

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 1995

Corning Museum's New Exhibit: 2000 years Mosaic Glass

Once again the Corning Museum of Glass is presenting an exciting new and innovative glass exhibit. "Designs in Miniature: The Story of Mosaic Glass" will be open to the public from June 3 through October 22, 1995.

Glass canes and canemaking constitute one of the most intricate aspects of the history of glass. Since antiquity, cane slices of extraordinary complexity and minute dimensions have been the "building blocks" of precious glass vessels, jewelry, furniture and architectural ornaments, and decorative objects. They are variously referred to as *murrine*, mosaic glass, and *millefiori*. "Designs in Miniature: The Story of Mosaic Glass" developed from the 1990 exhibition *Miniature di Vetro*, which was held at the Palazzo Ducale in Venice. That show concentrated on the virtuoso craftsmanship of nineteenth century glassmakers in Murano. The Corning exhibition, the first of its kind, illustrates the entire history of canemaking. It will feature about 300 objects ranging in

date from the second millennium BC to the present day. Wall plaques, cutlery, paperweights, drinking vessels, beads, and sculptural forms will be among the objects on display. Featured pieces will include:

- A pectoral (decorative collar) with rows of cobras, taken from a bas-relief. It was made in Ptolemaic Egypt (3rd-1st century BC).
- A large pair of Clichy vases, made in Clichy, France, about 1845-1855.
- An Art Nouveau peacock made by Giuseppe Barovier in Venice, 1913.

Two books are being published in conjunction with the 1995 special exhibition: *Miniature Masterpieces: Mosaic Glass, 1838-1924* is the English edition of Professor. Sarpellon's book that accompanied the 1990 exhibition "Miniature di Vetro". Also, *Designs in Miniature: The Story of Mosaic Glass* by Dr. Jutta-Annette Bruhn, curator in charge of the exhibition. Suzanne K. Frantz, curator of Contemporary glass, has contributed a chapter on 20th century mosaic glass. ♦



American Cut Glass Association

CUT GLASS - it's a dazzling subject!

This highly touted American glassware is what will bring several hundred people from throughout the United States together for the seventeenth annual convention of the American Cut Glass Association. The focus is American Brilliant Period cut glass, cut approximately between 1876 and 1915.

This year's convention will be held July 26-29 1995, at the Hyatt Regency, San Antonio, Texas. Approximately a dozen dealers from across the United States will transform the ballroom into a dazzling display of American craftsmanship at its best! On Saturday, July 29, the public will have the opportunity to view and purchase these treasures from 1:00 to 5:00pm. Admission is a \$5 donation.

There will be clinics for beginning and more advanced collecting. A matching service will be available. In addition to the educational, shopping, and viewing opportunities, everyone will have plenty of time to socialize and enjoy the hospitality of San Antonio.

Brilliant Period cut glass sets the standard for cut glass and is renowned for its superior workmanship and unparalleled design. The industry behind American cut and engraved glass was short-lived but produced outstanding products. It was owned in quantity by the wealthy. Services were cut for the White House and royalty. The common man could not afford the cost, since one piece was often more than a week's wage. The glass was Victorian America at its most spectacular.

Avid collectors of this beautiful glass formed the ACGA to learn about and preserve the heritage of this art form. Besides the annual conventions, the organization provides a magazine published ten times a year, a membership directory of fellow cut glass enthusiasts, regional chapters, and reproductions of old cut glass catalogs for reference guides. Annual dues are \$25.

For more information about the American Cut Glass Association and/or the convention, write to /ACGA, PO Box 482, Ramona, CA 92065-0482. ♦

President's Letter

*"It takes 20 years to become
an overnight success"*

-Eddie Cantor

Back in 1989 I wrote I was assuming the NEAGC presidency with trepidation. Well, now that I know what the word means, I can now say it's gone, having been replaced by an atrabilious, yet exhilarating feeling one gets after having completed a tour in the army. My tour is up and looking back over more than five years of board meetings, seminars and a variety of other events, I wonder if I've learned I have had the privilege of observing first hand, the work of some of those who helped me get through my tour as president. I didn't intend this to be a "state of the Club" letter but I would like to count our blessings.

We have seen the NEAGC expand its membership which not only has kept us solvent, and our dues lower even than those of AARP or *National Geographic*, but also has allowed the club to be enriched by the diversity of a growing constituency. From this diversity arises club leadership and I have had the pleasure of presiding over the best, your Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are the ones who do all the work which is the way I hoped it would work; I think up ideas and they do all the work. But I have found in them an unquenchable fire that truly burned for the betterment of the Club and its members. What's more amazing is these good people have been doing it for free, no perks, no free memberships, no special considerations, just free. This is not my success story, it's their's, and that's the way it has always been.

