

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Winter 1987-88

Even Exchange

As I perused the last issue of *The Glass Club Bulletin*, something crossed my mind that many of us never stop to think about. How did that wonderful article by Gary Baker wind up in OUR publication? Why did Bea Smith of the Minnesota Chapter choose to send her article to OUR publication? Doesn't Jane Spillman have enough to do without taking time out to write something for OUR publication? Of course she does, and numerous antiques-oriented publications would be happy to receive articles from any of the above-mentioned writers; in fact, they would send each author a check for their efforts!

Those who write know well the time it takes to research, write, re-write, then re-write again, something that is worthy of publication. Every printed word in *The Glass Club Bulletin* was carefully worked

over, then put to paper in this manner, the authors receiving no remuneration whatsoever (expecting none); however, each CARED enough about glass and the National Early American Glass Club to submit their work. What is your reaction to someone caring that much about NEAGC? Each of them was working on OUR behalf, with no thought of personal gain! In fact, many authors never receive one compliment or comment from anyone after their writings have been published. Don't we owe them a debt of gratitude?

When the National Early American Glass Club took its third National Glass Seminar far west, to Beverly Hills, California, last May, there was no organized NEAGC chapter out there with which to work on the myriad of details that planning a seminar entails. If it had not been for the caring of

Carlyle Eubank II and his mother-in-law, Marylee Reeder, a California seminar would have been virtually impossible. Would you have been that giving of your time?

Each of us can cultivate this same kind of unselfish caring about NEAGC. Individually, we can contribute *something* toward the knowledge and appreciation of glass as stated in our by-laws. We may not all be researchers or gifted when it comes to organizing our thoughts on paper, but still *there is something each of us can do for the betterment of The National Early American Glass Club*. All of us should stop to think about the members who *are* willing to give freely, without thought of self gain.

If each of us contributes something of ourselves, the question: "What am I getting for my \$15.00?" will have new meaning and an immediate answer. Think about it.

— Sylvia Applebee Lyon

Marshalltown Celebrates Fifty!

The MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA chapter of NEAGC turned 50 on October 24, 1987. Members celebrated by holding their anniversary meeting in the home of Dr. & Mrs. J. J. Noonan, where the club first met in 1938. Mrs. Noonan, one of only three of the original sixteen charter members still living, has been continuously active in the chapter since its inception. When members first met in 1938, they elected officers, adopted a constitution and by-laws and voted to affiliate with the national organization. MARSHALLTOWN's first program was on American pattern glass. The October 50th anniversary program, prepared by Mrs. Kenneth Eckles, focused on the extensive collection of glass and porcelain in the Noonan's home, a classic Georgian built in 1933 to accommodate the family heirlooms. Congratulations, MARSHALLTOWN. The National Early American Glass Club is very proud of its golden chapters!

The GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER has mounted a large exhibit at the DuPage Historical Museum in Wheaton, Illinois. Entitled, "Blown, Molded and Cut: 19th Century American Domestic Glass," the exhibit will be on view to the public through the spring of 1988. Comprised of

seventeen categories, the exhibition preview featured a lecture by Frank Robertson, GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER member, entitled: "Identifying Early American Glass." Numerous glass examples from Mr. Robertson's, Betty Iber's and other chapter members' collections are featured.

THE GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER mourns the death of their beloved member, Leora Pitts. Leora, an expert on opalescent glass, was always willing to share her expertise with others. Open minded and curious, always ready at the drop of a suggestion to pack up several cartons of her precious glass whenever there was an opportunity to share her knowledge, Leora endeared herself to all.

The GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER celebrates their 20th birthday this year and plans are under way for an aggressive membership drive as well.

Concerning board action on chapter affiliation, as recommended by NEAGC members voting during our Annual Meeting at seminar in Beverly Hills, California, Grace Carolyn Dahlberg writes: "Our chapter is delighted with the action taken at the special NEAGC Board of Directors meeting on July 11, requiring all chapter members to belong.

Excellent . . . something our chapter has advocated since we learned that this has not been true right along. ALL our members have *always* belonged . . . we consider it imperative, as well as a prestigious honor."

In Maryland, the BAKEWELL GLASS CLUB is hard at work writing a slide show on the Bakewell Glass Company for use as an NEAGC program. Bakewell member, Tony Stout of Washington, D.C., is receiving congratulations on being elected a Fellow of the Corning Museum of Glass.

