

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring, 1990

Eason Eige, Editor

G. Eason Eige, Chief Curator of the Huntington Museum of Art in Huntington, West Virginia, since 1976, has assumed the position of Editor of *The Glass Club Bulletin*, official publication of the National Early American Glass Club.

Mr. Eige, a graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute, received his teaching certificate from Parsons College and participated in the 1978 Winterthur Summer Institute, after having served as director of the Central Iowa Art Association in Marshalltown, Iowa.

In addition to organizing national circulating museum exhibitions of glass for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition

Service and the Western Association of Art Museums in San Francisco, Mr. Eige also served as a juror for the International Glass Exhibition, Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan. His lectures on glass have been heard before numerous organizations and prominent institutions, including: The Society for Glass Science and Practices, New Orleans Museum of Art, The Sandwich Glass Museum, and The Corning Museum of Glass.

Co-author of *Blenko Glass, 1930-1953*, Mr. Eige has also written *New American Glass: Focus West Virginia* and *A Century of Glassmaking in West Virginia*, published

in 1980. Numerous articles on glass carry his by-line, including: "New Visions in World Glass," *Better Homes and Gardens*, summer 1989, "New American Glass: Focus 2 West Virginia," *Neues Glas, New Glass* (March 1986), and "Unrecorded Midwestern Pressed Glass, 1855-1860: Part I," *The Glass Club Bulletin*, Spring 1988.

A member of the Glass Art Society, The Historical Lighting Society of Canada, and an honorary member of the Cincinnati Early American Glass Club, Mr. Eige also serves on the Curator's Committee of the American Association of Museums. He will begin his editorship this fall.

"Rare" Cut Glass Exposed As Fake

Unless you are interested in antiques in general, chances are you are not reading the *Maine Antique Digest* (Box 645, Waldoboro, Maine 04572-0645). In the March issue of "MAD," there appeared a most interesting and finely written article on new cut glass, authored by Ian Berke of California.

Ian, an advanced collector of American cut glass, reported that for several years rare old patterns, cut on new blanks, have been passed off by unscrupulous individuals as genuine American cut glass from the Brilliant Period. (Ian also reported that new cut glass will fluoresce purple-pink using a blacklight.) The following rare patterns have been copied on new blanks: Aberdeen, Alhambra, Arabesque, Arabian Assyrian, Aztec, Byzantine, Calve (triple miter), Chrysanthemum, Cluster, Columbia, Comet, Concentric Circle, Coronation, Croesus, Delphos, Drape, DuBarry, Genoa, Grand Prize, Grecian, Imperial, Isabella, Kensington, Marcella, Nautilus, Panel, Queens, Rex, Shell, Theodora, Trellis (Lattice & Rosette), Waldorf (Quatrefoil & Rosette), Wedding Ring, and Wheat.

A few copies of MAD are available for \$2.50 by writing the address above; Ian has copies of the article FREE, while they last. Write him at 2824 Clay Street, San Francisco, California 94115. A fine piece of investigative reporting, long overdue in the glass world. Don't miss it.

National Glass Seminar

The Sixth National Glass Seminar under the guidance of Chairman Ellen Roberts and sponsored by NEAGC, will take place May 2-5 at Wheaton Village in Millville, New Jersey. Seminar registrants are reminded that our registration deadline is April 23 and cancellations must be received before April 27. Lodging reservations can be made at the Millville Motor Inn, Tel. (609) 327-3300 where a block of rooms is being held for registrants. For further seminar information, call Wheaton Village (609) 825-6800. We look forward to a great crowd this year, so send your reservations in today!

Speakers include David Whitehouse, Barry Sautner, Ken Lyon, Gay Taylor, Dennis Zembala, Ro Purser, Miriam Mucha, Gary Baker and Ken Wilson. See you there!

President's Letter

The questionnaires recently sent to the membership of the National Early American Glass Club achieved the desired result. As of the cut-off date, we had received 484 responses. We can call this success—success in that more than a third of our membership took the time to answer the questions and, in many cases, add their own comments which can only be described as "highly constructive" about what we are, or, are not doing. This survey provides an accurate cross section of the NEAGC membership, it portrays a highly eclectic group with a genuine concern for the well-being of the club. The results are summarized below.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Pressed flint — 280	Free-blown — 263
Pattern — 249	Art — 225
Cut — 343	20th Century — 214
Ancient — 68	

Some fifty-two diverse sub-categories were also listed.

