

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring 2001

Glass of the Sultans, a major exhibition that will explore the most significant aspects of glass production in the Islamic lands will be shown at The Corning Museum of Glass from May 24 to September 3, 2001 and at The Metropolitan Museum of Art from October 1, 2001 to January 10, 2002.

The co-curators of the exhibition and the authors of the accompanying catalogue are Dr. Stefano Carboni, associate curator in the Department of Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum and Dr. David Whitehouse, executive director of the Corning Museum.

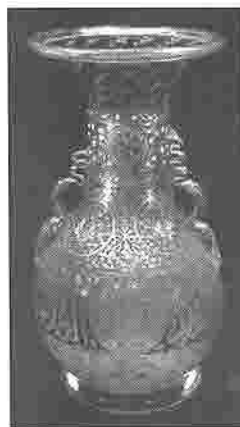
The exhibition, the first comprehensive survey of Islamic glass in more than 50 years, will include 150 to 170 of the most spectacular and significant glass objects of the period between the 17th and 19th century. The only previous showing of a generous selection of first-quality Islamic glass was in *The Arts of Islam* exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, London in 1976 (the exhibition included 28 glass objects).

Glass of the Sultans will provide an authoritative overview of Islamic glass from its Roman- and Sassanian-inspired origins to the products of India and Iran in the 18th and 19th centuries. An additional section of special interest to the general public will consist of European glass made for the oriental market or directly inspired by Islamic models, from 13th century Venetian enameled beakers to 19th century

Glass of the Sultans

“orientalizing” objects made by Brocard and Lobmeyr. A final section will consist of material from archaeological excavations, which throw light on questions of chronology.

The exhibition will offer the public a rare opportunity to view a large collection of exceptional quality. At the same time, it will be the occasion for a scholarly reassessment of what is known about the development of Islamic glass. The major lenders include the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Museum für Islamische Kunst in Berlin, the David Collection in Copenhagen, and the National Museum of Kuwait, Corning Museum of Glass, One Corning Way, Corning, NY. (607) 974-6467 cmog.org



Handled Vase, about 1310-1330. Egypt or Syria

Speed of Light

The Corning Museum of Glass has opened *Glass and the Speed of Light*, a major new permanent exhibit on optical fiber technology. The exhibit demonstrates how much information a single optical fiber can carry. A single optical fiber runs the length of the exhibit, encased in a transparent handrail. This fiber will transmit a signal originating from a camera pointing at visitors. This same fiber will occupy different parts of the exhibit – in one section winding around a spool for nearly 100 miles before having its signal amplified and refreshed. In another section of the exhibit, the optical fiber will have camera signal combined with dozens of other information streams.

The fiber will snake its way through the amount of copper wire needed to carry the same information - hundreds of cables, weighing thousands of pounds. The slender fiber will swoop in around the massive copper coils, nimbly bypassing their bulk.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is an interactive video wall. Each time visitors push a button, they will see how greater bandwidth takes media a giant step forward - from the telegraph, through radio and TV, into the age of the Internet.

As David Whitehouse, executive director of the Museum, points out, “It’s vitally important that the Glass Innovation Center represent not only the past and present of glass technology but also its future.” (607) 974-6467

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Let glass stand between you and the storms of winter, but let not the storms of winter stand between you and glass. This, at least, was my resolve one Sunday morning in January when the season descended in full fury, reducing the speed limit on the snow-swept Massachusetts Turnpike to a treacherous 40 mph. I had planned to attend an 11 o'clock auction that morning just southwest of Albany, New York where, as I had learned the week before from art glass authority Louis St. Aubin, a great prize was scheduled for the block. This prize was not an actual piece of glass, but rather an important piece of glass history. It was, to be more specific, a thank you letter written in 1886 by President Grover Cleveland to the Mt. Washington Glass Company of New Bedford, Massachusetts, acknowledging the company's gift of four attractive Burmese vases to Cleveland's new bride. Burmese glass, which shades from a delicate pastel pink to pastel yellow, had been patented the previous year and was to become the company's most popular line of art glass.

