

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Winter 1997

20th Century Italian Masterpieces at Corning

The Corning Museum of Glass will present the only American showing of 200 pieces of mid-20th-century Italian glass from the collection of the Steinberg Foundation in Liechtenstein in the 1997 special exhibition, "Italian Glass, 1930-1970: Masterpieces of Design from Murano and Milan."

The exhibition will be the most comprehensive showing of modern Italian glass in the United States to date. Organized by the Kunstmuseum Dusseldorf, Germany, it will travel to Japan after leaving Corning.

While the exhibition extends across four decades, there will be a special emphasis on the 1950s and the foremost Italian glass producer of that period: Venini & Co. Designers, craftsmen, and other companies to be featured in the show include: Alfredo Barbini, Ercole Barovier, Eugene Berman, Erwin Burger, Fulvio Bianconi, Gino Cenedese, Miroslav Hrtka, Tyra Lundgren, "Dino" Corrado Martens, Napoleone Martinuzzi, Ermanno Nason, Flavio Poli, Carlo and Tobia Scarpa, Archimede Seguso, Thomas Stearns, Paolo Venini, Massimo Vignelli, Tapio Wirkkala, Arte Vetraria Muranese (A.V.E.M.), Aureliano Toso, Barovier & Toso, Fratelli Toso, Studio Ars Labor Industrie Riunite (S.A.L.I.R.), and Seguso Vetri d'Arte.

A symposium on mid-20th-century Italian glass, featuring lectures by European and American experts, will be sponsored by the Museum on May 30 and 31, 1997. Among the presenters will be Anna Venini Diaz de Santillana, Helmut Ricke, Rosa Barovier Mentasti, Marc Heiremans, Lino Tagliapietra, and Thomas Stearns. The symposium is supported

by a grant from the Alice Tully Foundation.

Mid-20th-century Italian glass is one of today's most active fields of research and collecting. The glories of Italian glass design and craftsmanship, which have centered largely on the island of Murano in the Venetian



Block with female face
Design by Riccardo Licata, 1952

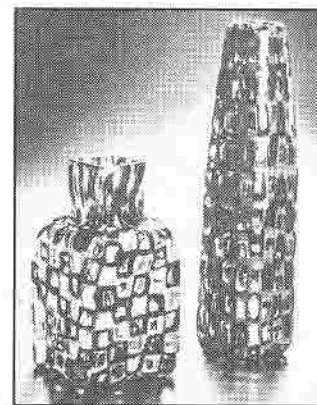
lagoon, represent many of the greatest achievements in the history of glassmaking. During the first half of the 20th century, artists such as Umberto Belloso, Paolo Venini, and Vittorio Zecchin rescued Venetian glass production from the decline of historical revivalism.

Immediately following the end of World War II, Italian glassmakers created a distinctively modern interpretation of the ancient material, which helped to establish their country's position as a leader in international design. Styles ranged from Carlo Scarpa's cool cerebral

vessels to the dynamic and sometimes outrageous sculpture of Fulvio Bianconi.

The field was infused with new life by architect-designers, as well as by local and foreign artists. Employing their time-honored and unrivaled skills, Muranese glassmakers met the challenge of producing avant-garde designs while adhering to traditional standards of quality. Without such superb technical resources, many of the new concepts would never have been realized.

A new, comprehensive 280-page book on Italian glass will accompany the exhibition. Published by Prestel-Verlag of Munich, *Italian Glass, 1930-1970: Masterpieces from Murano and Milan*, includes an English text and more than 250 full-color illustrations. The book was co-authored by Eva Schmitt and



Vases, Occhi
Design by Tobia Scarpa, 1962

Dr. Helmut Ricke, director of the Kunstmuseum Dusseldorf and curator of the Glasmuseum Hentrich (Germany).

President's Letter

There is nothing like witnessing the actual production of glass as it's done today. A small factory is perfect for seeing this. To actually stand on the floor looking into bubbling, red, molten glass surrounded by glistening reflective gold walls of these 2400° "glory holes" is a miracle of science. Dalzell Viking Co., New Martinsville, W.V. was the site for 75 visitors and 20 or so gaffers and helpers performing their rhythmic movements of creativity. From all these steps to bins of cullet to lehrs to inspection stations, a single molded piece of glass passes through at least nine hands before being wrapped and shipped to its destination. Just look at the next price tag and think of how many people are involved in the process. Today's glass products still rely on people and each must do his or her job well or the process breaks down. I like that. It makes the world a bit more human somehow.

