



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 2010

Medieval Glass Objects for Daily Use

Medieval Glass for Popes, Princes, and Peasants brings together rare objects from 500AD to the Renaissance. An unexpected variety of medieval glass vessels will be explored in an exhibition of objects for daily use and display at The Corning Museum of Glass beginning May 15, 2010 and running through January 3, 2011.

The exhibition *Medieval Glass for Popes, Princes, and Peasants* will follow the evolution of glass production over 1,000 years, from its height in the Roman Empire, through the radical social and political change of the Middle Ages when all but the simplest glassmaking techniques were forgotten, until the golden age of Venetian glassmaking during the Renaissance.

"The phrase 'medieval glass' often evokes an image of stained glass windows, but there exists a remarkable range of glass objects made for daily use which provide rare insight into a cross section of medieval society," explains Dr. David Whitehouse, executive director of The Corning Museum of Glass and curator of this exhibition. "The objects in the exhibition trace the history of the Middle Ages in Europe through the lens of glassmaking. The story touches on politics, trade, urbanization and the disintegration of cities, religion, science, and technology and highlights the importance of the material to the development of the world we know today."

Glassmaking saw its greatest era in the ancient world during the Roman Empire, when glassmakers used a rich variety of techniques to meet the demands of wealthy patrons. As the Roman Empire disintegrated and Europe became politically fragmented, there were fewer glassmaking centers

It was not until the late Middle Ages, with the rise of craft guilds and cities, that glassmaking techniques were revived, setting the stage for the



Hedwig beaker, blown (perhaps in mold) and wheel-cut. Place of manufacture uncertain, late 12th century.

next great era of glassmaking: the emergence of Venice as the principal glassmaking center in the Renaissance.

The more than 100 objects in *Medieval Glass* are drawn from the Corning Museum's collection, as well as from museums and cathedral treasuries in Europe, where many pieces were held for centuries without being properly identified.

One area of the exhibit will display glass objects used for eating and drinking, arranged chronologically to show the evolution of glass tableware through this thousand-year period, and to illustrate the increase in the decoration and complexity of the glass vessels as glassmaking techniques were

rediscovered in the late Middle Ages.

Other sections of the exhibit explore glass for the church and treasury, and glass used for science and medicine—including glass used in scientific instruments, for medical diagnosis and alchemy, as well as the critical development of reading spectacles and other lenses. A gallery reminiscent of a medieval cathedral will feature the sole stained glass window in the exhibition, as well as highlights of glass used in the church: ceremonial lamps, drinking vessels and glasses used to preserve relics. Examples of the rare and mysterious group of objects known as "Hedwig" beakers are a highlight of this section.

These beautiful glass cups, found in treasuries across Europe, are unlike any other medieval objects of glass or rock crystal from the Islamic world, Byzantium or western Christianity. The group is named after Saint Hedwig of Silesia (d. 1243), a Germanic queen who was canonized as a saint for her piety—which extended to abstaining from wine drinking, much to the disdain and social embarrassment of her husband. Miraculously, her glass beakers, which bore the same engraving as the beakers in the exhibition, would fill with wine whenever the king's spies were nearby.

Videos in the galleries will illustrate how modern glassmakers have experimented with medieval techniques to identify and understand these objects in the exhibition were made.

The Corning Museum of Glass, One Museum Way, Corning, NY 14830.
(800) 732-6845; cmog.org

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

If all goes as planned, this issue of the Glass Shards will have been preceded in your recent mail from the NAGC by the ballot for the 2010 elections, the new Directory, and the registration packet for the April 15-17, 2010 Seminar. Many of you are probably also hoping, as well, that it has been preceded by the end of the "Winter of 2010" and are ready to move on to more pleasant weather.

Mary Cheek Mills and her distinguished Nominating Committee (Doug Reed, Loreen Ryan, Audrey Lipton, and Kyle Husfloen) have selected a list of exceptionally knowledgeable and experienced proposed candidates who will make ideal members of our Board. Alternatively, you may select and write in a candidate of your own choice in the appropriate spaces provided on the ballot. Either way, please complete and return your ballots to our Treasurer John Kohut as soon as possible so that they may be counted and the results announced at our annual Seminar in April.

In addition to preparing the new Directory, Membership Chair Jim Davidson volunteered to assist with the project to email the last issue of the *Glass Shards* to all NAGC members with a valid email address of record. Jim has commented that as many as 10 percent of the email copies have been returned due to an incorrect email address. We are reviewing our records (to the extent possible) to determine if this is our error in recording the address. However, if you have changed your email address and have not received your copy, please send Jim the new address. Also, if you have not already sent me your comments on the electronic delivery option, it is not too late, and I encourage you to express your opinion. I have received comments both for and against so please don't hesitate. The Board will consider the comments received before making a final decision on this issue.

