



Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Winter 2009/2010

Blown Favrile Glass Works at The Corning Museum of Glass

The innovations and artistry of Louis Comfort Tiffany will be explored in an exhibition of his blown glass works opened at The Corning Museum of Glass in November 2009, and runs through October 31, 2010. *Tiffany Treasures: Favrile Glass from Special Collections* will showcase nearly 60 hand-wrought pieces designed by Tiffany during one of his most fertile periods of artistic ingenuity, and made at his glass-house in Corona, NY, between 1895 and 1920.

The decorative vases and functional vessels on view—including floral vases and cameo and Cypriot works—were made with Tiffany's signature Favrile glass, distinguished by its deeply toned, rich colors and often brilliant, iridescent finish. Trademarked in 1894, Favrile glass (the name is derived from the old English "fabrile" meaning "hand-wrought") quickly became fashionable and inspired many other designers.

The pieces in Tiffany Treasures are drawn primarily from the A. Douglas Nash and Edythe de Lorenzi Collections at Cornell University's Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, and from the rarely seen Frank and Mary Elizabeth Reifschlager collection of Tiffany glass donated by the couple to the Rockwell Museum in Corning, NY, in the early 1990s.

"This assemblage of beautiful blown glass objects reflects Tiffany's bold departure from the often fussy, predominantly Victorian style of the times in favor of more natural, sophisticated, and modern forms," says Jane Shadel Spillman, curator of American glass. "He created some

of his finest work in the first quarter century of production, between 1893 and 1918."

Tiffany Treasures also includes a stunning, highly unusual Tiffany Peacock blown-glass lamp. The lamp was donated to the Corning Museum fully shattered, but has now returned to its



full glory after a painstaking three-month restoration process by Museum conservators.

"The Corning Museum of Glass is one of the very few places where we can admire Tiffany's glass, and (in the Rakow Library) examine his original designs and his collaborators' notebooks, and see what his contemporaries accomplished, and watch glassmakers demonstrating some of the techniques that Tiffany's glassmakers used," says David Whitehouse, the Corning Museum's executive director.

The Corning Museum of Glass also hosts the largest permanent gallery of glass by Tiffany's chief artistic and

commercial rival, Frederick Carder, who was Steuben Glass Works' manager and principal designer from 1903 to 1932. During the run of the Tiffany Treasures exhibition, visitors will be able to examine and compare a variety of blown works by these two contemporaries.

Curator-led tours of the Tiffany Treasures exhibition, included in the cost of Museum admission, will be offered to the public on Fridays at 11:00 a.m. during the month of November.

From November 2, 2009, to April 30, 2010, the Museum's Rakow Research Library, the library of record on glass and glassmaking, will present Tiffany Treasures: Design Drawings by Alice Gouvy and Lillian Palmié, a complementary exhibition showcasing eight recently restored watercolor sketches by two of Tiffany's largely unacknowledged female employees from the enamel department of Tiffany Furnaces. Seven of the drawings bear Gouvy and Palmié's signatures, now made more clearly discernible thanks to the conservation work. The drawings depict plants and flowers in their natural state, forms that served as inspiration for much of Tiffany's work.

The Rakow Research Library also holds in its collection archives from Frederick Carder and from Arthur J. Nash, Tiffany's master glassmaker. Nash developed the unique formula for Favrile glass, which he never shared with anyone, including Tiffany. This coded recipe is part of his collection of notebooks and journals, acquired by the Library in 2004 along with unpublished letters and handwritten notes.

Corning Museum of Glass
(800) 732-6845 www.cmog.org

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, fall has begun and the days are gradually becoming more pleasant. Here in Florida we are looking forward to cooler weather with less humidity, and the return of our less stalwart part-time residents (aka snowbirds), whose contributions to our local economy are much appreciated.