Our guide, Clarence, has been with this plant since 1934. He knew my uncle, Sam Westerman, who was working there when Clarence started working as a boy. It was known then as the New Martinsville Glass Co., and evolved into Viking Glass and then closed. It reopened as Dalzell Viking in 1991. Dr. James Measell's book about the New Martinsville Glass Co. is a fine documentary and worthy of any American glass bookshelf.

Corning's exhibit this year was particularly exciting because it featured the Danish Royal Collection. Speakers at the seminar included Jorgen Hein, curator of the Royal Danish collections in Copenhagen since 1978 and Jan Kock, curator of glass and medieval archeology at the Aalborg Historical Museum from 1974-1994. Mr. Kock has written many books and articles on the history of Danish glass. The exhibited glass was so diverse in nature that one had to choose one or two pieces or only a few to study. Most were royal gifts from Bohemia, Russia, Italy, Sweden and on and on. Each time period was represented by the best of its day. There is no doubt, Corning is the champagne of glass forums. Next year we will be treated to 20th century glass.

Dorflinger Glass Show, the first weekend in November in Silver Spring, MD gets more exciting every

year. The finest glass dealers in the country assembled just for this show. The Dorflinger Chapter of NAGC sponsors the show. Members of the group assume various responsibilities for the tasks at hand. They make the job look easy when we know it isn't at all. Congratulations to everyone involved. The show was a tremendous success. A bittersweet addition to the excitement of this November weekend was the disposal by auction of the Helen Barger estate. The frontpiece of the catalog showed the American cranberry and clear engraved and cut glass stemmed liqueur by Dorflinger, from the Lincoln service, circa 1861, engraved with the great seal. It was sold, after spirited bidding, for \$8,500 plus a 15% buyers commission. It can be seen in the Dorflinger Museum in White Mills, NY.

Let's make this a record year for bringing in new members. Talk to your friends and acquaintances and invite them to a chapter meeting or to auctions and shows. Talk about the NAGC-talk about glass.

-Ellen Roberts, President, NAGC

Westchester Glass Show

The 21st Collectors Glass Show will take place on April 19 and 20, 1997 at the Greenwich Civic Center, Old Greenwich, Conn.

The show will feature glass of all periods and will be limited to sixty established dealers in fine glass. There will be glass repair, free IDs, an ongoing demonstration of glass cutting and a presentation on Saturday called "Voices from the Past: T.G. Hawkes in the 1880s".

Using materials from the Hawkes archives, Joan and Richard Randles, owners of "From the Cutters Wheel" will recreate the life and times of the 1880s as it relates to the cut glass industry in America.

Ray Barlow and Joan Kaiser will once again be on hand to share their love and knowledge of glass.

Please call Douglas Reed for further information at (201) 763-4524.

Members, Please Note

In order to reach the widest possible audience, please distribute Membership Brochures at antique shows, lectures and in shops. This is our most effective means of obtaining new members. We got 6 new members from brochures at the Farm Show in Harrisburg in November. Brochures may be requested from me, Nancy Sheriff, Membership Chairman at: P.O. Box 8489, Silver Spring, MD. 20907. Thank you.

Membership Report - 1996

Annual Report

	10/15/95	5/2/96	10/10/96
Membership			
Individuals & Households (2)	1509	1611	1456
Memberships Total	1261	1328	1186
Chapter Members	689		667
International Memberships	26	31	21
Household Members	248	283	270
Institutions	52	50	45
Students	3	4	2
Sustaining	49	50	41
Supporting	16	18	16
Donor	2	2	2
Life	37	37	36
Honorary	1	1	1
Courtesy	2	2	2
New Members	57	133	55
Response - paid ads	7	1477	
Response - Chapters & Brochures	50	119	48
Response - Brochures	27	79	26
New Chapter members	23	40	22

Respectively submitted, Nancy Sheriff

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised)

January 18 - April 6, 1997

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, The Museum of the British Glass Industry, Compton Dr., Kingswinford, W. Midlands, DY6 9NS, UK (0134) 812745. *Battles & Beasties: Masterpieces of Victorian Engraving*. The art of copper-wheel engraving at its height 100 years ago in Stourbridge.