Bill and Gay have finalized arrangements for the 26th Annual NAGC Seminar in conjunction with the Westchester Glass Club Show and Sale in Greenwich, CT April 15-17, 2010 at the Greenwich Hyatt Regency (203-637-1234). This year the Seminar will also be held jointly with the Mt. Washington & Pairpoint Glass Society (MWPGS), and MWPGS is

providing two of the speakers. Special room rates of \$95.00 per night will be offered to Seminar participants, a significant reduction from the regular rate. The registration fee for members is \$225.00, the same as last year. In addition to the glass show, Bill and Gay have scheduled visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New-York Historical Society, plus a variety of lectures on glass topics and a Saturday banquet. It should be an interesting and educational experience, as well as an opportunity to socialize with old and new friends who share common interests.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending a congenial lobster dinner with some Florida neighbors, Dan West of Alva, FL, President of the American Cut Glass Association, and David Goldstein of Naples, FL, President of the Carder Steuben Club, and his wife Elissa. We discussed the potential opportunities and benefits for our respective organizations from participation in joint activities to promote glass education and collecting. We have agreed to stay in contact on future plans where cooperation would be mutually beneficial.

Congratulations to Kirk Nelson, Executive Director of The New Bedford Museum of Glass and NAGC Vice-President. Kirk has announced the pending relocation (planned for spring 2010) of the museum to gallery facilities in the Wamsutta Mill building at 61 Wamsutta Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. In addition to providing a more extensive gallery display area, the new location will include space for a research library, changing exhibitions, a paperweight study center, and a museum shop.

See you in April at the Seminar and Show.

Ken Depew, President

CORRECTION: There was a typo in the heading of Barbara Lessig's obituary in the Summer 2009 issue of the *Glass Shards*. Barbara was 75 and not 87 as printed.

The position of Secretary for the NAGC is Vacant.

Chapter Liaison Committee Report

Chuck Goding, Chairman

As a test, the winter issue of *Glass Shards* was sent electronically to a number of Glass Club members. The purpose of the test was to see how well e-mail delivery worked and measure the reaction to receiving it in that format.

In addition to Directors, who have been sharing their reactions, Chapter Liaison Committee members have been sampling opinions from members who also received the electronic version.

Early results are positive and here are some of the comments received:

"it's quite exciting to have *Glass Shards* readily available online but I must say I really like having a piece of paper in my hands."

"I like the electronic copy-- easy to keep and you don't have to dust or move it around the house."

"at first, it was too small to read comfortably but when I expanded it, it was fine. I'm not very computer savvy; I could wipe out the file. Would it also be available on the Club's website?"

"only one person enjoyed Shards electronically. Most wanted to hold it while reading it. Older members had no desire or skill to read it other than in its printed form."

"I will print out the test copy and do the same with other electronic versions I receive."

Another electronic test with be conducted with this spring issue of *Glass Shards* and the Chapter Liaison Committee would appreciate receiving comments from all Glass Club members who are willing to share their reactions. Please get in touch with a member or with me, if you prefer.

Chuck Goding (630) 941-1446
c_goding@msn.com

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised. More information is available on our web page at www.glassclub.org)

Through April 28, 2010

HUI NO'EAU VISUAL ARTS CENTER, 2841 Baldwin Ave., Makawao, HI 96768 (808) 572-6560. In association with Maui Glass Artists Association, they proudly present a spectacular glass exhibition that challenges artists to explore this beautiful medium even if you've never worked in glass before. They are excited about the work being done in glass in all its forms and look forward to presenting the visitor with a unique view into the world of contemporary glass art. www.huinoeau.com

Through June 13, 2010

PITTSBURGH GLASS CENTER 5472 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206. At the Hodge Gallery: *From the Earth to the Fire and Back* In honor of Pittsburgh's designation as the North American host city for the United Nations World Environment Day, Pittsburgh Glass Center will host a local juried exhibition of artwork about the environment. Using their hands and three basic elements - sand, soda and flux - 28 artists create, influence, advocate and comment on the current state of the earth. www.pittsburghglasscenter.org

