

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

<http://home.att.net/~NAGC>

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 1998

Whaling Museum has an Opulent Exhibit

A fabulous and popular exhibit has been extended until Labor Day at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, in Massachusetts.

"Shades of Opulence: The Lamps of Pairpoint," is the first exhibition by a public museum solely devoted to the lamps produced by the Pairpoint Corporation. The exhibit includes more than fifty electrified lamps with glass shades made in New Bedford by Pairpoint in the early years of the 20th century. Among those exhibited are a number of lamps with the rarest existing puffy lamp shades (blown-out shades with floral decorations), scenic lamps by the finest Pairpoint decorators such as Frank Guba, and other lamps with decorated glass shades representing different shapes. Also in the exhibit, is a representative sampling of the more than 500 Pairpoint catalog pages held by the Museum which indicate the varieties of shades, bases and decorations available from the company. The Museum collection contains the drawings of Floyd Cary, principal designer for the Pairpoint Corporation. The exhibit includes two designs by Cary for lamp bases, and the bases which were developed from those drawings. Louis O. St. Aubin, Jr., noted expert on New Bedford art glass, is Adjunct Curator for this exhibition.



"Orange Tree"

Courtesy of New Bedford Whaling Museum

The Pairpoint Manufacturing Company was organized in 1880 on property adjoining the Mt. Washington Glass company in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to make a complete line of staple and fancy articles in silver plate. With the consolidation of Mt. Washington and Pairpoint in 1894, the Pairpoint Corporation which emerged had capabilities for the manufacture of both glass and metal wares. The development of the incandescent bulb for lighting introduced a new form of lighting technology, and Pairpoint quickly saw the opportunity to enter the market. The firm developed a line of "electroliers," competing on the high end of the market with Tiffany of New York and Handel of Connecticut. The lamps had solid glass shades with baked enamel designs, which the company advertised

for their permanence of color. In 1907, the firm patented a line of blown-out or "puffy" shades. These shades, mostly floral in decoration, were available in a number of forms and color combinations. Pairpoint Corporation suffered heavily during the Depression, continuing until November 1937, when the glass and silverware departments were closed. The firm continued under different leadership at various locations. The New Bedford factory burned to the ground on October 1, 1965. The successor firm, Pairpoint Crystal, today operates on Cape Cod, in Sagamore, Massachusetts.

Please visit this exciting exhibit of mostly privately owned puffy lamps. There is a feeling of being in a garden of beautiful oversized flowers. The exhibit is expertly installed and shows off the vibrant colors to their best.

An article on this exhibit, written by Judith N. Lund, Curator of the Whaling Museum, appears in the April 1998 issue of *Antiques*. Reprints may be obtained through the museum.

New Bedford Whaling Museum is open daily 9am-5pm. It is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, Massachusetts. (508) 997-0046, ext 12 or 14. <http://www.whalingmuseum.org>

President's Letter

Dear Friends de verre,

We all know research is the heart of any project and that includes traveling. In preparation for a recent trip to Australia, I went through our NAGC directory to find friends far afield. To my surprise, I found listed NAGC members, Reid and Cynthia Morgan at 64 Eng Kong Road, Singapore, Republic of Singapore. We had arranged for a three day stopover here on route to Perth, Western Australia. What a lovely coincidence! Our flight was about 20 hours with short stops in San Francisco and Seoul, Korea (another story). The flight from Seoul to Singapore, skirting the China coast, was a roller coaster ride but we arrived in Singapore about 3:30am. It was hot and humid, even then, and oh yes, it was dark. From our 16th floor hotel room, the sights were free at that hour, so after four hours of rest we felt like we were ready to meet Singapore. I waited 'til the next day to call the Morgan's. As Cindy and I were speaking, Reid called from Kuala Lumpur and through the miracle of call waiting (me) and the telephone, we planned to have dinner and "glass talk" the next evening.

