

# Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 1994

## Exhibition Celebrates Czech Artists' 40-Year Collaboration in Glass

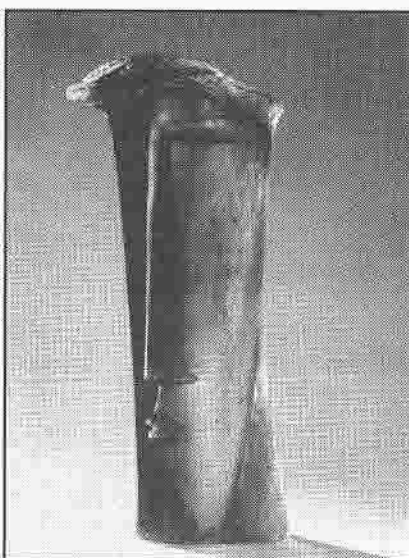
The 1994 special exhibition at The Corning Museum of Glass will feature works by the 20th century's most illustrious sculptors using glass.

"Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava Brychtová: A 40-Year Collaboration in Glass" will be on display April 23 - October 16, 1994.

Libensky and Brychtová, husband and wife, are two of the Czech Republic's most revered artists. Their international audience has steadily multiplied since the stunning presentations of their large-scale sculpture at world fairs in Brussels (1958), Montreal (1967) and Osaka (1970).

The Corning exhibition, in cooperation with the Museum of Decorative Arts, Prague, will be the first retrospective outside Europe that shows the entire range of their work. More than 200 objects and sculptures will be presented in new galleries created expressly for the exhibition.

"Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava Brychtová are powerful people," said Thomas S. Buechner, founding director of The Corning Museum of Glass. "They make things that are big and precious: huge sculptures, whole walls, the sides of buildings that glow with the kind of light usually given off by little gemstones and bits of rock crystal. They make things that are demanding and decorative: their



pieces have content; they are built of ideas, convictions, and emotions; and yet they are enchantingly attractive."

Visitors to the Corning retrospective will see sculptures made by the two artists during the 1940s and early 1950s, before they met. These works include pate die verre (glass paste) created by Brychtová in collaboration with

her father, the sculptor Jaroslav Brychta. More than 20 examples of Libensky's exquisite vessels, enameled and etched with narrative inspired by Bohemian fairy tales, the Bible, and Gothic and Renaissance paintings, will be displayed for the first time, along with their design drawings. Never before have so many of these extremely rare works been shown together.

Sculptures of the 1960s and 1970s, intended as "paintings in space," will document the artists' technological and stylistic development. One of their first monumental freestanding sculptures, Blue concentration, made for the 1967 Montreal Expo, will be a centerpiece of the exhibition. Full-scale preliminary paintings of selected works will give insight into the translation of Libensky's two-dimensional concepts to Brychtová's three-dimensional forms. The exhibition will conclude with the most recent sculptures made in the artists' Zelezný Brod studios. ♦

## New Major Exhibit of Gillinder Glass

One of the most prolific glass factories in the United States will be the subject of the 1994 major exhibition opening to the public on April 1 at the Museum of American Glass at Wheaton Village.

"Gillinder Glass: Story of a Company" chronicles the history of the Philadelphia-based firm, which was opened in 1861 by William T. Gillinder, an English immigrant. The company produced a wide variety of blown ware, thirty recognized pressed glass tableware patterns and cut glass.

In 1876, Gillinder & Sons (then known as the Franklin Flint Glass Works) erected a working glass factory on the grounds of the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The exhibit, one of the most popular and visited at the fair, presented demonstrations of pressing and cutting glassware. It also offered glass miniatures, which were popular souvenirs of the event.

The museum will borrow objects from private collectors, Gillinder family descendants and several museums, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institute and The Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics. Examples of delicate cameo glass, rare cut glass, pressed tableware and millefiori paperweights will be among the items featured in the exhibit.

