



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL EARLY AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Winter 1992

Toronto Site of Seminar '93

A strong roster of excellent speakers has been invited to lecture at our Ninth National Glass Seminar in Toronto April 29-May 1. Chairlady Ellen Roberts reports that our headquarters will be the Toronto Intercontinental Hotel, across from the Royal Ontario Museum. All activities will be within easy walking distance.

Speakers for seminar include: Dwight Lanmon, Miriam Mucha, Paul Hollister, Barry Sautner, Susanne K. Frantz, William Gudenrath, Catherine Thuro, Rosalyn Morrison, and Brian Musselwhite.

Activities during seminar include a recep-

tion on April 28; tours of Spadeno and Casa Loma, two wonderful historical homes in Toronto with numerous collections to view; antiquing on the harbor front; a reception at the Ming Tomb and a visit to Sandra Ainsley's Contemporary Glass Gallery.

Seminar topics include outstanding lectures on Canadian glass, nineteenth century pattern glass, contemporary glass, French glass and other glass subjects, unavailable as we go to press. (A full seminar agenda will be mailed to all members sometime after the first of the year.) Please be aware that until all plans are finalized, the flyer cannot be

printed, so please be patient!

Unless you have been to one of the NEAGC seminars, you cannot imagine the pleasure you will receive from this memorable happening in your life! Come... dare to talk to the people around you, laugh and have the time of your life!

In the meantime, if you need to have any questions answered, Ellen says to write to her at 1026 16th Street, NW, #501, Washington, DC 20036.

LAISSEZ LE BONS TEMPS ROULER!

— Sylvia Lyon

President's Letter

During a recent trip to Europe, I had an opportunity for two overnights in Vienna—coming and going. What to see in such a short time? Well, dominating the old city, of course, was the *Dom* and I did manage its 72 meter circular stone stairway in the bell tower, thereby adding real meaning to "breathtaking view." Not too far from that vantage point was Emperor Franz Joseph's *Das Kunst Historische Museum Wein* with its monumental collection of carved rock crystal. That visit was altogether too short for I could barely absorb the magnificence of so much "I can hardly believe it isn't glass."

In between these two landmarks are hundreds of shops clustered along narrow streets. On one street, *Kartnerstrasse* in particular, you cannot navigate without ricocheting from one brilliant glass display to another and, eventually, my zigzagging led to number 26. Long ago, I had promised myself that, should I ever get to Vienna, the firm of J. & L. Lobmeyr would be a must... and this was to be a wish fulfilled. Inside their late nineteenth century "historismus style" edifice was wall-to-wall "*Joie de verre*." Its balconied interior was filled with glass of every description, radiating a full spectrum of color, and punctuated only by the delicate hues of really great china.

Having introduced myself to the proprietors, Harry and Peter Rath, as representing an organization dedicated to glass, their establishment became an open house. On the ground floor one becomes immersed in glass. Eventually the browsing leads to an elaborate curving stairway rising to the first balcony which continues the endless variety of color and glitter below it. Harry mentioned that the store was the scene of a wedding not long ago and the bride was an absolute vision descending that staircase. I was invited to roam freely about Lobmeyr's, including the top balcony where their museum was located. Here, the Lobmeyr collection presided over a brilliant chasm, dropping to the street floor below. On this level was glass of every description representing many manufacturers and countries, and including examples of just about every type marketed by J. & L. Lobmeyr during their nearly 173 year history. At each end of the elongated balcony-museum were enormous scrapbooks containing clippings, advertising, photographs and other memorabilia documenting highlights of Lobmeyr's existence. I visited Lobmeyr's on both passages through Vienna; the Rathes were most gracious and accommodating as was their staff.

In a city with so much to offer, as is the case with so many other cities, I can only say it is well to seek out not only the great cathedrals and museums, but also the non-

tourist attractions, the "Lobmeyrs" of other cities, whether they be glass marketers or glassmakers. Despite these brief sojourns, my memories of Vienna are particularly enriched by the quiet charm of J. & L. Lobmeyr.

