



PORTLAND'S *Rain* OF GLASS, INC.

A non-profit organization formed to stimulate interest in collectible glass and to provide educational resources and events for the members and the community at large.

MARCH

WHERE: Friendship Masonic Center
5626 NE Alameda Street
Portland, Oregon 97213
N.E. 57th & Sandy

WHEN: Tuesday, March 16, 2010,
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
(Library open at 6:00 p.m.)

GREETERS: Ed and Sandra Martin
(Come early to set up—6:00 p.m.)

**SPEAKER: SANDRA MILLIUS on
"EAPG Comports, 1860s to 1910s"**

Sandra will present a program on covered and uncovered Early American Pressed Glass Comports made from the 1860s through the 1910s. Her talk will cover numerous patterns and manufacturers. Pictured at top is a Three-Faces Comport by George Duncan and Sons, circa 1878.

PATTERN OF THE MONTH: "Indian Peony" by Shelley—an English China pattern, presented by Dan Haake



Pictured at left is a plate in the "Indian Peony" pattern by Shelly.

HOSPITALITY: March Committee listed on page 2

BOARD MEETING:
Tuesday, March 9, 2010,
at the Friendship Masonic Center, 7:00 p.m.
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

6-7 – Palmer/Wirfs Portland EXPO,
Portland Expo Center

7 – Polk Flea Market, Rickreall

7 – Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market,
Eugene

12-13 – Tri-Cities Spring Antique
Show and Sale, Pasco, WA

13-14 -- So. Ore Antiques & Coll-
ectibles, Medford Armory

14 – Salem Collectors Market

21 – Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market,
Eugene

27-28 – Roseburg's Spring
Antiques & Collectibles Sale

APRIL

17 – Portland's Largest Garage
Sale, EXPO Center, Portland

17-18 – Webfooters Post Card Club
Antique Paper Show & Sale,
Jackson Armory, 6255 NE Corn-
foot Rd., Portland

Visit the Portland's Rain of
Glass Website for more
interesting Club news:

www.rainofglass.com

Mailing Address:
Portland's Rain of Glass
C/O Friendship Masonic
Center, 5626 N.E. Alameda
Street, Portland, OR, 97213



Photos by Neal Skibinski

❖ INSIDE ❖

Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.

- ◆ Calendar of Events
- ◆ Membership Information
- ◆ Jeannette Glassworks
- ◆ Fenton's Ming Pattern
- ◆ January 2010 Show and Sale

**CONVENTION COMING
MAY 20, 21, 22**

**See page inside for exciting
information -**

**this is going to be the
BEST CONVENTION EVER!!!**



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

The volunteers who signed up to help make coffee and beverages, set up the food and clean-up for the March 16th General Meeting are Sandra Martin, Mavis Case, Richard Cox and Karen Young.

Thank you very much for signing up to help with refreshments this month!

-Jewell Gowan, 503-510-9137



Show and Sale Photos by Cindy Thomas

JEANNETTE GLASS WORKS with DIANA JONES



Photos by Neal Skibinski

H. Sellers McKee, one of the sons of McKee Brothers Glass Company of Pittsburgh, and his partner James Chambers founded Jeannette Glass Works as a bottle plant in Jeannette PA about 1900. The factory and town were named for Jeannette E. Hartupee McKee, the wife of the owner. During heyday of American glass there were seven glass factories in the town, and Jeannette Glass Works was the largest glass tableware manufacturing company in the world and employed 600 workers.

By about 1920 they were producing table items almost exclusively. By 1924 Jeannette was described in a trade journal as “one of the most complete automatic factories in the country.” They produced short lines of pressed colored tableware in 1925, and by 1927 all hand operations ceased and the factory was fully automated. In 1928 a trade journal called the Jeannette Company “the first to our knowledge to make pink and green glass automatically in a continuous tank,” which meant that they were the first to make machine-made, colored Depression Glass.

Jeannette produced kitchenware, accessory pieces and mold-etched dish sets. Mold-etched is a term to describe the pattern on a piece of glass that has the pattern etched into the mold itself, so that when the hot glass is injected into the mold, the pattern is pressed into the surface of the piece. This is how true “Depression Glass” was made: the

glass “metal” was heated in a huge tank until it became molten, the automated machine injected it into the mold, cooled it, removed the mold from it and voilà, a piece of glass came out on the other end.