According to Gay LeClerc Taylor, curator of the Museum of American Glass, more than 100 objects as well as photographs and company catalogs will be exhibited through October 23 in the museum's Special Exhibition Gallery. A catalog is planned to accompany the exhibit. ♦

## President's Letter

"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Derek Bok

(former President, Harvard University)

Excusing my way through a predominantly female clientele in the bridal shop of Woodward and Lothrop's Washington store, I pass brides-to-be shopping for wedding dresses, veils and other blissful impedimenta. The holidays were only a few weeks past but this seems another rush - can spring be far away? Passing the try-on rooms before which angels stand, tentative as they are radiant, before admiring mothers and honest three-sided mirrors, I finally spy a Queen Anne table bearing tasteful advertising for wedding (the word "glass" doesn't exist in the bridal lexicon). Thankful the clerk is busy with a customer, I look over brochures and other bits of printed matter lying about. Some are cheap little sheets with only line drawings while others have substance, are generous in color and printed on the best papers with little vellum protectors tucked between the plates. After selecting a few specimens, I leave. My visit to the bridal shop is over. This was no sentimental father in tow of wife and daughter, it was a glass information junkie, and I was shopping for my vertical file.

It goes without saying that the china and glassware departments are also lucrative hunting grounds, but I hasten to add that such forays are usually accomplished in conjunction with a valid reason for being in the store in the first place. In Boston, Shreve's is a treasure trove of glass literature with obliging clerks literally ransacking behind-the-counter drawers to satisfy this customer's queries (my Shreve's holdings date from the fifties when Gunderson Pairpoint items were being offered). Naturally, the information gleaned from the great retail wilderness is mostly about what is happening now, what glass is being made, sold, and for how much. Some manufacturers even include short histories about their company or biographies on their designers and artists.

Another wellspring for the vertical file is magazine advertising. Needless to say *Modern Bride* and *Bride's* are the best for glass, oops, crystal as well as the standard homemaker's magazines such as *Better Homes and Gardens*. But, there are innumerable other sources for the vertical file. Besides the local mall, vacation and travel provide some of the best opportunities. A recent visit to the Riedel Glashutte in Kufstein, Austria resulted in a fistful of advertising matter as well as a chance to purchase their comprehensive and lavishly illustrated company history for a pittance.

Why a vertical file? To say "Why Not" is irresistible, but really...why not? I believe the vertical file can be a valuable repository of acquired knowledge; the raw stuff of learning, but, too flimsy to shelve and too odd-sized to store any other way than the efficient file folder. I should add, however, that my vertical file is not just about modern glassware. It is a Duke's Mixture of all sorts of hard-copy about glass. After several years of building, it comprises over seven file drawers of manila folders, labeled from Adams & Co. to Zwiesel Glass and home for everything about glass from ancient to modern; decorative to industrial and from art glass to depression glass. Therein are newspaper clippings, pages torn from gift catalogs, photocopies of library material, small periodicals, snapshots, postcards, etc. (there is a quarter-drawer devoted to research material on Hedwig Glasses). Whole magazine articles may be filed thusly, though I am loathe to scissor some, e.g., *Antiques*, and *Collector's Digest*. Lecture notes and seminar hand-outs are also the stuff of vertical files, however, care must be taken to document this material as to who said what about what and when and where.

The vertical file is a precious tool for glass identification and some depth of current advertising is especially useful for researching latter glass and reproductions. I haven't designed an elaborate cross-referencing system, for loyalty to complexity demands time and eventually makes one a slave to the system. Find it, and file it! - that's my motto.

The vertical file can be a personal thing, reflecting one's own tastes, interests, focus or diversity. It can be of lasting utility. Harriet and Demmie Blakistone's scrap books were their vertical file, a mirror imaging their personal tastes in glass and representing decades of collecting. The fruits of their patient searching (and pasting), plus their generosity, now reside in the Periodical Collection of the Montgomery County Library's Potomac Branch in Maryland. The sharing goes on.

Education is more than accumulating paper (or diplomas). It is a process of constant discovery, of learning through doing, of joys and disappointments in research,

*continued page 4*

## 1994 NEAGC National Glass Seminar

The Tenth National Glass Seminar, sponsored by the National Early American Glass Club, Ltd., is developing into a one-of-a-kind seminar experience. The slated speakers are well known and exciting and the unique opportunities being offered to the seminar's participants could not be had at any other time.

