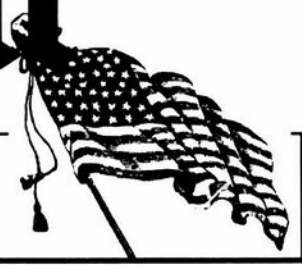


# Cambridge Crystal Ball



Published monthly by National Cambridge Collectors, Inc.  
to encourage and report the discovery of the elegant and boundless product of the  
Cambridge Glass Company of Cambridge, Ohio

Issue No. 363

July, 2003

## HEATHERBLOOM

by Les Hansen

A short-lived color of glass produced by Cambridge in the first half of the 1930s was Heatherbloom. Like its "sister" colors of Alexandrite by Heisey and Wisteria by Fostoria, Heatherbloom is a pale lavender, which changes color based on the thickness of the glass and the source of lighting. Heatherbloom is yet another color developed by Henry Hellmers for the Cambridge Glass Company in the early 1930s. Furthermore, Hellmers consulted with many glass manufacturers during the 1920s and 1930s, and he claimed to have developed the formula for the Alexandrite color made by Heisey.

The color of Heatherbloom hinges on an ingredient called neodymium (pronounced nee-eh-DIM-i-em), which was first used as a coloring agent for glassware in 1925. Neodymium is a silvery-white element, which is costly to separate from its base materials and is categorized as a scarce "rare earth" element. Therefore, neodymium was (in the 1930s), and remains today, a very expensive ingredient for making glass. A web search to prepare this article provided a current market value of \$1 per gram for neodymium, which is the equivalent of approximately \$450 per pound! Granted, this current estimate of cost

would be for a small amount of neodymium, rather than for the bulk amounts (with likely lower cost per unit) required as an ingredient for glass.

The *Colors in Cambridge* book indicates, "Heatherbloom was introduced in November 1931, and the last advertising reference to the color was found in 1935. This color can be deceiving. When viewed in natural light (daylight or incandescent) it is a very delicate pale orchid or lavender. When viewed under fluorescent light, it generally takes on a light blue or gray appearance." The *Colors* book continues, "Caution! This color could be confused with Crystal which has changed to a lavender shade by prolonged exposure to sunlight."

Personally, I travel frequently to Phoenix, AZ, and the antique malls in that city have many booths with

Also in this issue...

Cambridge's  
Flower Blocks

ONLY sun-colored (lavender) crystal glass. Apparently, residents in that part of the country simply place crystal glass on shelving on the rooftops of homes to acquire a uniform lavender color – after all, the sun shines almost every day of the year in that part of the country! So, buyers should beware when purchasing Cambridge glass that has a light lavender color. Heatherbloom items with a crystal stem or crystal foot can provide some level of comfort regarding color. I have overheard many debates among NCC members regarding whether a particular piece of glass is true Heatherbloom or is sun-colored crystal.

*Modern Glass Practice*, by Scholes and Greene, states, "The violet-pink shade produced by a few parts of neodymium oxide in glass is so attractive that it is used in expensive ornamental ware." The textbook continues, "The hue of glass colored with neodymium varies with the thickness or with concentration of the colorant from a light pink in thin sections to a beautiful blue-violet in thicker pieces. This change of hue with thickness is known as dichromism. Lastly, the textbook

continued on page 8

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**Please notify us immediately of any address change.**

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## Cambridge Crystal Ball

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Features available only to NCC Members include:

*Reprints of Research Articles*

*Minutes of Board Meetings*

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## President's Message

# Names to Know

I have had the opportunity to meet many Cambridge enthusiasts over the years. It has been one of the highlights of being an NCC Board Member; I've had the chance to travel a bit around the country and to meet so many people at NCC quarterly meetings and the Convention.

At times it seems like the same names seem to show up in the Crystal Ball month in and month out. That's not necessarily a bad thing, as many of these people are at the forefront of advancing our club mission, but they are not alone.

This column will start to introduce you to some people you ought to know. Perhaps you've met them, perhaps not. Perhaps you've heard of them, perhaps not. All of them are just part of the distinguished citizens of Cambridge Land.

I'll start this month with **Jeff Ross**. For the last several years, Jeff has been our Membership Chairman. Last year, he asked to be relieved from his post as he is now the proud papa of two. (*Congrats, Jill and Jeff!!!*) When his appointed replacement resigned just after a month or two, Jeff selflessly agreed to step back in and keep the function afloat until a new chairperson could be appointed.

Well, it's been nine months and Jeff is still doing the job. But you might never know it because the Crystal Ball's committee listing says this post is "vacant." The unobservant me just found this out ... and what an indignity to Jeff. I'm so sorry.

