



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Winter 1989-1990

With Regret, Radford Resigns

For reasons of physical health, duVal Radford, newly-elected president of the National Early American Glass Club, regretfully submitted his resignation to the Board of Directors this fall. At their October meeting in Corning, the board heard Mr. Radford's letter which read in part: "... I am greatly saddened by my not being able to serve my term as president. I was honored by the position and wanted to accomplish great things for the club. I shall not lose my interest in the National Early American Glass Club and hope I may be able to fill some niche in the future."

In their search for someone to fill the presidency, following Mr. Radford's resignation, the Board of Directors chose Francis N. Allen of Hyattsville, Maryland, to serve for the remainder of duVal's term.

Mr. Allen has been a student of glass history and technology since 1968 and a member of the National Early American Glass Club since 1975. He is a member of the Founders Chapter and, with his wife Dorothy, a member of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter. Since 1987, Mr. Allen has served on the board of directors of the NEAGC.

Mr. Allen has authored several articles for the *Glass Club Bulletin* including "The Gardiners Island Glass Catalogs—A Question of Attribution" (1978), "American Ornamental Glass Windows—Forgotten Patterns in Crystal" (1979), "A Germanic Decanter—Antecedents in American Design" (1981), "Gadrooning—Contours In Joie de Verre" (1982), and "The Third Week of January" (1983). Mr. Allen has also compiled *Schebek's*

Bohmens Glasindustrie und Glashandel—An Index of Personalities, Glassworks and Companies (1977), *An Index To The Lagerberg Glass Books 1-4* (1979) and *The Hedwig Glasses—A Survey* (1987). Mr. Allen has lectured on a variety of glass subjects, most recently at a colloquium of the British Museum held in Basel, Switzerland in 1988, the National Glass Seminar in Chicago last spring and the Baltimore Glass Club in June 1989. Mr. Allen is a member of the Corning Museum of Glass and the Prince Georges County Historical Society (Md.).

The National Early American Glass Club membership welcomes our new president, and sends its best wishes to that wonderful southern gentleman, duVal Radford!

President's Letter

It is with some trepidation that I assume the presidency of the National Early American Glass Club, a position I regard as both a rare honor and an opportunity to serve you—the membership. I am encouraged by the vote of confidence shown me by the board of directors. I will strive to provide the NEAGC with the same effective leadership as duVal Radford would have surely done if he were able to continue as your president. His offer of advice and continued support will be eagerly accepted as well as that graciously volunteered by Ken Lyon and the other members of the Board of Directors.

Since becoming associated with the NEAGC, I have been impressed by the broad spectrum of interests shown by our members in all aspects of glass and glassmaking. Our collective knowledge on the subject is reflected, firstly in the *Glass Club Bulletin*, and also in a variety of other printed material over our fifty five plus years of existence. The combined levels of scholarship represented by our publi-

cations and club activities indicates we are a fairly balanced mix of dedicated glass scholars and students. More than merely accumulating glass, we strive to learn about its development as a substance of utility and artistic expression. We are interested not only in provenance and intrinsic value, but we research manufacturing techniques, related technologies and the historical contexts in which whole categories of glass or individual important pieces are found. Most importantly—we share that knowledge.

Thanks to the initiatives of my predecessors, members of the boards of directors and chairpersons, we are a vibrant and expanding organization—over 1150 members, many of which are organized into twenty-two chapters nationwide plus overseas memberships; our *Bulletin* has achieved international recognition as an authoritative source and we have developed liaison with over fifty learned institutions at home and abroad. Thanks to a dedicated cadre of doers at the national and chapter levels we have a successful and well developed seminar program. I believe we are successfully

projecting an image of an organization that is as diverse in the field of glass as it is geographically and intellectually.

I am a firm believer in sharing information about glass. On-going activities such as the *Bulletin* and the *Glass Shards* will receive my strongest support. Other educational resources at our disposal are our library at the Boston Athenaeum and a growing collection of video and slide programs. I plan to work with our Librarian and the Education Resources Chairman to build these collections and increase their distribution to as much of the membership as efficiently and affordable as possible. Our aim will be to provide as much knowledge about glass to as many chapters and individual members as can be reasonably expected of an all-volunteer organization.