Being held at the Langford Hotel in Winter Park, Florida, the seminar begins with Kathleen Deagan's "Artifacts of the Spanish Colonies" lecture. She is the curator of Historical Archaeology at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Alice C. Frelinghuysen, the curator of American Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York will be speaking on "Louis C. Tiffany and the H. O. Havemeyers". Gary Baker, curator of glass at the Chrysler Museum in Virginia, presents "Eclectic Glass of Louis C. Tiffany" before the exciting visit to the Morse Gallery, led by the Director of Collections, David Donaldson.

If you haven't seen the stunning McKean collection of Tiffany windows at the Morse Gallery of Art, here is your opportunity to see all 18,000 sq. ft. of it! This collection is considered to be the most important and complete Tiffany representation in existence. It includes windows, lamps, vases, jars, fountains, drinking glasses, desk sets and a gallery of Tiffany's oil paintings. It is an unprecedented privilege to see it all, and in the company of such experts.

Kenneth Wilson, renown author and Renaissance man of the glass world, will present, "From Mundane to Sublime - Mt. Washington Glass". Julie Sloan, a graduate school teacher from Columbia University and a stained glass consultant, will talk on "Light Screens: The Leaded Glass Windows of Frank Lloyd Wright". As a specialist in antique wearable art, Diane Grimes will tell us about "Miniatures in Glass". And for those who love the art of cut glass, "Voices from the Past - T. G. Hawkes & Co. in the 1880s", by established specialists Joan & Dick Randles will be a treat. Finally, Coila & Doug Hales collectors for 30 years, will tell us about "Colored Victorian Tumblers", and Dottie & Bill Avery, founders of the Antique & Art Glass Salt Shakers Collectors Society, will tell us why its "Not Just a Salt Shaker".

When we tour the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine, we'll see a dazzling exhibit of Hawkes cut glass along with a fine display of Victorian art glass. During lunch we will be surrounded by storage examples that the museum staff hopes we will be able to assist in identification or authentication. This will be a wonderful seminar, please join us! ♦

# Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

## April 1, 1994

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF GLASS  
AT WHEATON VILLAGE,  
1501 Glasstown Rd., Millville, NJ.,  
(609) 825-6800 a new major exhibition  
of Gillinder Glass. The museum is open  
7 days a week, April - December,  
10 am - 5pm.

## April 1994

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO  
In a new Classical gallery, the display of  
their sizable Ancient glass. 312-443-3600

## April 9, 1994

13th Annual Antique Glass Collectors'  
Sale. NEAGC, Maryland area Chapters.  
Armory Place, Wayne Ave., just off  
Georgia Ave., in downtown Silver  
Spring, MD. 10 am to 4:30 pm. Glass  
Identification, 2-4 pm.

## April 9 & 10, 1994

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM Open  
House: The display of the Albert C.  
Marble cup plate collection begins this  
spring and a lecture by the curator of  
glass, Kirk J. Nelson on April 10 at 2pm,  
"The Triumph of an Early Glass  
collector", will focus on this famous  
collection. Admission to the museum  
during the open house will be free. See  
this issue for details. Call 508-888-0251.

## April 23 & 24, 1994

WESTCHESTER GLASS SHOW &  
SALE, Greenwich Civic Center, Old  
Greenwich, Ct. Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 12-5.  
Sponsored by the Westchester Glass  
Club, a chapter of NEAGC. Info: Molly  
& Duff Allen, Tel: (508) 540-5339.  
56 dealers in all types of glass.

## February 2 - May 1, 1994

BERGSTROM-MAHLER MUSEUM,  
165 North Park Avenue, Neenah,  
Wisconsin, (414) 751-4658. See a  
special exhibit of paperweights and  
small sculpture in "Glass Shoals and  
Sandy Shores: Sea Life in Glass."

## April 23-October 16, 1994

THE CORNING MUSEUM OF  
GLASS, Corning NY, (607) 937-5371.  
"Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava  
Brychtová: A 40-Year Collaboration in  
Glass". (Please refer to the article in this  
issue for more detail.)