Jeff has done this job quietly, professionally and without seeking fanfare. He's also done it very well. Despite the economy and our lack of real investment in membership promotion, NCC has held our own.

We are actually up ever so slightly in membership from last year and we should all be grateful to Jeff.

**Frank and Vicki Wollenhaupt** have been to every Cambridge Convention since the club started. I think our past President Joy McFadden is the only other one who shares this distinction (The Ellis' maybe?). Frank and Vicki were very active in the early years of the club and have done much of the groundbreaking research from which we all benefit today.

You may not see Frank's name in print a lot these days but he remains an active part of our educational initiatives. He has stepped in many times at quarterly meetings and led our educational programs. He has done Bring and Brag and glass identification sessions. He has been a frequent Crystal Ball contributor and I hope he can do more in the future. We will all benefit!

Frank and Vicki are active members of our very strong Miami Valley Study Group and did diligent work as part of the team that created the Etchings Book (Volume One).

**Jeannie and Freeman Moore** – you talk about ambassadors for Cambridge Glass. As their kids grew up, these Texans hit the road ... glass show to glass show. Not only are they fixtures at our Convention but they take to the skies to make the White Plains Show and the NDGA (no matter where it is) among many others. They've been to Salem, OR; Kansas City and will likely be found in Tulsa, OK at this year's NDGA.

Further, they are part of the growing club membership who set up displays at shows and sell NCC books and resale product. Got some time? Ask Jeannie about her ball pitcher collection and make sure you see the

pictures. Freeman, no slouch himself, has his doctorate, works for Raytheon and has a passion for Rose Point. Pretty well rounded, I'd say.

**Robin and Tim Cook** – they just live too damn far away. OK, seriously now, Robin and Tim are about the most enthusiastic of our newer members. They have been tutored by long-time Cambridge legends Swede and Kay Larrison and are among a very passionate Pacific Northwest delegation of Cambridge members.

Cindy and I had the privilege of meeting many of our Oregon and Washington members two years ago in Salem but Robin made the biggest impression. Tim and Robin were unleashed on the Cambridge Convention last year for the first time. Boy did they have a good time and drive the UPS people crazy with all they shipped home.

When I think of "passion for Cambridge Glass" as a cornerstone of our club's success, the mental image I see is of Tim and Robin. And my personal thanks to Tim. For their long trip to Cambridge last year, he stopped smoking. His strength helped inspire me, and I'm now eleven months smoke-free.

Continued on page 7

*In Next Month's  
Crystal Ball*

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

...

Report on the Convention

...

Workers' Reunion

# Elegant Glass Study Group says “Goodbye” to Harrisburg Show

by Ken Filippini

The Elegant Glass Study Group once again set up a Cambridge Glass display and book sales table at the Harrisburg Antique Show. Bill & Yvonne Dufft, Charlie & Loretta Weeks and Ken & Jane Filippini represented the group at the show. This year's display focused on Cambridge barware, which was very well represented. The display featured some very rare Rosepoint items, including the #182 14oz Square Decanter bottle, the #1372 28 oz tall decanter with pointed stopper and the #1395 Cocktail Mixer with chrome top and #2 spoon.

Other special items on display were:

- 3400/158 Moonlight Blue cocktail shaker with chrome top
- Tally Ho 1402/51 Carmen handled cocktail shaker
- # 52 Carmen ice bucket
- 1402/ 39 34 oz Carmen handled decanter with silver trim
- Nautilus 3450 40oz cobalt blue decanter and matching tumblers
- #847 green ice tub with rock cutting... and many, many more.

Some of the wonderful Farber Bar items that were on display were:

- Ebony Cordial Set (3400/119 12 oz. ball decanter & 6 mushroom cordials) on a 3-part crystal gadroon tray in chrome duchess filigree footed holder
- Amethyst Tally-ho ice bucket in chrome base
- Forest Green Cordial Set (upright 14 oz. decanter w. chrome duchess filigree holder & 7 7966 trumpet cordials) on a duchess filigree tray
- Portable Decanter Set (w. Amber & Amethyst melon decanters)

The display of Cambridge was impressive; the table was crammed with books and other items for sale. About 10 more displays were set up by other collector clubs. So it could be expected that there would be a lot of action and enthusiasm. However, this was not the case. The Harrisburg Antique Show, like many other shows in the 21st Century, has fewer dealers, lower overall attendance, and even less attendance by the younger enthusiast. It was sad to see how little attention the NCC table received.

