

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Summer 2002

18th National Glass Seminar

by Ellen Roberts, NAGC Past President

The 18th National Glass Seminar was a joint presentation of NAGC and the Forsyth Galleries of Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. It was a magnificent location.

Tim Novak hosted the group as he is the Director of the Forsyth Galleries as well as the Curator of the Irma and Bill Runyon Art Collections – and what collections they are! The English Cameo was beyond compare and Tim managed with great modesty to show us Woodall masterpieces that most of us have only seen in books.

It was announced at the outset that we would not be seeing our gracious and competent leader Carmen Freeman throughout the meetings due to illness. We had to prove to Carmen that we could stumble along without her. And stumble we did, but the show went on. Carmen, if you're listening, your efforts were praised and congratulated throughout the seminar and we thank you for providing us with such a splendid program.

Gary Baker, Curator of Glass at the Chrysler Museum of Art, was at his best inspired by the priceless cameo at the museum. His meticulous research opened our eyes to the marvel of even the tiniest of details. He dissected the *Antarctic Exploration* piece by Woodall which is a companion to a vase in the Runyon Collection. Then there was the drapery on the *Moorish Bathers* plaque... how could a mere mortal carve that?

Stephen Harrison gave us a unique and personal program concerning cut glass as it evolved through the 19th and 20th centuries. There is always something new to learn even considering that it is such a well docu-

mented subject.

After a Texas-sized lunch, glass artist Art Reed shared the philosophy behind his work, his influences and his environment. It was a wonderful and inspirational view of an artist and his medium.

Dr. David Fuchshuber thrilled us with his view of Mt. Washington glass, its beauty, versatility and mystery. He threw open a door leading into this world of Art Glass, encouraging collectors to be drawn in.

Later we were mesmerized during dinner by several Texas A&M

students. They were most poised, knowledgeable and loyal to their university. We were honored to have met them and share a meal with them.

Saturday started with our annual meeting conducted by President Douglas Reed and attended by

George Woodall's *Moorish Bathers* some 65 members.

Our next speaker was Dr. George Bass, the founder and former President of the Institute of Nautical Archeology which is known for setting the standards for underwater excavation. We were fascinated with his tale of adventures both above and beneath the ocean surface. He is planning his next trip to the Aegean Sea to continue his work of raising and preserving the *Gelidonyan* shipwreck.

A fathomless topic, so to speak.

Seminar participants headed home with the warmest of memories and appreciation for the staff at the George Bush Library, Tim Novak and his competent group and the faculty and students of Texas A&M. Also we took back with us a Texas "Howdy" and look forward to the 2003 seminar in Baltimore!



Trip to Italy Planned by Corning

The 2002 tour for members of Corning Museum of Glass will visit glass-related places in Italy from November 9 to 20. Travelers will spend four days in Venice with special visits to the Ducal Palace, St. Mark's, the Accademia, the Museo Correr and the Museo Vetrario. They will spend a day on Murano seeing the Barovier & Toso and Seguso glasshouses and also visit two private Palazzos with spectacular chandeliers and views of the city.

After leaving Venice, they will spend a day in Ravenna to admire the Byzantine mosaics at San Vitale on the way to Florence. While there, they will see important buildings and works of art in the fabled Renaissance city. Then on to Rome, the Eternal City, stopping on the way to visit the newly opened Museo di Cristallo, in the town of Colle Val d'Elsa. They will have lunch in Siena with free time to explore and then arrive in Rome that evening.

The time here will be spent at the Vatican and exploring the remains of Ancient Rome before bidding farewell to Italy. There is an optional extension which goes to Pompei and spends an extra day free in Rome for those who have a little more time.

The trip is limited to 30 travelers and has been organized by Academic Travel Abroad and The Corning Museum of Glass. It will be escorted by a Tour Manager from Academic Travel and Jane Shadel Spillman from the Corning Museum. The cost is \$3,890 including air travel from Newark, NJ.

For reservations, contact Sandra Ricks at Academic Travel (800) 556-7896. Participants must be members of the museum at the donor level (\$100) or higher. Please contact the museum to renew or upgrade your membership if necessary.

President's letter

Dear Friends,

Howdy! Oops, I am not at Texas A&M. What a wonderful, hospitable place to have a seminar. Carmen did a magnificent job of setting up the speakers and tours. Tim Novak, a NAGC board member and our host, pulled out all the stops and left nothing to be desired. I am sorry that there weren't even more people in attendance.