## May 4-6, 1994

The GLASS WORKSHOP: Light Fair  
International; The top entries from a  
juried lighting design competition will  
be displayed at the Jacob K. Javits  
Convention Center, New York City.  
718-625-3685.

## May 11-14, 1994

NEAGC GLASS SEMINAR, Winter  
Park Fla., Langford Hotel. See article in  
this issue.

## May 12-14, 1994

MUSEUM OF AMERICAN GLASS  
AT WHEATON VILLAGE,  
1501 Glasstown Rd., Millville, NJ.,  
(609) 825-6800: "A Paperweight  
Collectors Weekend."

## May 6-30, 1994

WHEATON VILLAGE: Glass exhibit,  
"Glass Analogies: From Sculpture to  
Weight". Contemporary glass artists  
challenged to create paperweights.  
10 am to 5 pm Daily. Rt. 55 Exit 26,  
Millville, NJ. 609-825-6800 or  
800-99-Village.

## May 7- July 31, 1994

BERGSTROM-MAHLER MUSEUM  
International Lampwork Exhibition: The  
traditional craft creating glass instruments,  
paperweights, beads and jewelry. Call  
414-751-4658.

## May 22-July 31, 1994

THE GLASS WORKSHOP: "Glass:  
Material as Metaphor." Guest curator  
Jane Dodds explores the power of glass in  
architecture through works by architects,  
designers and artists. The curator will  
present an informal gallery talk at 2 pm.  
Opening reception is on Saturday, May 21,  
1994, 1-5 pm in the Robert Lehman  
Gallery. Call 718-625-3685.

## May 20 & 21, 1994

American Glass Rally, sponsored by  
PORTLAND'S RAIN OF GLASS: The  
2nd annual glass convention includes  
lectures, glass sales, auctions, food and  
fun. Register now. Call 503-362-9903 or  
503-657-6170 or write American Glass  
Rally, PROG, P.O. Box 947, Newberg,  
OR. 97132-0947

## August 6-September 25, 1994

THE JONES MUSEUM, Douglas Hill,  
Maine. "The Art of the Paperweight:  
Challenging Tradition". An exhibition of  
over 100 paperweights from The Art  
Museum of Santa Cruz County. This will

be the only New England showing of this  
outstanding exhibition, which is being  
shown at only four museums in this  
country. The exhibition will come to  
Maine from Perthshire, Scotland. The  
Museum is open between May 16-  
November 5, 1994. Call 207-787-3527.

## September, 1994

At THE GLASS WORKSHOP: The  
New York Biennial of Glass, an exhibition  
focusing on the work of emerging or  
under-recognized artists. Please send six  
slides of recent, available work, a resume,  
and a S.A.S.E. to the curator John  
Perreault, Artistic Director, the NY  
Experimental Glass Workshop, 647 Fulton  
Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11217-1112.  
No entry fee. One artist will be awarded a  
one-person exhibition in 1995. *Deadline  
for entries: May 31, 1994.*

## June 14, 1994

CHRISTIE'S, 502 Park Avenue, NY will  
be the setting for an auction featuring  
selected contemporary works of glass.  
Proceeds benefit the Glass Workshop.  
718-625-3685.

## September 27 & 28

Glass Show & Sale: Sponsored by the  
SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM. Held  
at the Cape Codder Hotel, (formerly the  
Cape Cod Plaza Hotel), located off the  
Mid-Cape Highway, Exit 6 on the Main  
route into Hyannis, MA. 60 dealers will  
have glass from ancient to contemporary  
for sale. Call 508-888-0251 for  
information.

## October 12-15, 1994

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS  
Corning, NY. 34th Annual Glass Seminar.  
607-937-5371.

## Editor's Note

*Please take note, if you want events to  
be included in the Glass Calendar, the  
deadline for next issue is November 1,  
1994. The Glass Shards reaches  
approximately 1400 households and  
institutions, thus giving the news of your  
upcoming event a large audience. Also,  
remember to send along any Chapter  
news. It's always interesting to hear  
what is happening in other areas.  
Please send typed or clearly printed  
complete information, including dates,  
telephone numbers and addresses to:  
Glass Shards  
Alice Walsh, Editor  
140 South Main Street  
Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048*

## President's, continued

of experience and the excitement of sharing. The vertical file is but one means towards that end - its utility is bounded only by its capacity.