Where the National Early American Glass Club fits in our communities is also of some concern to me. We are, in a sense, preservationists—of our American heritage and of the history of glass. I look upon the glass in our

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Happy 25th Birthday, Bethesda!

On April 9, 1964, a group of ten of Helen Barger's American glass students sat down and decided to continue their glass studies by holding monthly meetings with programs on glass. Sponsored by the Silver Spring Chapter (now AMELUNG), BETHESDA joined NEAGC that summer with Mrs. Barger as their sponsor. Through the years, visits to the old Dorflinger glass factory site, Wheaton Village, Penland and Chrysler increased their knowledge and enthusiasm for glass study. In 1976, BETHESDA sponsored the first of 9 National Capital Glass Seminars at the Kenwood Country Club. Little did those twenty ambitious ladies realize their seminar would be "taken on the road" as the National Glass Seminar for NEAGC!

Presently, BETHESDA is expanding the Barger-Suppes bookshelves in the Chevy Chase (Maryland) Public Library. Working with the library system, the club had two shelves hung to accommodate what was to be a library of over 300 titles for use by glass students throughout the area. The new shelves will contain special binders for magazines, articles and catalogs pertinent to glass research. BETHESDA's membership of 20 includes four charter members. Congratulations, BETHESDA, on your 25 years of glass study and valuable contribution to the knowledge and appreciation of glass!

The PITTSBURGH CHAPTER will hear a talk on Flat Glass by Thomas Crawford at their December 12 meeting. In January, Joanne and Earl Autenreith will offer Table Glass I, followed by Table Glass II with Gwen White at the February 13 meeting. If you are interested

in attending any of these meetings, dial (412) 355-0888 for details. PITTSBURGH is sponsoring an antique show and sale June 23 and 24, with a preview on the 22nd. Quality dealers are solicited among NEAGC members. If you are interested, please call (412) 828-2224 or (412) 561-6408. The show will be held in Andrew Mellon Hall on the Chatham College campus in Pittsburgh.

In that wonderful, gracious city (how do I know these things??), THE GREATER CHICAGO GLASS COLLECTORS CLUB will enjoy a pot luck lunch at the home of Caroline Jacobsen on December 7. Dorothy Kusecevic will present a program on "Antique Christmas Ornaments" and invites members to bring ornaments for discussion and identification. When Ruth Drew hosts the January 5 meeting, Caroline Jacobsen will co-host and Ruth Drew will step to the podium to talk about "Old Salts I Have Known."

At their November meeting, THE FOUNDERS CHAPTER of NEAGC heard Elizabeth Williams and Sara S. DuBois relate "What Makes A Collector?" NEAGC President, Francis N. Allen, spoke at the morning study group prior to the regular meeting on the subject of "Glass Hardware: Knobs, Pulls and Tiebacks." In December, "Open Salts—Their Identification and Collecting" will be the topic of Elmer Guilmartin's talk and Sharon Smith Abbot will lead the study group session with, "Holiday Ornaments In Glass."

NEAGC's HELEN N. BARGER CHAPTER of Wayne and Pike Counties, Pennsylvania, sponsored its first all glass show and sale in August at Beach Lake, Pennsylvania. A feature of the show was a slide presentation, narrated by Kurt Reed, chapter president. Tracing the history of glasshouses in the area, Mr. Reed's slide show was supplemented by a map showing factory locations. Numerous pieces of glass, attributed to area glassmakers, were also exhibited. The chapter is now planning their second annual show for August 1990. (Editor's note: Send me your show date for our spring issue!)

Members of the BARGER CHAPTER made their third annual trip to Corning to view the Presidential glass and china exhibit. Two members also visited the Toledo Museum of Art and report that glass made by Libbey for numerous expositions is *very* impressive and well worth seeing.