Its success was due both to its attractive appearance and also to the promotional finesse of company superintendent Frederick Shirley, who even sent shipments to Queen Victoria and her daughter, Princess Beatrix. The Cleveland letter naturally assisted Shirley's promotional efforts, and today it provides collectors with an exciting human-interest link to one of the leading political figures of the day. Despite its importance, however, and the fact that it has been quoted in practically every reference book

on the subject, the actual whereabouts of the letter was unknown to the glass world until it was listed in the advertising notice for the January auction. There, buried deep among the descriptions of Marylyn Manroe calendars and



Grover Cleveland

tobacco trade cards, it apparently was noticed only by Mr. St. Aubin and his partner William Pitt, who brought it to the attention of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society-New Bedford Whaling Museum, where I assist as a consultant for the glass collection. Hand-written by Cleveland on stationary printed "Executive Mansion, Washington," the letter seemed much too important to risk to the vagaries of left bids or telephones, so I planned an early Sunday departure, a peaceful four-hour drive during which I could day-dream about the sugar plum that lay ahead, and a relaxed preview before the 11 am auction kickoff.

Enter the vagaries of Mother Nature, stage Nor'easterly. I left the house at 5 am instead of 6 am, and what followed was an anxious ordeal where pleasant anticipation was replaced by the nightmare vision of a red-eyed, salt-spattered, icicle-encrusted glass fanatic barging into the auction room just as the hammer fell. Sold! This vision (and worse ones involving skidding automobiles and oncoming 16-wheelers) fortunately did not materialize, and neither, for the most part, did competition at the sparsely-attended auction. The storm clouds parted, perhaps at the very moment of my bid, and the letter has now joined the outstanding

permanent collection of New Bedford glass at the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, for the benefit of future collectors and scholars.

The moral of this mid-winter's tale: support and enjoy your local public glass collections (as well as your favorite glass club!), and brave any weather, should the actual Grover Cleveland Burmese vases ever turn up for sale!

- Kirk Nelson

President, NAGC

NAGC in Corning

It is almost here! The 17th Annual National Glass Seminar will join the National American Glass Club and The Corning Museum of Glass in celebration of their 50th anniversary in Corning, New York. The seminar will be Wednesday, May 30 through June 2, 2001.

Do not miss this exciting meeting! The list of speakers is impressive, as always: Dr. David Whitehouse, Kirk Nelson, Dr. David Watts, Jutta Annette Page, Tom Buechner, Jane Shadel Spillman, Skip Deneka, Thomas Dimitroff, Tina Oldknow and Bill Gudenrath.

There are new exhibits to see including *The Speed of Light*, concerning fiber optics and *The Glass of the Sultans*, a survey of 18th and 19th century Islamic glass. At the Hot Glass Show, we will see live glassblowing demonstrations and enjoy the recently expanded Rakow Library.

Please join us for this exciting event. Information will be forthcoming in the mail.

Glass Calendar

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

March 31, 2001

20th ANNUAL GLASS COLLECTOR'S SHOW & SALE sponsored by Maryland Area Chapters, NAGC. Held at the Activity Center, Gaitherburg, MD. (301) 774-7168.

April 7 - Oct. 21, 2001

WHEATON VILLAGE, Millville, NJ. (800) 998-4552 ext. 2746. "Mirrored Images: American Silvered Glass" An exhibition of over 100 pieces of hollow-walled glass, mirrored with a solution of silver nitrate. See page 4. www.wheatonvillage.org

April 21, 2001

The NEW ENGLAND BEAD SOCIETY, will hold its Spring Bead Affaire Show and Sale from 10am to 5pm at the Armenian Cultural Center, 47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown, MA. (508) 785-9097 See article pg 5.

April 21 & 22, 2001

25th Anniversary COLLECTORS GLASS SHOW & SALE sponsored by the Westchester Glass Club will be at the Greenwich Civic Ctr., in Old Greenwich, CT. Call Douglas Reed (973) 763-4524 for information. See article on page 5.

April 27 - 29, 2001

EARLY AMERICAN PATTERN GLASS SOCIETY 8th Annual Convention, Harrisburg, PA. Call Fred Phelps (319) 856-2025 for further information. PO Box 266 Colesburg, IA. 52035

April 27 - 29, 2001

EASTERN NATIONAL ANTIQUES SHOW & SALE State Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA. (610) 437-5534

April 28 & 29, 2001

BAY STATE HEISEY COLLECTORS 23rd Annual Show & Sale at the K. Junior High School, Lexington St., Waltham, MA. (617) 387-0017. Hours are Sat. 10am - 5pm and Sun. 11am - 4pm. Glassware Identification on Sunday 2-3pm. The sponsors will

forward "wish lists" to the dealers prior to the show. Contact them at the number listed or email lookingfor@commcopy.com

May 17 - 19, 2001

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, Corning, NY. (607) 974-6467 "Objects of Fantasy: Glass Inclusions of the 19th Century" An exhibition of over 100 antique paperweights and related objects will be held in conjunction with the PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS CONVENTION.

