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STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

April 1988

President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope by now a large number of you have made your reservations for the Convention in Toledo. I've been going through my boxes of Stretch Glass trying to decide what to bring. If you're like me, that's a hard thing to do. I'd like to bring everything, but then I'd need a trailer or a van.

Have you also sent your dues to Joanne Dolby?

Now that my "motherly" duties are completed, I can get on with other matters.

Since the first of the year my opportunities for garage-selling and flea-marketing have been hampered by a heavy work schedule and school every other weekend, so I haven't made any great finds. Have any of you had the good fortune to find a rare or unusual piece? Bring it to Convention. If you are unable to come, send a picture for the Newsletter (black and white) is best with a note telling how and where you acquired it. (Of course,

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(President's Message continued-)

we'd rather have you and the glass than a picture.)

Hope I see many of you soon,

Joanne *Joanne*

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Dues
.....

Six Dollars annually for each family - Payable to the Treasurer - April 1st
(Treasurer: Joanne Dolby (Mrs. Eldon), 6460 Jay Drive, Lambertville, Michigan 48144
.....

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About Our Newsletter
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Without consultation and advice and because of frustration with the mail system your Secretary/Editor has opted to enclose your Newsletter in an envelope this time. Our Newsletters carried a "First Class Mail" inscription and postage for same and it has been suggested to me that the form - the folded and stapled 8 1/2 by 11 inch pages - addressed on one side and printed on the other - has been the cause of sometimes considerable delay. Secondly, it also carried a request for an address correction request for which we agreed to pay 30¢ and ask that the Newsletter be forwarded under those circumstances. We have received back several with a post office notice that no forwarding order exists - return to sender. These were on correct addresses. Other Newsletters have been apparently included with second and third class mail because of the format. We do need to discuss this format and perhaps enclose our Newsletter in an envelope. Let us know what you think, please.

Carl U. Fauster
.....

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker, Mr. Carl Fauster, is a Toledo native and still resides in this famous Ohio city referred to as the Glass Capital of the World by other Toledo natives as well as by Mr. Fauster.

Mr. Fauster began his adventures in the glass world as an Assistant Manager in advertising for the Owens-Illinois Glass Company. Ten years later he became the Advertising Director of the Libbey Glass subsidiary. He worked there in a marketing capacity until retirement.

He then established the Antique and Historic Glass Foundation which was founded for the purpose of compiling references, conducting research and to sponsor publication of certain materials. These included reprints of the 1896 Libbey Cut Glass Catalogue, Joseph Locke's Amberina sketch book of 1884 and the 1917 Amberina Catalogue by Libbey.

Mr. Fauster was one of the founders of the Glass Collectors Club of Toledo, serving the Club as an Officer.

The book, Libbey Glass since 1818, written by Mr. Fauster, reminds us that he also has a wonderful personal collection of very special pieces of Brilliant Period Cut Glass, Art Glass, pieces credited to A. Douglas Nash and pieces of the Modern American Series. The book has an index of ten pages listing all kinds of topics related to glass and glass collecting that is unusual. References are made to Glass Companies, glass designers and glass artists as well, authors, magazines, museums, glass clubs and glass types by name. A very enjoyable and educational book as well. Also listed is a bibliography which refers us to many familiar names but includes one which is a surprise - Ernie Pyle who wrote "Comments on Glass" published by Scripps-Howard Newspapers in his syndicated column late August and early September of 1941. Reprints were printed by Libbey a few years later.

If you are not familiar with Mr. Fauster's book, do please try to purchase it or borrow it from a library. It is a book which you will refer to often and frequently just study and enjoy what you find on its pages.

Much of the information about Mr. Fauster comes from the dust jacket cover of his book. The pictures are superb, be they copies of old photographs, old advertising copy published in journals and magazines for Libbey Glass, old catalogue pages (wonderful for identification), or the color photographs of very beautiful Libbey Glass. You cannot imagine how much you will be able to learn from this book by Carl Fauster.