—Francis N. Allen



The National Early American
GLASS CLUB

A rough draft of the new NEAGC logo. Congratulations to Sharon Smith Abbott, Director, NEAGC, and Education Resources chairman, Kirk Nelson!

Chapter News

GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

To celebrate their 25th anniversary this past June, the GREATER CHICAGO GLASS COLLECTORS' CLUB gathered for an antiquing tour in Algonquin, Illinois followed by a luncheon on a riverboat. Grace Carolyn Dalhberg reports that only a couple of originals are still members, "due to death, moving away, or other attritions" ... however, today GREATER CHICAGO has around 23 active members and some of the best programs. For instance, their annual September "Show and Tell" of summer finds (and what finds there were!). In addition, Chicago had a short program by Caroline Jacobsen in her wonderful old farmhouse. The subject was Portland (Maine) glass. Tree of Life, by Portland and other factories. The recent *Glass Club Bulletin* on the subject was so timely and helpful. Caroline is probably the Midwest "Expert" on this subject, and was a personal friend of Miss Dana. Members enjoyed meeting her at Caroline's many years ago. One of Chicago's members now lives part time in England and tells members great stories of English antiquing. Another member went on an antique trip to Great Britain. She had her picture on the front page of one of their national magazines. A photographer had followed her group from site to site.

The EAGC OF MINNESOTA began the 1992-93 year in September with a report of the highlights of the Seattle seminar and sharing of the "Find of the Summer." Greentown Glass was the topic of Minnesota's October meeting with guest speaker, Delores Lewis. In November members visited the International Design Center in Minneapolis, where Betsy Norgard of the American Scandinavian Center focused members' attention on contemporary Scandinavian and German glass. A special treat came in December when Bea Smith spoke about New England Pomona and its variants and showed examples from her extensive collection.

At their December meeting in Boston, THE FOUNDERS CHAPTER, NEAGC enjoyed a full-day discussion on glass collecting perils and pitfalls. Members brought glass items and questionable pieces for discussion and identification. Dorothy-Lee Jones, founder and director of the Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics, Douglas Hill, Maine and Kirk J. Nelson, Curator of Glass, Sandwich Glass Museum, Sandwich, Massachusetts, directed the discussion. At their January meeting, Frank E. Jedlicka led the morning program speaking on "Early American Blown & Pressed Glass." An afternoon program, "Imperial Glass" by Frank C. Maloney completed the session.

... And where was *your* chapter news for this issue?

Bergstrom-Mahler Receives Sculptures

The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum is the recipient of a generous gift of contemporary art glass from the collection of Don and Carol Wiiken of Illinois. The gift is comprised of eight contemporary glass sculptures and two paperweights, all by highly acclaimed studio artists.

Among the sculptures are works by Seattle artist Ginny Ruffner, whose poignant humor and art historical punning has placed her in the forefront of contemporary glass; Harvey Littleton, the recognized founder of the studio glass movement; Marvin Lipofsky, an early student of Littleton who has been instrumental in sharing glass information and creating new forms in glass; and Michael Pavlik, an artist who has taken great liberty with European glass tradition and brought it into a contemporary identity.

These eight sculptures begin to reflect the broad range of imaginative work being executed in the glass medium on an international scale, but also reflect the boundless energy and enthusiasm for the medium by those who collect glass.

Carol and Don Wiiken have been collecting studio glass for many years, are avid supporters of the artists and continually share

their energy and expertise with glass organizations in order to nurture the interest and support of this versatile craft medium as art.

Their gift to Bergstrom-Mahler also demonstrated support of the glass movement, but it was not unique. The Museum was the recipient of their generosity along with several other museums across the country. Such generous support enables growth in museum collections that is not possible otherwise.

Two new paperweights by noted glass artists join the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum collection also as part of this gift. An early paperweight by Paul Stankard and an unusual piece by William Carlson have been added.

F. John Barlow has also continued the growth of the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum collection of limited edition paperweights by Perthshire Paperweights of Scotland. Barlow has pledged an annual gift to the Museum of new Perthshire Limited Edition pieces of which there were seven produced for 1991. Thercent gifts are currently on view at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum.

