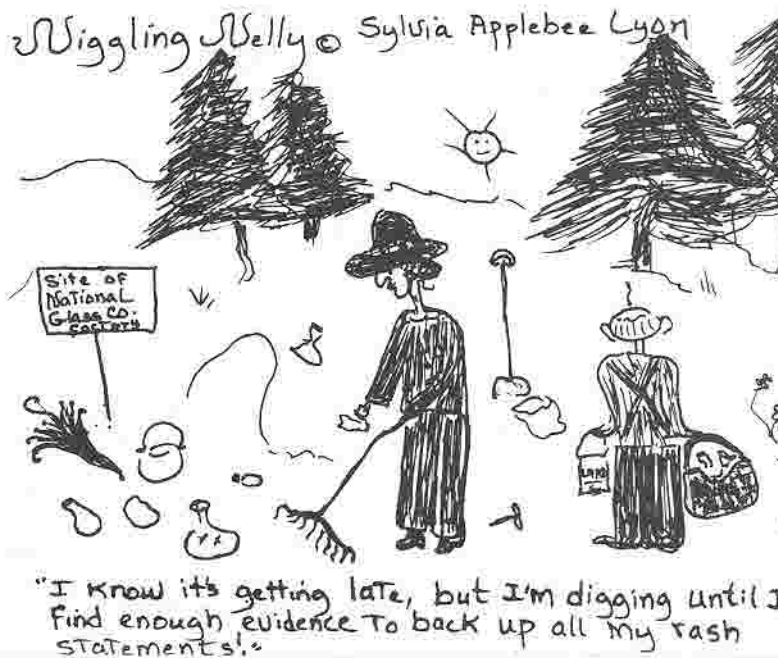
ARE OUR RECORDS STRAIGHT????

Some members believe that they are not receiving our publications and other material; some aren't even aware of what they should be receiving! Annual scheduled mailings are as follows: THE GLASS CLUB BULLETIN - October, January and April; GLASS SHARDS - November and April; ANNUAL DIRECTORY - November (the current issue includes a list of programs suitable for club meetings); SEMINAR INFORMATION - sometime in March (Seminar details must be *completely* ironed out before a flyer can be printed); BALLOTS - late March. Any errors relating to your NOT receiving our publications and notices can be corrected by contacting Nancy and Bill Sheriff, 1222 Pinecrest Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Address changes, address errors and name changes should be forwarded to them, as they handle our computerized mailing list.

Jean Wilson, Philadelphia Chapter, has agreed to work with any chapter to answer questions and assist in solving any problems that may arise. Jean has been active in NEAGC for many years and was instrumental in forming the Philadelphia Area Chapter of NEAGC. She is also an active member of the American Cut Glass Association. Feel free to contact Jean at any time at Bethel Road, R.D. 2, Lansdale, PA 19446, or by calling (215) 699-3816.

Hot off the press, NEAGC has a new look in a professional membership brochure! It is attractive, easy to read and includes a form for anyone who wishes to join us. Many of us are acquainted with people involved with glass—dealers, authors, estate appraisers, auction houses and museum personnel. Drop a note to Nancy Sheriff, 1222 Pinecrest

Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20910 requesting brochures for distribution in your area. Considering our scope, our membership can more than double if each of us does our share... a few NEAGC brochures at your local library, nearby college, or wherever those interested in the decorative arts gather, will spell success, for *all* of us!



The National Early American Glass Club

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



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