In September and October I saw some of the many NAGC members who participate in activities sponsored by museums and other glass interest groups at two of the numerous annual educational seminars on various types of glass, glass collecting, and other glass-related issues offered to us throughout the year. I attended the Mt. Washington and Pairpoint Glass Society Seminar in New Bedford, MA September 10-12, held in conjunction with the Cape Cod Glass Show and Sale (sponsored by the Sandwich Glass Museum), and the 48th Corning Annual Seminar on Glass, October 15-17. Both of our Vice-Presidents, Jane Shadel Spillman and Kirk Nelson, spoke at the Mt. Washington Seminar. As is traditional, we scheduled an NAGC Board meeting during the Corning seminar since many of our officers and directors usually attend. In addition, the Carder Steuben Club scheduled a Symposium in Corning, NY for October 1-3 at which our Director Gay LeCleire Taylor was a speaker.

With sufficient notice, we are always happy to include these events in the Glass Calendar of this newsletter, and we encourage our members to support their areas of interest by providing timely notification to our editor.

Chapter Liaison Committee Chair Chuck Goding is working to promote communication between the chapters and National and will be seeking assistance and content from the chapters for future articles to appear in the Glass Shards.

Our new Treasurer John Kohut and Membership Chair Jim Davidson are working industriously to ensure that membership and financial records are updated to correctly reflect payment of dues and personal information on members to be included in our new Directory. Any chapters that have delayed sending in their membership renewals due to the summer hiatus should do so as soon as possible. A reminder letter was recently mailed to

those members who have not renewed their memberships. If you have renewed, or if you have changed your residence or email address, please notify Jim at your earliest opportunity so that he can correct our records. The Board is now considering sending the Glass Shards and the Glass Club Bulletin to our members electronically, as well as by mail, so the accuracy of our records is important. We also encourage our members to indicate an area of glass collecting interest, if applicable, in order to assist us in selecting lecture topics and research articles that will be of particular interest to our membership.

Save the dates: Our tentative schedule for the next NAGC Seminar is April 15-17, 2010 and for the trip to England May 4-13, 2010. Be sure to check out our website at www.glass-club.org for the most current information. In fact, if you haven't visited the website recently, you should check out the changes our Webmaster Francis Allen has made, including the online shopping option with Amazon.com that could benefit the NAGC.

We appreciate your continued support during these economically difficult times. Happy New Year!

Ken Depew, President

Duff S. Allen

The glass-collecting community lost a dedicated scholar when Duff S. Allen Jr. of Falmouth, MA died on October 20, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Mary, known to us all as Molly. The Allen collection began with one piece purchased in 1981. As member of the Westchester Glass Club, the Allens managed the club's premium glass show from 1986-1996. In 2000 they were founding members of the Cape Cod Glass Club.

Duff was a true scholar who scrutinized each object of the 19th Century American glass collection. With much sadness it was sold at auction in 2008.

Donations in Duff's memory may be made to the Accessions Fund of the Sandwich Glass Museum, PO Box 103, Sandwich, MA 02563

Kindly submitted by Joan E. Kaiser

Report on Membership from Jim Davidson

I finally got some time to look at our membership rolls (provided by Elissa Goldstein from her spreadsheet) and I am both shocked and amazed that we really do not know who we are. On her spreadsheet, we had a 2008/9 membership totaling approximately 692 people and/or organizations. Of that number, only 238 members shared with us their interests. Of those people, there were 329 collecting 'interests.'

Among the statistics were 60 collectors of single items that were part of larger groups. I have categorized those where I could in broader areas. True to the origins of the club, Early American Glass is the majority of the membership

When one looks at the list, one has to look at where we can grow our membership. We are a broadly defined organization and we should be promoting a broader spectrum of glass and promoting ourselves as an umbrella organization much as CMOG promotes itself. Our attitude has to be that we welcome all and will bend over backwards to appease new interest groups.

What are some of the obvious suggestions and recommendations when one looks at the list. The first is that we MUST do a better job of knowing who we are. Every member must let us know what they collect – BUT in broader strokes. It is nice information to have, but we do not need to know that a person collects Westmoreland glass. We need to know that a person collects Early American Glass or American Art Nouveau or Contemporary glass, etc. We should come up with a standard list of types so that every member can let us know their interests. We should get every club to fill out the list for their membership. We must get a response rate over 75% otherwise we cannot direct our efforts to gaining members in areas where we are weak and maintain the membership in areas where we are strong.