I am not saying that doing these show tables and displays is a bad idea. In fact just opposite is true, more displays are needed. Perhaps we need to explore new locations for spreading the word and showing the glass. The Elegant Glass Study Group has decided to change its venue from Harrisburg to The Great Northeast Glass Show (White Plains, NY) The Great Northeast is an exciting show, well supported by glass enthusiasts, dealers and collectors. NCC's representation at many glass shows is fundamental to it's healthy future. We should all share the responsibility for making the effort to bring in as many new members as we can!

In order to insure future interest in Elegant Glass, and to reach a new generation of collectors, other avenues need to be explored. We need to develop strategies to bring the appreciation of this glass to the next generation. The North Jersey Depression Glass Club has improved attendance both at its shows and its glass club meetings by creating a Library display

## MY 2 CENTS

by Alex Citron

*“Take it to the people”*

I have had the good fortune to sit at NCC tables at four different glass shows in the past year or so. When I read Ken's report about this spring's table at Harrisburg, it made me take stock of the shows I've attended.

I volunteered at the last Harrisburg show six months ago, and it was just as Ken describes the latest show. Hardly anyone stopped by our table; there was very little interest; we sold but a handful of NCC books. I don't think we sold a single pair of Scotty Dogs, or a single Jadite tumbler. It was, frankly, a boring and depressing experience in many ways.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, I was one of several NCC members who ran an NCC table at last summer's NDGA Show in Kansas City. That was a terrific experience. Dozens - perhaps hundreds - of collectors stopped by. They were excited to see us, enthusiastic about Cambridge Glass, and bought lots of books and Scottys. We got to do a bunch of glass ID, and have hours of great conversation about glass.

What's the difference? The NCC had never been seen or heard from in Missouri before. The collectors out there are thirsty for information, for research materials and for good conversation about Cambridge Glass. When we go to different shows and find new collectors, we are greeted with enthusiasm.

The NCC needs to make an effort to reach the “neglected” Cambridge collectors west of the Mississippi and down in the deep South. Regionalism ought to be our next club project and one of our top priorities.

As an organization, we cannot expect everyone to come to Ohio - or even to the northeast. We need to find ways to take it to the people... wherever they are.

Got any ideas? Let's hear them!

*continued on page 14*

# Cambridge's Flower Blocks

by Robert D. Robinson

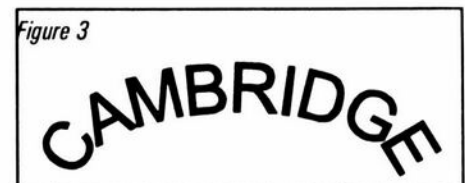
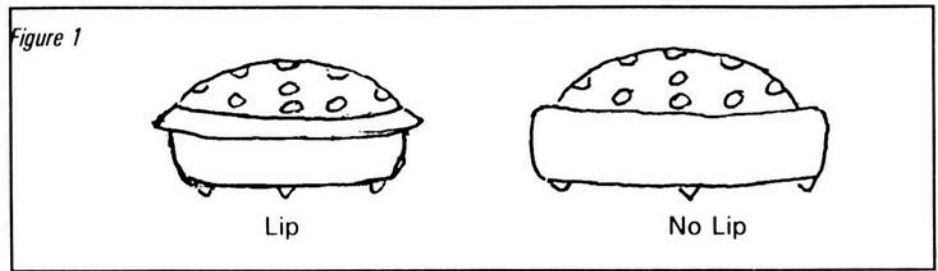
Over the years, I have derived much pleasure from collecting Cambridge Flower Blocks (or holders). It began because they were relatively inexpensive, available, small, easily packed and transported and very pretty.

My collection consists (so far) of 36 Cambridge flower blocks in assorted sizes and colors, plus about ten duplicates. I also have about a dozen non-Cambridge flower holders.

Six of my non-Cambridge flower holders are of interest because I thought they were by Cambridge at first. These blocks are about 4.5" in diameter, relatively flat on top, have a lip around the edge and bear three more-or-less triangular feet. The identifying distinction I soon discovered was that the Cambridge feet are pyramid-shaped, with a pointed tip, whereas the non-Cambridge blocks have feet that are somewhat flattened at the tip. These six blocks are crystal and light green (a color very much like Cambridge's Light Emerald). I don't know who may have made them, but my research and observations have convinced me they are not by Cambridge.

The general characteristics I have observed in Cambridge Flower Blocks are as follows:

- There are two basic shapes seen in the round flower blocks: one with a lip and one without. About 70% of mine have the lip. See Figure 1.
- The shape of the top can vary greatly, from almost flat to a very pronounced dome. This is understandable, given the way these blocks were suspended upside-down during manufacture. Mark Nye wrote a very informative article about this process in *Crystal Ball #251*.
- Those with feet (about 80% of mine) always have three pyramid-shaped feet, evenly spaced around the bottom edge.