Reid, who is fluent in mandarin, is with Chase Bank. He travels throughout Asia and Europe. When in London he visits his favorite antique dealers, looking for early English tall stem, engraved wines to



Morgan's English wines

add to his collection. Cindy, meanwhile, volunteers her time and energy to the American School which is attended by all of their four children. They have lived in Singapore for 5½ years and have plans to stay until their oldest, a daughter, graduates from high school and returns to the States for college. Don and I spent a delightful several hours examining and chatting about glass and the people surrounded by it.



Reid & Cindy Morgan
with Don Roberts

Reid told us he had been collecting for about ten years. His enthusiasm was boundless. As we examined his treasures, it was obvious that with each acquisition more information about that area of glass was revealed to him as is true for many collectors when we are drawn deeper into the subject and seek more information. How many times have "new" eyes looked at a piece in your collection and seen a detail that you have missed, even though you have examined it over and over again. It is all part of the wonderment of collecting; the sharing of ideas and of knowledge is one of its rewards. Our sharing of common experiences and friendships is stimulating to us.

I'm sure that Reid and Cindy would enjoy hearing from other NAGC members who may share a like interest. Singapore is half way around the world and access to the world of glass is limited. This is an area where NAGC's web site is very helpful.

Yes, communication is the name of the game. Look over your shoulder, I may be there.

Ellen Roberts,
SHADYDR@aol.com

Note: While we were in Australia, we saw a delightful Australian film called "Oscar and Lucinda". There is a significant reference to glass in the opening scene. The story includes the heroine's migration to Australia and her purchase of a bankrupt French glass company in Sydney and how she turns it into a successful business. There are several scenes of glass being made. Be sure it see it when it comes to the United States.

Visit our web page:
<http://home.att.net~NAGC>

A Newly Discovered Treasure

One of our members writes: "A year and a half ago we moved to a retirement community in South Central Pennsylvania. One of the residents here told us about a collection of pressed goblets in the Shippensburg Historical Society, about 20 minutes away from us. Although we don't collect pressed glass, we do enjoy seeing any display of decorative glass, so we went to look.

It is an impressive collection of more than 1,200 pressed glass goblets and no two are alike. There is a small piece of paper in almost each goblet giving the pattern name and the maker, if known. They are displayed in shallow cabinets which line both sides of the room and extend up to the ceiling. Each goblet is numbered and there is a notebook available for reference. They represent examples from 1840-1910.

The goblets were left to the Historical Society in the late 1980s, by a collector/dealer named Harry J. Robinson. He apparently started the collection about 1947. They tell me he had intended to publish a book about them in collaboration with a man named William Jenks, from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, but this plan apparently never came into being.

The Stewart House, the handsome limestone building in which the Historical society is located, was originally built in 1784 and was enlarged in the early 19th century. Dr. Alexander Stewart, purchased the house in 1924 and in 1984 gave the house to the Society in perpetuity.

For anyone visiting this area of Pennsylvania we would recommend a visit to this unusual exhibit in a charming, historic town."

Hours for the **Shippensburg Historical Society** are Wednesdays & Saturdays 1pm-4pm. Please call for more information (717) 532-6727.

Art Glass Festival

Free to all, an art glass festival will be held on May 17, from 12-4pm at Glen Echo park, in Glen Echo, MD., (301) 492-6229. Many contemporary glass artists will be demonstrating their techniques, including hot glass blowing. Also, an exhibit of historical glass from 1800 to present, from the collection of Jessie Ward.

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

Through May 31, 1998

BERGSTROM-MAHLER MUSEUM, Neenah, WI. (920) 751-4658.

"Glass In the Age of Invention: The Victorian Era." A survey of the prolific glass production of the late Victorian Era; featuring works from the main glass factories, Mt. Washington, Sandwich Glass and Hobbs Brockunier of West Virginia and detailing societal factors influencing the industry.

Through June 14, 1998

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, The Museum of the British Glass Industry, Compton Dr., Kingswinford, W. Midlands, DY6 9NS, UK (0134) 812745. *"The Forgotten Factory-Bagley's of Knottingley."* Over 150 pieces mostly from a private collection emphasizing the Art Deco period is on display. Admission to the museum is free.