January 25 - May 4, 1997

WHEATON VILLAGE, Millville, NJ., at the Museum of American Glass. (609) 825-6800, or (800) 998-4552. *Silvers of Light: Rich Cut Oil Lamps*. An exhibit of 27 examples of Rich Cut oil lamps from the collection of Jim and Jean Wilson. Please read more in this issue. Admission, \$6.50 Adults, \$5.50 Seniors, \$3.50 Students, Children under 5 are free. (Reduced admission in Jan. - March.)

February 1 & 2, 1997

WHEATON VILLAGE, Millville, NJ., at the Museum of American Glass. (609) 825-6800, or (800) 998-4552. *Mid-Winter Antiques and Collectibles Show & Sale*. Indoor show with over 60 quality dealers from four states. Includes glass china, furniture, toys and jewelry. 10am - 5pm both Saturday and Sunday. Admission, \$6.50 Adults, \$5.50 Seniors, \$3.50 Students, Children under 5 are free.

March 1997

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM, Sandwich, MA. (508) 888-0251. *Quest for the Best*. Items from the Sandwich Glass Museum's last 10 years of collecting, will be on display beginning this spring. More details on this and the coming symposium in the spring edition of the *Glass Shards*. The museum is closed for the month of January.

April 5, 1997

16TH ANNUAL GLASS COLLECTOR'S SHOW & SALE, held at the Silver Spring Armory, Georgia Ave. and Wayne, Silver Spring, MD.

April 12 - June 22, 1997

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, The Museum of the British Glass Industry, Compton Dr., Kingswinford, W. Midlands, DY6 9NS, UK (0134) 812745. *Science Fictions: Fact & Fantasy in Laboratory Glass*. From Dr. Jekyll to Dr. Frankenstein, our perception of science is closely related to the equipment that scientists work with.

April 19 - Oct. 26, 1997

THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, Corning, NY. (609) 937-5371. *Italian Glass, 1930 - 1970: Masterpieces of Design from Murano and Milan*. The only American showing of 200 pieces of mid-20th-century Italian glass from the Steinberg Foundation in

Liechtenstein. Please see the article on pg. 1 for more detail. A 280-page book accompanies the exhibit and is available from the Corning Museum sales department. FAX orders to (607) 937-3352, or E-mail at cmg@servtech.com.

April 19 & 20, 1997

WESTCHESTER GLASS SHOW & SALE, Greenwich Civic Center, Old Greenwich, CT. Sponsored by the Westchester Glass Club, a chapter of the NAGC. See article on pg. 2 for more detail. For more information call Douglas Reed (201) 763-4524 or the Civic Center at (203) 637-4583.

May 8 - 10, 1997

NAGC 13th Annual National Glass Seminar, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA. Seminar offers 10 speakers, 3 tours and a dinner and musical program. More details are coming in the mail and please read the article on pg. 5 in this issue. Call the chairman, Ms. Freeman, at (941) 966-4406 with questions.

November 6 - 8, 1997

MOUNT WASHINGTON ART GLASS SOCIETY, New Bedford, MA. The 1997 convention will be held at the Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA. The society promotes research, study, and appreciation of America's premier antique art glass. Please call David Fuchshuber at (817) 457-3246 for more detail.

Mount Washington Art Glass Society

The fifth annual convention of the Mount Washington Art Glass Society, Inc., was held November 7 - 9, 1996 at the Museum of American Glass in Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ. One of the largest exhibitions of Mt. Washington Peach Blow glass ever assembled was displayed. Members enjoyed programs about: Peach Blow glass, presented by Frederick Rindge; Mt. Washington Decoration, by Louis O. St. Aubin, Jr.; a tribute to Tiffany, by Jay Doros; Quezal glass by Gay LeClair Taylor; Pairpoint Metalwork with Mt. Washington Glass, by David Fuchshuber; and recent Mt. Washington research discoveries by Kenneth M. Wilson.