- The area around the holes on the bottom is almost always chipped. Most of this was caused by the way they were made (see Mark Nye's article in *Crystal Ball #251*). Some of the roughness, including frequent chipped feet, has surely been caused by wear and tear.

- About eight in ten blocks will have a patent date molded into the side of the base. The date appears to be always the same. See figure 2.

- Four blocks in my collection do not have a patent date; instead they show the name "Cambridge" molded in the base as shown in figure 3.

- On most blocks (about 80% of my collection), the size is molded onto the base, opposite the patent date or Cambridge mark. This writing is often very faint, as if the molds were almost worn out. In a few cases, only a small fragment of the size is visible. Even in such cases, I can rely on the patent date, feet and color to identify Cambridge flower blocks.

- I have round flower blocks in seven sizes:  
6 inches  
5 inches  
4 inches  
3 1/2 inches  
3 inches  
2 5/8 inches  
2 1/4 inches

- The great majority of my flower blocks are round; there are other shapes. I have oval blocks in peach-blo and light emerald. I have a semi-circular block in crystal. The semi-circle is unmarked, but it has three rectangular feet, and appears to match the illustration in a Cambridge Catalog reprint.

- I own flower blocks in eight colors, plus crystal. I assume other colors must exist, so I keep on looking. The colors I have are light emerald, ebony, peach-blo, amber, mocha, moonlight blue, gold krystal, amethyst and frosted crystal.

I have discovered Cambridge flower blocks everywhere and anywhere. Often, they lurk in dark, dingy corners. Sometimes they wait in buckets or boxes full of miscellaneous "junk". I think one of the highlights of my collection is the 6" crystal block I found in a Howard Street Shop (Baltimore). I may soon have a marriage of 4" blocks, since I've heard this block in moonlight blue is in Adamstown, PA. I wonder...

I hope this has been of some interest and assistance to those of you who are, or may become interested in, CAMBRIDGE FLOWER BLOCKS.

# National Museum of Cambridge Glass 2003 Dining Room Display



**Visit your National Museum of Cambridge Glass**  
located at 136 South Ninth Street, Cambridge, OH  
Open Wed - Sat 10 to 4; Sundays 11 to 4



***The National Museum of Cambridge Glass***  
***136 S. Ninth Street Cambridge, OH***

## President's Message: "Names to Know"

from page 3

**Judy and Ken Rhoads** – want to know anything about keyhole? Ask them! Actually, want to know something about anything? Ask Judy and Ken ... they are generous with their time, their knowledge and the companionship. You know how you go through life and don't have the chance to meet "truly good people" ... Well seek out Judy and Ken.

Also Ken was very helpful to me when I first joined the Board. He was a long-time Heisey Board member and shared much of his wisdom – that helped me a lot knowing he was there as a resource. Also, Judy was a real "rock" in the club at a tough time when we had some book publishing issues in the mid-nineties. Without Judy's steady hand, reasoning and great temperament, I'm not sure we would have gotten through it.

And now, Ken and Judy have created our Mentoring Program designed to help first-time convention attendees feel at home ... just like you would ... if you were around Judy and Ken.

Well that's a very partial list. I'm far from done. There are many other people who represent the special fabric that is the National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. I look forward to sharing this with you again as I look at my transition year at NCC. There are many great people to know.

Got your new Logo Pin?



See page 12

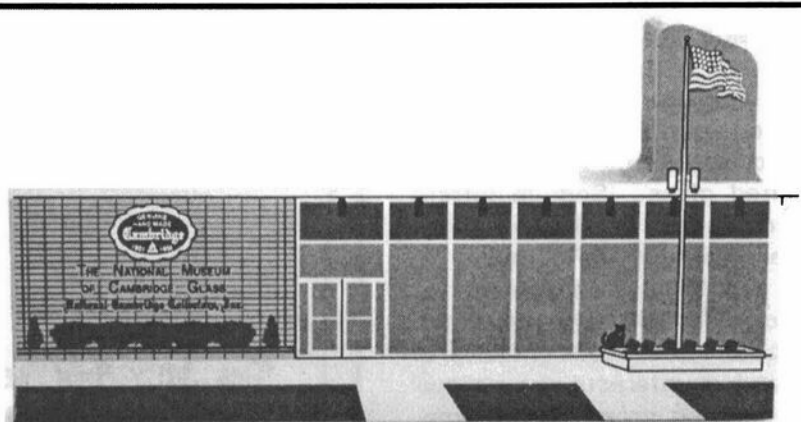
## Ten Questions

A few of us have been playing a sort of a game when we get together with other Cambridge collectors. It has to do with some questions about our respective collections.