This summer, the EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB OF MINNESOTA honored Harland Rumbles' 50 years of continuous membership and service to their chapter. June 16, 1989 was proclaimed "Harland Rumble Day" and Bea Smith, chapter member, interviewed Harland using the "This Is Your Life In The Glass Club" theme. Harland recalled hearing Ruth Webb Lee speak at a local hotel and shared numerous items representative of her collections, giving the history of each. The MINNESOTA CHAPTER made Harland an honorary member of their chapter and presented her with candy and a bouquet of

flowers, representative of their esteem and respect for her.

THE CHRISTIAN DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP of Silver Spring, Maryland, was on hand for the opening of the Dorflinger Glass Museum in White Mills, PA. Members were excited about the fine collection and their role in seeing this project come to fruition. Members presented museum curator, Ray LaTourneau, with a Kalana Lily bedroom water set to add to the museum's collection, given in memory of Ruth McConnell, former member of the DORFLINGER CHAPTER.

"Victorian and Art Glass Cruets" was the subject of a recent talk at the COLUMBIA GLASS CLUB in Maryland. Joan Server, avid glass researcher and collector, highlighted her talk with numerous examples from her personal collection.



Wheaton Village Site of 1990 NEAGC Seminar

The Sixth National Glass Seminar will be held May 3-5 at Wheaton Village, Millville, New Jersey.

Lecturers for this year's seminar include: David Whitehouse, Curator of Ancient Glass at the Corning Museum of Glass; Dr. Dennis Zimbala, Curator of the Museum of Industry in Baltimore; Miriam Mucha, Special Assistant, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Barry Sautner and Ro Purser studio glass artists; Kenneth Wilson, former director of collections at the Henry Ford Museum; Kenneth Lyon, immediate past president of the National Early American Glass Club and Gay Taylor, Curator, Museum of American Glass, Wheaton Village, Millville, New Jersey.

The program will also include tours to Paul Stankard's paperweight studio and Mullica Hill, a charming New Jersey village of antique shops. The registration of \$190 for non-members, and \$170 for NEAGC members, will include tours, two luncheons, reception, seminar lectures and closing banquet. Lodging reservations can be made at the Millville Motor Inn, telephone (609) 327-3300. Please identify yourself as being with the National Glass Seminar, as we have reserved a block of rooms for our registrants.

Wheaton Village has a magnificent glass museum, housed in an atrium-style building, in the genre of the late 19th century New Jersey architecture. A special exhibit of glass molds, never before made public, will be on display. The seminar program will emphasize the influence of molds in glassmaking from ancient to modern times.

Further information will be available by contacting Wheaton Village, National Glass Seminar, Millville, NJ, telephone (609) 825-6800.

Ellen Roberts
National Seminar Chr.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, *continued*

collections not only as possessions, but as objects of historical value and beauty which are temporarily under our care—others will come after us to continue their preservation. But what can we accomplish for our communities? Is there a community-relations role for NEAGC chapters, perhaps with help from the national organization? Answers to such questions are not immediately apparent but do bear some consideration.

Over the coming months my energies will be directed toward making our organization a highly responsive and informative entity for our members and potential members who may number among a glass-literate public and, to stimulate the interest of the professional as well as the true amateur. I am looking forward to working with all of our chapters and individual members and especially toward meeting and corresponding with as many of you as our busy schedules will allow. My special thanks to the present and past presidents, members of the boards, chairpersons and individual members who wished me well in my new position in the National Early American Glass Club.

Yours truly,
Francis N. Allen

Seminar - Chicago - '89

by Grace Carolyn Dahlberg

*How we waited! How we planned!
Nervous flashes - how we fanned!
As the seminar drew near
We printed, cut and folded here.
Polished nails, washed our tresses,
Searched, discarded, chose our dresses,
Wondering, "Will they like our city?"
"Think we're friendly, our glass pretty?"
"Will it rain?" "Or - horrors, snow?"
"Will the lake winds blow and blow?"
"Wonder how the Midland ranks?"
(We suffer second city angst.)
Not to have worried! Not to fret!
They declared it "best one yet."
Liked our style and friendly faces,
Chicago's sights and lovely places,
Midland people made our day.
Weather - while not great - OKAY.
For twenty years we've been affiliate
but not quite part - it seems so silly, yet
Now we've hosted seminar
and National knows who we are!*

(GREATER CHICAGO GLASS
COLLECTORS CLUB, NEAGC)Editor's Note: Carolyn is CHICAGO'S
president.