May 18 & 19, 2001

GREEN VALLEY AUCTIONS, 2259 Green Valley Lane Mt. Crawford, VA. (540) 434-4260 *Colored Victorian Glass, Lamps & Cut Glass*. Featuring the Wintermyre Collection of 200+ sugar shakers and syrups. Visit the web site for catalog and other information. www.greenvalleyauctions.com

May 20, 2001

STURBRIDGE SPRING ANTIQUE BOTTLE Show & Sale. (413) 594-8655. Over 60 dealers at the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, 2 miles from Rte. 20 in Sturbridge, MA.

May 24 - Sept 3, 2001

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, Corning, NY. (607) 974-6467 & the METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART in NYC. "Glass of the Sultans" A special exhibition, the first of its kind in North America, will feature some of the finest Islamic glass in the world. See the article on page 1.

May 30 - June 2, 2001

17th Annual NAGC SEMINAR. The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY. (607) 937-5371 2001 celebrates NAGC in its 67th year, the 50th anniversary of the founding of The Corning Museum of Glass and the 150th anniversary of the Corning Glass Works!

June 14 - 17, 2001

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, Corning, NY.

(607) 974-6467 GLASS ART SOCIETY 31st Annual Conference. Contemporary glass art will be explored through demonstrations, panel discussions and informal meetings. www.cmog.org

June 30, 2001

THE WHIMSEY CLUB 4th Annual Picnic, Dansville, NY. (716) 335-6506 Please join the collectors of non-production glass. For further information on the club or the newsletter, visit the web site www.whimsey.org or call Lon Knickerbocker at the number listed.

July 12 - 14, 2001

Antique and Art Glass SALT SHAKER COLLECTORS SOCIETY, Inc. Annual Convention 2001 will be held in Denver, CO., at the Embassy Suites Hotel 4444 North Havana, Denver, CO. For further information, please visit the web site www.cbantiques.com/ssc/

July 13 - 15, 2001

WHEATON VILLAGE *Glass-Weekend '01*, Millville, NJ. (800) 998-4552 ext. 2733. An international symposium, exhibition and sale of contemporary glass. See article on page 5. www.wheatonvillage.org

July 28 & 29, 2001

26th Annual DUNCAN MILLER CONVENTION Glass Show at the Alpine Club, 735 Jefferson Ave., Washington, PA. 15301 www.duncan-glass.com

Aug. 11 & 12, 2001

GREAT NORTHEAST DEPRESSION ERA GLASS & POTTERY SHOW. Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY. The largest show of its kind with the widest variety of glass for the beginning to advanced collectors. Saturday 10am - 6pm Sunday 10am - 4:30pm, admission \$7.50. For information call Joe Solito at (860) 872-3294.

Mirrored Images

"*Mirrored Images: American Silvered Glass*," the new annual exhibition in the Museum of American Glass, opens to the public April 7, 2001.

According to Gay LeCleire Taylor, museum curator, "Silvered Glass," often incorrectly called "Mercury Glass," was popular during the mid 19th century. This mirrored glass was first produced in Bohemia and then, England. Frederick Hale Thomson and Edward Varnish of London registered the first patent for silvered glass in 1849. Due to the popularity of these glittering reflective objects, companies in the United States began producing silvered glass in the 1850s.

John Haines received the first American patent in 1855 and then the New England Glass Company patented their own designs in 1865. In Europe, the first manufacturers of this ware did try

to use mercury to create the mirror-like lining, however, mercury was too toxic and too expensive to be practical. By the 1850s, all producers of this glass were utilizing a solution of silver nitrate that was applied to the interior of hollow

or double walled vessels. It is believed that this brief period of mercury use has led to the widespread misnomer of "mercury glass."

When silvered glass was at its height of popularity, a myriad of shapes and forms were created. Large glass Christmas ornaments known as "kugels" were probably the first recognizable ex-

amples. Functional items such as door knobs, drawer



Pitcher, covered sugar and spooner, engraved "Dec. 14th, 1864", attributed to the New England Glass Co., Cambridge, MA., 1864



Gazing ball, attributed to Boston Silver Glass Co., 19th C

pulls, curtain tiebacks and reflectors for oil lamps were manufactured by many American companies. Decorative pieces such as gazing balls and tablewares including creamers, sugars, goblets, salts and candlesticks are just a sampling of examples created.

In the United States, the most prolific companies that produced silvered glass were the New England Glass Co., the Boston Silver Glass Co., the Boston & Sandwich Glass Co., Franklin Flint Glass Works, Dithridge & Co., Bay State Glass Co. and the Keystone Glass Co.