ACTIVITIES

Collectors — 377	Non-collectors — 42
Museum pros — 50	Dealers — 118
Students — 42	

(continued on page 2)

Chapter News

On April 8, the PHILADELPHIA AREA CHAPTER, NEAGC, shared an unusual (or special) piece of glass from their collections with fellow members. On June 10 the annual picnic will be enjoyed with Francis Whittemore, club member and noted glass artisan, speaking on "Collecting and Creating a Collection of Miniatures." President Edward H. Berg invites those who wish to be a guest to call (215) 699-3816 for further information.

The HELEN N. BARGER CHAPTER of Wayne and Pike County, Pennsylvania, has scheduled its Second Annual All Glass Show and Sale for August 11 and 12, 1990, at the Beach Lake, Pennsylvania, Fire Hall.

Proceeds from last year's show were used for the reproduction of an early photograph of Christian Dorflinger, which will be presented to the Wayne County Historical Society. The original of this photograph was found in the basement of the Historical Society building.

In January, the GREATER CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER organized a meeting for a new open, evening chapter of NEAGC on the North Shore of Chicago. Eighteen prospective members attended and a second meeting in February was also successful. Jack Wilson spoke on Consolidated and Phoenix Glassware. Further information on this new chapter may be had by contacting Betty Iber, (708) 442-1624, or Frank Robertson, (708) 328-8615.

"What's New In Old Sandwich" will be the subject of Virginia Rockwell's May 9th talk at the regular monthly meeting of the FOUNDERS CHAPTER. On June 13th, the annual luncheon, with Charles Kazian as guest speaker, will complete the year's activities.

After the spring issue of *Glass Shards*, Dianne Gregg of the BETHESDA CHAPTER sent the following note: "Regarding our new library project, it is NOT an expansion of the Barger-Suppes bookshelves at the Chevy Chase Library. Our new project is a "Bethesda Chapter Glass Periodical Study Center" at the Potomac Library (also in Montgomery County). In library terms, it is a "Vertical File." Carol Gheblian, an ex-librarian and member of the Amelung Chapter, is helping on the project and contacted Norma Jenkins, head Librarian at Corning, who sent us a copy of the vertical file subject heading-used there. We are using them to set up our system.

The BETHESDA CHAPTER donated the bookshelves to the library and all the material is being donated by members of the NEAGC. We are using library office space and doing all our own cataloging. It is quite a learning experience! Vivian Pfleger and Esther Murray of the Sandwich Chapter have been faithful aides. We hope this study center will preserve a lot of glass-related material and be a community source of

information for glass research." BETHESDA has a number of duplicate copies of the *Rainbow Review* (now *Glass Review*) from 1975-1982. If a chapter or museum outside of the Washington area would like to have these, they will be available free at our NEAGC seminar in Wheaton, contact Dianne Gregg to reserve them.

Beatrice E. Noonan, MARSHALLTOWN (IOWA) CHAPTER, NEAGC, writes that her chapter was formed in 1938! They have a group of 25-30 members who study both old and new glass, "but mostly old." Beatrice writes that she "treasures her Grandmother's Baltimore Pear pieces"; Beatrice also "admits" to being 90 years old! Nice to get your note, and many more years of collecting are wished for this fine lady. (Whom of our members can (or will!) admit to outdoing Beatrice, a member in good standing at age 90?)

The CHRISTIAN DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP of Silver Spring, Maryland, recently heard a most informative program on glass appraising and estate planning with Barbara Lessig, Appraiser. George Creswell, club member and advanced collector, gave a slide presentation and talk on Imperial Art Glass. This spring, the chapter will present The Dorflinger Glass Museum of White Mills, PA, with a rare tantalus, featuring a Dorflinger cut glass cigar humidor.

A program on "Reproductions In Glass" by Bettie Spencer and Frank Robertson will be given at the home of Bettie Spencer when the GREATER CHICAGO GLASS COLLECTORS CLUB meets on May 5. Janet Stevens will present the June 5th program, speaking on miniatures and books on glass.

The PITTSBURGH CHAPTER will hear Robert Long speak on "Glass As Art" at their May 8th meeting. Chapter members and the glass public are looking forward to PITTSBURGH'S all-day symposium, "The Studio Movement," on June 16. For further information call (412) 828-2224.