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

Thru Dec. 31

Exhibit: "The American Craftsman & the
European Tradition, 1620-1820," The
Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis,
MN (Tel. 612-870-3000).

April 7

Antique Glass Collectors' Sale - NEAGC
Members exhibiting - For space write Bill
Sheriff, 1222 Pinecrest Circle, Silver Spring,
MD 20910. Sponsored by the 10 D.C. area
chapters of NEAGC. Armory Place, Silver
Spring, MD.

May 3-5

Seminar - Sixth National Glass Seminar
sponsored by The National Early American
Glass Club, at Wheaton Village, Millville,
NJ.

May 10 - Oct. 21

Exhibit: Russian Glass of 17th-20th century
Corning Museum of Glass.

June 23 & 24

Antiques Show & Sale - Andrew Mellon
Hall, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, PA.
Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter,
NEAGC. Tel. (412) 828-2224. Preview,
June 22.

Oct. 17-20

Seminar - 30th Annual Seminar on Glass,
Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY.
Tel.: (607) 937-5371 for seminar brochure.

NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE

With our new membership chairman living
in Maryland, all NEAGC dues are to be sent to
this new address: Membership Chairman, The
National Early American Glass Club, Box
8489, Silver Spring, Maryland 20907.
DO NOT send information for *The Glass Club
Bulletin* or *Glass Shards* to this address. The
Cambridge, Massachusetts box has been closed.
Please pass this information on to your chapter
treasurer. Otherwise, dues will be lost in the
mail. THANK YOU!

NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE

Glass Show, April 7

Where do museum curators, restless glass
collectors and dealers hunt the best glass
buys??? Why, at the Antique Glass Collectors'
Sale in Silver Spring, Maryland, at Armory
Place! Sponsored by the 10 D.C. area chapters
of NEAGC, exhibiting at this show is open to
members of The National Early American
Glass Club only... but we will take any
customer we can get! Mark April 7 on your
calendar. Give Bill Sheriff a ring at (301) 588-
6809 or write him at 1222 Pinecrest Circle,
Silver Spring, MD 20910 to reserve your table,
and at a nominal fee! Art glass, cut glass, flint
glass, 20th century glass, colored tablewares...
you name it, we sell it! See you there!

Russian Glass of the
17th-20th Centuries

In 1990, The Corning Museum of Glass will
display a comprehensive exhibition of glass
made in Russia, including many works never
before shown outside the Soviet Union.

"Russian Glass of the 17th-20th Centuries,"
which will be shown only in Corning, will be
on view from May 10 to October 21. The staff
of the Corning Museum and colleagues at five
museums in the U.S.S.R. have been planning
this exhibition for nearly four years.

More than 170 objects from Russian
museums, the Soviet Ministry of Culture, and
the personal collections of several Russian
glassmakers will be on display. Some of these
works were designed for the imperial court;
others were made for Russian serfs. Featured
objects will include an elaborate dessert stand
created for the imperial family, a 19th-century
decanter in Russian peasant style, a cut glass
pitcher with silver mounting by the noted
Russian jeweler Peter Carl Faberge, elegant
20th-century Art Nouveau pieces made for the
last czar (Nicholas II), and works by today's
leading Russian artists.

The exhibition, organized by The Corning
Museum of Glass and the State Ministry of
Culture of the U.S.S.R., is funded in part by
grants from the National Endowment for the
Arts and the New York State Council on the
Arts.

Memorial Fund Campaign

With numerous holiday solicitations landing
in your mailbox these days, don't overlook the
NEAGC Memorial Fund appeal. Your dona-
tions are the perfect remembrance for a fellow
glass collector, deceased club member or loved
one. Recent donors include: Ellen Roberts;
Anna Hingle, in memory of Helen McKearin;
Betsy Hewlett, in memory of Ruth Higgen-
botham; Bob Lufkin, in memory of Helen
McKearin; and Dorothy Gamble, in memory
of her husband, Dr. Warren Gamble. (Remem-
ber a large Canadian delegation at our Cape
Cod seminar? Dr. Gamble organized that
group.)