As Carmen mentioned, the Runyun collection of English Cameo is probably the finest in the world. Gary Baker, curator of the Chrysler Museum of Art, gave a detailed slide presentation of the Cameo glass at the Forsyth Center Gallery, the Corning Museum and at the Chrysler Museum. It was a brilliant presentation and as Carmen would say "candy for the eyes."

We toured the Laboratory of the Inst. of Nautical Archeology at Texas A&M and we shown how they were preserving the remains of the 17th century cargo ship *LaBelle* which was found off the coast of Texas. The ship was carrying "trade goods" including glass beads from the France for use in claiming land at the mouth of the Mississippi River for the King of France. The *LaBelle's* captain missed his target ending up off the coast of Texas and sank. Graduate student Cory Arca explained how the laboratory is conserving glass fragments, the beads and the hull of the *LaBelle*.

While we are thinking about seminars, now is the time to mark your calendar with next year's date. We will be in Baltimore, MD on May 8-10, 2003. The Baltimore Chapter is hosting the event which will include great speakers and an auction!

At the annual meeting held on May 4, the secretary announced the results of the balloting for the 3 directors who will hold a three year term. They are Carl Gortzig, Carol Bacik and our new Membership Chair, Pamela Christoffel. We want to thank them for their commitment to the NAGC.

Pamela wants to remind everyone that the membership fees were due in May and only those who have "paid up" will be included in the September *Membership Directory*. If dues are received too late, members will receive all publications but not have their name in the directory.

Thank you.

- Douglas Reed

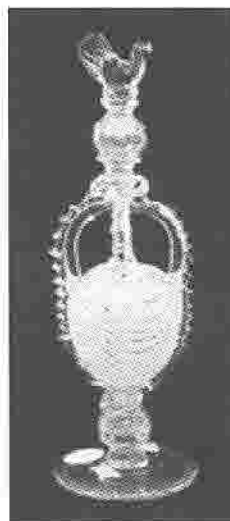
The Jedlicka Collection Auction

by Kirk Nelson

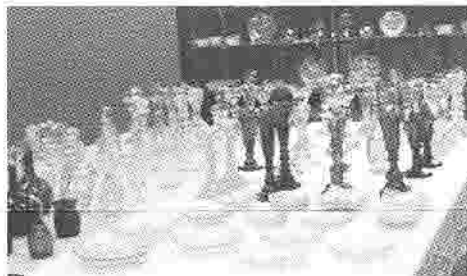
Considering the high caliber of the glass offered, which included a pressed Sandwich desk set purchased three years ago for the record sum of \$52,900, the atmosphere at the recent auction of the Frank E. Jedlicka Collection of early American glass was distinctly subdued (March 9-10, 2002, Skinner, Inc. Bolton, MA).

Many in attendance were remembering the late Mr. Jedlicka, who died in a tragic boating accident last summer. During a period of less than 15 years Jedlicka had become a leading force in the field of early American glass, a collector whose passion for glass often drove the market. As a mutual fund manager, Frank's research and analytical skills were carefully honed. He applied these skills to glass collecting with self-assured intensity, and his willingness to act decisively

above declines, however, were some spectacular advances. Early in the sale a blue lamp with a clear cup plate base that Jedlicka had purchased for about \$12,000 sold for \$22,325; a white marbrie bank with hen finial and 1833 coins purchased for \$9,900 in 1996 sold for \$19,975; and a blue Sandwich boar salt sold for just over \$4,000, setting a record for this form and color. Perhaps the biggest surprise came toward the end



Marbrie Glass Money Box
Boston & Sandwich Co.



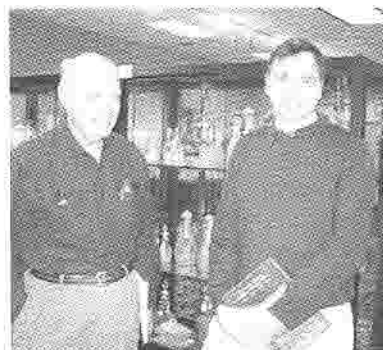
One of the Numerous
Display Tables

of the auction, when a small lunch caster estimated at \$250-300 skyrocketed to an astonishing \$3,878.00. One of only three such castors currently known, it was sped on its stratospheric journey by the fact that the same form was illustrated in a c.1878 Boston & Sandwich Glass Company trade catalog.

