

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 2021

NAGC Annual Meeting and Special Lecture

Save the date of Saturday, May 1 for our virtual Annual Meeting and a special lecture. Recognizing that we could not come together in person and realizing that we did not want to go another year without our annual meeting, the NAGC Board has planned a virtual program. It offers members an engagement and learning opportunity, brings the National together, and gives us a chance to share the work that has been going on behind the scenes. It also allows for an orderly transfer of officers in the Club.

The Board discussed several options and decided to focus on hosting a free

virtual Annual Meeting and a lecture. The Annual Meeting will begin at 12:00 noon (EST) on May 1—our East Coast members can settle in with a sandwich and cold drink, we hope those of you on the West Coast will come in your pj's, coffee in hand! After updating you on all the work the Board has undertaken this past year, stick around for a fabulous special lecture beginning at 1:00 pm (EST).

Dr Christopher (Kit) Maxwell, Curator of Early Modern Glass at The Corning Museum of Glass will speak on, "In Sparkling Company: Reflections on Glass in the 18th-Century British World." Dr. Maxwell curated *In Sparkling Company: Glass and the Costs of Social Life in Britain during the 1700s* which opens at CMOG on May 22, 2021. He also served as contributing editor for the publication which accompanies the exhibit.

This special sneak peek at this fascinating exhibit will examine Britain, a vibrant, commercial nation in the 1700s. Its growing cities were hubs of sociability, scientific advancement, trade, and finance. From glittering costume and elaborately presented confectionery, to polished mirrors and dazzling chandeliers, glass helped define the social rituals and cultural values of the period. While innovations in glass delighted the wealthy, the material also bore witness to the



Dr. Christopher (Kit) Maxwell.

ambitions of colonization and the horrors of the African slave trade. Glass beads were traded for human lives and elegant glass dishes, baskets and bowls held sweet delicacies made with sugar produced by enslaved labor. Underpinning Britain's prosperity were aggressive foreign trade policies, colonization and a far-reaching economy of enslavement, the profits of which funded the pleasures and innovations of the fashionable world.

I hope you will join us for the Annual Meeting and Dr. Maxwell's talk. Check out our website, your Chapter emails, and the mail soon for information on how to access this virtual program.



Pair of harlequin earrings, about 1760. Probably England. Cut glass; silver. The Corning Museum of Glass (2017.2.3).

President's Letter

Greetings and best wishes for a warm and wonderful springtime. For those who celebrate Easter I send you thoughts of joy. For all—I hope that you are in line for your vaccination or already lucky enough to have had your shot(s). This past year has tested us all in ways we might never have imagined but I have also benefited from the kindness, laughter, and support of family and friends. I have stored a huge backlog of hugs that I look forward to delivering once it is safe again!

As our front page indicates, the Board has planned a virtual Annual Meeting and special lecture for May 1. Please plan to attend. We have several members who will be rotating off the Board—they have given so much to sustain and grow the Club. Please join me to celebrate their service and hear about their great work this past year. Ballots will also arrive soon in the mail. The Nominating Committee has identified an excellent slate of officers. Please be sure to return your ballot. With your ballot will be information

on how to register for the free Annual Meeting and lecture. Registration is just a formality to ensure you have login information. We will also post that information on the website and share it with chapters.

Since you can join the meeting virtually, we hope to see a great crowd. Until then I wish you sunny days and chocolate bunny ears!

Yours in glass,
Anne Madarasz
NAGC President

Remembering Jane Shadel Spillman

I met Jane when I attended my first Corning Seminar on Glass in 1966. A graduate of the Cooperstown Program, she had been a member of the Corning staff for a year and was in charge of education, but she also assisted the staff in their research and display installations. When I joined Corning in 1973, I planned to have curators assume responsibility for specific collection areas. Jane became Assistant Curator in charge of American glass. She blossomed in her new role, and her expertise and public recognition grew quickly. She was promoted to Associate Curator in 1975 and to full Curator in 1977. She and I jointly developed the Museum's first special exhibition after the 1972 flood, "Glassmaking: America's First

Industry," in celebration of the nation's bicentennial in 1976; she wrote the catalog. That was followed in 1977 by "The Cut and Engraved Glass of Corning: 1868–1940" exhibition and catalog. They were followed in 1981 by the monumental catalog of the Museum's American pressed glass collection, and in the years following she organized five more special exhibitions and wrote the catalogs.