Each of us *knows* glass has enriched our
lives; each of us *knows how* the National Early
American Glass Club has given us sharing,
knowledge and valued relationships. Give
something *back* to the NEAGC... GIVE TO
THE MEMORIAL FUND CAMPAIGN!

Education Resources

Kirk Nelson, new Education Resources
Chairman for NEAGC, is the person to contact
for videotape rentals suitable for monthly pro-
grams. (See NEAGC directory for titles.) Kirk
may be reached by writing him at Box 2226,
Sandwich, Massachusetts 02563, or by tele-
phone: Evenings (508) 771-5968, daytime (10
a.m. to 4 p.m.) (508) 888-0251.

Chicago Seminar

There were only 62 registrants at the
Chicago seminar, but congeniality and warmth
were everywhere! A handsome exhibit of early
American glass enhanced the gathering; se-
lected rare pieces from the collections of
Chicago chapter members included early cut,
overlay and pressed, in a bevy of handsome
colors and designs. The workshops were espe-
cially good this year, each held in a small
intimate room which made for better focus on
the topic. Our lecturers were tops in their field
and the only thing that could have made
seminar better was YOU. Please consider sup-
porting our seminar next year. The National
Early American Glass Club is dedicated to the
study and appreciation of glass, as stated in our
by-laws. Come, be a part... a *true* part of
NEAGC! And THANK YOU, CHICAGO for
a marvelous time! What a beautiful city, what
beautiful people!

Annual deadlines for *Glass Shards* are Novem-
ber 1 and March 1. Please forward your chapter
or museum news anytime prior to those dates to:
Sylvia Applebee Lyon, Editor, *Glass Shards*,
Box 57, Fishers Hill, Virginia 22626. It is the
responsibility of NEAGC members to remember
our deadlines. Copy *must be double spaced* for
readability. Thanks! Happy Holidays!

—Sylvia

Book on Ancient Glass Announced

The Toledo Museum of Art is proud to announce the publication of a major catalogue on the Museum's ancient glass collection, *Early Ancient Glass: Core-Formed, Rod-Formed, and Cast Vessels and Objects from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Roman Empire, 1600 B.C. to A.D. 50*. The 450-page catalogue was written by David F. Grose, Ph.D., professor of classics and archaeology at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and former curator of glass at the Toledo Museum.

The catalogue details the Museum's glass collection, which is one of the world's foremost collections of glass. It documents the artistic, historical and technological evolution of this medium over the course of 3,500 years. The collection is particularly notable for glass works of art from the Greek and Roman worlds, which was given to the Museum in 1919 by Edward Drummond Libbey.

Seven essays by Dr. Grose present the current state of knowledge and investigation in the field of ancient glass from the early Bronze Age to the early Roman Empire, including a total picture of the nature of the evidence, excavation material and technical investigations in the laboratory. The essays give a complete understanding of each period of glassmaking before the invention of glassblowing in the ancient world. A bibliography on all major topics is written specifically

for the reader interested in the history of glass and the development of glass technology. A final chapter explores reproduction, forgeries and fantasies by modern glassmakers. Glassworking cultures discussed include Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria, Cyprus and Mycenaean Greece of the Bronze Age to the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Egyptians and historic Greeks of the Iron Age, in addition to the various societies of the Hellenistic period and the Romans of the late Republican and early Imperial epochs.

Available in The Toledo Museum of Art Store at \$100, the catalogue is being distributed in the U.S. by Rizzoli International.

Research support for the catalogue has been provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The catalogue has been published with the assistance of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Margaret Levis Fund, and the Getty Grant Program.

Niggling Nelly © Sylvia Applebee Lyon



'They Tell Me I really blew an original piece, but I Miss My Teeth!'

**The National Early
American Glass Club**
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