One of the uses of a completed list is that we can then direct the seminars and bulletins to educate our present members in what they like AND also to reach out to the new areas of collecting that we do not represent.

Glass Calendar

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

Through October 31, 2010

THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, One Museum Way, Corning, NY 14830. (800) 732-6845 *Tiffany Treasures: Favrite Glass from Special Collections* Tiffany's Artistic Innovations Explored in Exhibition of Blown Favrite Glass Works at The Corning Museum of Glass. All but one of the pieces in this exhibition are from two museum collections in upstate New York: the Reifschlager Collection, which was a gift to the Rockwell Museum of Western Art in Corning in 1982, and the collection of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University in Ithaca. The Cornell collection was assembled primarily from gifts from A. Douglas Nash and Edythe de Lorenzi. The exhibition also includes a lamp that was given to The Corning Museum of Glass by donors Jay and Micki Doros. www.cmog.org

Through February 21, 2010

BERGSTROM-MAHLER MUSEUM 165 North Park Ave., Neenah, WI 54956, (920) 751-4658. *The Italian Influence in Glass* considers the origins of techniques from the Romans, to innovations in style by the Venetians, and now the work artisans of Murano are presenting for glass artists to infuse into a new bold statement. Come to the museum and enjoy this amazing glass work. We've gathered work from galleries, collectors and artists across the region.

January 24 – March 13, 2010

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY Fine & Performing Arts Center Cullowhee, NC 28723 (828) 227-2479

Richard Ritter: North Carolina Master of Glass - A 40 Year Retrospective Artist Talk: Richard Ritter, Sunday, Jan. 24, 12 noon, Fine & Performing Arts Center Hall. Richard Ritter Glass Blowing Demonstration, Monday, Jan. 25, 1-4 p.m. Jackson County Green Energy Park, Dillsboro, NC. <http://www.jcegp.org>

March 17–21, 2010

AMERICAN MOSAIC SUMMIT Celebrating SAMA's 10th Anniversary! 9th Annual SAMA Conference at The Palmer House Hilton

Chicago, IL. SAMA is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and promoting excellence in fine mosaic art. This year's show will this year be at The Smith Museum of Stained Glass at Chicago's Navy Pier, where the exhibition is expected to attract approximately 80,000 visitors during the two month run. This is a different kind of a venue for MAI; it is not one of the traditional white-walled gallery spaces that have showcased mosaic works in the past. This exhibition will feature our work placed throughout the museum, presented in lighted, glass-walled cases. www.americanmosaics.org

April 9, 2010

HEISEY GLASS MUSEUM Veterans Park, at the corner of 6th and Church Streets in downtown Newark, OH will hold its annual HCA Benefit Auction Friday from 10am – 6pm at Local 244 Union Hall, 350 Hudson Ave., Newark, OH www.heiseymuseum.org

April 23 – Fall, 2010

COOPER-HEWITT, 2 East 91st Street New York, NY 10128 (212) 849-8400 *Ted Muehling Selects: Lobmeyr Glass from the Permanent Collection* New York-based designer Ted Muehling will serve as the 10th guest curator of the 'Selects' exhibition series in the Nancy and Edwin Marks Gallery, devoted to showing the museum's permanent collection. Muehling will curate an exhibition of works drawn from the museum's recent acquisition of 160 rare examples of glass from J. & L. Lobmeyr of Vienna, Austria. The collection dates from 1835 to the present day, spanning virtually the entire history of the firm since its founding. This addition to the permanent collection provides the unique opportunity to tell the history of glassmaking in central Europe during a 175-year period. <http://cooperhewitt.org>

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400 Years of Glassmaking in Scotland

The celebrations start with the launch of a new book. *Scotland's Glass: 400 years of Glassmaking* written by Shiona Airlie and Brian J R Blench, and the first book ever to cover the entire subject. Fully illustrated throughout with sumptuous color photographs, it is aimed at the general reader.

