

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Summer 2009

Native American Glass Artist Preston Singletary

The Museum of Glass is proud to present (July 11, 2009 – September 19, 2010) *Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire, and Shadows*, the first mid-career survey of this renowned artist. For nearly two decades, Singletary has straddled two cultures—melding his Tlingit ancestry with the dynamism of the Studio Glass Move-



ment—and in the process creating an extraordinarily distinctive and powerful body of work. Drawing from traditional Tlingit art, Singletary has translated the visual vocabulary of patterns, narratives, and systems most closely associated with Native woodcarving and painted art into glass, a material historically associated with Native peoples through an extensive network of trading routes.

Introduced to glassmaking in the Pacific Northwest at an early age, Singletary quickly became highly proficient in the sculptural manipulation of the material and began reexamining the narrative and spiritual

traditions of his Tlingit heritage. The physical and metaphorical properties of glass proved ideally suited for this exploration. His unique interpretations of Tlingit myths and legends are visible in a plethora of stunningly beautiful traditional objects and figurative sculptures, manifested through a complex combination of techniques, including glassblowing, sandcarving, and inlaying. The synthesis Singletary creates through his work melds three worlds—modern art, glass, and Tlingit tradition—into a unique whole.

This exhibition, which contains works borrowed from major museum and private collections across the United States,

illustrates Singletary's artistic evolution over the past two decades and culminates in a dynamic new body of work created during his 2008 Visiting Artist Residency at the Museum of Glass.

The exhibition also showcases, for the first time, Singletary's newest and most significant commission to date. This work features a monumental cast-glass triptych, comprising reinterpretations of a densely carved interior house screen suspended between two longhouse posts.



Preston Singletary

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum is producing a documentary film along with various interviews filmed with Singletary in Alaska. A fully illustrated color catalog featuring essays by Native American scholar Steven C. Brown, Tlingit storyteller and author Walter



Porter, and Museum of Glass curator Melissa G. Post accompanies the exhibition.

"Glass brings another dimension to Native American art. It's luminous quality and shadow effect are like a spirit that appears when this lighting is right" -Preston Singletary

In a unique meeting of European glass-blowing tradition and Northwest Native design, Preston Singletary's artwork depicts cultural and historical images from his Tlingit ancestry in richly detailed, beautifully hued glass. By infusing traditional design with fresh energy through the use of modern materials, his work pays homage to his forefathers, who feel that the past, present and future are intertwined.

1801 Dock St. Tacoma, WA 98402-3217 <http://www.museumofglass.org>
1-866-4MUSEUM

President's Letter

Dear Friends,
Despite the challenging situation with the national economy, devoted NAGC members assembled recently for education and fellowship at the 25th Annual Seminar in Philadelphia. Our sincere thanks and appreciation are due to Bill Thomas and Gay Leclaire Taylor for the significant planning and preparation needed to conduct the seminar, as well as for their additional contributions as guest speakers.

In addition to our other distinguished speakers, Chester Cassel, Mary Cheek Mills, and Dr. David C. Watts, we had a bus tour to Wheaton Arts, preceded by a delightful interlude at the home of master paperweight artist Paul Stankard. Paul and his family gave us a most gracious reception and tour of his elegant home and studio. The seminar was preceded by optional walking and trolley tours of historic Philadelphia and concluded with an optional rainy day of antiquing in Adamstown for those hardy souls who chose to stay. The weather is never guaranteed!

At the request of the NAGC Board, Bill and Gay have agreed to continue their successful collaboration by planning our seminar and travel opportunities for 2010. Bill will give us the benefit of his extensive experience in arranging an NAGC-sponsored trip to England tentatively scheduled for May, 2010. With the enthusiastic support of the Westchester Chapter, Gay will focus her efforts on arranging a seminar in conjunction with the annual Westchester Glass Show scheduled to be held in Old Greenwich, CT in April, 2010. Both of these events promise to be exciting and different, and we hope that our members will enjoy participating. Details will follow as plans become more definite. Earlier plans for a joint seminar with other glass collector groups have now been rescheduled for 2011.

The annual business meeting was preceded by the final meeting of the outgoing Board, and as an innovation, a short organizational meeting of the new Board was held after the annual meeting once it was determined that a quorum was present. President Larry Steiner began the annual meeting with a period of silent tribute in honor of the passing of four distinguished NAGC members who have made significant contributions over many

Barbara Lessig, Dealer and Glass Collector, NAGC Board Member dies at 87

Barbara was born in Fremont Ohio, the only child of Myrtle Nolle and James McIlrath. She grew up in the Philadelphia area and graduated from Haverford High School. She attended The Pennsylvania State University and received a B.S. in marketing in 1955.