The 1997 convention will be held at the Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA., on November 6-8. The 1998 convention will be held in California.

The Mount Washington Art Glass Society, Inc., promotes research, study and appreciation of America's premier antique art glass. Mount Washington glass was manufactured during the late 1800s and early 1900s in New Bedford, MA. They produced art glass in Peach Blow, Rose Amber, Burmese, Lava, Cameo, Rich (brilliant) Cut, Crown Milano, Royal Flemish, Neapolitan Ware, Colonial Ware, Crown Pairpoint Ware, and many other decorative forms.

Membership in the MWAGS is open to all glass lovers and includes a quarterly newsletter: \$40.00 for two members at one address or \$30.00 for an individual. Please write to: P.O. Box 24094, Fort Worth, TX, 76124 for membership information.

Glass Collector's Show

The 16th annual Glass Collector's Show and Sale will be held at the Silver Spring Armory, Georgia Avenue and Wayne, Silver Spring, MD., on April 5, 1997. This show is sponsored by the Washington DC area chapters of NAGC and features collectors and dealers displaying and selling their glass.

NAGC Regional Designates

Beginning January 1, 1997 the NAGC will be divided into nine regions. Each region will be chaired by a regional representative. The regions and chairpersons are:

I. Northeast	ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT	Virginia Cutler (508) 428-7881
II. Mid-Atlantic (a)	NY, NJ, PA, WV	Ann Madarsz (412) 454-6352
Mid-Atlantic (b)	DE, MD, VA, DC	Jere Gibber (703) 768-6987
III. Southeast	NC, SC, KY, TN, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA	Anna Hingle (504) 045-4253
IV. Midwest	OH, IN, IL, ND, SD, MI, WI, MN, IA, MS, AK	Dorothy Peterson (612) 434-6445
V. Mountain & Southwest	NB, KA, OK, TX, NM, CO, WY, MT, ID, UT, AZ	Timothy Novak (409) 845-3211
VI. West	WA, OR, NV, CA, AL, HA, Canada West	Open
VII. Canada East		Joyce Warren (416) 639-9028
VIII. Overseas	England, Scotland, Europe, Middle East, Asia, Africa, So. America, Australia, New Zealand	Joyce Warren (416) 639-9028

The duties and obligations of the regional chairs include: keeping in touch with the clubs and individual members in their region. They will report any events, outstanding programs, glass shows, exhibits, and auctions to Dorothy Reid, our Chapter Liaison Director.

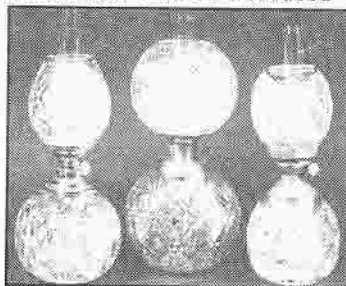
Rich Cut Oil Lamps at Wheaton Village

The Museum of American Glass at Wheaton Village presents "*Slivers of Light: Rich Cut Oil Lamps*" January 25 through May 4, 1997.

The museum has a new exhibit of 27 examples of Rich Cut oil lamps from the private collection of Jim and Jean Wilson. These lamps had a short but spectacular life span, which ended when electric lamps became readily available. Produced for 20 years, today there are only about 185 Rich Cut oil lamps known. This will be the largest museum exhibit dedicated solely to Rich Cut lamps.

Admission to the museum is \$6.50 for Adults, \$5.50 for Seniors and

\$3.50 for Students, and children 5 and under are free. There is a reduced



Rich Cut Kerosene Boudoir Lamps:
Patterns: *Lorraine, Sultana & Premier*

admission in the months of January, February and March. Please call the museum for more detail at (609) 825-6800, Ext. 2747 or 2746 or (800) 998-4552.

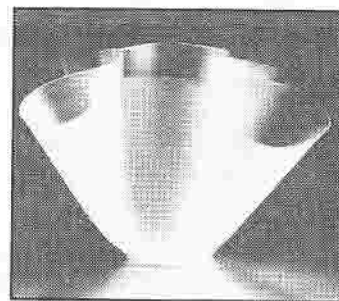
Italian Glass Experts at Corning

Several of the world's foremost experts on mid-20th-century Italian glass will present lectures during a symposium at The Corning Museum of Glass.