The book was published in December 2009. Further details are available from: www.cortex-design.co.uk

EDINBURGH

The Museum of Edinburgh will be the first in Scotland to celebrate the event, showing throughout 2010, some of the finest glass made in the capital since the 18th century. Visitors will have the opportunity to see the beautiful wine glass made for Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745 and used by him at Holyrood, as well as samples of the City of Edinburgh's royal wedding present made in the late 19th century for the Duke and Duchess of York. A special display of glass from Lauriston Castle will also be on view in the Museum from February onwards.

ABERDEEN

Then it's off to Aberdeen, where Aberdeen Art Gallery opens Scottish Glass: A Celebration on 2 March 2010. Running until 31 October 2010, it showcases decorative glass from the city's collection. Included will be delicate wine glasses used during the time of the Jacobite rebellion, the jewel like creations from Perth's Vasart and Monart factories as well as innovative art pieces by contemporary makers working in Scotland such as Deborah Fladgate and Keiko Mukaide.

SUMMER IN PERTH & GLASGOW

Glasgow Museums is mounting an exhibition of some of their finest Scottish glass in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. This will be an opportunity to see one of the earliest bottles ever made in Glasgow, fine engraved glass, and famed Clutha glass from the art nouveau period. The display is brought up to date with a display of late twentieth century Scottish art glass - showing some of the best examples of glass made in Scotland in recent times. Normally hidden in storage, this fabulous collection will be a must-see for any glass enthusiast.

VISIT SCOTLAND IN 2010

Throughout 2010, the public will be encouraged to visit places associated with glass. Many of these are featured in a leaflet being published for the anniversary. Using this, one can visit makers around the country and also explore some of Scotland's hidden gems, which often have surprising links with glass. Kinnoul Aisle in Perthshire is the place to see the tomb of the founder of the industry, Sir George Hay. Or go to Dumfries to see glasses used by Robert Burns. The glass trail takes you all over the country.

For further details about this and everything else happening in 2010, go to www.scotlandsglass400.co.uk or phone: Shiona Airlie 07722 431 987

New Bedford Museum of Glass

Hello to all our friends in the glass world!

The New Bedford Museum of Glass has posted a new and informative essay on its web site. The new post examines the subject of toy caster sets and features several previously unpublished examples and a recently discovered 1877 patent. You can reach the post at www.nbmog.com/Forum.html

To explore the rest of the site, click the "Home" button at the bottom of the caster set page. Clicking the photographs across the tops of the web site menu pages will bring you to essays about the various items illustrated. Be sure not to miss www.nbmog.com/ParlorFountPage.html - it's a good one!

As you will see, our site is an exciting work in progress. As we complete new pages we will bring them to your attention. Please feel free to share your observations or submit new material for publication on the Forum page. Please contact us at www.nbmog.org We hope you enjoy the site.

Kirk J. Nelson
Executive Director
The New Bedford Museum of Glass
46 North Water St.
New Bedford, MA 02740
(508) 984-1666
www.nbmog.org

Casting Calls for Glassmakers on Celebrity Cruises

During the tryout, you will be expected to make a two-gather piece, such as an optic bowl or a handkerchief vase or bowl, using simple or no color. The most successful pieces are blown pieces which show change quickly and be completed in no more than 30 minutes.

Successful tryout candidates will be invited to Corning, NY, to train for three to four weeks before being scheduled for an assignment at sea. If you are chosen for the Blow Glass at Sea program, you will need to pass a drug test and physical examination which are required by Celebrity Cruise Lines. Participants must be able to live onboard a Celebrity Cruises vessel for a minimum of three months.

Interested?

Send your resume and photos of your work to Debra Sharretts (sharrettsdc@cmog.org) at The Corning Museum of Glass. She will contact you with additional details. You may also reach her at (607) 974-8241 for more information. You can also visit <http://www.cmog.org/dynamic.aspx?id=10482> for more details about the Blow Glass at Sea program.

Virtual books and More at Corning Museum

A note to our readers from Yvette Sterbenk, Communications Manager, Corning Museum of Glass making us aware of some new online resources from The Corning Museum of Glass that are free to use.