Mrs. Lessig had been the owner and manager of Pleasant Valley Antiques since coming to Brookeville in 1968. She specialized in collectible glass and was the author of several publications about glass and antiques. In the 1990s, she was the resident authority on glass for Metropolitan Home magazine.

Since 1970, Mrs. Lessig had appraised antiques and residential property for estate sales, insurance coverage and charitable donations. She was a member of the International Society of Appraisers and was the founder and first president of the society's local chapter. As a certified appraiser of personal property, she had a specialty in glass appraising.

She often exhibited at antiques shows, managed estate sales and spoke at seminars about glass collecting. She also did online appraisals and appraised antiques and collectibles at the Sandy Spring Museum and the Historical Society of Carroll County in Maryland.



Mrs. Lessig was on the board of directors of the National American Glass Club and was president of its local chapter. She was also active in the Questers collecting organization, the American Cut Glass Association, the Antique Dealers Association of Maryland and various museums.

Barbara became a certified appraiser of personal property

awarded by the International Society of Appraisers. She was co-founder and first president of its local chapter. She was active as a member and leader in the National American Glass Club; Questers International; The American Cut Glass Association; Antique Dealers Association of Maryland; Coming Museum of Glass; Sandwich Glass Museum; and, locally, the Sandy Spring Museum.

Barbara worked very hard for the Glass Club and its success. Over the years she held positions including NAGC Publications Committee Chair 1996-1998, 2002. NAGC Board of Directors 1998-2001, Served as an editor of GATHERINGS, a Washington DC area NAGC Chapter newsletter for several years, 1990s - 2000. And most recently her work on the 75th Anniversary Committee at the NAGC seminar in Boston in 2008 made it a stellar success.

years: Miriam Mucha, Edith Lawson, Dena Tarshis and Barbara Lessig. The loss of these members and friends is deeply felt.

Time passes, and as a result your distinguished and hard-working officers have been replaced by a new slate. Most of the new officers and directors should be familiar to you, but if we aren't, please feel free to introduce yourself and let us know your questions or concerns, as well as to express your approval. All of the Board members and Committee chairpersons look forward to working with you in supporting the NAGC mission to promote the study and appreciation of all types of glass. Of course, most of

the current directors will continue to serve, and we welcome the participation of Past President Larry Steiner as a Board member and hope to benefit from his years of experience.

Without minimizing the challenges ahead, including the almost universal current problem of promoting new membership and membership retention, I look forward to supporting opportunities for glass study and research by serving as your new president.

Ken Depew, President

Glass Calendar

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

Through July 19, 2009

CHRYSLER MUSEUM OF ART
Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect: A Modern Renaissance in Italian Glass. 245 West Olney Road, Norfolk, VA 23510. (757) 664-6200. The exhibition will feature 155 pivotal works from Tagliapietra's own personal collection and collections around the world, as well as designs made for industry and objects that will be exhibited for the first time. Displays will range from an installation of his impressive Endeavor boat series, to groupings of his masterful goblets, to a selection of rare bonbonniere, or tiny glass replicas of some of his favorite works given as party favors to loved ones. www.chrysler.org

Through August 1, 2009

COLUMBIA ART LEAGUE *Short Stories: Narratives from the Kiln.* 207 South 9th St., at the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts, Columbia, MO 65201. The show features national and international glass artists. Unlike blown glass, kiln formed glass often starts as sheet glass or broken pieces, ready to be melted into whatever form the artist envisions. The process utilizes molds, gravity, and gradual heat, allowing for delicate details and complex imagery. Kiln formed work often takes weeks or months to complete, the process of gradually shaping glass in the kiln allowing the artist time to instill defining moments and personal content within the piece, and create a unique visual vocabulary. <http://cal.missouri.org>

Through September 27, 2009

THE CHARLES HOSMER MORSE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, 445 North Park Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789. (407) 645-5311. *A Brilliant Setting: American Cut and Pressed Glass Tableware 1876-1917.* In this vignette, the Museum presents beautiful examples of American-made hand-carved luxury glassware by makers that include Libbey Glass Company, T.G. Hawkes & Company, H. C. Fry Glass Company, and J. Hoare & Company, as well as a charming variety of pressed-glass tableware in the *Three Face* pattern by George Duncan & Sons of Pittsburgh (c. 1872-1890). Both were the height of fashion in their day, though

among different income groups, and are highly collectible now.