Mutual fund investments operate on the expectation that gains will outweigh losses. Mr. Jedlicka undoubtedly had confidence that this would be the case with his glass acquisitions. Fundamentally, however, his collecting was not driven by a concern for monetary value but by a passion for the subject. Frank took obvious joy in the aesthetic properties of glass and was fascinated with the dynamics of the collecting community. His gain was the experience of collecting, his enthusiasm enriched that experience for everyone, and his loss will be decidedly our own.

on his own judgments, occasionally in the face of market or collecting conventions, led to the acquisition of some truly spectacular pieces. Jedlicka was a member of the Founders Chapter of the NAGC, a trustee of the Sandwich Glass Museum, a glass dealer by avocation and a budding glass scholar with two published articles to his credit. His unexpected death came as a great shock to the glass collecting community.

The somber mood at the Jedlicka auction was heightened by concerns that the weak economy, anxieties following September 11th and the absence of Mr. Jedlicka as a bidder might result in a glass market crash. "Low" prices realized by some of the headline items seemed to confirm this fear. The much-vaunted Sandwich desk set sold for \$32,900, an apparent loss in value of \$20,000 in just three years. A green hen-decorated glass bank with an 1841 coin that Jedlicka had purchased for \$18,700 in 1997 sold for \$11,750, and a lacy eagle compote purchased for \$16,500 in 1998 sold for \$7,800. Balancing the



Doug Reed & Kirk Nelson
at the Jedlicka Sale

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised.)

More information is available on our web page at www.glassclub.org

Through - January 5, 2003

MORSE MUSEUM of American Art, 445 North Park Ave., Winter Park, FL (407) 645-5311. Home to one of the most comprehensive Tiffany collections, the Morse Museum will present "Art Nouveau: From the Morse Collection", www.morsemuseum.org

May 16 - October 21, 2002

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, Corning, NY (607) 974-6467 www.cmog.org; "Glass Behind the Iron Curtain, 1948-1978" This is a powerful exhibition which celebrates art's role in a cry for freedom.

June 2002

NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE COLLECTORS CLUB proudly announces the reopening of their museum. After the devastating flood in 1998, the new museum is opening during the club's 29th Annual Convention. The new museum is located at 136 S. 9th Street in downtown Cambridge, OH (740) 432-4245.

June 7 - 9, 2002

FOSTORIA GLASS Society of America, PO Box 826, Moundsville, WV 26041 (304) 845-9188. The 22nd Annual Show and Sale will be held at the Delf Nora Museum Moundsville, WV. Featured will be glassware by Fostoria, Heisey, Cambridge, Imperial and Morgantown. www.fostoriaglass.org

June 14 - October 14, 2002

Renwick Gallery of the SMITHSONIAN-AMERICAN ART MUSEUM presents a new exhibit of 4 contemporary artists including Kristina Logan of Portsmouth, NH who creates intricate glass beads and other glass objects such as candlesticks, boxes and teapots. (202) 357-2700 www.americanart.si.edu

June 16, 2002

Historical Bottle Collectors & Wheaton Village 5th Annual ANTIQUE BOTTLE SHOW & SALE. 10am - 5pm Wheaton Village Education Center, Rte 55, Exit 26, Millville, NJ (856) 825-6800 ext. 2739. 60 dealers of early glass, bitters, fruit jars and more. Also two exhibits "Pickles, Pepper Sauces & Preserves" and "Fruit Jar Patent Models" will be held at the Museum of American Glass.

June 19 - 22, 2002

31st ANNUAL HEISEY COLLECTOR's National Convention featuring the premiere Glass Show & Sale. Activities will be posted on the website: www.heiseymuseum.org National Heisey Glass Museum, 169 W. Church St., Newark, OH 43055 (740) 345-2932

June 21 & 22, 2002

WHEATON VILLAGE, Millville, NJ (856) 825-6800 ext. 2739. "Marble Weekend: A Marble Artists and Collectors Conference" www.wheatonvillage.org Event includes exhibits, sales, vintage marble games and marble-making demonstrations.