Mike Belkin, President AACG

At their annual meeting in Chicago last fall, the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass elected Mike Belkin as president for 1992-93.

Glass Weekend for June 11-13, 1993 at Millville, NJ, and Glass Weekend for May 22-24, 1994 at Corning, NY were announced.

The Glass Weekends will be joint ventures between the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, the Creative Glass Center of America and the Corning Museum.

The next meeting for the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass will be held in Millville, NJ, in conjunction with Glass Weekend.

For more information please contact Mike Belkin at 216-247-2722.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

NEAGC is slowly growing every year, but we would like to grow faster. Our largest single source of new members are the membership brochures that people pick up at shows and gatherings, or are supplied by our dealer members. If our members would help distribute brochures in their areas to antique shows, malls, friends, customers, etc., I believe we could expand our membership at a greater pace. If you would like to help, please contact me and let me know how many brochures you wish, and I will be glad to send them to you. Nancy Sheriff, Box 8489, Silver Spring, MD 20907.

DUNCAN GLASS MUSEUM PLANNED

For the last 17 years the National Duncan Glass Museum has been housed in two rooms of the LeMoyne House, home of the Washington County Historical Society.

The Duncan Society recently purchased a building at 525 Jefferson Ave. in Washington, PA, to be converted into a museum. This building, which cost \$20,000, can be converted into a most attractive museum. Renovation will cost an estimated \$65,000. Restoration includes such major items as heating and climate control, extensive electrical work, security system, plumbing, carpeting, painting, floor tiling, exterior work including a paved parking lot, furniture, and display equipment.

In order to meet our goal we need the full support of every member. Your generous gift is vital to the success of achieving our own museum. Pledge cards are available so that your contribution may be paid over a period of three years; it's tax deductible, and will be acknowledged promptly. Write: Duncan Glass Society, Box 965, Washington, PA 15301. Please help us make this museum a significant reflection of the beauty of our glassware.

—George Jalos, President



Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

Present thru May 30, 1993

Exhibition: Twenty works by contemporary glass artisan, Dale Chihuly. Gallery 10, Toledo Museum of Art. (Free.) Tel. for info.: (419) 255-8000.

March 27, 1993

Glass Show & Sale; sponsored by D.C. area chapters, NEAGC; wonderful glass from all periods. Show hours: Sat. 10-5; Info: Sheriff, Tel. (301) 588-6809. Armory Place, Corner Wayne Avenue & Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD.

Present thru April 30, 1993

Exhibition: "The Colorful Clevengers" — An exhibit of South Jersey Glass from the collection of Thomas Haunton. On MARCH 28, 1993 "The Clevengers of Clayton" slide presentation will be given at 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Info: Joanne Bradley, Curator, (609) 845-7881, Gloucester County Historical Society Museum, 58 North Broad St., Woodbury, NJ 08096.

April 24 & 25, 1993

WESTCHESTER GLASS SHOW & SALE, Greenwich Civic Center, Old Greenwich, CT. Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 12-5. Sponsored by the WESTCHESTER GLASS CLUB, a chapter of NEAGC. Info: Molly & Duff Allen, Tel. (508) 540-5339.

April 29-May 1, 1993

NEAGC GLASS SEMINAR, Toronto, Canada, Canada Intercontinental Hotel. Mailing with full seminar details will be mailed out after the first of the year to all NEAGC members. Reception April 28.

September 12-November 14, 1993

Exhibition: Toledo Museum of Art — "Studio Craft and the Saxe Collection."

For info: Tel. (419) 255-8000, 123 contemporary objects of glass, clay, fiber, metal and wood.

October 14, 15, 16, 1993

Glass Seminar: 33rd Annual Corning Museum of Glass. To be put on mailing list for brochure, call (607) 437-5371; "2,000 Years of Drinks & Drinking Glasses" exhibition.

NOVEMBER 6 & 7, 1993

Glass Show & Sale: Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale sponsored by the Christian Dorflinger Glass Study Group, a chapter of NEAGC in Silver Spring. Armory Place, corner Wayne Ave. & Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD. For info: Tel. (301) 933-2339, Mary Rutley, or (301) 589-1806, Peg Hall, co-managers.