Through September 7, 1998

NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM, New Bedford, MA (508) 997-0046. *"Shades of Opulence: The Lamps of Pairpoint,"* a beautiful new exhibit, includes privately owned oil lamps of the early 20th century.

May 13-June 21, 1998

WHEATON VILLAGE, Millville, NJ., at the Gallery of American Craft, Museum of American Glass, (609) 825-6800 ext. 2756, or 1(800) 998-4552. *"Mastering Dimension: The Challenge of Small Glass Sculpture."* An invitational exhibition and sale that challenges sculptural artists to confine their creations to a size limited to 8"x8"x8".

May 16 - Sept. 13, 1998

THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, Corning, NY. (609) 937-5371. *"The Glass Skin."* The only American showing of the exhibition of new international sculpture.

June 14, 1998

WHEATON VILLAGE, Millville, NJ., at the Museum of American Glass. In association with The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors. (609) 825-6800 ext. 2739, or 1 (800) 998-4552 or e-mail: janet@wheatonvillage.org. *"Antique Bottle Show."* A new show featuring fruit jars, bitters, stoneware, early

glass, free blown glass and more. Hours: 10am - 4pm. Adults \$6.50, Seniors \$5.50, and Students \$3.50.

July 4, 1998

9th ANNUAL INTERN'L ANTIQUE LAMP SHOW & SALE, Marriott Airport Hotel, Nashville Tenn. 9am-3pm. (615) 889-3025 or (502) 488-2116. Largest lamp show in the US. Admission is \$5.00. For a list of dealers, visit the web site. <http://www.aladdinknights.org>

July 25 & 26, 1998

23rd ANNUAL DUNCAN MILLER CONVENTION Glass Show & Sale. Sponsored by The National Duncan Glass Society, held at the Alpine Club, 735 Jefferson Ave., Washington PA. (724) 225-9950. Admission is \$3.00. An auction will begin at 6:30pm on Saturday July 25 at the Thistlecrest Auction House. Please call for more information.

August 22-23, 1998

Glass Show & Sale: Sponsored by the SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM. Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 11-4. Held at the Cape Codder 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 more details.

August 29, 1998

JONES MUSEUM OF GLASS & CERAMICS Douglas Mountain, Sebago, ME (207) 787-3370. *"French and American Lacy Glass,"* presented by Miriam Mucha speaking on the French glass and Ken Wilson on the American. Reservations required. Please call the museum for further detail.

September 25-Nov. 30, 1998

BERGSTROM-MAHLER MUSEUM, Neenah, WI. (920) 751-4658 *"A Celebration of German Cultural Heritage."* Kicking off the Oktober Fest season, the museum's collection of Germanic glass.

September 27-October 4, 1998

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, The Museum of the British Glass Industry, Compton Dr., Kingswinford, W. Midlands, DY6 9NS, UK (0134) 812745. In conjunc-

tion with Himley Hall *"Dudley Glass Festival"* an annual event with a contemporary glass auction on Sunday, October 4th. Himley Hall's new hours: Tues-Sun, 2pm-5pm. Admission to the museum is free.

October 10, 1998

JONES MUSEUM OF GLASS & CERAMICS Douglas Mountain, Sebago, ME (207) 787-3370. *"Glass & Ceramics of the 20s, 30s and 40s"* by Dr. Charles Venable of the Dallas Museum of Art. Reservations required. Please call the museum for further detail.

October 14-17, 1998

THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, Corning, NY. (609) 937-5371. 38th Annual Seminar on Glass.

October 31, 1998

JONES MUSEUM OF GLASS & CERAMICS Douglas Mountain, Sebago, ME (207) 787-3370. *"Decoration on Glass & Ceramics,"* by Dorothy-Lee Jones, Founder/Curator. Please call the museum for details and reservations.

November 13-14, 1998

THE SENATOR JOHN HEINZ PITTSBURGH REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER, Pittsburgh, PA (412) 454-6372. The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania will host a symposium, *"Manufacturing, Marketing and Meaning: Glass in American Life."* Dr. Charles Venable, chief curator, Dallas Museum of Art, will give the keynote address. A call for papers has been issued. Please contact the History Center for more details.