In her 48 years at the Museum, Jane conveyed her enthusiasm for American glass in hundreds of articles and books, spoke at countless seminars (including 36 times at the annual Corning Seminar on Glass, a record), and served as president of the National American Glass Club and editor of its *Bulletin*. Throughout all this, she displayed a

secure grasp of the details of American glassmaking history and shared them with delight, humor, and enthusiasm. Those who are interested in this field owe her a debt of immense gratitude—and I count myself among them. We who knew her and worked alongside her realize that we have been in the presence of someone who played a role immensely larger than her physical self. Her publications are a lasting tribute to her scholarship, and we will remember her fondly whenever we see one.

Jane Spillman passed away on March 12, 2021 with family close by. As *Shards* went to print, arrangements were not yet available.

—Dwight P. Lanmon



Left: Jane examines some of the objects for the 1989 special exhibition "Dining at the White House."

Right: The Corning Museum's president, Marie McKee (*left*) and executive director Karol Wight (*right*) celebrate Jane's retirement from the Museum in 2013.

Club and Chapter News

WESTCHESTER GLASS CLUB *Zoom Tour at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery*

The Westchester Glass Club continued its series of fascinating and engaging glass Zoom programs with a tour de force with Eileen Doughty, master docent volunteer at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery in Washington DC.

Eileen talked about John La Farge's *Peacocks and Peonies I and II*, Judith

Schaechter's *The Birth of Eve*, Karen Lamont's *Reclining Dress Impression with Drapery*, Lino Tagliapietra's colorful *Mandara*, Andy Paiko's *Spinning Wheel*, and Josh Simpson's *Megaplanet*, among others.

The tour ended with a mind-blowing look at Ginny Ruffner's installation titled *Reforestation of the Imagination*. In this virtual reality landscape, hand-blown glass sculptures of plants and flowers are presented in augmented reality from a downloadable app, creating an imaginative blend of art and

technology which invites the viewer to walk around and experience. It is engaging and will figure in museum interpretation in the future.

Susan Haller, program director for the Westchester Glass Club, arranged for this informative visit. Westchester Glass Club Zoom meetings are open to the public on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 11 am; contact James Russell, WGC president, at jrussell9431@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Strength & Fragility: The Story of the NLM

This immersive exhibition, which opens on March 26, highlights the life of Irvin J. Borowsky and how his belief in universal equality and liberty, as well as his passion for contemporary glass art, led to the founding of the National Liberty Museum. *Strength & Fragility* pays homage to the life of Mr. Borowsky and the ideals of the NLM through historical material, artwork, and soundscapes. The centerpiece of the exhibition is *Peace Portal*,



Peace Portal, Ulla Darni.

a magnificent 9-foot-high glass canopy by Ulla Darni. It includes a custom sound bath that gives visitors a chance to reflect on the NLM's founding principals.

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM
321 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 925-2800
www.libertymuseum.org

Counterparts: Glass + Art Elements

Counterparts: Glass + Art Elements discusses the inclusivity of art mediums through its groupings of glass and non-glass artworks within the seven elements of art: color, form, line, shape, space, texture, and value. The exhibit will begin in the summer, 2021.

Today, glass art is countering the implicit hierarchies of the art world. And just as artists are open to diverse and varied techniques, often incorporating methods regardless of medium, *Counterparts* seeks to erase ingrained

artistic-medium divisions, presenting all manner of glass and non-glass artworks side by side.

MUSEUM OF GLASS
1801 Dock St.
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 284.4750
www.museumofglass.org

Blue Sun, Cappy Thompson,
about 2013.