Through July 4, 2010

COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART 480 East Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215 (614) 221-6801 *Chihuly Illuminated* explores the groundbreaking artwork of Dale Chihuly. From the Mille Fiori, a 56-foot garden of glass, to Glass Forest #3, a white milk-glass and neon installation, *Chihuly Illuminated* challenges convention with a feast of bold color, dramatic forms, and extraordinary composition. *Chihuly Illuminated* is part of Chihuly in Columbus, a city-wide celebration of the art of Dale Chihuly anchored by major exhibitions at the Museum, Franklin Park Conservatory, and Hawk Galleries. For more information please visit www.fpconservatory.org For more information about Chihuly XIV at Hawk Galleries, please visit www.hawkgalleries.com

Through October 31, 2010

THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, One Museum Way, Corning, NY 14830. (800) 732-6845 *Tiffany Treasures: Favrite Glass from Special Collections* Tiffany's Artistic Innovations explored in exhibition of blown

Favrite Glass Works. All but one of the pieces in this exhibition are from two museum collections in upstate New York: the Reifschlager Collection, which was a gift to the Rockwell Museum of Western Art in Corning in 1982, and the collection of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University in Ithaca. The exhibition also includes a lamp that was given to The Corning Museum of Glass by donors Jay and Micki Doros. www.cmog.org

April 1 to May 16, 2010

WHEATON ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER 1501 Glasstown Rd., Millville, NJ 08332 *"Contemporary Flamework"* The Gallery of Fine Craft annually displays works at Salem Community College by the featured artists of the college's International Flameworking Conference. This exhibit and sale will include works by featured artist Paul Stankard, Stankard Studio, Shane Fero, Emilio Santini, and Gianni Toso. The work will range from unique goblets to one-of-a-kind sculptures. www.wheatonarts.org

April 9, 2010

HEISEY GLASS MUSEUM Veterans Park, at the corner of 6th and Church Streets in downtown Newark, OH will hold its annual HCA Benefit Auction Friday from 10am - 6pm at Local 244 Union Hall, 350 Hudson Ave., Newark, OH www.heiseymuseum.org

April 17 - 18, 2010

WESTCHESTER GLASS CLUB SHOW & SALE, at Greenwich Civic Center, Old Greenwich, CT (Exit 5 off I-95, Follow signs). Special presentations, identification booth, and glass repair will be featured, along with 60 prominent glass dealers specializing in Depression, Brilliant Cut, Carnival, Pattern, Art Glass, Victorian, Early American Blown and Pressed Glass, as well as Contemporary Glass and Glass related reference books. Information: (973) 763-4524, (203) 966-1777, (845) 669-5248

April 23 - Fall, 2010

COOPER-HEWITT, 2 East 91st Street New York, NY 10128 (212) 849-8400 *Ted Muehling Selects: Lobmeyr Glass from the Permanent Collection* New York-based designer Ted Muehling will serve as the 10th guest curator of the 'Selects' exhibition series in the

Nancy and Edwin Marks Gallery, devoted to showing the museum's permanent collection. Muehling will curate an exhibition of works drawn from the museum's recent acquisition of 160 rare examples of glass from J. & L. Lobmeyr of Vienna, Austria. The collection dates from 1835 to the present day, spanning virtually the entire history of the firm since its founding. This addition to the permanent collection provides the unique opportunity to tell the history of glassmaking in central Europe during a 175-year period. <http://cooper-hewitt.org>

May 22, 2010

THE MUSEUM OF CONNECTICUT GLASS' 6th annual show and sale will include a first-time contemporary Glass Artisans' Exhibition at its historic Coventry Glass Company location at the junction of Rt. 44 and North River Rd., 289 North River Rd. The show, sale and exhibition have become a popular event held just before or just after the Memorial Day weekend. Show hours are 8am (early buyers) and 9am to 1pm for the outdoor sales area and until 3pm for the indoors exhibition. For contact information, go to the "Event" page of www.glassmuseum.org

June 11 - 13, 2010

FORSTORIA GLASS SOCIETY of AMERICA. The 30th Annual F.G.S.A. Convention, Elegant Glass Show & Sale will be held at the St. Jude Hall in Glen Dale, WV. Collectors from across the United States will gather in Moundsville and Glen Dale, WV to visit the museum, attend the glass show and auction. The convention will feature Forstoria's *Versailles* pattern with informative talks held by members. A special Raffle will be held for 4 *Versailles* wines, one in each color. (304) 845-9188 www.fostoriaglass.org

June 17 - 19, 2010

HEISEY CLUB OF AMERICA 39th Annual Heisey National Convention & Elegant Show and Sales. *"Celebrating Ladies of Heisey"* at the Adena Hall, OSUN/COTC Campus, Country Club Drive, Newark, OH. (740) 345-2932 www.heiseymuseum.org

Modern Artists, Venetian Influences in Kansas City

On now and through August 15, 2010 at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, MO., *Venice. 3 Visions in Glass* an exhibition featuring artists Cristiano Bianchin, Yoichi Ohira and Laura de Santillana.