Fall 1998

"Weighty Problems: Glass Paperweights and Their Design" by Jessie Moser Ward, through PRINCE GEORGES COMMUNITY COLLEGE, (301) 927-3652. The semiannual glass preservation, history and ID workshop is open to the public. On display will be paperweights from the 1850s-1990s in all forms, including vases, perfumes, pen holders and more. Author Dr. Clarence A. Newell, will be guest of honor. Participants may bring a piece for identification. More information will be forthcoming.

The Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics at 20

The Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics is celebrating their 20th year anniversary in 1998. They are presenting three new exhibits on glass and ceramics emphasizing their success and vitality.

Beginning June 8 with the season opening of the museum, "A Pride of Members: Birthday Loans from Members" will have a dazzling array of beautiful objects on display. Members have graciously loaned their treasures to help celebrate the museum's birthday.

Concurrently, and in the same

theme, there will be "In Celebration: Loans from Other Museums Honor the Jones Museum on its 20th Birthday."

Visitors to the museum during its regular season from June 8 through November 15, will also be able to see "Baccarat & St. Louis: French Pressed Glasses of the 1830s." This will tie in with the lunch-lecture series on August 29 when Miriam Mucha and Ken Wilson present "French and American Lacy Glass."

Further detail may be obtained by calling the museum at (207) 787-3370.

Bergstrom-Mahler Receives Accreditation

Bergstrom-Mahler has again been awarded the highest honor a museum can receive; accreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM). "We are proud to continue our tradition of excellence at Bergstrom-Mahler," said Alex Vance, executive director since 1978. "Out of 8,000 museums in the United States, only 750 have achieved accreditation."

"Accreditation is a very important milestone in our development as an organization and as we pursue educational goals," said President Fritz Merizon, Board of Directors.

This rigorous process lasts nearly two years and is widely recognized as a "seal of approval" among museum professionals, volunteers and trustees. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum initially obtained accreditation in 1973 and has upheld that distinction through two subsequent reviews.

World renown for its premiere collections of glass paperweights and Germanic glass, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum is housed in a lakefront Tudor mansion bequeathed by John Nelson and Evangeline Hoystadt Bergstrom in 1951.

Ginny Cutler, Affectionately Remembered

A member of the Founders chapter in Massachusetts and a life member of the NAGC, Ginny Cutler died on March 5th of this year. Her family and friends mourn a dear and warm friend, devoted Mother and wife and glass enthusiast. Born in Malden Massachusetts, Ginny was a resident of Cape Cod since 1979 and made an impact on the glass world as a founding member of the Cape Cod Study Group, a trustee and docent of the Sandwich Glass Museum, member of the Jones Museum and a member of the board of the Founders Chapter, NAGC.

Ginny was known to those close to her as a giving and vibrant person, interested not only in the study of glass, but in gardening, music, painting and she was an active member of her church.

Although Ginny responded to the beauty and aesthetic quality of glass as an object of art, she also took the time and had the interest to study it as a part of American history. In her membership in the Cape Cod Study Group and the Founders chapter, she pursued knowledge and helped others with her involvement at the Sandwich Glass Museum.

She will be remembered among other things as kind, generous and full of energy.

Corning Announces Richards Award Winners

The Corning Museum of Glass announced that scholars Mary Cheek Mills and Richard O'Connor are the first winners of the award for Research in American Glass. This award supports original research related to the manufacture, distribution, sale, or use of glass in the American market during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Ms. Mills, an independent scholar from Princeton, New Jersey, will conduct a study of early 19th-century glass production in Philadelphia. Mr. O'Connor, an historian with the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., will trace the evolution of melting furnace technology in the American glass industry.

Ms. Mills, a former teacher in North Carolina, received Master of Arts degrees in early American culture and public history from the Winterthur Program and Appalachian State University, respectively. Her thesis at Winterthur was a history of the Union Glass Works of Philadelphia. Part of it appeared in the 1997 Volume of the Journal of Glass Studies, published by The Corning Museum of Glass.