I'm printing the ten questions here in the hope that some of you out there might send in your answers. I find that the answers to these questions reveal a lot about us as collectors, and they're fun as well. So give them a try, and I'll print whatever answers I get.

1. What was the first piece of Cambridge Glass you owned, how did you get it, and did you know what it was?
2. At what point in your collecting did you realize you were really a collector, and not just picking up a few pieces?
3. What is your ultimate, fantasy piece to have in your collection? This may or may not be a piece you've seen... it doesn't even have to exist.

4. If your house were on fire (this is just a game, OK) and everyone was out safely and you could only save one piece of your Cambridge collection, what would it be?
5. What is the biggest bargain in your collection?
6. For what piece in your collection did you overpay the most?
7. Do you think you could guess, within a margin of 10%, how many pieces of Cambridge glass are in your collection?
8. What do your relatives and non-Cambridge friends think about your collection?
9. What is the ugliest piece in your collection (or, if you prefer, the least beautiful piece)?
10. What is the one piece in your collection you most like to show off to other Cambridge collectors?



### THE CAT'S MEOW NCC MUSEUM COLLECTIBLES

for sale by the Elegant Glass Collectors Study Group  
**\$20 each.**  
Please contact Bill Dufft at (610) 777-3869 or  
[billnvon@aol.com](mailto:billnvon@aol.com)

# HEATHERBLOOM

from page 1

points out, "The color of neodymium would be useful for masking the yellow-green of iron [as a contaminant in raw materials] if economic factors did not interfere."

The formulas for Heatherbloom (for both pressed and blown ware) of Cambridge and Alexandrite of Heisey according to *Henry T. Hellmers' Batch Book of Glass Formulae* follow. Units are pounds, except for the powder blue. The formulas in the Hellmers batch book tend to be provided with either 450 base pounds (small pot) or 1000 base pounds (large pot) of sand. The formulas for Heatherbloom and Alexandrite are for the larger volumes.

	Heatherbloom	Alexandrite
Sand	1000	1000
Soda	250	360
Potash	140	--
Lime	110	70
Sodium Nitrate	140	35
Feldspar	125	--
Borax	40	75
Arsenic	7.5	2.5
Neodymium	20	90
Selenium	1.25	--
Powder Blue	2.5 ounces	--

Sand is the base material for glass, and soda, potash, and lime are standard ingredients to add fluidity to melted glass. Sodium nitrate accelerates the melting of glass, feldspar improves the durability of glass, and borax is a solvent for metallic oxides (all of the colorants). Arsenic eliminates seeds (bubbles) in glass and counteracts the yellow-green coloring properties of iron, which might be an impurity in the sand and the feldspar.

Besides the neodymium (the sole coloring agent in Alexandrite), the formula for Heatherbloom contained trace amounts of selenium and powder blue as colorants. Selenium imparts a pink color to glass, and powder blue is a dilute form (about 5%) of cobalt oxide. The 2.5 ounces of powder blue in the formula would contain only about .125 ounce of

cobalt oxide for the 1830-pound pot of glass, which once again demonstrates the power of cobalt oxide to impart blue color to glass.

The comparatively large amount of neodymium in the formula for Alexandrite by Heisey (four and a half times as much as the amount in Heatherbloom) is remarkable, especially when cost is considered. More than likely, Hellmers chose to supplement the coloring properties of neodymium with selenium and powder blue to bring down the production cost of Heatherbloom compared to Alexandrite.

Next, we will discuss another formula for a colored glass developed by Hellmers for Cambridge - Amethyst - and compare its formula with the formula of an earlier purple glass produced by Cambridge called Mulberry.



**THIS JULY 4TH, SET  
YOUR TABLE WITH  
CARMEN, ROYAL BLUE  
AND CRYSTAL (OR MILK  
GLASS) AND SEND IN A  
PHOTO. WE'LL PUT IT  
ON THE WEBSITE FOR  
ALL TO ENJOY!!!**

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**HAVE YOU JOINED  
THE CENTURY CLUB  
FOR 2003?**

**TODAY WOULD BE A GOOD  
TIME TO DO THAT.**



*If you know about any upcoming glass shows or other glass events, please pass the word on to us at least six to eight weeks before the show dates. These listings are free of charge.*

## Upcoming Glass Shows

**July 11-13:**

NDGA Convention & Sale  
Claremore, OK  
[www.ndga.net](http://www.ndga.net)

**July 26-27:**

Peach State DG Club Show  
Cobb County Civic Center  
Marietta, GA  
Call (770) 926-0631 or  
(770) 926-0291

**September 20-21:**

Washburn's San Antonio Show  
Live Oak, TX  
Call (210) 599-0635  
Email: [Washburnk@aol.com](mailto:Washburnk@aol.com)



# Study Groups

The NCC has several study groups; these are the groups currently active and holding regular meetings. Listed below is contact information for these study groups.