Success is difficult to measure. Take the annual seminars, for instance. One measure may be in their having successfully defined "non-profit," but another is in the overall delight it has brought to those attending. Our seminar chair and chief architect has managed pull off exceptional seminars every year (actually two in 1992) since their inception. They have become excellence at a bargain. Success might also be measured in the quality of our voice, the *Glass Club Bulletin* which has become a leading publication in glass history. It reaches the entire membership including many libraries where copies are placed on their

shelves; the Library of Congress permanently binds their issues under hard covers. I have had the distinct pleasure of working with three of the Bulletin's editors, who, for a pittance, have sweatshop hours getting this little magazine to the printer's. It turns out that they do more than edit. Their job description includes such esoteric skills as effective cajoling, begging without crawling, deleting without omitting and correcting without injury. The same applies to our other voice, the *Glass Shards*. The editors of this publication can also measure their successes in having made it a first-rate newsletter. I have had the pleasure of working with its editors and found they have faced all the same challenges in getting material and getting it out on time. Same job description but with no honorarium. Success was never better defined than in our sixtieth anniversary publication *Reflections on Glass* and, thanks to the herculean efforts of its compilers and editors, it could have been a best seller, but that was not to be because your Board decided that every member should have a free copy. I should also mention the *Membership Directory*. This annual success story is the product of another sweatshop scenario managed by an ordinary member - who has been doing it for free. Success lies elsewhere, for example in club operations where I have personally witnessed the inexhaustible work of its officers: the vice presidents, treasurers, the secretaries, the committee chairs for membership, education, publication, institution, corporate, nominating, publicity, identification and chapter liaison plus the myriad other tasks associated with making the NEAGC a working success.

Can the success keep going? I'm not in the least uncertain that the NEAGC will continue to grow and "be successful." But that may depend, in some small way, on our focus. Twenty years ago Bob Dylan told us "*The Times They Are A-Changin'*." Perhaps we should think about that. For example, it may be time to think about changing the name of our Club. We profess "to promote the study and appreciation of all types of glass," however, I have personally seen too

many prospective members go away because they could not get past the "Early American" part of our name and go on to read the part about all types of glass in the brochure. I think their membership, their input, and their future services, especially on future boards would be invaluable in broadening our collective understanding of American Glass, its roots and inspiration as well as adding to our collective glass experiences. A diverse membership provides an alternative perspective from which to appreciate "all kinds of glass." Name change doesn't come easy and I look to our Board of Directors to be successful in their response to change and the sensitivities of our members.

So, what is it we call success? It is more than simply meeting goals, more than the "favorable termination of a venture." It's more like some intangible essential, but you know it when you see it and, as president of the National Early American Glass Club, I knew success when I saw it. It was reflected in cumulative results of a lot of good work expended by a lot of good people and of these people I have been most proud and most humble to sit among and call my Board of Directors. They did all the work and to them will come success but it comes not overnight.

-Francis N. Allen

11th NEAGC National Glass Seminar in New Orleans

Anyone who says you can't mix business and pleasure has never been to New Orleans! Well, we'll give it a try May 17-20 1995, Doubletree Hotel, New Orleans.

Our program is an exciting mixture of tours, receptions, talks, sight-seeing and most of all glass, glass, glass and all that jazzy. Our hotel is across from the French Quarter at 300 Canal Street. It's a short walk to the waterfront with shopping and river boats. Begin the day with cafe au lait and beignets, move on to poorboys for lunch, hurricanes at 5 and a creole dinner in the finest New Orleans tradition of the enjoyment of eating.

Yes, in between all this joy of culinary indulgence, we'll hear and see special presentations by well known and soon to be well known experts in various aspects of the subject of glass.

We'll be treated to very special hot glass demonstrations, specially mounted exhibits, tours of private and public collections all under the aegis of Southern hospitality.

The speakers include **Dr. L. David Pye**, Director of the Institute of Glass at Alfred University; **Paul Stankard** one of the greatest living paperweight artists in the world; **Jean Dupont Blair**, Director of the New Orleans School of GlassWorks; **John Keefe** Curator of Decorative Arts at the New Orleans Museum of Art; **Jack Sawyer**, a major glass collector; **Gary Baker**, curator of glass at the Chrysler Museum in Virginia; **Timothy Novak**, curator of the Runyon Collection at the Forsythe Center at Texas A&M University; **Kirk Nelson**, curator of glass at the Sandwich Museum in Massachusetts; **Eason Eige**, curator and Director at the Huntington Museum of Art in West Virginia.