.....
Recently we were able to identify a cocktail glass belonging to a friend using the Fauster book. It is a piece that is in the Embassy pattern and was used in the State Dining Room of the Federal Building at the '39-40 World's Fair in New York. The crystal had a "stylized" American eagle designed especially for the Dining Room. It is a fine piece and our friend was delighted to know this history about it.

A Bit about Libbey Glass

Hazel Marie Weatherman's "Colored Glassware of the Depression Era 2" gives us a brief history of the Libbey Glass Company. She reminds us that the famous New England Glass Company of Boston was the "parent" company of Libbey. The move from New England was prompted by a need for a better fuel source for the glass plant, a commonly heard story among glass people. This move occurred in 1888 - one hundred years ago and was renamed Libbey within a few years for the family who had the company for many years following the move.

Mrs. Weatherman states that the move was a financial problem for the glass people but good fortune smiled on them in a peculiar way. A lightbulb machine was invented and the spectacular glass display at the Chicago Exposition in 1893 brought much attention to the Libbey Glass Company and started it back toward success.

The extraordinarily beautiful Brilliant Cut Glass made by Libbey is still prized by collectors today. Indeed, among a number of families, grandmother's cut glass (much of which had to be Libbey) is a precious heirloom and treasured by the descendants. A very knowledgeable and experienced cut glass dealer here proclaims Libbey among the greatest of makers of the Brilliant Cut period glass and is proud to have many exceptional Libbey pieces to offer for sale. There are also many Libbey pieces in this dealer's private collection.

Like other surviving glass manufacturers, Libbey changed its production and began featuring Art Glass in the 20's. The company was and is famous for special lines of art glass - among them, amberina, pomona and peachblow. Like other surviving companies, Libbey too, turned to manufacturing commercial glass for use in hotels and restaurants and became a major supplier. Like other glass houses, Libbey came through the depression years by diversification just as other glass houses in the United States did.

By 1933 Libbey purchased the Fry Glass company and was fortunate to engage Douglas Nash as a designer. He led the company to more success through his great designs for artistic pieces of glass. Designing cuttings for the company was also one of his talents. Nash designed pieces are highly prized today - and expensive but they do change hands at the antique and glass shows because they are so good.

The most common pieces we see are probably pieces marked with the Libbey L in the tableware lines and the containers made by Owens-Illinois. This company was purchased by Libbey in 1935. Turn over the glassware in your kitchen cabinets that are used by your family on a daily basis - bet you will find a Libbey L!

The Toledo Museum exhibits its Libbey Glass with much pride and is well known by glass collectors and historians as a very special place to see and learn about glass. A visit to the Museum would be a joy any time.

One of the statements which intrigued us was the fact that Ernie Pyle had written five articles on glass. Why? Seemed a strange thing for those of us who are familiar with Ernie Pyle as a wartime reporter of exceptional courage and ability. Well, Mr. Pyle had a tour of the Libbey factory and wrote these five columns about the craftsmen who made glass and paid tribute to their skills. The columns were reprinted in a booklet which we are trying to locate for you. If anyone has a copy, or knows how we can get one, please let us know. Perhaps it might have been reprinted for this one hundred years in Toledo celebration.

Glass Clubs

Recently one of the local glass clubs here in Washington area took part in a leisure activities fair. It was their intention to publicize their glass club and interest new members. Many different manufacturers are represented here by glass clubs who have a particular company's glass as their chief interest. We have a local chapter of the Fenton Glass Collectors (good one for Stretch Glass folks) and a very large Heisey Glass Collectors group (no Stretch Glass). At least none has been found nor is there any indication that any was made at Heisey.

The information describes its members as a group of individuals who do meet periodically and informally to discuss their mutual interests in glass....and to become more knowledgeable about glass.

Members are further described as wives, husbands, husband and wife teams, and single persons. Some of us can add daughters, friends, neighbors and those who are strangers...at first. Ages are described as people in their twenties (can hardly remember that) as well as honored members ...some eighties (and we have several of these wonderful folks). We are fortunate to have people with thirty and forty years of learning and collecting and willing to share all that with us. Every meeting is a learning experience of some kind for the members present.