If there is no study group in your area and you are interested in starting or joining a new study group, please contact the Crystal Ball or call NCC Study Group Advisor Ken Filippini at (201) 670-0990.

- #13 - Miami Valley Study Club**  
Miami Valley area, Ohio  
Larry Everett  
db0098@dragonbbs.com  
(937) 675-6491
- #14 - The Cambridge Cordials**  
Cambridge, Ohio  
Lorraine Weinman  
blweinman@hotmail.com  
(330) 966-9376
- #15 - North Texas Cambridge Study Group**  
Dallas area, Texas  
Scott Pierce  
scottpierce1@msn.com  
(817) 427-9510
- #16 - Elegant Glass Collectors**  
PA & NJ  
Bill Dufft  
billnvon@aol.com
- #17 - The Columbus Wildflowers**  
Columbus, Ohio  
Barbara Wyrick  
bwyr@ee.net  
(614) 291-0361
- #18 - The Cambridge Triangles**  
VA, MD, DC  
Alex Citron  
apcpenguin@aol.com  
(434) 296-2531
- #19 - NE Ohio Cambridge Collectors**  
Akron-Canton area, OH  
Hilda Pfouts  
pfoutshi@aol.com
- #20 - South Florida Study Group**  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Linda Gilbert  
rosepointbabe@aol.com

## Study Group #15 - North Texas Study Group

### 3/9/03:

This was an unusual meeting for us! Saturday March 9 was the first day of Metroplex Glass Show, held in Grapevine Texas. We decided at our January meeting to meet over lunch today, assuming that most of our members would be attending the show. We were correct!

Grapevine Texas is just next to the DFW airport, and we had selected the Olive Garden as our lunch-time meeting location. The restaurant obliged and provided a room big enough to our party of 14 and one guest. It was a great time, discussing glass over lunch! Everyone enjoyed the show and had a chance to talk with other people at our table. Even the dieters had fun and took home doggy-bags.

We made room for a little bit of show and tell: 3900 heatherbloom set of cream and sugar, 935 crystal pitcher with swimming swans silver overlay over a frosted bottom, 9½" Rubina honeycomb bowl with large triangle C, and a 12 ounce Georgian tumbler with turn ticket, bought at the Cambridge auction.

We adjourned our meeting proclaiming it to be rousing success and agreeing this type of meeting was fun. Remember that our next meeting will be April 27, on the topic of candle holders.

### 4/27/03:

Bert and Donna Kennedy served as the gracious hosts for this meeting. We reflected on the unexpected passing of Don Tinney and the burden placed on his wife Nedra. Don was a dealer and key organizer of the October "Age of Elegance" glass show hosted by the North Texas Fostoria Society. Everyone was supportive of the idea raised by Ruth Leonhart that the Cambridge Study Group could help out more during the show

We changed our topic for this meeting to be on lids and stoppers. It seems like there were over 30 different stoppers on display! Probably the biggest stopper was the stopper for the Mt Vernon powder, with the smallest being for the 3400/96 oil bottle. In between, we had all sizes of the 3400 stopper, several golf ball stoppers, several hexagon stoppers, and more. Lids we had. We started with the Caprice mustard lids and

worked our way up to bigger lids. We had lids that people didn't recognize as Cambridge. We focused on the differences in the finials. We had 2 Mt Vernon lids - one with textured finial and the other with a smooth finial. We joked that the crystal lid for a 3797/165 Cambridge square candy box would probably fit a crock-pot!

We made room for a little bit of show and tell: Cambridge arms with patent label, 3500/54 low comport with daffodil etching, pink farberware candy dish, azurite stick vase, Heisy lady's spittoon, Fostoria early Priscilla salt & pepper, small Daisy arch foot mustard, #28 14 inch moonlight blue Caprice dish, frosted on the bottom with silver overlay pattern on the top, 3400/38 moonstone 80 ounce ball jug, royal blue Mt Vernon goblet and sherbet and 4 plates, etchings 556, 575, 634, and 704.

We concluded with plans for the last meeting of the spring. We will be May 17 at the O'Grady's; exploring cups & saucers along with cornucopia. We then retreated to the kitchen for snacks, following by browsing the Kennedy house to see their assorted collection.