Four thousand pieces of glass have been given to The A. M. CHISHOLM MUSEUM, 506 W. Michigan St., Duluth, Minnesota 55802, gift of retired school teacher, R. L. Burrows. Mr. Burrows' collection was designed to give a view of life during the 1890's and 1900's. At present, the museum is attempting to identify a large glass milk can about two feet tall with handles and two protuberances on the bottom, which are molded into the glass; the pattern appears to be "Twinkle Star" or "Frost Flower." The museum would enjoy glass collectors visiting them and welcome all. Please call ahead so that Margaret Butters and the rest of the staff will know you are coming. Tel. (218) 722-8563.

Carl Fauster (4962 Macklyn Drive, Toledo, OH 43615), is offering a selective bibliography of the Libbey Glass Company FREE to any member who would like one, as long as the supply lasts.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, Cont.

Teachers, gallery persons, researchers, lecturers, artists, authors, craftpersons — 48

SEMINAR

Of those responding, 152 have attended our National Glass Seminars with 317 who may attend in the future. The reasons given for non-attendance were:

Time conflict — 60	Family/Job demands — 52
Age/Health — 27	Cost/Financial — 28
New Member — 30	Distance — 93
Insufficient interest — 9	

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Nearly 200 names were suggested for membership in the NEAGC; all will receive information about the Club.

COMMENTS

This was the most useful and rewarding category. All comments were non-trivial. The following is but a sampling:

NEAGC Membership:

"... enjoy belonging very much"; "... you are doing a great job"; "... NEAGC has improved greatly since I joined in 1962"; "... when you held a meeting ... near enough for me to attend, members were very cordial and I enjoyed the meeting very much."

"... I live in Canada ... but certainly treasure my membership highly"; "... is it possible for the Glass Club to help identify other members who have same interests so they could communicate with one another?" (Editor's note: let's do it here, in *Glass Shards*) "... we are members only because of your good publications"; "... publications are better than ever ... may be key to greater interest"; "I have enjoyed the Club immensely since 1958 ..."

"... organization too professional"; "... more emphasis should be placed on shows—coincide with seminars"; "... for an individual, service charge is hardly nominal" (slides and VCR tapes);

"... entire concern of NEAGC seems to be American Glass—pressed Sandwich, depression, etc." "Do not feel the Club has addressed the area of ancient glass at all"; "... NEAGC should be more like Heisey and Cambridge Glass Clubs ... do not get much out of NEAGC"; "Please keep NEAGC for collectors of American Glass."

"... dues are too high"; "Mandatory membership in local and national clubs is added cost without major gain ..."; "Much dissatisfaction about amount of dues ..."; "How about a logo sign ... display in shops ..."

"... Reduce Boston Athenaeum mailing fee for NEAGC books"; "Would like to see everyone get an annual report"; "I think the name of the Club is misleading"; "... it may be advantageous to change the name." "I think Minnesota should have a club ..."

Bulletin:

"... very much enjoy the Bulletin"; "Terrific!"; "Outstanding!"; "... Informative

and well written"; "Excellent!"; "It is the Club's greatest asset!"; "... impressed with professional quality ... under Arlene P. Schwind"; "... the only thing that holds the Club together is the Bulletin ..."; "... a pleasure to pedantics; a pain to the rest of us ..."

"Have you ever done an article on The Jones Museum in Maine?"; "Will you ever re-run any early articles?"; "More articles on Art Glass, Tiffany, Steuben, etc."; "Pressed pattern glass, glassware 1900-1920; more articles and talks on Central European glass and its relationship to American styles"; "... would like reviews on worthwhile out-of-print books on glass." "... passes it on to the Glass Circle Library at the Museum of London."

Glass Shards:

"Would like a section for notices to other collectors"; "... should publish more often than the Bulletin, at least quarterly"; "... enjoy information in Shards; good luck!"; "Keep up good work!"; "Really like your manner of communication"; "Excellent job of keeping members informed."

NEAGC Seminars:

"... enjoy Seminars, looking forward to Wheaton"; "... wonderful!"; "... excellent!"; "... information should be sent out earlier to help members plan"; "... would prefer April to May"; "... plan 'theme' for seminars, emphasize attracting younger collectors";

"... we need new blood, different speakers"; "... subjects too limited, fee too expensive"; "... too much money for too

small a benefit."