WESTCHESTER GLASS CLUB OF NEW YORK is preparing for their annual Collectors' Glass Show & Sale on April 30 and May 1, 1988. Show manager Molly and Duff Allen are once again at the helm and for further information you may call them at (203) 531-7004.

At the September meeting of the EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB OF MINNESOTA, Pansy Peterson and Bea Smith gave a report on NEAGC's Third National Glass Seminar in Beverly Hills, California. In October the NEAGC slide lecture, "History of American Glass," was shown and in November, Mary Stuart Harriman discussed: "Glass Decorating: Engraved or Etched?" (Editor's note: Don't miss Bea Smith's fine

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article on Pomona glass in the last issue of *The Glass Club Bulletin*!

In Bethesda, Maryland, a 47-passenger chartered bus will be available on a first-come-first-served basis for transportation of area residents to the National Early American Glass Club's fourth National Glass Seminar in Sandwich, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod. The bus will leave on May 12th and return to Maryland on May 15. (It will also be available for traveling to seminar functions while on Cape Cod.) The BETHESDA CHAPTER asks that area residents interested in this service, at a cost of \$50 per passenger, please call Doris Poore at 320-4189 after 5 p.m. daily. Seminar lodging is up to each individual.

The AMELUNG CHAPTER OF MARYLAND opened its season with a program by Michael Waters on early American flasks and bottles. Other studies will include: "Space and Presidential Commemorative Glass" and "Glass and Jade" by Ellen Roberts.

In spite of the Dow, "Dorflinger was up," is the report from the DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP of Silver Spring, Maryland. Selling was brisk and members reported a 25% increase in attendance over last year, at the Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale, always held the first weekend in November.

In October, the COLUMBIA GLASS CLUB of Columbia, Maryland, delved into the reasons why we collectors are "somewhat" compulsive. Bill J. Baker gave members new insights on human behavior as he lectured on "The Psychology of Collecting." In November, NEAGC director Francis Allen addressed the club on the subject of Islamic Glass.

On Saturday, April 9, 1988, the nine area chapters of NEAGC in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area will sponsor their Seventh Annual Antique Glass Collectors' Sale . . . AND YOU, AS A MEMBER OF NEAGC, ARE INVITED TO DISPLAY! Ninety tables will be available, offering glass for every level of collecting. A nominal fee is charged per table. Admission is \$2.00, which includes a free glass identification clinic. For further details, contact Bill & Nancy Sheriff. The show will be located at Armory Place in Silver Spring, Maryland, just 7 miles from the White House! Fun, fellowship and finds await you!

If your chapter news is missing here, it's because none was received! (Remember my new address: Box 57, Fishers Hill, VA 22626). I greatly appreciate those of you who take the time to write. Remember our deadline is Nov. 1 and Mar. 1 annually. Information may be sent *anytime* prior to those dates.

Now, y'all have wonderful Holidays, hear? —Sylvia

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

December-January 18, 1988

Exhibit: Contemporary Glass—From their permanent collection, Huntington Galleries, Huntington, West Virginia.

December 1987-Spring 1988

Exhibit: "Blown, Molded & Cut—19th Century American Domestic Glass." The DuPage County Historical Museum, 102 E. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187. Group tours available: Tel. (312) 682-7343.

December 20, 1988

Tour: "Festival of Homes in New Bedford, Massachusetts." 12-home tour celebrating Christmas—benefit New Bedford Glass Museum. Tickets: Mrs. Demers (617) 994-0115 - \$10; seniors \$8.

Present-January 4, 1988

Exhibit: "Victorian Dining in New Bedford" - New Bedford Glass Museum, 50 N. Second St., New Bedford, MA 02740. Ornate Furnishings in the Victorian Manner - Mt. Washington-Pairt-Smith Bros. glass & silverplate, porcelain, textiles, etc.

April 9, 1988

Glass Show & Sale: sponsored by 9 DC area NEAGC Chapters - Armory Place, Wayne Ave. & Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD. Info: Write Bill & Nancy Sheriff, 1222 Pinecrest Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

April 23, 1988

Exhibit Opening: "The Ernesto Wolf Collection—300 Years of Decorated Glass 1500-1800." Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY.

April 30-May 1, 1988

Glass Show & Sale: Annual Collectors' Glass Show & Sale. Women's Club, 305 Ridgeway Ave., White Plains, NY. Info: (203) 531-7004. Westchester Glass Club, sponsors.