Her project will include a genealogical study of

Union Glass Works employees, a search for the business papers of that firm's customers, and an examination of glass in public and private collections in order to locate and identify objects made in Philadelphia from 1800 to 1850.

Mr. O'Connor is also adjunct professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh, where he received his doctorate in 1991. His study of melting furnace technology will cover the years from the early 19th century to about 1920. It will analyze changes in furnaces, pot materials, and fuel sources, as well as innovations in furnace design and construction. All of these factors influenced the production of various types of table glass. Mr. O'Connor will examine documents of 19th- and early 20th-century glass manufacturers, trade papers, patents, and relevant contemporary technical journals.

This award began with the creation of the Richards Foundation; the primary goal is to provide financial support for education. Collectors, scholars, students and institutions are invited to apply. For applications, please contact the Richards Foundation, P.O. Box 39, Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871, or the Corning Museum of Glass, One Museum Way, Corning, New York 14830-2253. Completed proposals should be sent to the museum by February 1, 1999.

You "Shoulda" Been in San Francisco!

The reviews are in:

"Congratulations on a seminar well done!"
 "Thanks for a lovely three days I will never forget."
 "What a fabulous seminar! The city, the lectures, the tours, the company; it was all perfect."
 "...innovative programs..."
 "Each day was a new delightful adventure."
 "...magic getting us into this private home to view the cut glass collection. Wow."
 "Can't wait for Minneapolis!"

Eat your hearts out!

We had a small group, 27 plus speakers. But they loved it! The intimacy was great, the speakers dynamite, and we had wonderful interaction.

Thank you all for your support.

-from Carmen Freeman, Seminar Chairman.

Pattern Glass & Oil Lamp Auction

At Green Valley auctions, Inc., last September (1997) three important collections were sold; the Dr. Larry McCallister collection, Muncie, Indiana; the Mary Golby Collection, Manheim, Pennsylvania; and the James and Vivian Karsnitz Collection of Manheim, Pennsylvania.

Some highlights from the pattern glass session includes the books Innes' Pittsburgh Glass (\$250), and Welker's Pressed Glass in America (\$350). 125 lots of flint goblets included Diamond Thumbprint (\$550), Lincoln Drape with Tassel (\$250). Flint tableware included a Clambroth Early Loop/Leaf variant open compote (\$800), and a pair of canary Sandwich Dolphin candlesticks with a single step base (\$850).

Kerosene and oil lamps included a Coin Dot lamp with blue opalescent font and blue base (\$900), a Coin Dot lamp with white opalescent font and clear base (\$425), a Seaweed lamp with a blue opalescent font and clear base (\$1050).

A Greek Key lamp with matching chimney (\$425), a Peanut lamp with matching mint chimney (\$650), and an unlisted pattern lamp with Broadleaf and Flower with matching chimney and burner (\$425).

A catalog may be obtained through the auction house for \$10.00. They are located in Mt. Crawford, VA. (540) 434-4260. Please call for information on upcoming auctions.



A New Acorn & a Call for Manuscripts

The Acorn is the annual journal of the Sandwich Glass Museum, Sandwich Historical Society, established for the publication of articles concerned with all aspects of glass, its history, art and technology, both national and international. Published and non-published authors are encouraged to submit previously unpublished manuscripts to the Editorial Board for consideration. Prior to submission, authors are requested to obtain from *The Acorn* editor an Author's Agreement stipulating the formatting requirements of written matter, and the specifications for photos and illustrations. Any further information may be obtained through the museum at (508) 888-0251.

The 1998 issue of *The Acorn* is hot off the press and is available at the price of \$10.95 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. In addition to three articles, this issue includes color photos of Vasa Murrhina glass, and the recently-discovered c. 1880 Boston & Sandwich Glass Company catalog. Also included is "Edward



Vasa murrhina footed pitcher
 Courtesy of Sandwich Historical Society

Haines, the Old Gentleman Glassmaker," by Vincent Ortello. The text was taken from the transcripts of Mr. Ortello's popular lecture that was given shortly before his death. Extensive research was done in preparation for the lecture and it is fortunate that a written record exists to document this important information.