Jeannette’s colors included: 1920: Iridescent; 1925: Green (first appeared in hand-pressed, “mold-crackled” glass); Topaz (amber); 1926: Amber; 1927: Pink (Jeannette sometimes called it “Wild Rose”); 1932: Jadeite; 1936: Delfite (opaque powder blue); 1937: Ultramarine; 1958: Shell Pink.

Their main Depression Glass patterns included: Adam (1932-34); Anniversary (1947-49); Cherry Blossom (1930-39); Cube “Cubist” (1929-33); Doric (1935-38); Doric and Pansy (1937-38); Floral “Poinsettia” (1931-35); Hex Optic “Honeycomb” (1928-32); Homespun “Fine Rib” (1939-49); Iris and Herringbone (1929-32, 1950’s, 1970’s); Sierra “Pinwheel” (1931-33); Sunflower (1930’s); Swirl “Petal Swirl” (1937-38).

The Jeannette Glass Works closed in 1983. A company called Jeannette Specialty Glass is still operating in Jeannette PA, but it is not the factory that made the Depression Glass we love to collect.

*Written by Carole
Bess White*



FENTON'S MING PATTERN

Carole Bess White



The Fenton Glass Company of Williamstown WVA produced the Ming pattern from about 1935 to 1936. Ming is a brocade etched pattern resembling spongeware pottery glaze in that it is a random “spot” design. A brocade etch is the reverse of a “normal” acid etch in that the pattern is shiny and the background is etched, whereas on normal etching, the background is shiny and the pattern is etched. It’s easy to tell the difference once you’ve seen both types of acid etching.

Ming was etched on green, pink and clear glass accessory pieces, meaning that there were no dinner plates made. However, there were dessert plates, a pitcher and tumbler set, a cocktail shaker and tumblers, a couple of different console bowls, cornucopia candlesticks, a basket with a bamboo handle and various vases and boxes, to name a few.

Ming has not been reproduced, nor has any other acid etched pattern made by any American glass company of the 1920’s—1950’s that I know of. There are a couple of reasons for this. The first is that acid etching is expensive and labor-intensive, requiring a high degree of skill and a lot of time. Also, disposing of the effluent from the acid, which was usually hydrofluoric, is extremely expensive. In some countries where reproduction glass is made, the effluent might not be a problem depending on the stage of their ecological development, but the skill and labor would be because the wholesale price would never be equal the cost of making it.

Ming has held its value pretty well, although not equal to what it was 10 years ago or so. Spectacular sets such as the pitcher and cocktail sets go for a couple hundred dollars. I bought the big salad bowl and plate set in 2006 for about \$165 (or maybe \$155—sometimes my brain is as spongy as the Ming design and I can’t remember!!). Prior to eBay and the recession, it would have been priced about \$350 or more, but after checking some online sites I found that it is still worth what I paid for it!

Photos by Neal Skibinski



**COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!
JOIN US FOR THE BIGGEST AND BEST CONVENTION EVER!!**

18th ANNUAL

Glass Collectors Convention

THURSDAY-FRIDAY-SATURDAY ♦ MAY 20-21-22, 2010

- ♦ **GREAT SPEAKERS & TOPICS** ♦
- ♦ **DELICIOUS FOOD** ♦
- ♦ **LOTS OF FUN & GAMES** ♦
- ♦ **ALL ON ONE FLOOR!** ♦
- ♦ **AN AUCTION SO BIG WE HAD TO SPLIT IT IN TWO!!** ♦

♦ TWO DAYS OF SEMINARS AND SPEAKERS ♦

Friday 9:15 a.m. Eason Eige
Mexican Glass

Friday 1:00 p.m. Norma Kramer
Vaseline Glass

Friday 2:30 p.m. Sandra Millius
Early American Pattern Glass

Saturday 9:15 a.m. Bo Sullivan
Vintage & Historic Light Fixtures

Saturday 1:00 p.m. Glen Everett
Cambridge Glass

Saturday 2:30 p.m. Diana Schafer
The Charleton Line Decorations

♦ TWO EVENINGS OF AUCTIONS ♦

PARTY WITH THE GLASS LOVERS!!

Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.

FIRST ANNUAL HORS D'OEUVRES PARTY AND SILENT AUCTION WITH LIVE BLUEGRASS MUSIC!!

The food will be delicious and plentiful, and there will be a no-host bar as well.

Admission to the Silent Auction is free whether or not you're registered for the Convention, but if you are not attending the Convention and wish to eat, the charge is \$20.00.

GLASS & MORE LIVE AUCTION

Friday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m.