May 12-14, 1988

Seminar: Fourth National Glass Seminar, Sandwich, Mass. National Early American Glass Club & Sandwich Glass Museum, sponsors. (January mailing to all NEAGC members.)

October 19-22, 1988

Seminar: 28th Seminar on Glass, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY.

November 5 & 6, 1988

Glass Show & Sale—Montgomery County Antique Glass Show, Armory Place, Wayne Ave. & Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD. Info: (703) 465-4040. Sponsored by the Dorflinger Study Group.

Information for Glass Calendar is always solicited. NEAGC Chapters and Institution Members—deadlines, Nov. 1 and Mar. 1, annually.

NOTE: PLEASE CHANGE MY ADDRESS ON YOUR MAILING LIST OR I WON'T GET YOUR MAIL. THANKS!

Dr. Leonard S. Rakow

The glass community was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Leonard S. Rakow this fall. Dr. Rakow, a retired surgeon, began collecting 18th-20th century glass and ceramics thirty years ago. With his wife, Juliette, he was co-author of *Cameo Glass, Masterpieces from 2000 Years of Glassmaking*, and they co-lectured on the subject widely, both here and abroad.

Glass scholars, collectors and artisans will be forever indebted to the Rakows for establishing and endowing the Rakow Library of The Corning Museum of Glass. They also have provided funding for two annual grants awarded for glass research and creativity by The Corning Museum of Glass.

Dr. Rakow was editor of *Ars Ceramica* and former editor of the *American Wedgwoodian*, former president of the Wedgwood International Seminar, Fellow of The Corning Museum of Glass, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and American Trustee of the Red House Cone.

The National Early American Glass Club extends its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Rakow.

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NEAGC Memorial Fund Established

Through action initiated by NEAGC Director, Rosemond Van Ethen, Olympia, Washington, the National Early American Glass Club has created a special Memorial Fund honoring the memory of those designated by the donor. The project was reviewed by Director Betty Iber, Riverside, Illinois, and upon her recommendation, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to carry through on Mrs. Van Ethen's proposal.

The NEAGC Memorial Fund will be used for sponsoring a lecture(s) at our annual National Glass Seminar. Lectures made possible through this fund will be so designated at the time of our annual glass seminar. Fully tax-deductible donations may be made payable to: NEAGC Memorial Fund, c/o Treasurer Sibley Higginbotham, 93 S. Central Avenue, Wollaston, MA 02170. Be certain to specify in whose memory the donation is being made. If the memorial is to a deceased NEAGC chapter member, be certain to also designate the chapter making the memorial gift. However, a gift to the fund can be from anyone; the donor doesn't have to be a member of NEAGC, nor does their gift have to be in memory of a NEAGC member. We are happy to report that donations to the Memorial Fund have already started coming in to our treasurer.

NEAGC GLASS SEMINAR *President's Letter*

Mark May 12, 13, and 14 on your glass calendar... those are the dates of NEAGC's fourth National Glass Seminar in Sandwich, Massachusetts on Cape Cod! Ellen Roberts, Chairman, reports that acceptance from the following speakers has been received: Jane Spillman, Paul Hollister, Ray Barlow, Joan Kaiser, Dorothy-Lee Jones, Ken Wilson, Diane Gregg and Ford Singletary, with other speaker confirmations pending.

A variety of topics will be covered, including early American flasks, the newest style trends in studio glass, traditions in famous glassmaking families and glass production in the town of Sandwich after the 1888 closing of the Boston and Sandwich Company.

A reception will open the proceedings with the Sandwich Glass Museum as our host, under the direction of Dorothy Hogan and Curator Kirk Nelson, formerly of the Bennington Glass Museum.

Seminar fee is \$150 per person, less a 10% discount for NEAGC members registering before March 1. In January a special seminar mailing will go out to all NEAGC members. There will also be information on a special glass exhibit in which members may wish to participate. Lodging arrangements are up to each individual. The Daniel Webster Inn, Sandwich Motor Lodge, Shady Nook Motel, Spring Hill Motel and Earl of Sandwich Motel are but a few of the numerous accommodations in the area. Due to the tourist business on Cape Cod, early reservations are suggested.