There will be well over one hundred examples of Silvered Glass in the exhibition ranging from a sampling of the earliest known European styles to the full production of the American producers. (800) 998-4552 ext. 2746. www.wheatonvillage.org

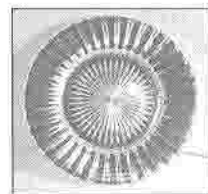


Plate Coarse Rib Heisey & Co., Newark, OH. c. 1922

Glass Bells

NAGC member A. A. Trinidad, Jr. is the author of the recently published book *Glass Bells*, a Schiffer Book for Collectors publication. Just out this spring, *Glass Bells* is a stunning collection of glass by the author and his late wife Josephine.

The high quality of its photography stands out as one of the main features of the book. Having each image in color helps the reader and student of glass to identify the different patterns when out in the field. The photos are clear, well defined and show off each subject to its best advantage.

The variety of examples is very useful for the academic or the casual collector. Mr. Trinidad illustrates hundreds of bells from his own collection and supplements this with an amazing array of objects from museums and private collections around the world.

We are shown bells from the Islamic region in the 4th century, (The Toledo Museum of Art), a 16th century "drinkout" bell (Amsterdam's Historisch Museum) and 100 year old French flint bells with poodle handles and animal clappers (author's collection). While all are bells, it soon becomes obvious that there are infinite variants possible.

By examining a single shape such as the bell form, the author provides to his readers a general glass primer. The book is valuable as a study tool when examining the wide variety of manufacturing and decorating techniques of glass without being distracted by the differences of form.

While the majority of bells shown are made by American



Commemorative Belgium bell c. 1550 h. 6"

companies, bells from over 12 other countries are represented.

Mr. Trinidad carefully covers topics such as decorating methods, clappers and their attachments, the use of drinking vessel molds in bell making and the general history behind these delicate and intriguing objects.

This is a beautifully produced book and would be a wonderful addition to any library.

Schiffer Publishing Ltd. 4880 Lower Valley Road, Atglen, PA. 19310. (610) 593-1777 www.schifferbooks.com

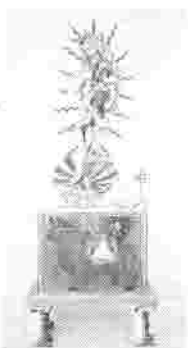


American pattern molded wedding bells by Thom. Evans Glass Co. c. 1898 h. 16"

Wheaton Village GlassWeekend '01

On July 13 - 15, over 200 contemporary glass artists and 20 international galleries will be represented at this year's *Glass-Weekend* at Wheaton Village in Millville, NJ. It is one of the most exciting and extensive presentations of museum quality glass vessels and sculpture ever assembled in one location. This international symposium, exhibition and sale of contemporary glass is presented by the Creative Glass Center of America and the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass.

The event's guest artists are major figures in the contemporary glass world. Einar and James de la Torre are Mexican-American bi-cultural artists who combine Mexican folk art, Catholicism and machismo, with the American culture of excess in their work.



Einar & James de la Torre
"Marte y Venus"
c. 1997

Kjell Engman, from Stockholm, Sweden, has been a designer for Kosta Boda since 1978. These artists along with Martin Blank and Therman Statom will be working on a rotating schedule July 14 - 15.

Other activities include:

- a presentation by Greg Kuharic of Sotheby's, NY., discussing issues related to buying and selling at auction,
- a presentation by Michael Mendelsohn, CM Bridgde, Ltd., Elmsford, NY., about art succession and estate planning strategies for collectors,
- a "Curators Panel" moderated by Gary E. Baker, Curator of Glass, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA.

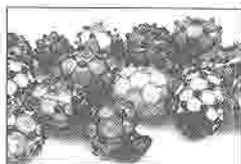
For more information, or to receive a registration form, call the Creative Glass Center of America at Wheaton Village (800) 998-4552, ext. 2733. Email: creativeglassctr@mindspring.com or visit the web site at www.wheatonvillage.org



Kjell Engman
"Unique 2000" (detail)
c. 2000

The Bead Affaire

Beadesigner International, The New England Bead Society, will hold its Spring Bead Affaire Show and Sale on Saturday, April 21, 2001 from 10am to 5pm at the Armenian Cultural Center, 47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown, MA.



Beads by Maud Mekalanos

This highly popular show with a national following attracts over 40 vendors offering beads of various materials. The glass beads are created using lamp worked, blown, mosaic, millifiore and cold work techniques.