Venice. 3 Visions in Glass explores recent pieces by three of the leading artists working in glass today. Collaborating with workshops on the island of Murano, a historic glass-making center in Venice, these artists have broken with tradition to produce unexpected forms, effects and moods.

Visually dazzling and compelling, some pieces include abstracted brilliant cityscapes, while others are more contemplative and evocative of the watery city of Venice.

Cristiano Bianchin, a native Venetian, creates monochromatic vessels and sculptures often sheathed in crocheted hemp and adorned with found objects. Inspired by the timelessness of Venice, his most recent series of Urns convey historical antecedents and the

passage of time yet with a modern approach.

Yoichi Ohira is a Japanese artist who has been working in Venice for more than 35 years. His works are an integration of Japanese aes-

thetics and traditional Italian glass techniques. Although the exhibition will include many works with vibrant colors, it will also display his recent *Cristallo Sommerso* series that uses colorless glass vessels to forge a dynamic tension between interior and exterior forms and spaces.

Laura de Santillana, also a native of Venice, designs works with a modernist perspective on sculptural compositions of shifting and pure color.

Her *Flags* recall color field paintings, but the luminous quality of the surfaces transcend paint and canvas.

After exhibition at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas

City, selected works will travel to The Naples Museum of Art in Naples, Florida from October 1, 2010–January 15, 2011 and then to the Musée des arts Décoratifs in Paris from March 23–September 4, 2011.



Cristallo Sommerso N. 50-Scolpito Vase, 2008. Yoichi Ohira, Japanese (working in Venice, Italy), b. 1946. Hand-blown, cut and polished glass with inciso finish. Photo courtesy of Barry Friedman Ltd.



Raccoglitore di Pensiero (Urn, Thought Collector), Cristiano Bianchin, Urna, 2007. Hand-blown, ground and polished glass with wood, crocheted hemp and steel, 13 x 8 5/8 x 8 5/8 in.

Glass Art Society Conference

As Louisville, KY prepares to host the 40th Annual International Glass Art Society Conference, the entire region around Louisville from Cincinnati to Berea to Lexington to Owensboro to Danville to Southern Indiana has joined Louisville, KY, in celebrating glass used in art and as craft for *GLASS30: Four Weeks of Fire*. This second annual Louisville Visual Arts Festival starts with the opening Day of Glass on June 9, 2010, a public display of hot glass that will be at several locations throughout that day and open to the public. The International Glass Art Society starts artists' demos Thursday morning, June 10 at 8am in Flame Run Studio & Gallery, U of L's Cressman Center and Hyland/Glassworks Studio. The ingenious possibilities of glass will be on display, demonstrated, taught and shared.

A tour of Louisville's most special glass art locations including private collections, artist studios, an exclusive event at the Speed Museum, and VIP Conference passes that allow you to take part in specialized GAS Conference events geared towards glass collectors.

The tour includes:

Private collection tour and receptions at Louisville's most prominent private glass and fine art collections

A private demo by Lino Tagliapietra at Centre College

A special visit to Stephen Rolfe Powell's home and studio

The Speed Museum's Pre-Conference Reception

Artist private studio events including a demo by artist Richard Jolley

Special luncheons and dinners at Louisville's top restaurants

Private tours of the Three Chimney's Stallion Farm, the home of Kentucky Derby winner Big Brown and the Woodford Reserve Distillery

www.glassart.org

Steuben to layoff Workers

By Joe Dunning

Corning Leader, Corning, NY

www.the-leader.com

Posted Feb 24, 2010

In an effort to turn a profit, the parent company of Steuben Glass will be making product changes that will also result in local layoffs.

The number of workers who will lose their jobs isn't yet known, said Mark Samitt, Steuben Glass chief operating officer.

Steuben Glass is owned by Schottenstein Stores Corp., which bought the business in 2008. Officers of the company and United Steelworkers Local 1000 will be working to redefine some jobs in the next few months, Samitt said. A determination should be made in mid to late summer as to how many jobs will be lost.

"Obviously we're not pleased any time a company decides to take that path," said Mike Walker, union president. "The business is in rough shape. Either they'll turn it around or not make it."



Steuben Scroll Vase

The number of workers at the Steuben Glass plant has dropped in the last few years from about 150 to less than 100.