Members who attended our Third National Glass Seminar in California last May had a wonderful time in the warm atmosphere of cordiality extended by NEAGC's California friends. Special thanks to Carlyle Eubank, II, and Marylee Reeder for their contribution to our great time out there! (Whom of us will ever again whiff the fragrance of Bijan perfume without conjuring memories of our Third National Glass Seminar in Beverly Hills??) Yes, Carlyle even remembered favors for the ladies at our banquet on Friday night.

You Wanna Be in Pictures?

Linda Joan Smith, Editor of *Country Home*, P.O. Box 5832, Carmel, California 93921, wants to know if any of our members have homes, gardens or collections that might be particularly appropriate for publication in her magazine. She requests that you send photographs, particularly slides, to her at the address above. *Country Home's* focus, writes Ms. Smith, is on "the country life, with particular emphasis given to our heritage, in home, garden, food, craftsmanship, antiques and collectibles. We particularly enjoy featuring people who cherish their heritage and perpetuate it in their way of life."

Dear Members:

By now each of you will have received a letter from our Board of Directors soliciting donations to the National Early American Glass Club.

Living close to the heartbeat of an organization such as ours, one clearly sees actions which are needed in order to increase the efficiency of our club. Your board of directors thoroughly considers every action they take. Many travel great distances, at their own expense, in order to comply with their obligations as an officer of NEAGC.

This is the first such appeal in our 55 year history. Your support at this time is critical to our growth and progress in the immediate years ahead.

Kenneth W. Lyon, President
National Early American Glass Club

Book Discounts for NEAGC Members!

As members of NEAGC, we can now obtain a 20% discount on any and all books ordered from Mad Anthony Books, 702 W. Wayne St., Maumee, Ohio 43537. The owners of the business, Donald and Sandra Stonestreet, may be reached at (419) 893-5404 should you wish to order their catalog by phone. Practically any book published on glass is available through this source, as well as books on other antiques and collectibles—all at a saving of 20%, regardless of whether you order one or many copies!

If the net volume of your order (after the discount) is \$50.00 or less, then \$1.50 will be added for postage and handling. If the net amount is over \$50.00, there is no charge for postage and handling. Because of a recently enacted (3/31/87) Great Lakes Tax Enforcement Act, sales tax must be charged when shipments are made to Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana and Wisconsin. Each shipment will be billed, payable on receipt and satisfaction. Mastercard and Visa are available, but due to associated costs to the dealer, the discount must be limited to 15% instead of the normal 20%.

The above arrangements were initiated by Susan Milzman, Special Projects Chairman for NEAGC, who lives in Rockville, Maryland.

Mad Anthony Books also stocks hundreds of out-of-print titles and carries on an active search service for those they don't have. Because out-of-print books sell so rapidly, members should write Mad Anthony's regarding their specific wants.

Thanks, Susan, for a job well done!

Educational Resources

The supply of old *Glass Club Bulletins* continues to dwindle. Fortunately, the Rakow Library of the Corning Museum of Glass has put the entire set on microfiche. They are available, either on inter-library loan or by purchase in sets from Corning, as follows:

1938-1959	10 Microfiche	\$15.00
1959-1966	8 Microfiche	\$12.50
1967-1971	4 Microfiche	\$ 7.50
1971-1976	6 Microfiche	\$10.00
1977-1982	5 Microfiche	\$ 8.75
1982-1986	5 Microfiche	\$ 8.75

The price for all 38 fiche is only \$43.00. New York residents must include sales tax of 7%. Most public libraries now have microfiche readers available. Write: Rakow Library, Corning Museum of Glass, One Museum Way, Corning, NY 14831. We are indebted to Francis Allen for filling in the missing copies of the *Bulletin*.

Thanks to Bettie and Roy Ranck of Kansas City, Missouri, the index for the *Glass Club Bulletins*, 137-152, is now available and will be distributed in NEAGC's directory.

The Heisey Collectors of America have graciously made their rental slides and tapes available to our chapters for programs. There are 19 slide sets which rent for \$10.00 each and two movies and/or tapes which rent for \$5.00 each, with a \$25.00 deposit. Any one of these would make an excellent program. Information is available from HCA Slides & Films, P.O. Box 27, Newark, Ohio 43055.

These slide shows are evidence that individual clubs *can* build up an impressive collection of programs for the parent organization. Only a few of our chapters have indicated they are working on programs. We should let the Heisey Club serve as a good example; we *need* your participation.