Glass bead artists exhibiting at the show include Pati Walton, Connie Pollard, Beth Williams,

Carol Bugarin, Nancy Tobey and Maud Mekalanos. These contemporary artists bring skill and originality to their work, creating miniature glass sculptures rivaling the current efforts in paper-weight manufacturing. Demonstrations of jewelry techniques will be presented during the day.

For more details, call the Beadesigner International Beadline at (508) 785-9097.



Contemporary glass pendants by Connie Pollard



Westchester Glass Show & Sale

The 25th anniversary Collector's Glass Show & Sale sponsored by the Westchester Glass Club, a chapter of the National American Glass Club, will take place at the Greenwich Civic Center in Old Greenwich, CT. Hours will be Sunday, April 21 from 10am until 5pm and on Sunday, April 22, from 10am until 4pm. 60 well established dealers will be on hand offering a large variety of fine glassware. There will be glass repair and free glass ID.

Mr. Jeff Evans, auctioneer and co-owner of Green Valley Auctions, will present the lecture "High Glass." He will discuss the current and future market trends in early American glass and the influences of popular culture including Martha Stewart, Ebay and public auctions. The lecture will be given Saturday at 2pm and Sunday at 9am.

Please call Douglas Reed for more information and to receive an admission discount card (973) 763-4524

Victorian Glass At Auction

Green Valley Auctions, Inc. of Mt. Crawford, VA. will present Victorian Glass & Lamps at a cataloged sale on May 18 & 19, 2001. (540) 434-4260

One of the event's highlights will be the Tom & Fern Wintermyre collection of over 200 sugar shakers & syrups, many of which were photographed for William Heacock's *Victorian Colored Pattern Glass: Book III. Syrups, Sugar Shakers & Cruets* (Antique Publications, 1976).

There will be an abundance of colored Victorian glass & lamps, including over 125 pieces of cut glass, hanging & parlor lamps, colored oil lamps, a collection of blue Daisy & Button pressed glass including 2 clocks, pickle casters, colored Victorian novelties and table lots of clear Early American Pattern Glass.

Chapter News

Long time member Hilda Blake gave an extensive collection of research books to the **Founders Chapter** of Boston, MA. Over 100 volumes are now available to the members and cover topics ranging from 18th and 19th century European glass to American Depression glass and recent auction catalogs.

The new library, called the Hilda Blake Lending Library, has been well received and well used! Many thanks to Ms. Blake.

A mini "Antiques Road Show" was a successful idea for the **Washington, DC area Chapters**. A group of glass "experts" from the club provided identification and information on glass brought in to Chevy Chase Library by members of the public. Participants also received information on the NAGC, our web page and other services. A great way to bring in new members!

Members as Authors

To further share the talents and interests of our members, this publication will 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:

Glass Shards, Alice Walsh, Editor, 11 Bentwood Street, Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035 & as@practice-corp.com

Three members of the NAGC are authors of articles that appear in the 2001 issue of the Sandwich Glass Museum's annual journal *The Acorn*. Frank E. Robertson's startling article "Announcing the Discovery of a Thomas Cains Chandelier" documents a 36 light, glass chandelier. Joan E. Kaiser's article "The Significance of a Thomas Cains Kerosene Lamp" examines the dating of several forms of glassware that exhibit Cains' signature methods of decoration. NAGC President Kirk J. Nelson offers, in his usual inimitable style, a study of "Travaise: The Art Glass Orphan of Sandwich." Numerous color photos accompany Mr. Nelson's article. Copies are available from the Sandwich Glass Museum PO Box 103, Sandwich, MA 02563. (508) 888-0251

from E. J. Williford-

I am a collector of EAPG covered butter (and cheese) dishes, having over 1,000 different patterns collected over 45 years. I have written articles in the *Glass Collector's Digest* appearing in the Oct/Nov 1998 and Aug/Sept. 1999 issues. Each articles includes pictures 24 examples from my collection. Numerous readers have responded and I have had several visitors to the collection including 40 who attended the Central States meeting of the EAPG Club.

Please write or call for copies: *Glass Collector's Digest*, PO Box 553 Marietta, OH 45750. (800) 533-3433

visit NAGC web page:
<http://www.glassclub.org>
**NEXT ISSUE'S
DEADLINE
JUNE 1, 2001**



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

ATTENTION READERS!

The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be JUNE 1, 2001. Submit by mail to: Alice

Walsh, Editor, *Glass Shards*, 11 Bentwood Street,

Foxborough, MA 02035 or reach us through email at:

as@practice-corp.com

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