1998 Rakow Award

The Corning Museum of Glass has awarded Dr. Thilo Rehren this year's award for a study of Late Bronze Age (LBA) glassmaking. Dr. Rehren is a research scientist in Germany.

"The stunning homogeneity of LBA base glass chemistry from Egypt and beyond is a long-known fact," Dr. Rehren stated in his application for the grant. "The project attempts to explain this as the result of a self-adjusting, temperature-controlled partial melting of the batch, in equilibrium with excess earth-alkaline oxides."

Dr. Rehren will conduct a study of technical literature on batch melting processes and equilibrium reactions, using the resources of the Rakow Library of the museum.

The grant was founded by the late Dr. and Mrs. Leonard S. Rakow and may be applied for by **February 1st** of the year for which funding is requested. For further information, please visit the museum's web site: <http://www.pennynet.org/glmuseum>

Twin Cities in 1999 St. Paul/Minneapolis

On the "Big Miss" – May 12 - 15, 1999. St. Paul has it all and we got it all! A northern European city in the Midwest, source of the Mississippi. America's home to Swedish Glass and "early" American pressed glass at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Two destination are the St. Paul Cathedral blessed with LaFarge windows and the New Hope Presbyterian Church, graced with Rowan LeCompte windows. Im-mensely impressive!

An unforgettable excursion to the Mall of America, two square miles of shops and fantasies will leave you aghast, tired and broke. Our Saturday revelry includes a true Minnesota picnic on the shores of Lake Wobegon; beer and pretzels. What more could you ask for?

from Carmen Freeman, Seminar Chairman.

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



Visit our web page:
<http://home.att.net-NAGC>

**NEXT ISSUE'S
DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 1, 1998**

Members as Authors

To further share the talents and interests of our members, this publication will be happy to provide a place where authors can tell the membership about their recently published books, articles or videos concerning glass. Please send the title, subject matter and where copies may be obtained to:

Glass Shards, Alice Walsh, Editor,
11 Bentwood Street
Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035
or: as@practice-corp.com

"Jack-in-the-Pulpit Vases: Variations on a Theme," by Clara Orsini-Romano, Ph.D.

December/January 1998
pp. 35-38, Volume XI, number 4
Glass Collector's Digest,
PO Box 553

Marietta, OH 45750-9963

The author would welcome any sharing of information on "Jack-in-the-Pulpits". She has been a collector for 30 years. The 16 colored photographs included in the article are from her 300+ collection. Please send to:

Clara Orsini-Romano
25-205 Barker Street
Mt. Kisco, New York 10549

ATTENTION READERS!

The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be **SEPTEMBER 1, 1998**. What better way to reach those interested in your event than to submit your news to the *Glass Shards*. Submit by mail or disk to our new address:

Alice Walsh, Editor, *Glass Shards*,
11 Bentwood Street
Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035
or reach us through e-mail at:
as@practice-corp.com

Fruit Jars on Display

This special exhibit of rare Fruit Jars was organized by members of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors and Wheaton Village in Millville, NJ, to celebrate the 140th anniversary of John L. Mason's patent of Nov. 30th 1858. The Mason patent was for a mold that produced a glass jar with screw threads in the neck that matched an accompanying metal lid.

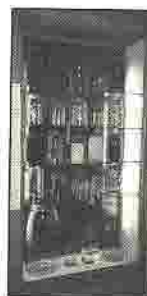


The jars in the first two cases illustrate sixty years of the continued use of the embossed lettering "Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858" on jars.

The center case displays examples of uncommon 19th century fruit jars which show many of the other closures patented to seal jars. The wide range of designs demonstrate the importance of preserving food in the 19th century.

Please call
Wheaton Village
for further detail.

(609) 825-6800 ext. 2739 or
(800) 998-4552.



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