"Italian Glass, 1930-1970: A Symposium on Design, Art and Craft" will be held May 30-31, 1997.

The symposium, the first of its kind, will offer new research and discuss the issues surrounding this popular area of collecting. It will be held in conjunction with the museum's 1997 special exhibit, *"Italian Glass, 1930-1970: Masterpieces of Design from Murano and Milan"*.

The symposium lectures are open to the public. The admission fee is \$150 for members of The Corning Museum, \$175 for nonmembers, and \$90 for full-time students with valid identification.



Bowl, Fazzoletto
Design by Pietro Chiesa, 1936

Lectures are as follows:

"Napoleone Martinuzzi and the Sources of His Inspiration," by Rosa Barovier Mentasti.

"A Glass Love Affair: A Family and a Factory," by Anna Venini Diaz de Santillana.

"Collecting Italian Glass—Passion or Investment?," by Marc Heiremans.

"Thomas Stearns, Pioneering American Designer at Venini," by Susanne K. Frantz.

"Genuine or Fake? Problems of Authenticity in Glass from Murano," by Dr. Helmut Rieke.

"Current Issues in Mid-20th-Century Italian Glass," a round-table discussion by symposium speakers.

"How the Glass Was Made," by Lino Tagliapietra.

13th Annual NAGC Glass Seminar

An impressive array of speakers will present an impressive program, relevant to the exhibits in the Chrysler Museum of Art at the Norfolk Seminar, May 8, 9, and 10, 1997.

- May 7th - An optional trip to Mariners Museum at 2pm.
- May 8th - Visit to a private home to see fabulous art and contemporary glass, plus a reception.
- May 9th - Tour to Jamestown glasshouse and Virginia Museum of Fine Art.
- May 10th - Stellar evening: reception, Paul Hollister, honoree, dinner, time to peruse galleries, a musical program with James Turner.

The speakers will be:

- Gary Baker** - Our host. Curator of Glass, Chrysler Museum of Art.
 - Overview of the glass collection.
- Ivor Noel Hume** - Noted Director of Archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg.
 - Custis Family Glass.
- Gay Taylor** - Curator of Glass Museum of American Glass, Millville, NJ.
 - *Quezal Art Glass*.
- William Morris** - Art Director at Pilchuck - Contemporary artist.
 - The textures and shapes of his own work.
- Kyle Husfloen** -
 - *Collector's Guide to American Pressed Glass 1825-1915*.
 - Pattern designs & inspirations - pressed glass.
- Derek Ostergard** - Dean of Bard Graduate Center, NY.
 - A Swedish Retrospective 1918-1939.
- David Whitehouse** - Director, Corning Museum of Glass.
 - English Cameo - Chrysler's Antarctic Vase.
- Paul Hollister** -
 - *The Encyclopedia of Glass Paperweights (1969) NY*. Steuben's debt to Orrefors.
- James Armbruster & Scott Wolff** -
 - Photographing and Exhibit Lighting and Placement at the Chrysler Museum of Art.

-Carmen Freeman, *Chairman*

Prices Soar at Recent Flint Glass Auction

At the September auctions of the Sourbeer and Forkner estates, Green Valley Auctions, Inc., realized high prices for rare flint glass. A recently



discovered sapphire blue Sandwich GV-14 mold blown creamer sold for \$3,400!

A Waffle and Thumbprint water pitcher sold for an auction record of \$1,200, as did a Hamilton water pitcher. Other flint pieces were a Bull's Eye & Diamond Point wine, \$330 and a Fine Rib with Cut Bellflower goblet, \$625 another record price.

Highlights for lamps were a Bull's Eye & Diamond Point 3" hand lamp, \$400; Sandwich Early Moon & Star 3" child's hand lamp, \$350; Lincoln Drape 10.5" with marble base, \$525; and a blue opalescent Sheldon Swirl, \$500.

The company is planning more auctions for 1997. They can be reached for more information including the illustrated catalogs with prices at:

Green Valley Auctions, Inc.
Rt. 2, Box 434, Mt. Crawford, VA.
22841 (540) 434-4260.