June 26 - 30, 2002

NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE COLLECTORS Convention P.O. Box 416, Cambridge, OH 43725-0416 will be held at the Pritchard-Laughlin Civic Center, Cambridge, OH. (740) 432-4245 www.cambridgeglass.org

June 28 & 29, 2002

27th Annual GLASS SHOW & SALE Sponsored by the National Cambridge Collectors. Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center, Rte. 70, Exit 176 to Rte 40. Show will feature glass from Cambridge, Heisey, Imperial, Fenton, Duncan and Tiffin. Preview on Fri., 2pm - 6pm (early admission \$10) Sat., 10am - 4pm.

June 29, 2002

GLASS DASH Glass Flea Market, Beech Grove Family Ctr., Rte. 209 South, Cambridge, OH (740) 432-4245

July 6 - October 27, 2002

MUSEUM OF GLASS International Center for Contemporary Art, 1801 Dock St., Tacoma, WA 98402. One of the inaugural exhibitions will be "The Inner Light: Sculpture by Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslav Brychtová". (253) 396-1768 www.museumofglass.org

July 6 - October 6, 2002

MUSEUM OF GLASS International Center for Contemporary Art, 1801 Dock St., Tacoma, WA 98402. "Sounds of the Inner Eye: John Cage, Mark Tobey and Morris Graves." www.museumofglass.org (253) 396-1768.

July 20 & 21, 2002

5th Annual WETHERSFIELD GLASS SHOW, Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield, CT (860) 257-3647 Sat. 10am - 5pm & Sun. 10am - 4pm. Depression, Art Glass, Victorian, Cut, Carnival, Cambridge and much more!

July 27 & 28, 2002

27th Annual DUNCAN MILLER CONVENTION GLASS SHOW & SALE, 735 Jefferson Ave., Washington, PA (724) 225-9950 10am - 4pm. Auction July 27 at 5:30pm. Thistlecrest Auction House. Rte. 40 East.

August 8 - 11, 2002

NATIONAL TOOTHPICK HOLDER COLLECTORS SOCIETY PO Box 852 Archer City, TX 76351. The 27th Annual Convention will be held in Asheville, NC, at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort. tpinfo@glass-works.com

August 10 & 11, 2002

WHITE PLAINS DEPRESSION ERA GLASS and China Show, Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY (860) 872-3294. 58 renowned dealers, many in their only North East appearance of the year.

September 26 - 28, 2002

GREEN VALLEY AUCTIONS, 2259 Green Valley Road, Mt. Crawford, VA (540) 434-4260. Early American pressed & pattern glass auction featuring the Charles Rand Penney collection, Lockport, NY, and Jerry Baker of St. Petersburg, FL. Over 5,000 pieces to be sold. Please call for a catalog.

www.greenvalleyauctions.com

October 16 - 19, 2002

41st CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS Seminar: Bohemian & Czech Glass. (607) 974-6467 www.cmog.org

June 29 & 30, 2002

TIFFIN GLASS COLLECTORS CLUB 17th Annual Show & Sale at the School of Opportunity, 780 E. Co. Rd. 20, Tiffin, OH. Sat. 10 am - 5pm, Sun. 11am - 4pm. (419) 448-0200. Reservations required for banquet & auction. Sat., 7 pm. Speakers will be Bob & Helen Jones on *Beaumont Glass*.

Cape Cod Glass Show

The Sandwich Glass Museum will be sponsoring the 15th Annual Cape Cod Glass Show on September 21 and 22 at the Gymnasium at Cape Cod Community College in West Barnstable, MA. The college is located just off exit 6 on Route 132 North.

Forty-five nationally prominent glass dealers will offer antique & collectible American & European glassware from the 18th to the 20th centuries. The glassware will include free-blown, blown-molded, and pressed glass as well as Art glass, marbles, Victorian, paperweights, Depression, and other early 20th-century glassware. There will be reference books on glass of all periods and free glass identification. Refreshments available as well as free parking.

Admission: \$6. All ticket proceeds will support the Sandwich Glass Museum and its educational programs. (508) 888-0251

Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 11-4

John W. Welker 1915-2002

It is with great sorrow that the glass world learned of the loss of the Early American Pattern Glass scholar, author and collector, John W. Welker of Bucks County, PA., January 13. He was 86 years old.

Mr. Welker was born and lived in Altoona, PA graduating from Lehigh University. In 1940, he married Elizabeth Furry and for over 50 years they collected early American antiques with an emphasis on pressed pattern glass.