Walker said just 42 employees are hourly workers.

Samitt said the changes are necessary for the company to turn a profit, something it has not done for several years. The manufacturer of high-end handmade art glass and crystal lost \$6 million in 2007 and a total of \$30 million in the five years prior.

"We're restructuring the Steuben Plant operations in Corning to appeal to a broader customer base," Samitt said. "We want to reposition the company to become more profitable."

Samitt said a sustained downturn in the economy continues to hurt

Generations In Glass at Glenview Mansion, Rockville MD

The City of Rockville, MD will host the National Capital Art Glass Guild (NCAGG) show, *Generations in Glass*, Sunday, on now through Tuesday, April 27, at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. washingtonglass.blogspot.com

"We're very excited about this show. It will showcase the tremendous diversity, creativity and growth in glass art in the greater DC area and

honor artists key in the development of this exciting glass community," said Sherry Selevan, co-chair of the show.

Generations in Glass will have three parts:

- The largest part of the exhibition will be a juried show featuring several types of glass art, including kiln-worked, stained, flame-worked or blown glass.



Red Rose Dress

Glass, steel armature. 10x5x2. Open cast from recycled glass, 2008
www.nancydannelly.com

- Second, members may elect to have their art considered for placement within a special exhibit: *From Idea to Art*. For this segment, artists will portray the detailed process in which they develop their art.

- The Inspirational Invitational* will showcase the work of pioneers of the lively glass art community in the greater DC area. For this category, members of the NCAAG will nominate artists who have inspired their work.

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery is open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am -4:30pm, and Tuesday and Thursday, 9am - 9pm. For more information on *Generations in*

Glass, or the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery contact Julie Farrell, arts program specialist, at (240) 314-8682 or jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts



Hands2

Cast float glass
by David Cook, <http://blacglass.com>

Steuben, continued

sales, and is forcing the company to broaden its market by offering glass merchandise at different price points. That would move the manufacturing of some glass to overseas plants.

He said Steuben would still make its world-renowned crystal in Corning and maintain a store in the glass museum.

Copyright 2010 The Corning Leader. Some rights reserved

Research, Publication & Glass News

Perfume Bottle Association

Greetings to members of the National American Glass Club.

As active collectors, we all know that many people are attracted to "cross-over" collectibles. Our International Perfume Bottle Association IPBA members collect glass perfume bottles from every time period and made by numerous glass manufacturers from the US and also Europe. They also collect perfume bottles in other materials such as silver, gold and porcelain. On the flip side, we're certain that many of your members include a special perfume bottle or two in their collections.

With that in mind, we would like to extend a personal invitation to your membership to attend any or all of the programs listed on the attached page. Each will take place

during our annual Convention, to be held this year at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Reston, VA, April 29 - May 2. Note, we are also attaching a 2-for-1 discount coupon for entry to the Perfume Bottle Show & Sale. The normal fee is \$5.00 but with the coupon, two people can enter for \$5.00. If you would like to post the coupon on your website, please do so. Your members could then download and print it out.

If you have any questions or would like more information please feel free to contact me.

Warm Regards,

Jay Kaplan, President, International Perfume Bottle Association
 pwkaplan@aol.com
www.perfumbottles.org

Orrefors Crystal Stemware Chosen For American Embassies

Orrefors crystal stemware has been chosen by the U.S. State Department to grace the dining tables of 400 American embassies and ambassadors' residences throughout the world. The Swedish stemware will be embellished with the seal of the United States.

Company spokesperson Eva-Marie Hagström said, "We are very happy and proud to have won the contract. We are hopeful that this prestigious order will boost our international sales - especially in the USA. We won the contract for our design but they were also interested in our lead-free products and environmentally-friendly approach to glass making."

The Orrefors glass foundry is famous worldwide for their beautiful crystal, art glass and stemware. The specially designed glass series is based on a classic Orrefors model created by Gunnar Cyrén and has been given the name *Jasmine*.

First Class

DEADLINE
 JUNE 1, 2010
 NEXT ISSUE'S

Visit NAGC web page:
<http://www.glassclub.org>

1st Class Presort
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Binghamton NY
 Permit 197

ATTENTION READERS!
 The next deadline for the Glass Shards will be
 June 1, 2010. Submit by mail to:
 Alice Saville, Editor: Glass Shards, PO Box 255
 Foxborough, MA 02035
 or reach us through email at: planetalsaville@gmail.com



The National
 American Glass Club
 Box 24
 Elkland, PA 16920