Through October 11, 2009

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM *Hi Sklo Lo Sklo: From Masterpiece to Mass Produced.* From the 1950s onwards Czechoslovakia was a hotbed of modern glass design. Skilled and experienced designers produced hundreds of colorful and vibrant designs which were exported to the West in the thousands. Sold as art glass for the home, the designers behind them were rarely named, despite the fact that many are recognized today as masters of 20th century glass design. Today, these vases and bowls typically lie un-attributed and forgotten. This exhibition reveals the names and fascinating stories behind these modern designs. Selected from the Graham Cooley Collection, Hi Sklo Lo Sklo considers the themes behind the innovative masterpieces at the high end of the market, but focuses on how these were translated into designs for the mass market. This exhibition was previously shown during the King's Lynn Festival in 2008 and is accompanied by a color catalog written by Mark Hill. <http://www.glassmuseum.org.uk>

July 3 - September 20, 2009

PITTSBURGH GLASS CENTER 5472 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 (412) 365-2145. *Seventh-Inning Stretch* an exhibition by Nancy Callan. Since receiving a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1996 and relocating to Seattle, Nancy Callan has been a rising star in the international glass scene. Her blown glass combines the complexity and elegance of the Venetian tradition with the wit and aesthetic sensibility of a contemporary artist. Her exhibition, appropriately titled "Seventh-Inning Stretch" celebrates the first seven years of Callan's career as an independent glass artist. Ms. Callan is highly influenced by pop culture and her work references sources such as comic books ("Superhero Stingers"), children's toys ("Tops") and high fashion ("Plaid Winkles") in her ongoing series. www.nancycallanglass.com Ms. Callan will be teaching an advanced glassblowing class at PGC with Kathy Gray from June 29 - July 3. <http://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org>

July 11, 2009 - September 2010

MUSEUM OF GLASS, 1801 DOCK ST., Tacoma, WA 98402. www.museumofglass.org *Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire and Shadows.* An exhibition of the Native American glass artist drawn from private and museum collections. See article on page 1.

July 31 - August 2, 2009

NATIONAL BOTTLE SHOW The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, held at the Pomona Fairplex, 1104 W McKinley Ave, Pomona, CA 91768. Banquet on Friday, July 31, 6pm. Saturday, 8am to 5pm. Sunday, August 2 - 9am to 3pm.

October 2 & 3, 2009

2009 CARDER STEUBEN CLUB Symposium, PO Box 543, Dansville, NY 14437. Co-sponsored by The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY. <http://brokenshards.homestead.com>

October 10 & 11 2009

NORTHEAST MARBLE MEET Come join us on Saturday and Sunday, October 10th & 11th, 2009 at the Marriott Courtyard, Marlborough, MA at I-495 & Rte. 20. Call (508) 480-0015 (only for reservations). For information about the show, call Bertram Cohen (617) 487-5808. Two days of fun, friends, marbles and good times! Exhibition space available.

October 15 - 17, 2009

48th CORNING ANNUAL SEMINAR on Glass. The Corning Museum of Glass, One Museum Way, Corning, NY 14830. (800) 732-6845 *Sources of Inspiration.* Join other collectors, scholars, curators, students, and artists for a lively seminar that includes lectures, glassworking demonstrations, hands-on glassmaking experiences, networking receptions, and special tours. This year's seminar looks at the creative process and examines how unlimited sources like nature, architecture, historical events, and stylistic traditions have influenced glass design across time and cultures. The topic is inspired by the Museum's major 2009 exhibition, *Voices of Contemporary Glass*. www.cmog.org

City Loses a Titan

By Jeffery Smith, *Corning Leader* Sunday, April 19, 2009

Corning businessman, collector and philanthropist Robert "Bob" F. Rockwell Jr. died Friday afternoon, April 17, 2009.

Mr. Rockwell, 97, passed away at 5:50 pm at his Third Street home surrounded by family and friends.

Saturday, his family, friends and peers mourned his loss. "He was not only a great community person, he was also a great father and an anchor to my life," said his daughter, Sandy Rockwell Herron.

"He was a wonderful friend of mine," said Amory Houghton Jr., a former U.S. congressman and chairman of Corning Glass Works. "He was one of the people who are the core of Corning. I have a feeling he represents one of the last of the great titans of our community. He was outgoing and had a wonderful sense of community."