After retiring in 1977, he and his wife began researching, writing, and in 1985 publishing their landmark volume "*Pressed Glass in America: Encyclopedia of the First Hundred Years 1825 - 1925*". Limited to 1,500 copies, their book quickly became a very scarce, respected and coveted book.

Mr. Welker was preceded in death by his devoted wife and fellow researcher, affectionately known as "Lib". The EAPG community will be forever indebted to John and Elizabeth Welker for their contribution to the field and the EAPG Society has established a memorial fund in their honor.

*-submitted by Jeffrey S. Evans,
President, Green Valley Auctions, Inc.*

Welker Memorial Fund

The Early American Pattern Glass Society has announced the formation of the John and Elizabeth Welker Memorial Fund in honor of the couple's tremendous contribution to the field of Early American Pattern Glass.

The Welkers began avidly collecting and studying pressed glass in the mid 1940s. This passion and knowledge soon led to requests for lectures from many organizations. After retirement, the Welkers spent 10 years on the research for their book "*Pressed Glass in America: Encyclopedia of the First Hundred Years 1825-1925*".

The EAPGS has chosen the Corning Museum of Glass as the beneficiary of this fund. All money collected will go towards the purchase of EAPG to augment the museum's current collection. Curator Jane Spillman gratefully acknowledged the fund stating "The Corning Museum is honored to be the home of the Welker Memorial and we look forward to selecting pattern glass in their memory."

To contribute please send to:

The Welker Memorial Fund, c/o
Phyllis Petcoff, EAPGS Trustee, 876
Crews Rd., Wickliffe, KY 42087
www.eapgs.org

Seminar at Texas A&M

If you didn't go to the College Station NAGC seminar you missed the seminar of the century! The capable leadership of president Douglas Reed and the finely tuned orchestration of Timothy Novak produced a well oiled machine which hummed along without a missed cue. The comments and accolades were effusive, covering every aspect of the meeting from the blockbuster program of speakers, to the mind boggling, enviable Runyon Collection at the Forsyth Galleries enhanced by the spellbinding lecture of Dr. Bass on Nautical Archeology. The savory meals were a delectable surprise relished by all. We also liked the on-time transportation provided by the university - a departure from the mixed-up outside world.

Since the best we have to offer has been offered and you missed it we will give you another try next year - Baltimore May 8-10, 2003.

Next Year in Baltimore

Casual fun and glass interaction are on the agenda at Baltimore. The Baltimore chapter members will take charge of the morning session with a lecture on Carnival Glass by Billy Mizell (8 carnival clubs) who will explain why this is the latest hot collecting craze and why it is so costly. Bill Thomas discusses his rare and extensive "Early American" collection - dear to our hearts and roots. Some hands on and ID clinics brighten the morning followed by Gary Baldwin, author of two books on the Moser dynasty - a subject we have neglected. Malcolm MacNeil is awaiting a publisher for his treatise on Quezal and with his usual flair shares his research with us. If you are not familiar with the enigma of the Hedwig Glasses (12th C.) then you are in for a treat. Francis Allen does this so well, one of his many passions.

A visit to The Walters Art Museum reveals a rare treasure of a museum where we will view the original

Morgan Vase - a ceramic vase from China.

Remember the auction at Pittsburgh? It's time for another. Bring those pieces that are cluttering up the shelves or packed away under the bed: an 80-20 split is our usual incentive. That treasure you have been looking for will be there.

We are housed at the Embassy suites at BWI Airport. - free parking-free breakfast-free cocktails-free terminal shuttle - sorry, you have to pay for your own room. Could not arrange it. See you then, *Carmen Freeman*, Seminar Chair

-Carmen Freeman would like to express her gratitude and heartfelt thanks to her loyal supporters for their many expressions of compassion during her recent illness. The cards, e-mails, calls, prayers and warm wishes are greatly appreciated and obviously are effective as she is now up and running. She loves you all - thanks you for being so considerate.