"... attended two (Corning) Seminars when NEAGC Board meetings were held there, no attempt was made to gather and acquaint members attending. It would have been an excellent opportunity to get acquainted."

The questionnaire data and comments represent a valuable pool of ideas and, I must admit, the votes of confidence were most assuring. More important, however, were those comments pointing to areas of improvement and these will serve to focus your Board of Directors' attention accordingly. I look forward to addressing your concerns in the near future.

What came across as a result of the questionnaire was that the NEAGC is built upon a good foundation of loyal and dedicated members who care—about glass, about each other and who care enough to get involved. Personally, I think the glue that keeps this club together, and prospering, is a membership whose interests are as dynamic as they are unpredictable. There are new horizons in L'arte vetraria for all of us; they may be brought to you by a fellow member or may be only a Bulletin away. Keep reading, keep learning, keep questioning; the vistas are boundless.

My thanks to all who participated in this questionnaire. You have done the Club a service. On behalf of the Board and the general membership, our sincere thanks and a "well done" to our Secretary, Geraldine J. Casper, who brought order out of a blizzard of paper and made the preparation of this report a simple task.

Francis N. Allen, President
National Early American Glass Club

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

April 7 - October 28

Exhibit: "Out of the Mold" - Wheaton Village, Millville, New Jersey. Major exhibit focusing on the importance of molds to American glassmaking.

April 17-29

Glass Seminar - Strong Museum, Rochester, New York: Jane Shadel Spillman - James & India Dennis - Ken Kercheval lecturers. Glass gallery tours, films & videos on glass manufacturing, identification clinic and glass loan exhibit: "Glassmaking: America's First Industry," on loan from Corning April 2-29. For further information call (716) 263-2700.

April 22 - October 14

(Note date change)

Glass Exhibit: Russian Glass of 17th-20th century. Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY.

April 28 & 29

Glass Show & Sale - sponsored by Westchester Glass Club, NEAGC Chapter, White Plains Women's Club, 305 Ridgeway Ave., White Plains, NY. Show hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5. Info: Tel. (203) 531-7004 or (914) 669-5248.

May 2-5

Glass Seminar - Sixth National Glass Seminar sponsored by The National Early American Glass Club. Wheaton Village, Millville, New Jersey. Lodging (609) 327-3300. Seminar reservations to be made through Wheaton; April 23 deadline.

May 6 - September 9

Exhibition: Paperweights of Paul Stankard - The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum, 165 N. Park Ave., Neenah, Wisconsin 54956. Tel. (414) 729-4658. (Catalogue available.)

May 14 - November 10

Exhibits: "What in the World Is That?"; "Dolphins in Glass & Ceramic," and "Witness to a Russian Past" - Unique glass and ceramic objects comprise exhibits; the latter of Russian origin. "... a collection of cultural oddities to challenge, amaze and amuse." Permanent loan of Union Glass Company glassware. Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine, Tel. (207) 787-3370.

May 17-19

Seminar - Paperweight Collectors Weekend, Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ. Seminar - exhibit - demonstrations.

June 16

Seminar on Contemporary Glass. Sponsored by Pittsburgh Chapter, NEAGC. Concept Art Gallery, 1031 S. Braddock Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. Speakers include: Henry Halem, William Gudenrath and Ferdinand Hampson.

June 23 & 24

Antiques Show & Sale - Andrew Mellon Hall, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, PA. Sponsored by Pittsburgh Chapter, NEAGC. Preview June 22. Tel. (412) 828-2224.

August 11 & 12

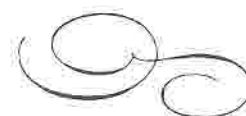
Glass Show & Sale: Helen N. Barger Chapter, NEAGC, sponsors. Fire Hall, Beach Lake, PA.

August 18 & 19

Glass Show & Sale, sponsored by The Sandwich Glass Museum and Historical Society. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4. Oak Ridge Elementary School, 260 Quaker Meeting-house Rd., East Sandwich, MA.

October 17-20

Seminar - 30th Annual Seminar on Glass, Corning Museum of Glass, NY. Tel. (607) 937-5371 for seminar brochure.



"Temporarily Away"

The above words on returned Bulletins and *Glass Shards* are gradually driving Nancy Sheriff crazy! When you go to your second home or on vacation, the mail is returned with these words on it with a first class mail charge of \$1.30 for NEAGC! (The post office only forwards first class mail.) Please notify Nancy *before* you go away and let her know when you will return; also give a forwarding address, and inform her when you are going to move. Write her at Box 8489, Silver Spring, MD 20907.