Local historian Tom Dimitroff said Rockwell was one of the people who held the community together.

"Going back to when his collection was at his department store on Market Street, Bob just wanted to share his collection with everybody," Dimitroff said. "The

(Rockwell) museum will continue to be an enrichment to this community and he will always be part of this community because of it."

Rockwell, a member of the Corning Rotary, was recently honored by Congress. "(U.S. Rep.) Eric Massa recently read a proclamation honoring Bob Rockwell at a meeting on April 2," said Richard Pope, a friend, fellow Rotarian.

Mr. Rockwell was born in Bradford, PA., but grew up in Gunnison, CO., where he developed his love of Western lore and art. At the end of World War II, he moved to Corning, where he ran a department store on Market Street. It was at the department store he unveiled his collection,

"The department store was a combination store and museum. There was nothing else like it in the country and probably in the world," said Bob Rolfe, *Leader* columnist and retired editor.



Robert F. Rockwell, Jr
Photo from The Elmira (NY) Star-Gazette

By the early 1960s, Bob was managing not only the department stores but also had taken over operations at the family ranch and a lumberyard in Pennsylvania that had belonged to an uncle. With his businesses running

smoothly, Bob's early passion for collecting was rekindled. His friend Fred Carder began helping him to amass a large and fine

collection of colored Steuben glass.

In 1974, officials from Corning Glass Works proposed a plan. If Bob would agree to donate his collections, the company would fund a new museum to house it. Bob responded eagerly to the offer, and in 1976 the Rockwell Museum

was incorporated.

Bob and Hertha Rockwell generously donated a large part of their collections of Western art, Carder Steuben glass to the new museum named for them, and they served on its Board of Directors. Here they also displayed parts of two other collections: antique toys and antique firearms.

"The Rockwell Museum of Western Art community gratefully acknowledges the long dedicated life Bob lived," said Kristin A. Swain, executive director at the museum. "Bob has left a legacy through the artwork in which he and his wife, Hertha, collected and donated to the community over 30 years ago."

Mr. Rockwell was more than just a collector of art. Two years ago, Rockwell did something to help local residents who were struggling, Pope said.

"Once you are 95 years old, veterans receive their life insurance sent to them," Pope said. "Bob received a large check in the mail. Bob decided he wanted to help those in need of assistance."

That led to the creation of the Stone Water Fund, Pope said. The funds were parceled to cancer patients, people who lost their homes to a fire or suffered from other unforeseen problems," Pope said. "It started about 15 months ago, he wanted it to be anonymous, but I think people should know how caring he is."

Pope said Rockwell was one of the most generous people he has ever known. "In addition to donating to numerous organizations over the years, he helped hundreds of individuals who needed some financial assistance and could benefit from a spirit-booster from an anonymous donor," Pope said.



Frederick Carder left
Bob Rockwell 3rd from left



Carder Glass Gallery at Corning

Marble Exhibit Opens

The 13th annual Marble Festival was held on May 2 at the Museum of American Glass at the Community Building in Cairo, WV and had an extra attraction this year. The expected 300 to 500 attendees had the opportunity to view examples of marbles from The National Marble Museum Collection exhibit which is concurrently opening at its new home at the Museum of American Glass in West Virginia in Weston, WV.

The exhibit, which curator Dean Six refers to as "awesome", runs now through September 30, 2009. It features a broad scope of handmade contemporary marbles, American machine made marbles, classic European marbles as well as images, artifacts and games.

Visitors saw items ranging from a first century glass Roman marble to well documented examples of Playrite, MF Christensen, Champion Agates, Marble King, Vitro Agates, Davis Marble Works, Akro and all of the major American marble pro-

ducers. The announcement of the relocation of this collection from California was made at last year's Fest and now it is on display for all to appreciate.

This year's Marble Festival focused on and honored marble maker ALOX



Photo courtesy of Susie Metzler for the Museum of American Glass in WV

of Missouri. As always there was buying, selling, trading and displays about marbles as well as marble related toys and accessories. Games and marble making history add to the enjoyment of the day.