Electric Garden of Unearthly Delights

On view now through June 1 in the Hirschmann Theater, the Sandwich Glass Museum is proud to present the special exhibition, *Electric Garden of Unearthly Delights* by glass artist



Mundy Hepburn. Mundy takes blown glass forms and fills them with rare gas mixtures such as helium, neon, argon, krypton, and xenon. He activates the gas filled glass with high frequency static electricity causing it to come alive with a kaleidoscope of swirling patterns of multicolored light. The science behind Mundy's work is based on the same principle as television and fluorescent light.

A native of Connecticut, Mundy has created glass art for more than three decades. His work has been

exhibited in over 30 installations and featured in five publications. A member of the Glass Art Society, he has made a name for himself with a unique style of art—luminous glass. A pioneer in this art form, Mundy combines technology with art to create a new breed of moving, living art.

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM
129 Main St.
Sandwich, MA 02563
(508) 888-0251
www.sandwichglassmuseum.org

A crimson "flower" with delicate tendrils forms part of a fluorescent garden.

La-di-da . . . the Times of Our Lives and the Glassware We Were Using!

This exhibition of everyday and special occasion glass tableware examines the effects of human creativity, as well as the influences of culture and industry on the finished Depression glass pieces.

When we see man-made objects, from ancient tools to modern, that are more beautifully crafted than they need to be for their basic purposes, we have gone from functional to fanciful, and we are looking at the "la-di-da" factor.

"It has been my very great pleasure to have curated this show, assembling glass from the hundreds of pieces that have been donated to the Ohio Glass Museum since its opening in May of 2006," said Anne Hart Kipphen, Art Director. "Our latest large gift to the



Epergne, L. G. Wright.

museum, the Mackie Collection of Depression Glass, will be on display. Bonnie Mackie's love of Depression Glass began in the 1950s when she was given several pieces from a family member. Her collection is a remembrance of a bright spot in a very dark time. It is my sincere hope that you find this exhibition both educational (functional) and fun (fanciful)."

The exhibition is currently on view and runs until August 29, 2021.

OHIO GLASS MUSEUM
124 W Main St.
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
(740) 687-0101
www.ohioglassmuseum.org

Victorian Glass Baskets on Display

During the reign of Alexandrina Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, Ireland, and Empress of India (1837–1901), English and American glass factories responded to the rise of consumerism and the desire for everything glistening and ornamented by creating and marketing fanciful glass table decorations for middle and

upper-class households. The art glass basket reached the height of its popularity between 1880 and 1890. These colorful and highly decorated works of art glass represent both ingenuity and technical skill. Frequently embellished with ruffled rims and applied handles shaped in loops or decorated with thorns, these baskets proved to be

popular wedding gifts and were a mainstay in Victorian homes.

BERGSTROM-MAHLER
MUSEUM OF GLASS
165 N. Park Ave.
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 751-4658
<https://bmmglass.com>

Glass Calendar

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

Thursday, April 22, 2021

JEFFREY EVANS AUCTION
*Single-Owner Paperweight
and Studio Glass Auction*
P.O. Box 2638
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 434-3030
www.jeffreysevens.com



Over 400 contemporary and vintage paperweights by Rick and Melissa Ayotte, Paul Stankard, Paul Ysart, St. Louis, Parabelle, Delmo and Debbie Tarsitano, and others. Also, studio glass by David Patchen, the Lotton family, Jonathan Harris, Michael Waysmith, Kari Russell-Pool, Mike Hunter, and more. The full, detailed catalog will be posted around April 9.

*

Friday, May 21, 2021

*Annual Spring Auction of 18th & 19th
Century Glass & Lighting*

Free-blown, pattern-molded, and pillar-molded wares; Bakewell and other early cut; colored pressed flint glass; whale oil, fluid, and early kerosene lighting; pressed lacy; open salts; flasks and bottles; plus more. Public previews: May 19 and 20, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and May 21, 8:00 am until end of auction.