Please register by May 1, 1995 by sending a check to James N. Donahue, 4106 Brooklyn Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44109 • (216) 351-0371. Checks are payable to the National Early American Glass Club. NEAGC Members, \$205; non-members, \$225; and for early birds, \$185 by March 28, 1995. ♦

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

April 8-October 2, 1995

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF GLASS AT WHEATON VILLAGE, 1501 Glasstown Rd., Millville, NJ., (609) 825-6800. "It Figures: American Sculptural Bottles" an exhibition featuring over 100 unique containers from historic to contemporary.

April 8-October 1995

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM beginning with their annual OPEN HOUSE, the museum will be presenting "Sensational Sandwich: A Survey of Sandwich Glass from Private Collections." Please call for details. (508) 888-0251

April 20, 1995

WEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF AMERICAN GLASS, Ltd., Lewis County High School, (Interstate 79, Exit 96). 3rd annual Paperweight Meeting Show & Sale. A contest will be held and winning paperweight will be purchased by the museum. Please call (304) 269-2608.

April 22-23 1995

WESTCHESTER GLASS SHOW & SALE, Greenwich Civic Center, Old Greenwich, CT. Sponsored by the Westchester Glass Club (NEAGC). 10am-5pm on Sat & 11am-5pm on Sun. 60 dealers of glass from ancient to contemporary, ID booth, glass repair, luncheon and guest speakers. Please call (508) 540-5339, (203) 966-1777 or (201) 763-4524.

May 8-November 5, 1995

THE JONES MUSEUM OF GLASS AND CERAMICS, Douglas Hill, Maine. Special Exhibitions for 1995:

- *Glass of Italian Masters, 1900 to 1980*
- *Marketing the Past: the 19th Cent. Venetian Glass Revival*
- *Creation in Color: Frederick Carder & Early Steuben.* (Including a recent gift from his nephew, and never seen in exhibition before.)
- *Not Just Blue & White: Josiah Wedgwood*

For schedule of lectures and events, please call (207) 787-3370

MAY 17-20, 1995

NEAGC GLASS SEMINAR, New Orleans, LA. The 11th annual National Glass Seminar will include lectures, field trips, receptions and even a Steam Boat ride with Cajun food and music. Please call (216) 351-0371 for inquiries.

JUNE 3-OCTOBER 22, 1995

THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS: "Designs in Miniature: The Story of Mosaic Glass" A special exhibit featuring 300 objects ranging from 200 B.C. to the present day. Two books are being published in conjunction with this exhibit. Please call (607) 937-5371

July 26-29, 1995

AMERICAN CUT GLASS ASSOCIATION: 17th annual convention of the ACGA will be held at the Hyatt Regency, San Antonio, Texas. The focus is American Brilliant Period cut glass. For information, please call (812) 934-4396.

August 26-27, 1995

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 18-21, 1995

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS Corning, NY. 35th Annual Glass Seminar. 607-937-5371.

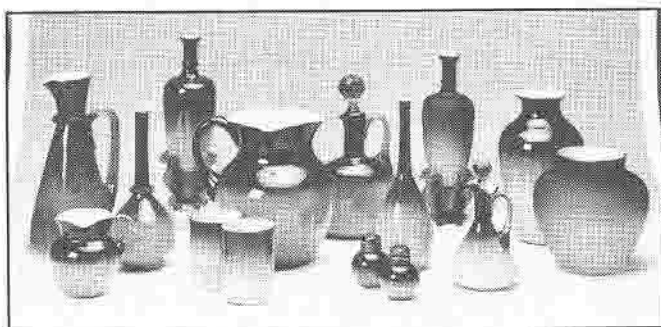
Editor's Note

Please take note, if you want events to be included in the *Glass Calendar*, the deadline for next issue is September 1, 1995. *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

Huntington Museum has New Expanded Glass Collection



Wheeling Peachblow, Coral Ware, 1886

Through an active and carefully planned program of acquisition over the past 20 years, the Huntington Museum of Art Glass Collection has grown to an amazing 4,000 objects! This was accomplished through an annual purchase program and through donations by generous patrons and organizations interested in glass.

This spectacular new installation of 1,000 pieces of glass in ten custom-designed cases is the culmination of a shared vision of the Museum staff and Collection committee, the American Cut Glass Association, the Glass Club of Huntington and the Pilot Club of Huntington. The generous support from Mr. Wilbur E. Myers, a dedicated local glass collector and sponsor of art glass, helped underwrite a major part of the construction costs for the new cases.