### 5/18/03:

Betty and Chuck O'Grady welcomed the North Texas clan to their house for our last meeting of the spring.

Our topic was: Cups, Saucers and Cornucopia - we did have a lot of items to study. We had several Cambridge and non-Cambridge cone shaped things to discuss. However, our major study topic was cups and saucers. Freeman kept the group focused with a handout made with pictures of cup and saucers as shown in the various catalogs. We commented about the colors, etchings and cuttings. We noted that "Martha Washington" appears in the 1930-34 catalog, and then appears as the "Heirloom / 5000" line in the 1949-53 catalog. We found out that the Square line has both a coffee and tea cup. We believe there are 18 unique cup and saucer lines. This is the starting point for further investigation which we hope to complete and document as an article in the Crystal Ball. This is an interesting topic!

What's a meeting without some show and tell? They can be just as educational as the topic. We saw a Community line pin tray, signed with a large Triangle C, 1238 8" peach-blo optic vase with Lorna etching, Morgantown Floret tumbler,

3400/91 8" 3 handled relish with gold encrusted Minerva/Chintz etching, and 1203 amber 8 & 12 ounce tumblers.

Everyone snacked on refreshments while watching the video of the museum grand opening. Everyone was excited by what they saw. Of course, we'll make sure to get the NCC ballots in the mail. Our first meeting of the fall will be September 28 at the Moore's with Jeannie educating us about Georgian Tumblers. We have a tentative date of Oct 26 for the following meeting.

Submitted by Freeman Moore

## Study Group #20 - South Florida Study Group

A first meeting was held at 2:00 pm, June 8, in the home of Linda Gilbert of Miami, Florida. There were 7 founding members present (we hope another 4 will make it to the next meeting). We met and spent the entire afternoon sharing pieces of glass, determining their etch and origin, and tried to explain numbers, names, and blanks to those new to glass. They were amazed if not overwhelmed! I was able to show them the Crystal Lady video which helped them to begin to understand the glass making process. Those not already members of NCC will be sending in their membership registration and yearly dues. A Chairperson (Linda Gilbert) and Secretary (Shirley Pringle) were selected. Our next meeting will be in Ft Lauderdale on Sunday, August 10. At that meeting we hope to select our name and confirm our yearly schedule.

-- Submitted by Linda Gilbert

## Study Group #17 - The Columbus Wildflowers

On Thursday, June 5th, 2003, the Wildflowers met at the home of Linda Speakman at 7:00 pm. Refreshments of relish and cheese trays, iced brownies and giant chocolate covered strawberries were served.

Our meeting was called to order by President Linda Roberts. We devoted this meeting to finalizing plans for the Silent Auction at convention. A list was read of the donated items to date and there are some super items, but we still need more. We decided upon how to organize things and who would do what tasks. Hopefully, we will be able to help

raise a significant amount for museum operations this year.

Our study group meeting schedule adjourns for the summer, but we set our next meeting date to be held at the home of Bill and JoAnne Lyle, and we will have a late summer get-together with a Potluck/ Cookout on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Our program will be our summer glass finds.

Since we had no formal program, we had a rather extensive Show and Tell. Items included: a pair of Light Emerald Candlesticks with unknown non-Cambridge hand painted flowers; a Pristine Ice Bucket with King Edward cutting and sterling foot; an Allegro stem with Paisley etch; a 5 oz. Juice with Sweetheart stem; a tall Keyhole Comport cut Achilles; a #2674 Lemon Extractor in mint condition; a 10 inch Bowl with unidentified Rock Crystal cutting (probably Pristine line); a Dianthus Pink Flip Bowl with very unrefined #733 etch, suspected to be an early or cut version; a 7 inch Cylinder Vase with handpainted and signed Dorothy Thorpe "Lily of the Valley"; an 11 inch Amethyst Decanter with a pewtery silver grape leaf overlay, which was brought in for ID and possibly could be Paden City; and a wonderful collection of Flower Frogs which included the large and small Heron; a Light Emerald Two Kid; the large Crystal Bashful Charlotte with a very distinctive lean; a Crystal Rose Lady; a Crystal Imperial Draped Lady; the Crystal Blue Jay; a small Crystal Bashful Charlotte; and the large Crystal Seagull or Bird in Flight.

Our meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM. See you at Convention!!

New members in the Columbus, Ohio area are always welcome.

Contact:  
Linda Roberts lrobert2@columbus.rr.com  
or Barbara Wyrick bwyr@ee.net

—respectfully submitted by  
Barbara Wyrick, Secretary

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## Study Group #13 - Miami Valley Study Club

The meeting of May 13, 2003 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President, Larry Everett. There were 14 members present. We met at the Huber Heights Public Library.