YouTube channel: Great videos about glassmaking processes and techniques, videos about glass artists and more. Feel free to review and to embed links on your own online sites. www.youtube.com/corningmuseumofglass

Virtual books: our Rakow Research Library has begun to digitize important books in their collection. Currently available: *Glass 1959: A Special Exhibition of International Contemporary Glass* (1959) and *New Glass: A Worldwide Survey* (1979). <http://virtualbooks.cmog.org>

Also, I'm beginning to Twitter on behalf of the Museum, focusing almost solely on Museum news and activities. I'm @ysterbenk. Yvette Sterbenk (607) 974.8124 www.cmog.org

Match the Money - and the Museum is Ours!

Match the Money—and the Museum Is Ours! was the rallying cry that launched an ambitious fund drive for the Museum of American Glass in West Virginia at the 19th annual Glass Gathering held at the museum in Weston, WV on October 23, 2009. The museum holds an impressive array of American-made glass, the collection of objects from the National Marble Museum, glass making tools and an extensive library of glass industry information.

Dean Six, Executive Director of the museum, told nearly 100 attendees that “an anonymous donor has stepped forward who will match every dollar with a dollar”. The campaign goal is \$45,000 which, when matched, will retire the mortgage on the museum building before a substantial balloon payment is due. The very generous donor is encouraging the museum to seek and establish new streams of support and hence will match all donations received until April 25, 2010.

Erseline Rumbach, Lewis County Regent of the Trans-Allegheny Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, approached the podium and announced that her organization wanted to kick off the drive with a \$500 donation. Ms Rumbach explained that “the museum is in keeping with part of our goals of preserving regional history”.

Dean Six was pleased to announce later that roughly one third of the goal was raised in less than a week. All those making donations will be recognized according to the amount of the donation. A donation of at least \$60 will be recognized in the museum’s magazine *All About Glass*. Higher levels of giving will be recognized with the donor’s name listed permanently at the museum and top level donations of \$500 or more will be recognized with the donor’s name engraved on a one-of-a-kind commemorative vase by glass artist Kelsey Murphy that will become part of the permanent collection.

Please contact Dean Six, Director Museum of American Glass in WV, PO Box 574, Weston, WV 26452, 304-269-5006
dean.six@replacements.com
<http://wvmag.bglances.com/>

Duff S. Allen, Jr. (1928-2009)

Noted Early American glass aficionado, Duff S. Allen, Jr. of Falmouth, MA, passed away on October 20, 2009, at the age of 80. He was born on December 8, 1928 in St. Louis, MO. He is survived by his loving and dedicated wife of 33 years, Mary “Molly” Allen and three children.

Duff was a graduate of John Burroughs School, Princeton University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned a doctorate in organic chemistry. Duff was a longtime resident of Greenwich, CT, where he worked for over 30 years at Lederle Laboratories. It was his career as a pharmaceutical researcher that would provide the foundation for his quest of knowledge in the field of 19th century American Glass.

When Duff was just ten years old, he came across a copy of Ruth Webb Lee’s seminal 1939 volume, *Sandwich Glass*. After reading the tome cover to cover, Duff presented a report on antique glass to his grade school class, but it wasn’t until many years later, in 1981, that he remembered the book and the glass that had inspired it. That year Duff and Molly attended a local antiques show and purchased their first piece of antique glass. That initial purchase sparked a passionate interest in early American glass that would happily occupy the Allens for the next three decades.

Duff and Molly became active members of the Westchester Glass Club, and they enthusiastically agreed to manage the club’s annual show and sale. As co-managers for the next ten years, they were instrumental in building the annual event into what was arguably the top early American glass show in the country.

After retiring and moving to Cape Cod in 1991, the Allens joined with Joan Kaiser and several others to

form the Cape Cod Glass Club, and up until 2005, Duff co-managed the club’s annual Sandwich, MA show with Douglas Reed. Duff also served on the boards of the National Early American Glass Club, the Westchester Glass Club, and the Sandwich Glass Museum.