**Hold on to your seats!
AUCTIONEER AL CARDER**

WILL ENTERTAIN YOU

**AS YOU BID ON SOME VERY SPECIAL
GLASS AND COLLECTIBLE ITEMS.**

THE AUCTION WILL LEAVE YOU SMILING!

Admission to the Live Auction is free whether you're registered for the Convention or not

**DON'T MISS THESE AUCTIONS—COME AND FIND A BARGAIN!
WHAT COULD BE MORE FUN THAN
FOOD, BEVERAGES, MUSIC AND GLASS?**

- ♦ **GROTTO CONFERENCE CENTER, 8840 NE Skidmore, Portland** ♦
(ENTER at NE 85th & SANDY BLVD ♦ PLENTY OF FREE PARKING)

CONVENTION INFORMATION: JEWELL GOWAN, 503.510.9137, jewellsbks@aol.com

AUCTION INFORMATION: Carole White, 503-901-0505, cbessw@aol.com

JANUARY 2010 SHOW & SALE REPORT

Carole Bess White

We faced a huge challenge for this year's Show & Sale: the Fairplex changed our dates because a larger show needed them. Contracts had gone out and we had already distributed thousands of flyers and postcards with the old dates on them, so we retrieved what we could and started over.



All the dealers except one were able to make the change. We were worried about customers coming on the wrong weekend, but we made date change signs for the Fairplex, and Jeff and Mary Ann Specht took flyers and cards to the show that had bumped us and handed them out. This headed off a lot of potentially upset glass show attendees. We also put out a lot of free admission cards at the Palmer/Wirfs January show in Clark County and doubled our advertising budget. Attendance was good, and we realized a bigger profit than expected because of the deal the Fairplex gave us for changing dates.



Jack Bookwalter again provided his van for transportation, and he and Neal Skibinski, Dick Hyde-Towle and Barbara Coleman's son Slade loaded it up on Thursday and then returned everything to our storage areas on Monday, with Show Manager Carole White doing light packing and generally making a nuisance of herself both days.

Our member displays were outstanding. Captain Barbara Coleman organized them around the theme "America's Glass Legacy," with photos of factories and pieces of the glass they produced. Displays take a lot of time, effort and thought, and we thank our members who participated:

Cambridge: Barbara Coleman

Duncan: Bill Line

Fenton: Jack Bookwalter, Dan & Delene Haake, Donna & Ron Miller Mark Moore, Cindy Thomas and Carole White

Fostoria: Neal Skibinski

Heisey: Dennis Headrick

Indiana: Shirley Bolman

McKee: Jewell Gowan

Paden City: Steve Stone

Westmoreland and Tiffin: Carole White

Barbara compiled a terrific book with a page on each factory, so viewers could page through it and learn more about what they were seeing in the displays. Neal Skibinski led a "factory tour" of the displays on the Sunday morning of the show. We all learned a lot from him, as always.

Photos by Neal Skibinski

Photo by Neal Skibinski



This year we added something new: a membership table. Ed Martin and Suzanne Pastori put together a PowerPoint presentation about the club and had it looping on the club laptop adjacent to the door prize box so customers could see what PROG is all about and fill out a membership form as well. We offered a free membership drawing each day as well. We ended up getting six new members!

Diana Jones again captained the club sale coop and sold 10 tables to members.

A lot of work goes into our Shows before, during and after. Many members helped, and many more took postcards and flyers to set out around the area. We gratefully thank participating members: Jan & Don Baxter, Shirley Bolman, Jack Bookwalter, Mavis Case, Rogene & John Clements, Richard Cox, Patricia Day, Barbara Dietz, Sue Frye, Kate Fuller, Jewell Gowan, Delene & Dan Haake, Dennis Headrick, Elmer Heffner, Gyrid & Dick Hyde-Towle, Diana Jones, Suzanne Lemon, Sandra & Ed Martin, Sandra Millius, Joyce Mitchell, Mariam Morehead, Jeff Motsinger, Suzanne Pastori, Dolores Preas, Trish Reading, Neal Skibinski, Cindy Thomas, Emma Lee Weibel, Carole White, Karen & Jim Young. (These names were taken directly from the signup sheets, so if you helped but did not sign up, we are sorry for the omission of your name and appreciate what you did and ask forgiveness for our faulty memory.)

The Show & Sale is one of PROG's two major fundraisers of the year, the other being the Convention Auction, so now it's time to turn our thoughts to the Auction. Our Procurement Committee will be contacting you soon, so please be thinking of possible donations.



3 Photos above by Cindy Thomas