From Carmen, about those Seminars...

Ever wonder what goes into the make-up of a seminar? How and why to we select this fabulous first-class or crummy run-down hotel, extraordinary or common food, luxurious or everyday school buses?

You have asked about locations - we look for glass first and last and always, either at a museum or private collections, the first criteria for a site. From there we look at housing, location, location, location. We lucked out at Dearborn with an on site first class accommodation. At Norfolk there are only two hotels to choose from - pick one- the available one in this instance. Availability and price are the next measuring tool. Sorry about the view, if there is one it is an unexpected bonus. Food - not always but mostly left to chance. We try to taste test and if we survive, that is it. Go for it! See you at Norfolk, a view of the Navy and a ride on the school bus.

ATTENTION READERS! PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS

The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be **May 1, 1997**. It is in the best interest of the NAGC to have more timely information available to our members. We will begin publishing this newsletter *3 times a year* beginning with this issue, having deadlines on **January 1st, May 1st and September 1st**.

The *Glass Calendar* is a valuable tool for those with upcoming events. This publication reaches over 1400 households and institutions across the nation. What better way to reach those interested in your event than to submit your news to the *Glass Shards*. **Please submit by mail or disk to:**

Alice Walsh, Editor, *Glass Shards*, 11 Bentwood Street, Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035

Readers Bid & Ask

Because this newsletter is the connection between members of the glass collecting world, this column seemed appropriate.

This information was intended for individuals who would like to reach others who have an interest in their glass or have glass to sell. This is not intended to be an area for professionals to advertise.

For now, non-advertising *Have to sell, Want to buy* only.

-from Jack Douglas

89 Owen Blvd.
North York, Ontario, Canada.
M2P 1G4
(416) 223-5256

Want to buy Toothpick Holders
(Art Glass). Thank you.

-from George Kahnle

86 Gates Ave., P O Box 92
Victory Mills, NY 12884-0092

Want to buy (desperately), stopper
for Mt. Washington glossy melon
ribbed Burmese cruet. Illustrated
Grover pg. 33, plate #37 left
example. Thank you.

**The National
American Glass Club**
Box 8489
Silver Spring, MD 20907



Members as Authors

To further share the talents and interests of our members, this publication will be happy to provide a place where authors can tell the membership about their recently published books, articles or videos concerning glass. Please send the title, subject matter and where copies may be obtained to:

(PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS): *Glass Shards*, Alice Walsh, Editor,
11 Bentwood Street, Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035

American Art Glass, 1880-1930.

(Collector Series)

ISBN 1-882649-02-8.

European Art Glass, 1880-1939.

(Collector Series).

ISBN 1-882649-03-6.

Under the guidance of art glass expert John A. Shuman III, these two videos explore the world of art glass in Europe and America.

Business Arts & Key Pictures,
distributed by Award Video & Film

Lion Pattern Glass,

Art Glass Sampler,

The Collector's Encyclopedia of

American Art Glass (3 editions).

The Collector's Encyclopedia of

Gaudy Dutch and Welsh

(2 editions).

All by John A. Shuman, III
Box 57, Pottstown, PA 19464
(610) 469-9325

"20th Century Glass," January 1997

issue *Echoes Magazine*, Mashpee,

MA. (508) 428-0077 and

<http://www.deco-echoes.com>

A column on glass designer Kaj Frank.

Vetri: Italian Glass News, P.O. Box

191, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Editor

Howard J. Lockwood

P.O. Box 191

Fort Lee, NJ 07024

(201) 969-0365

Chapter News

NAGC chapter in Minnesota continued its two year study of glass manufacture in the U.S. A recent meeting held this fall at the Minn. History Ctr. featured glass from its archives. All were from Mrs. Vernon Wright's collection, donated to the center after her death in 1951. The collection included blown three mold pieces and many interesting utilitarian items from the mid 19th century on.

THE GLASS SHARDS HAS MOVED.

Please update your mailing list and send materials to:

Alice Walsh, Editor, 11 Bentwood Street,

Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035 (508) 543-5364.



**NEXT ISSUE'S
DEADLINE
MAY 1, 1997**

First Class