Nearly 1,000 pieces of glass will be available for visitors to enjoy, tracing the development of glassmaking in the Ohio Valley. In addition, the Myers

Art Glass Collection will afford visitors the opportunity to view rare New England and European Art Glass of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Please contact the museum for further details. Huntington Museum of Art, 2033 McCoy Road, Huntington, WV 25701 (304) 522-2243. ♦



Morgan Vase, Pink Satina Swirl, 1886

Sculptural Bottles at Wheaton Village

Long before paper labeling, consumers could often identify a product by the shape of its glass container. Examples of these sometimes whimsical, always unique, bottles will be on display at the Museum of American Glass 1995 major exhibition, "It Figures: American Sculptural Bottles", April 8 through October 22, 1995.

The exhibit features over 100 unique containers, borrowed from the museum's permanent collection, other institutions and private collectors.

Figural bottles became extremely popular in the United States in the 19th century. Often designed to commemorate historic events, other favorite styles included patriotic figures, historic landmarks, weapons and animals. Container's shape served an additional purpose. Since many people could not read, the wide variety of shapes provided a clue to the bottle's contents, from poisons to perfumes.

New glassmaking technology in the mid-19th century allowed glass factories to produce many unusual bottle

types through the use of elaborately carved cast iron molds. The exhibit includes two historic molds created between 1860 and the 1870s by the Whitney Glass Works in Glassboro, NJ. They are on loan from the Philadelphia Museum of Art. These molded bottles were often composed of more than one part and came in clear, frosted, milk or colored glass.

Since these containers have retained their popularity, the exhibit includes 20th century examples of figural bottles such as Avon bottles, and sculptural forms by contemporary glass artists.

Open daily, 10am-5pm, admission to the exhibit includes glassmaking demonstrations in the re-created 1888 T.C. Wheaton Glass Factory, and pottery, wood-carving and glass lampworking demonstrations. For more information, call (800) 998-4552 or (609) 825-6500 ♦

West Virginia Paperweight Makers

The 3rd Annual Paperweight Meeting will be held on April 20, 1995. This is a show and sale as well as a contest for paperweight makers! There will be a juried selection of ONE weight to be purchased by the WEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF AMERICAN GLASS, LTD. Glass makers are welcomed to offer for sale any weights, theirs or others. This show will be held at 7pm at the Lewis County High School in Weston, West Virginia, Interstate 79, Exit 96. For more information call (304) 269-2608.

The West Virginia Museum of Glass is a not-for-profit corporation. Glass, information concerning glass workers, the industry and glass related artifacts are actively sought for preservation.

A major regional glass history conference has been held since 1992 celebrating the history of glass. Participants from 11 states and around West Virginia have enjoyed the speakers, tours and exhibitions at this annual fall event. Information on this year's Glass Gathering is available on request.

Meetings are held each month on the third Thursday at 7pm in Weston. ♦

Letters to the Editor

-from Marilyn R. Hallock

My interest in Early American Glass is mainly in Central Glass of Wheeling, WV as my great-great-grandfather was Peter Cassell, one of the founders. I am doing research and collecting Central Glass and my collection has grown to some 300 pieces which is barely scratching the surface. I am interested in getting catalog pages or copies and verifying glass attributions to Central Glass Company (1863-1893). Perhaps in the future I will write a book on Central Glass.

Sincerely,

Marilyn R. Hallock

327 Scott Ave, Sarasota, FL 34243-1920

-from Grace Carolyn Dahlberg, Secy., Greater Chicago Glass Collectors Club

We, the 28-year Greater Chicago Glass Collectors Club, are a proud affiliate of NEAGC. We are a small group which has remained ... around 25 members.

Yesterday at our regular meeting, the possibility of a name change as announced in the *Glass Shards* alarmed many of our members. We find the instant recognition of our name to be most helpful in museums, shops, seminars, etc. Our familiar name implies interest and commitment to glass study, an appreciation for collections perhaps not held by the casual visitor. It describes in a few words the original intent and purpose of the organization. That the name is no longer relevant nor too restrictive is simply not true.

The club has thrived for over fifty years, and much of the glass now studied has become relatively "Early": (Especially to members in their twenties or thirties!) "American" doesn't restrict

us-for where are our antecedents? The early blowers, shapers, pressers and decorators all had their roots in foreign soil and our American Craftsmen learned from the old masters.

Let us keep our name and our heritage. We all appreciate (vitreous) treasures of many times and places. In our club, personal collections include ancient, Early American, Italian, Chinese, French, English, German, "Depression Era" and contemporary or studio glass....

Two questions: Does the NEAGC have a listing of any glass experts in the Chicago area whom we may contact as speakers? Also, we would like to know if there is a particular fund to which a donation would be welcome at the NEAGC, as we intend to disperse our modest surplus soon. We will appreciate your suggestions. Thank you!