This corner of the page seems an appropriate place to introduce Alice Walsh to you as the new Editor of *The Glass Shards*. Alice is a long-time member of the Founder's Chapter and, as the Editor before her, she graciously accepted this non-trivial assignment and agreed to commit a significant chunk of her personal time to produce this newsletter. I ask that our readers support Mrs. Walsh by sharing with your fellow members notices of glass events, information about our chapters and items of interest gleaned from the stuff of vertical files, much of which should be served by a greater audience. We welcome you, Alice, and we appreciate your dedication to The National Early American Glass Club.

Francis N. Allen  
fnallen@cap.gwu.edu

### The Albert C. Marble Collection of American Glass Cup Plates

This spring the Sandwich Glass Museum will complete its installation of the famous cup plate collection assembled by the Worcester, Massachusetts industrialist Albert C. Marble.

Cup plates were small plates, generally about 3" in diameter, used to hold the tea cup while tea was being cooled in the saucer. The custom of drinking tea from the saucer was popular in America in the 1820s and 1830s, and most of the 1,644 cup plates in Mr. Marble's collection were made during this period. Fortunately for collectors and historians of American glass, Mr. Marble's collection was given to the Worcester Historical Museum in 1956, where it has been carefully preserved and periodically displayed. The collection now has been placed on long-term loan at the Sandwich Glass Museum.

Through the generosity of museum supporters Mr. & Mrs. Jack B. Hirschmann, custom designed display cases have been built for approximately 700 of the cup plates. The new display will be a featured attraction during the museum's open house weekend April 9 & 10 and will be the subject on April 10th, of a lecture entitled "Marble's Cup Plates: The Triumph of an Early Glass Collector", presented by Kirk J. Nelson, the museum's curator of glass. ♦

## NEAGC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

|                                     | April 17, 1992 | February 26, 1994 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Membership Total                    | 1321           | 1394              |
| Membership includes households      | 1585           | 1670              |
| Household Members                   | 264            | 276               |
| Institutions                        | 56             | 55                |
| Sustaining                          | 44             | 55                |
| International Members               | 32             | 32                |
| Life                                | 30             | 32                |
| Supporting                          | 9              | 13                |
| Students                            | 4              | 2                 |
| Donor                               | 4              | 2                 |
| Honorary                            | 2              | 2                 |
| Courtesy                            | 2              | 2                 |
| New Members since 1/1/93            |                | 297               |
| Response from paid ads              |                | 105               |
| Response from Brochures or Chapters |                | 192               |

Respectively submitted,  
Nancy Sheriff  
Membership Committee Chairman

### Westchester Glass Show

The 18th Annual Collector's Glass Show and Sale, sponsored by the Westchester Glass Club, a chapter of NEAGC, will be held at the Greenwich Civic Center, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, on April 23 and 24, 1994. Once again, the show will feature glass of all periods and will be limited to fifty-six well established dealers in fine glass.

This prestigious show has always been a delight to attend and attracts avid glass collectors and dealers who are happy to find the treasures they seek without having to sort through other antiques.

The popular lecture series will also be a stimulating event. For further information, please call Molly and Duff Allen at 508-540-5339. ♦

### Chapter News

The PITTSBURGH CHAPTER had an interesting seminar on March 9th. They were able to meet authors G. Eason Eige, Holly McCluskey, James S. Measell, Jane Shadel Spillman, and Kenneth M. Wilson and acquire autograph's of the new publication, *Wheeling Glass: Collection of the Oglebay Institute Glass Museum*. In conjunction with this, the chapter's President, Dean Six, presented a program on Wheeling glass as a great preparation for the seminar. The FOUNDERS CHAPTER, in Massachusetts continues to attract interesting speakers for their monthly meetings, and recently Richard Brockway presented "Fakes in Ancient Glass". Fakes being a subject that brings fear to glass collectors everywhere. ♦

Please send us your chapter's news.

The National Early  
American Glass Club  
Box 8489  
Silver Spring, MD 20907



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 1773  
Silver Spring, MD