Lots of the members are men and women who "work" at their glass interest. We have antique dealers, auctioneers, columnists, lecturers as well as a few with published books in the glass field...and a few more publications coming up.

For the smaller groups stretched across the country who cannot meet frequently and exchange knowledge and experience some written communication is a necessity.

Newsletters

Many of the above described glass clubs which do meet frequently have a Newsletter anyway and send out written information. The newsletters are full of articles written by members-sometimes just a short letter which has news of a "find" or a short letter that asks a terrific question. Surprisingly, that same question is often promptly answered by another member of the same group.

We have asked for participation from our members. Most of you are shy perhaps. We do not receive many letters, or phone calls, or tapes and we know that you all have questions, if not answers. You underestimate your glass club members if you think that they may not know the answer to your inquiry.

Many of us cannot travel to our Conventions but I find that keeping in touch by mail is a very satisfactory substitute when we are unable to meet. We are looking forward to a new interest in Stretch Glass. It has already begun here. Glass people are buying it up though they are not necessarily Stretch Glass enthusiasts-just fine and nice and interesting glass enthusiasts.

Won't you help to keep alive the "give and take" which can be developed by a Newsletter by sending something of special interest to you-be it a statement, a question, an answer-anything you like. Pictures are difficult to reproduce with the type of "printing" we do so inexpensively-but drawings are fine. Even I have learned to do them.

We are expecting your letter-very soon!

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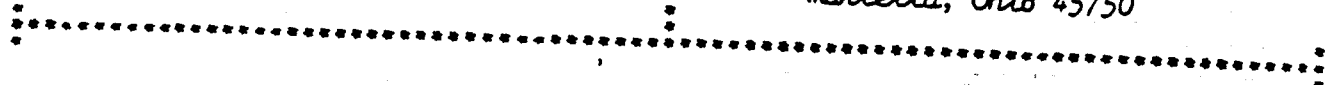
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Mary Louise Stretch Ryan Secretary/Editor
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 Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

First Class Mail

This is the usual format of addressing our Newsletter. Please comment. The drawings can be maintained elsewhere, if necessary. I do believe the postal problems will get only worse and perhaps we should try to eliminate them as best we can.



Please forward if necessary

 Address correction requested

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To the Members from the Editor -

We were very anxious to get the list of pieces for auction to you in time. Hope some of you can go there and find some wonderful pieces of Stretch Glass.

The auction is this coming Saturday evening, February 13th, in Marietta.
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Buy yourself a nice Valentine present!

Please do try to send in your room reservations as soon as possible. If you do that and let Joanne and Eldon Dolby know that you are coming to the Convention and will want to be counted for the banquet it will help a great deal. Then, too, we can publish the names of those who plan to attend in the Newsletter that will be sent to you in early April, during the first week.

While you are doing that, send Joanne Dolby your dues for the coming year. Six dollars for the year for each family. Joanne's address is above.

Please do let us hear something from you, even if you are unable to join us in Toledo... what you are doing, what you are buying (or selling), how you are, what questions you have for our own experts, what you've discovered in your own reading or research... or by accident. Sometimes that is as good a source as anything else, isn't it?

We are looking forward to the joy of being together again soon. Many of us do not see any of the others except at Convention time. It doesn't happen often enough when the members of a group are as nice as all of you!

Any questions about the Convention-write or call one of us, please.

Sincerely,

Mary Louise

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Russell & Kitty Umbraco

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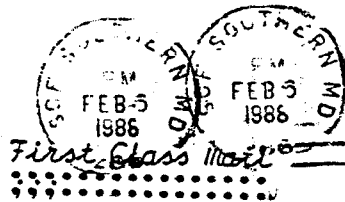
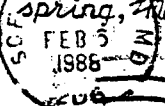
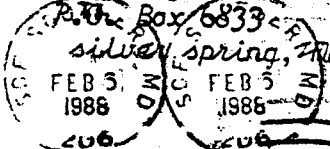
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January 9, 1788
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Joanne Rodgers
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