Grace Carolyn Dahlberg

305 South West Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126

-from Paul Miles

I had the pleasure of meeting Holly McCluskey, Curator of the Oglebay Glass Museum in Wheeling, WV and a member of NEAGC.

During our conversation, I told Holly of my various glass projects ... published in *THE HOBSTAR*. Since there might be other members of NEAGC who are not members of ACGA, it was felt (they) might also find of interest my latest project "396 Pattern IDs".

Best regards,

Paul Miles

827 Chappell Road, Charleston, WV 25304 (304) 925-9664

Letters to the Editor are always welcome, and should be sent by the deadline, for next issue that would be September 1, 1995. Please send your information to Alice Walsh, *Glass Shards*, Editor, 140 South Main Street, Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: If you are a member of the NEAGC or have an affiliation and have recently written a book concerning glass of any type, we will be happy to inform our members. Please send along the title, subject matter and where copies may be obtained.

Technology & Conservation

"Risk Management: New Directions for Museums, Cultural/Historic Institutions, Conservators, & Collectors" will be the subject of three separate conferences/training programs to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, in May and June 1995. Sponsored by *Technology & Conservation* and The Boston Athenaeum, each of these meetings will cover a different aspect of risk management as it pertains to the protection and preservation of artistic/historic properties.

The focus of the Friday, May 5, 1995, conference will be "Loss & Recovery of Artistic & Historic Works."

"Fire Safety" will be covered during the Friday, June 2, 1995 meeting, while "Intrusion Detection & Prevention" will be the theme of the program that will be presented on Monday, June 19, 1995.

Pre-registration is required and is on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration fee is \$250/person for the series of three conferences. The fee for attending a single conference is \$90/pp. (The fee includes luncheon and a conference information package.)

Please call (617) 227-8581 for more information. ♦

40 Years Celebrated at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum

In commemoration and in tribute to the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum's forty year old legacy, the Shop proudly presents two extraordinary paperweights by two well known glass makers.

Bill Burchfield from the Cape Cod Glass Company creates a paperweight in the classic 19th Century design of ribbon twists and ruby colored glass.

The Smith/Kontes collaboration creates *Peaches with Torsade*, a composition derived from nature.

Please contact the museum for details. (414) 751-4659 ♦

Lowell Innes Glass Show & Sale

The 2nd Annual Innes Glass Show & Sale is sponsored by Pittsburgh Chapter, NEAGC, will be held at the Wintergarden, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Place, downtown Pittsburgh, PA., on October 7th & 8th, 1995, (Saturday 11-6, Sunday noon-5). 40 nationally prominent dealers will be offering antiques, collectibles and contemporary glass for sale. There will be lectures, and an identification booth. For information, please call the chapter President Joanne Authenreith at (412) 846-6692. ♦

Chapter News

The PITTSBURGH CHAPTER wasted no time in reserving the Wintergarden for this October following the success of its first Lowell Innes Glass Show & Sale held in 1994. Dealers and collectors alike agreed the glass-enclosed Wintergarden of the glittering \$200 million downtown complex proved a magnificent showcase for the displays, and most left with the cheery promise, "See you next year". Equally gratifying was the response to the lectures; it was standing room only for Ken Wilson's talk on Pittsburgh Glass, a full house for both Kaiser & Barlow's presentation on Sandwich Glass, and to the identification service expertly provided by Kyle

The WESTCHESTER CHAPTER is kindly making a \$50 donation to the NEAGC in memory of Vera Martin who passed away in January 1995. She was one of the chapter's charter members and a past president. Ms. Martin contributed in every way she could to the club and will be terribly missed by the members.

Westchester Glass Show

The 19th 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 22 & 23, 1995. Once again, the show will feature glass of all periods and will be limited to sixty well established dealers in fine glass.

This year will feature and interesting and fun addition to the show. Anyone who brings a piece of suspected "Sandwich" glass may search through the authenticated sandwich glass shards, brought in by Ray Barlow, to identify their piece. If a match is found, the glass owner may take the identifying shard home with them!

The popular lecture series will feature authors Ray Barlow and Joan Kaiser speaking about Sandwich glass, "Match and Keep Hunt", both Saturday and Sunday. Gay LeCleire Taylor, the Curator of American Glass at Wheaton Village, will present a talk on South Jersey glass, on Saturday.

Also featured at the glass Show and Sale will be glass repairing, an identification booth, gourmet luncheons and afternoon tea.

For further information, please call Molly and Duff Allen at 508-540-5339. ♦

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American Glass Club
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