Exciting Auction at Green Valley

Green Valley Auctions, Inc. of Mount Crawford, VA, held their annual Spring sale of early glass and ceramics on May 10th & 11th, once again demonstrating the desirability of this type of glass. Offered for sale was the Pollard Drinking Vessel Collection along with other Early



**Horse, Cat & Rabbit Goblet
\$935**

Choice examples from the large Pollard collection included an emerald green Ashburton claret (Lot #317) which realized \$687.50, an Ashburton Union tumbler (Lot #384) that sold for \$770, and a Civil War footed tumbler (Lot

American Pattern Glass. Highlights included a fiery powder blue opalescent Diamond Point covered pomade (Lot #92) that realized \$1,760. A *Horse, Cat and Rabbit* goblet from Iowa City Glass (Lot #171) sold for \$935.



**Double
Overlay Lamp
\$2,420**

#385) which brought \$935. A cut double overlay lamp featuring white over clear over light red with swirled opaque white stripes, sold to a phone bidder for \$2,420.

Two tulip vases provided some of the most heated bidding of the day. Lot #541, a pressed example in brilliant deep amethyst from the Boston and Sandwich Glass Company sold for \$4,675, while another example in deep brilliant teal or blue-green with the rarer hexagonal base (Lot #528) proved to be of more interest to two bidders, eventually selling for \$10,450.



Sunburst Flask \$4,125

Bidding on the numerous flasks and bottles was also strong with a sunburst flask in deep brilliant copper puce (Lot #1077) bringing \$4,125. Lacy and blown glass also sold well with a Hairpin tray in the shape of a peacock (Lot #555) selling for \$4,125.

The highlight of the sale occurred when a unique pair of blown molded and pressed whale oil lamps (Lot #490) were put on the block. Having blown molded globular



**Teal Tulip Vase
\$10,450**

fonts attached to Diamond Pinwheel toddy plate bases and in outstanding condition, the pair sold to an astute mid-Atlantic collector on the phone for \$18,700. Company president Jeffrey Evans noted: "The market for Early American glass continues to be

strong, although I still see it as being undervalued compared to other areas of collecting. We are seeing many younger collectors entering the market because of the great values available."

Please contact the company for a copy of the catalog and for other inquiries at (540) 434-4260 www.greenvalleyauctions.com

New Book on Vaseline/Uranium Glass

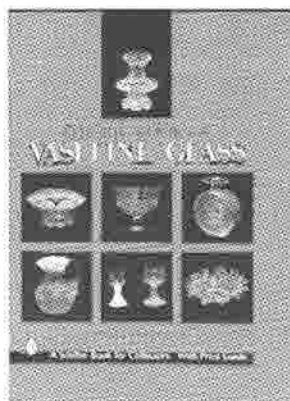
The Big Book of Vaseline Glass, by Barrie Skelcher. (Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA (610) 593-1777 www.schifferbooks.com; 208 pages \$39.95)

Vaseline Glass collecting has been on the rise for a number of years now creating demand for this uniquely colored glass, both old and new, and also for any information that might aid the collector. This new book by Barrie Skelcher gives us a deeper look into the glasshouses of England which made Vaseline glass. This type of glass has at least two distinctive features; its yellow-green color, and the fact that it reacts quite strongly under a UV light.

The author valiantly photographs part of his 900 piece collection of "U-Glass" which is a delight to see. While some of the photos are spectacular as they create a dramatic image by using a dark background, many have a pale background which doesn't enhance the piece and even

diminishes its details.

Mr. Skelcher is a scientist and uses his technical background to help with the attribution and age of his glassware.



Most of the illustrations are of English glass which for many of us is a new area to discover. His theory for attribution is based on the uranium concentration (used for the yellow-green color) in their batches along with the glass'

density and other stylist differences. It is interesting to follow him through his journey, yet there is little information that the average collector can take advantage of when out in the field.

The title of the book would be more accurate if it read Uranium Glass. Many of the pieces illustrated are not what advanced collectors would call Vase-

line. Typically, Vaseline refers to a yellow-green color. Uranium glass is the broader term and includes any color which contains that element in its chemical make-up.

While Mr. Skelcher uses an analytic approach and a Geiger counter when discussing his topic, one cannot help but notice his admiration for and attraction to this intriguing glass. As a scientist he carefully observes his collection but he loves it too as an artist might. Although he is undoubtedly an advanced collector, he is obviously smitten in much the same as any novice.

This book's value guide may not be of practical use for an American glass buyer. Clearly the English prices don't reflect the current rage here, but the book is of interest because of the volume of glass illustrated, the variety of forms and the presentation of the wide variety of colors that can result from the use of uranium in the batch.