The Amelung Chapter in Maryland puts on skits at their annual picnic. Written by Frances Armentrout, editor of *Glass Gatherings*, these poems, stories and outright spoofs, all with a glass connection and terrible, tremulous tongue twisters, are light-hearted entertainment. Amelung has provided NEAGC with two of these scripts, meant to be copied and distributed to participating club members, and they are yours for the asking.

All inquiries regarding Bulletins, scripts, and NEAGC's three slide shows should be directed to: Bill Sheriff, 1222 Pinecrest Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Also, if you have any information relating to educational or research material suitable for programs, pass it on to Bill.

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Reflections

(Editor's note: When the National Early American Glass Club met in Manomet, near Plymouth, Mass., in the summer of 1933, the first of two such exhibition meetings that summer (the second one being in Sandwich, Mass.), the following agenda was published in a Boston-area newspaper.)

Wednesday, July 12, 1933

Welcome by Frank L. Chipman of Sandwich, Mass., president of the Early American Glass Club.

"The Early American Glass Club"—William Germain Dooley, antique editor of the Boston Transcript.

"Esthetic Values in Glass Collecting"—Carl Greenleaf Beede, antiques editor, the *Christian Science Monitor*.

"Quality Glass," Helen Wheeler Hutchins of Worcester, Mass.

"Quality in Collecting," Charles Messer Stow, antiques and decorations editor, the *New York Sun*.

"Collecting and the Grandmother Complex," Home Eaton Keyes, editor of *The Magazine Antiques*.

Thursday, July 13, 1933

Question Box—Mrs. Lura Woodside Watkins.

"Picking Up the Pieces," Rhea Mansfield Knittle, Ashland, Ohio, author of "Early American Glass."

Friday, July 14, 1933

"Stiegel Glass," William T. Howe, Cincinnati, Ohio, president of the American Book Corporation.

"Contemporary Mexican Glass as Compared with Early American Glass," Harold A. Mack, Boston, Mass., proprietor, "The Artisans."

"Our History Shown in Glass," Elizabeth Sargent Walker, New York, Question Box

Saturday, July 15, 1933

"Collectors' Clubs," William Germain Dooley.

"Flasks," Stephen Van Rensselaer, Williamsburg, Va., and Peterborough, N.H., author of "Early American Bottle and Flasks."

"Ancient Color in Sandwich Glass," Charles J. Connick of Boston, master craftsman in stained glass.

Question Box.

In the program of talks and discussions informality will be insisted on and one novelty will be introduced by Mrs. Lura Woodside Watkins, author of "Cambridge Glass." Mrs. Watkins will conduct a question box, but the questions will be asked by her of the audience, hoping to bring out valuable information which has been gleaned by collectors.

In addition to this program, it is expected that others will give talks, including George S. McKearin, who will illustrate his remarks with lantern slides; Helen McKearin Powers, an authority on blown-in-a-mold glass, and Louise H. Wells of Portland, Maine, an authority on the Portland Glass Company.

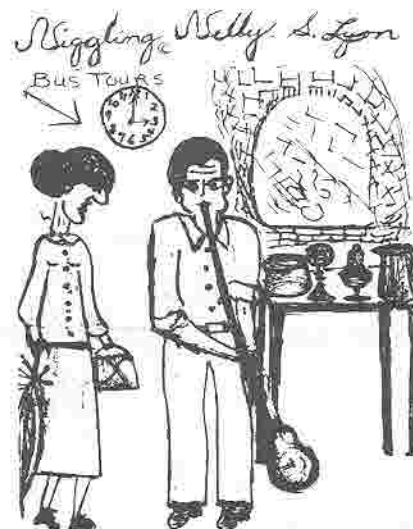
For the benefit of the club, there will be a book stall at which books written by various members will be for sale. These will be autographed by the authors who are present.

(to be continued)

NEAGC NOTES

Errors on address labels for *The Glass Club Bulletin* or *Glass Shards* may be corrected by writing Nancy Sheriff, Secretary NEAGC, 1222 Pinecrest Circle, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. Questions on membership and dues should be addressed to Donald Ferland, Box 757 Kendall Square Branch, Cambridge, MA 02142-9998. Membership dues are \$15.00 a year.

Members needing help with glass identification should write to: Dorothy Lee Jones, Curator-Founder, The Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics (formerly The Jones Gallery), Douglas Hill, Maine 04024.



"and as a glass lover, I'm going to report your deplorable working conditions to the occupational administration in Washington!"

The National Early American Glass Club

Box 757, Kendall Square Branch
Cambridge, MA 02142-9998



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