* * * *

May 13, 2021

THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY
*Stretch Glass Call Out: Late Period
Baskets*
www.stretchglassociety.org

The Stretch Out Discussion will be a new format—members and guests will “Show and Tell” their items. Experts will be on hand to offer comments and assist with ID. A photo album featuring a number of stretch glass items will be available on the Society’s website. The Discussion begins promptly at 8:00 pm EST on Zoom.

* * * *

May 22, 2021

(Rain Date May 23)
SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM
3rd Annual SeaFair
129 Main St.
Sandwich, MA 02563
(508) 888-0251
www.sandwichglassmuseum.org

The sea is part of what makes Sandwich and Cape Cod such a special place, and our SeaFair celebrates sea-inspired glass. Sea creatures, waves, mermaids, beaches and the like will be specially curated for this unique and popular tent sale, all designed by the region’s talented glass artists. SeaFair will be located on the grounds of the Sandwich Glass Museum.



Waves, Billy Mayer.

* * * *

May 28–August 22, 2021
BERGSTROM-MAHLER
MUSEUM OF GLASS
New on View
165 N. Park Ave.
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 751-4658
<https://bmmglass.com>

New on View highlights recent acquisitions of works in glass to Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass’s permanent collection of contemporary art and paperweights. A highlight of this show includes a selection of antique and contemporary glass paperweights from the collection of longtime supporters Gary and Marge McClanahan. The show will feature works by artists such as Marvin Lipofsky, Mary Shaffer, Ken Rosenfeld, Debbie Tarsitano and Marc Petrovic, most of which have not previously been exhibited.



Scrambled millefiori paperweight, Pietro Bigaglia, 1846.

* * * *

June 11–13, 2021

FOSTORIA GLASS SOCIETY
OF AMERICA
*Annual Convention and Elegant
Glass Show*
Moundsville Center Building
901 Eighth St.
Moundsville, WV. 26041
(304) 845-9188
<http://fostoriaglass.org>
cj_glass@comcast.net

* * * *

June 24–26, 2021

NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE
COLLECTORS
Annual Convention and Show & Sale
Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
7033 Glenn Highway
Cambridge, OH 43725
www.cambridgeglass.org

Exhibition of 17th- to 19th-Century Glass Coming to the Historic Warner House Museum

The Warner House Association presents the exhibition *BRILLIANCE! Early Glass in America, 1700–1850* opening June 1 through mid-October, 2021. The exhibition features a wide variety of objects drawn from major private New England collections, regional museums, and the Warner House collection. On view are early English decanters, drinking glasses and “black” wine/utility bottles. Highlights include 17th-century shaft and globe bottles and several 18th-century seal bottles of local historical interest. Other 18th-century glassware include pieces of Amelung, Stiegel, and Temple origin. Late 18th- to mid-19th-century objects from New England to Ohio are represented by free-blown,

pattern-molded, three-blown mold glass, Sandwich-type pressed and Lacy glass, as well as lighting. Examples of early architectural glass include window, mirror and reverse-painting on glass. A unique aspect of this exhibition is a group of unusual glass objects including a fly-catcher, a leech jar, an iron reinforced bottle animal feeder, a 14-second ship’s log timer, and more. Many objects are paired with comparable archaeological shards excavated at the Warner House.

WARNER HOUSE
150 Daniel St.
Portsmouth, NH 03802-0895
(603) 436-5909
www.warnerhouse.org



Roemer, possibly George Ravenscroft, about 1675.

NEXT ISSUES
DEADLINE
JUNE 1, 2021

Visit NAGC Web page:
www.glassclub.org

Return Service Requested

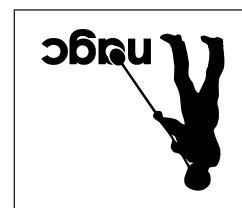
ATTENTION READERS!

The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be

June 1, 2021

Submit news to Alice Saville, *Glass Shards* Editor, at
planetalsaville@gmail.com

STANDARD PRESORT
NON-PROFIT
POSTAGE PAID
CORNING, NY
PERMIT NO 60



The National American
Glass Club
P. O. Box 24
Elkland, PA 16920