In the same vein, about 75 copies of the last *Glass Club Bulletin* were inadvertently mailed in plain wrappers. Twenty-two have been returned. Anyone who DID NOT receive their copy of Bulletin #160 (Winter 1989-90) should notify Bill Sheriff at the above address. A copy will be mailed out to you first class.

Memorial Fund Campaign

Contributions to the Memorial Fund continue to come in. The following gifts were received from December 1989-February 14, 1990. Remember, the Memorial Fund is ongoing. Your donations help defray seminar costs and are the perfect remembrance for a beloved club member, friend, or relative. Keep up the good work!

Vivian Pfleger, Mr. & Mrs. Z. D. Blackstone, Jr., Esther H. Murray, Elizabeth S. Williams, E. J. Williford, Leigh Van Etten, in memory of Rosemond Van Etten; Nedra Karrer Joyce, Faye H. Simkin, in memory of C. J. Hartman; Anonymous, in memory of Dr. Ed Tinney; Robert E. Nelson, Allan B. Bell, Elizabeth A. Chase, Robert E. Mower, in memory of Mrs. Haynes (Brown Jug); Josh Simpson, Ted & Alvina Breckel, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Helli; Ken & Phyllis Locke, Wm. S. Luttrell, in memory of Dominick Labino; F. A. Allen, in memory of Dr. Ed Tinney; Mrs. Warren P. Tingley, Mrs. Jesse T. Price, in memory of Jesse T. Price; Ed & Kay Berg, Anne O. Hingle, in memory of Henry Sheldon Bigler; Donna Holscher, in memory of Dr. Harry Holscher; Joseph H. Shramek, Mary H. Prentice, R. L. Vignolo, in memory of Geo. McKearin; Beatrice Scheer Smith, Mrs. Donald Carlson, in memory of Leora Pitts; Betty Iber, Carolyn M. Ellis, in memory of Mary Frances Michehl; Mr. & Mrs. Glen Tripp, Bertram Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. John Malaguerra, in memory of Dr. Ed Tinney; Ken & Sylvia Lyon, in memory of Dorothy Haynes; Maynard E. Steiner, Charlotte Sittig, Mrs. Paul Salanon, in memory of Betty Sanyour, mother; Frieda & Stratton Woodruff, Marylee C. Reeder, Mr. & Mrs. Jack W. Casper, in memory of Dominick Labino; Mr. & Mrs. R. J. McAuliffe, Nancy & Bill Sheriff, in memory of Mary S. Michehl (Fran); Esther A. Rauthier, in memory of Charles A. Rauthier; Jan. K. O'Brien, Betsy

Hewlett, in memory of Ruth Higginbotham; Robert W. Hunt, in memory of Helen McKearin; Mrs. Charles H. Persing, Roy Ranck, Hazel A. Mumford, Martin Fixman, Lem & Pearl Brimmer, in memory of Papa & Jackie; Mrs. Kathryn Porter, Mary Lizzadro, Greater Chicago Glass Collectors Club, in memory of deceased members.

Pittsburgh to Host Glass Event

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the NEAGC is sponsoring an all day seminar Saturday, June 16, 1990, on contemporary glass. Concept Art Gallery, 1031 S. Braddock Ave., Pittsburgh, will be host for the day, starting at 9:00 with registration and coffee. The \$45 fee includes lunch.

Speakers are Henry Halem, glass artist and head of the Glass Department at Kent State University in Ohio, who will speak on

"The International Art Glass Scene." William Gudenrath, President of the New York Experimental Glass Workshop, will show a video and talk about "Glassmaking Techniques: Venice." Ferdinand Hampson, Director of The Habatat Gallery, Detroit, will talk about "Collecting Contemporary Glass."

The audience will have a chance to ask questions during a panel discussion featuring the lecturers, glass artists Kathleen Mulcahy and Ron Desmett; Bob Long, Curator of Cultural History at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and Harry Shaw from Concept Gallery.

Several galleries in Pittsburgh will be featuring contemporary glass at this time, with Concept mounting a large exhibit available for seminar participants to view at free times during the day.

For details please write or call Mrs. Margaret Harmon, P.O. Box 112425, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Telephone (412) 833-4063.

Donna Six



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