If your museum, glass club or historical society has a glass exhibit and/or lecturers on glass planned for 1993, please send all information to me as soon as possible. Just the bare facts, i.e., date, institution, title, telephone number (for further information) are enough. I can add more details as you send them to me. Our members use Glass Calendar for vacation planning. *Glass Shards* deadlines are Nov. 1 and Mar. 1. Mail received *before* those dates is held until publishing time. Mail your planned events to: Sylvia Applebee Lyon, Editor, GLASS SHARDS, Box 57, Fishers Hill, VA 22626. Our next issue in April should have summer, fall and early (1993) winter happenings. Send prior to Mar. 1 if possible. Also, any museum or institution having glass of any quantity, please send me a press release describing your collection. Thanks!

Dorflinger Chapter Donates to Wheaton

MILLVILLE, N.J.—The glass artists who work at Wheaton Village are able to enjoy a new diamond grinding wheel and discs, thanks to a generous donation from the CHRISTIAN DORFLINGER GLASS STUDY GROUP of Silver Spring, Md., a chapter of the National Early American Glass Club.

Barry Taylor, president of the Wheaton Cultural Alliance, Inc., recently announced that the Village has received a substantial gift from the DORFLINGER group, and that arrangements are being made to purchase the new equipment as soon as possible for the T.C. Wheaton Glass Factory.

"We're very grateful to the club for providing us with the funds," said Don Friel, manager of the glass factory. "The wheel will be used to supplement the existing

grinding wheels in the shop by both the resident glass artists and the artists who have received fellowships from the Village's Creative Glass Center of America."

According to Friel, the wheel will require less maintenance than other similar equipment and will also make the factory more environmentally safe by producing less pollutants into the air.

Taylor invited members of the DORFLINGER CHAPTER to visit Wheaton Village to see the machinery in operation.

For almost 20 years, DORFLINGER members have sponsored the Montgomery County Antique Glass Show & Sale in Silver Spring, Maryland on the first weekend in November. Funds realized are used to benefit glass museums and other glass-related causes.

NEAGC Honors Paul V. Gardner

At NEAGC's annual seminar in Bethesda, Maryland last May, Paul V. Gardner was designated an Honorary Life Member of the National Early American Glass Club by club president, Francis N. Allen. In so doing, he presented Paul with a glass apple created by Audrey Handler as a reminder that, "He is, and always will be, our teacher."

Paul Gardner is best known for his substantial documentary, *The Glass of Frederick Carder*, (Crown, N.Y., 1971). Mr. Gardner worked for Frederick Carder from 1929 until 1943, when he left for active duty with the US Navy. After the war, Paul accepted a position with the Smithsonian Institution; there he rose to Curator, Division of Ceramics and Glass, Museum of History and Technology. Presently Curator Emeritus of The Smithsonian, Mr. Gardner also served as First Vice President of NEAGC 1986-87. Always willing to share his extensive knowledge in all aspects of glass technology and history, he has been a frequent lecturer at NEAGC seminars, and a regular on the stage of the Corning Museum seminar glass identification clinics. We look forward to more of Paul's vignettes on his days with Frederick Carder, as well as his keen wit and sharing of his glass expertise. —FNA

Exhibit to Close Temporarily

The Wheeling glass exhibit at Oglebay Institute Mansion Museum in Wheeling, WV, will be temporarily closed to the public beginning February 1, 1993.

The Wheeling collection features the products of its five major glass companies including Ritchie, Sweeney, Hobbs-Brockunier, Central and Northwood. This exhibit is moving from the Mansion to a newly-constructed Oglebay Glass Center that will include glass blowers and decorators as well as sales shops.

The Wheeling glass exhibit will open in its new location in the early summer of 1993. An exact opening date will be announced later. If you have any questions about the glass collection, please call the Oglebay Institute Mansion Museum at (304) 242-7272.

—John A. Artzberger
Director, Oglebay Institute

CUP PLATE EXCHANGE

If you collect early American cup plates and are interested in expanding your collection through exchange or purchase from other collectors, please contact Walter Moore, RD 5, Box 638, Milford, NE 19963.