Dean Six, who planned and executed the Festival, found that many marble enthusiasts visited the museum in Weston to view the National Marble Museum Collection. <http://mm.bglances.com>
The National Marble Museum
c/o The Museum of American Glass
PO Box 574, Weston, WV 26452-0574. (304) 269-5006

EAPG Society Meets in Indianapolis

One-hundred and forty members attended the Indianapolis meeting which was held at the Martin House Hotel on April 16-18, 2009. The event-packed three-day meeting presented a roster of distinguished speakers, an auction and raffle, glass displays, and a visit to an important private collection. The meeting also provided an opportunity for members to attend the 120-dealer Hoosier Antique Show and to visit the Greentown Glass Museum.

James Measell spoke on the development of the glass industry in Ohio and Indiana from 1880 to 1930, and Clyde King, master glass engraver, provided insights into the artistry of glass engraving.



Sid Leithbridge talked about his recent research into the Pittsburgh Glass Houses of Campbell Jones & Co.,

Clyde King, Master Engraver

Richard Moon explained the fine points of the "Cut Log" pattern, and David Morgret discussed the subtleties of Northwood's art glass, displayed from his extensive collection.

The Society's next national meeting will be held in Natchez, MS, and is tentatively scheduled for April 30 to May 2, 2010.

The Society also holds regional meetings; the Eastern States Region is meeting in Wheeling WV, September 24-26, 2009, the Central States Region in St. Louis, MO, October 1-3, 2009, and the Rocky Mountain States Region in Denver, CO, October 24, 2009.

The Early American Pattern Glass Society was formed nearly 30 years ago to promote the collecting and study of early American pattern glass (EAPG).

Additional information about these meetings and membership is on the EAPGS website at www.eapgs.org

The New 2009 Officers & Board of Directors, NAGC

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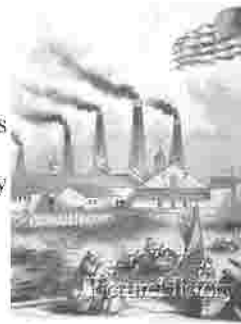
Joan Kaiser is pleased to announce that her forthcoming book *The Glass Industry in South Boston* is in publication and will be

available later this year (about \$85). The book details the history and output of more than 26 flint glass, bottle glass and window glass companies that operated in South Boston, MA from 1811 to the end of the 19th century.

Highlights in the 336 page tome include: letters written between 1815 and 1818

by Edward A. Pearson, agent of the Boston Glass Manufactory when Thomas H. Cains was the foreman of its south Boston Flint Glass Work; the glass fragments retrieved by Timelines, Inc., a firm of contract archeologists hired in 1994 by the MA Highway Department when the American Flint Glass Works site was to be destroyed by Boston's

"Big Dig" project; and discussion of the 29 years of production from the late 1840s to 1869 of the Mt. Washington Glass Works before William L. Libbey moved it to New Bedford, MA. *The Glass Industry in South Boston* contains 266 color and 147 black and white illustrations.



Engraving of a view of the American Flint Glass Works in South Boston from the harbor was originally published April 23, 1853. Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion

Enthusiasts flock to Glass Forum

An article found in *Crockery & Glass Journal*, August, 1954

Top women's hobby in the country is glass-collecting – a good reason for the enthusiasm generated by a recent "Weekend Forum on Early American Glass" during which collectors heard experts speak on several historical facets of glassware. (Glass-collecting has been given additional impetus and color with the discovery that glass-making was the first instance of manufacturing in the U. S.)

The event was sponsored by Oglebay Institute, a cultural organization, and Imperial Glass, Bellaire, O., in conjunction with its 50th anniversary.

Attending collectors, antique dealers, and garden club members saw the interesting Ralph Boyd collection of early midwestern glass, dating from 1813 to about 1860, made possible to through contributions from Imperial Glass and other manufacturers.

On May 14, collectors heard George S. and Helen McKearin, co-authors of the book *American Glass* (known as the collector's "bible"), talk on "Early American Glassware of the Wheeling Area." McKearin is internationally known as a collector; Helen McKearin is a research authority on early American glassware.

The next afternoon they heard Josephine Sulta, author of *Wheeling Glass*, talk on "Early Handmade Glassware of the Wheeling Area," and Lowell Innes, honorary curator of glass, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, and author of *Early Glass in the Pittsburgh District*, speak on "Early Pittsburgh and Midwestern Glassware." That evening glass enthusiasts were treated to the premiere of Imperial Glass Corp.'s color motion picture, "The Story of Handmade Glass."

Kindly submitted by Founders Chapter's George Fogg

SEPTMBER 1, 2009
DEADLINE
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<http://www.glassclub.org>

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