In 2006, Duff began to lose his eyesight, and soon could no longer safely handle his beloved glass or perform the historical research that he so dearly loved. After much consideration he decided the time had come to sell his cherished collection.

In late 2007 Duff and Molly entrusted Bever-

ley and me with the honor of dispersing their collection, which we did through a single-owner cataloged auction conducted on October 18, 2008. It was Duff’s desire that the collection that he and Molly had so carefully assembled, now be shared with and enjoyed by a new group of glass lovers. This desire was fulfilled when over 100 different collectors, museums, and dealers from across the US and Canada were successful bidders at the auction.

Beverley and I were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit Duff a month before he passed away. He was his usual joking self and we had grand conversations about glass and life. He reiterated again how pleased he was with the auction and the catalog, and how happy it made him to know that others were now enjoying the pieces that he and Molly had loved for so many years. And then there were the stories, always the stories, most of them familiar, a few new, all dearly cherished. And as we prepared to leave, unknowingly seeing Duff for the last time, I thanked him for his kind words and the great stories.

It was a privilege knowing you Duff Allen; your memory will always bring a smile to my face. And yes Molly, the memories and stories will hold a special place in all of our hearts forever.

Jeff Evans

Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates



Molly & Duff Allen at home, 2007

(photo courtesy of
 Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates)

Research, Publication & Glass News

Online Shopping? Help your NAGC! Announcing our alliance with Amazon

The NAGC has entered into a relationship with the world's largest internet based seller, Amazon. It gives us all the opportunity to help our club financially when we shop online. Our webmaster has placed a new box at the bottom of the club's website homepage – it is a search box that you can use when you want to buy something online. Clicking on its "GO" button will take you to Amazon.com. If you end up buying anything as a result of this session, Amazon will send a rebate of approximately 4% of your purchase price to the NAGC. Such a deal! Painless, for sure - you get your goods and the NAGC gets a rebate that costs you nothing. What's not to like?

So, the next time you think about shopping on the Web, go first to www.glassclub.org, then enter your search terms in the Amazon box at the bottom of our homepage (this step is optional), then click on the orange "GO" button within the box. It will take you to Amazon's main site to continue your shopping.

Chapter Liaison Committee Report from Chuck Goding, Chairman

This committee was formed by the NAGC Board at its October 2008 Semi-Annual Meeting; the Club's 17 chapters were grouped into six clusters.

Committee member Sheila Trumbull contacts Cluster One chapters: Seattle and Sun City, AZ plus members-at-large; Charles Goding works with Cluster Two chapters: Greater Chicago, James Rose and Minnesota; Betty Kaspar covers Cluster Three chapters: Baltimore, Amelung and Bakewell; Ruth Bloom communicates with Cluster Four chapters: Sandwich, Dorflinger, Washington DC Metro and Mt. Vernon; Peggy Hooper is responsible for Cluster Five chapters: Founders and Cape Cod. If members have ideas or comments for the Board, they can offer them through these Chapter Liaison Committee member.

Cluster Six chapters: New York Metro, Westchester and Lowell Innes do not as yet have a committee member assigned to them. If someone from one of these chapters is interested in joining the committee, please let me know.

The Directory lists my phone number and address or you can e-mail at c_goding@msn.com

Chapter Liaison Committee members are a two-way communications link between chapter members and the NAGC Board. They seek comments and concerns from the membership so that Board officers and directors may address them. In turn, information about Board actions can be passed along to chapter contacts to share with members.

Some ideas that have come out of the committee's work so far are: exploring the formation of new chapters with members-at-large who live near one another; possibly creating a social networking site where members can share research and information about glass as well as potentially attract new members; and seeking a moderator for currently a four-member "chat group" which could serve as a forum for Glass Club members.

In future issues of *Glass Shards*, the committee will expand upon these three subjects plus new ideas to improve the working relationship between members, chapters and the Board as well as increase the value of membership in Glass Club.

First Class

DEADLINE
NEXT ISSUE'S
MARCH 1, 2010

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<http://www.glassclub.org>

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March 1, 2010. Submit by mail to:
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or reach us through email at: shardsalicesaville@gmail.com
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