Award Won by Toledo Guest Curator

The jury of the Italian firm "L'Erma" di Bretschneider has presented its sixth publication award to Eva Marianne Stern, guest curator of Roman glass at The Toledo Museum of Art, for her manuscript on Roman mold-blown glass. One of the most prestigious international prizes for scholarly publications, this award is presented only once every five years and provides funds for publication.

Dr. Stern, whose scholarship is described as "brilliant" by "L'Erma" president Roberto Marcucci, has worked since 1986 on the Museum's project to publish its remarkable ancient glass collection. A native of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Dr. Stern did her graduate studies in classics and archaeology at the University of Amsterdam and the University of Heidelberg. She came to the Toledo Museum after teaching at the University of Leiden, and her studies in Toledo have been supported by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Dr. Stern's manuscript, the first of a three-volume catalogue of the Museum's collection of over 1,100 pieces of Roman and Byzantine glass, is devoted to Roman mold-blown glass, some 168 pieces dating from the first to the fourth centuries A.D. The Museum's collection of this particular technique of Roman glassmaking is the largest and finest in the world. Dr. Stern has made many discoveries about how and why many of these types of glass vessels were made. Her research has included "experimental archaeology." She is the only scholar in the field of ancient glass studies who is also an accomplished glass artist and is internationally renowned for recreating lost Roman glassworking and glassblowing techniques.

David W. Steadman, the Museum's director, commented, "The award is particularly significant because it places this research and publication project among the foremost research efforts in the field of Roman studies now being undertaken in any museum setting." He added that it is the unique combination of the Museum's comprehensive collection of Roman glass, the Museum's Glass Crafts Building where experiments in ancient glassmaking techniques have been possible, and Dr. Stern's expertise in this specialized field that led to the award.

The award is two-fold. It includes a cash prize that will be shared by Dr. Stern and the Museum, and it guarantees that the manuscript can be published in book form at the expense of "L'Erma" di Bretschneider. The latter part of the award is most significant, because the cost of producing such a long, heavily-illustrated, scholarly catalogue can amount to more than \$100,000, funds which the Museum would otherwise need to raise from grants and private donations.

Dr. Stern's distinguished volume of Roman mold-blown glass—the most comprehensive study of its kind ever under-

taken—is scheduled to be published in late 1993 or 1994. Two sequel volumes are planned.



Newsletter on Antique Reproductions

Antique & Collectors Reproduction News (ACRN) is a new monthly publication covering three areas: 1) reproductions, including old look-alikes; 2) markings, faked and forged on old and new pieces; and 3) condition, how to detect damages and hidden repairs. Too busy to read? Then just flip the pages—each monthly issue features 30-50 close-up photos of new and old shown side by side. All this and more for under \$3 a month. To subscribe dial 1-800-227-5531.



When I started this issue of *Glass Shards*, fall was "dropping dress"; oak leaves were doing a Fred & Ginger glide across our stone porch floor; presently, we have been snow-bound for the past two days. As I look below us, the little village homes are gaily lit, casting colorful reflections on the glacier-like snow outside. Across the way, a country church is spotlighted, illuminating soldier blue mountains huffed with white. I think of you, winter and the year ahead; I hope it brings you inner peace and an opportunity to do something worthwhile to help someone less fortunate than yourself. Remember also to give a significant contribution to your favorite glass museum in the months ahead. Whether it's a monetary gift or a gift of glass, our museums sorely need our support. I hope you and yours have a quiet and happy winter. Happy New Year! Sylvia... (from a hilltop in the Shenandoah Mountains).



Niggling Nelly



Sylvia A. Lyon

Fee Schedule (Today)

- * \$10.00 - a Good Guess
- * 20.00 - IF we look it up
- * 30.00 - IF Warman's doesn't list it.
- * 50.00 - IF we have to look elsewhere - (Novel's)
- * 2.00 - your guess is as good as ours.
- *****
- Swindle & Sons
- *****
- We Appraise What We Don't Know!

So, how much is your charge if I Look it up Myself?

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