The new officers for the coming year are President, Larry Everett; Vice President, Ron Hufford; Secretary, Norma Hufford; and Treasurer, Mac Otten.

### OLD BUSINESS:

David Rankin reported on activity on the web site. Trademarks, Nearcut Fernland, and RCE have been added to the site. During April there were 139 visits, 820 pages were downloaded, and there were 3489 hits. David asked for ideas on additions to the site. Will Acord is interested in helping David with the website.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Georgia reported on progress for the convention. Registrations should be in by June 1, and so far there are only three first timers registered. Members were also advised to get ballots in for election of members to the NCC Board.

The program on Sunday, May 18 at the Boonshoft will be presented by Georgia Otten on Cambridge Colors.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

### SHOW AND TELL:

#339 Moonlight Blue Caprice vase; Caprice blown ball shaped marmalade in crystal; #3400/17 12" ebony vase with Apple Blossom etch; #1621 10" crystal urn vase; #3130 bell with Portia etch; #510 Amber Temple jar with matching base with gold encrusted willow border; #1380 26 oz square or Pristine decanter with frosted and sterling decoration; #34 3-toed ashtray in crystal alpine; #3129 6 oz hollow stem champagne cut #765 Vichy; #9403 tumbler with etch UE-26, gooseberries; #70 8" candlestick with etch 510.

### PROGRAM:

Each members was to bring an example of a floral etch in honor of spring. The discussion focused on the Wildflower etch, including examples of the early Wildflower, and the Wildflower cutting,

*continued on page 11*

# Start Your Own Library Project

by Myrle Scott

You might ask, what is a library project? This project is a way to spread information about Cambridge glass, to educate people about the glass making history of our country through Cambridge glass and generally to show the beauty of the glass you collect.

You go about doing this by having displays in your area libraries along with literature and contact persons. Exhibits can be done around glass events i.e., a local glass show, auctions or around convention time. Glass displays may spark an interest in those who may have a collection or even a few pieces and would like to learn more about their items. It is also a good way to recruit new members to the NCC and your local study groups.

My depression glass club has been doing these exhibits for the past three

years and we have found that the libraries love to have our exhibits as well as having good feedback from our membership, increasing membership in our club and drawing people to our glass shows.

If you would like to learn more about this project, come to the joint study group meeting at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 27 at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center Conference Room to meet us. We can help start you on your way to an exhibit of your own. We will have some packets ready with material you might use and ideas about "themes" for your exhibits.

You may contact:  
Ken Filippini at 201-670-0990  
lobsterboy1@aol.com

or...

Myrle Scott at 973-292-3028  
mksteech@aol.com.

## Miami Valley

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and the Marjorie etch. Other examples presented for discussion were floralbaskets as shown on the #7606 sherbet, the #3126 heatherbloom goblet with Portia etch, the #2760 near cut Daisy basket, the large Rosepoint basket, and the Tombstone book-ends with Dresden etch. Also presented were examples of the early floral etches E726, E518 Tulip, Water Lily Chrysanthemum, Apple Blossom, Magnolia, and #6017 etch.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane H. Gary  
Secretary

---

*Make plans now to  
attend the  
August Quarterly Meeting.*

*There's always great pie!*

---

## Ten Years Ago...

Our Museum Committee was asking for donations of rags, especially worn-out bath towels, for paper towels, for ammonia... oh, the glamorous life of a glass collector!

Members were excited about the upcoming publication of the Caprice book. One member, Judy Veteran of Stockton, CA, wrote to ask about identifying Caprice reproductions. We still struggle with that a decade later.

Our financial statement showed assets of \$194,000, over \$70,000 of which was in cash. We were doing pretty well. The operating fund increased by \$6,000 during the preceding year.

Work was ongoing in our storage building; file cabinets were in for the paper records. The non-glass committee was excited about finally getting it all organized!

## Twenty Years Ago...

President Willard Kolb reported that more than half of our museum's visitors came from outside the local area. While he appreciated that, he hoped we could get more of the local folks interested in - and supportive of - the NCC and its museum.

Willard also reported that an NCC Study Group in southern California had sent in a check for \$500. Where are those folks now... let's track them down!

There's a letter from a member in Michigan who found an amethyst Japonica vase, and wondered if anybody knew anything about this line, and if it had much value. Oh, my!

There were Study Group reports from California, Illinois and upstate New York. Another reminder that we need to boost regional involvement.

## Thirty Years Ago...

This was only the third issue of The Crystal Ball. We should be proud of ourselves that we have published an issue every month since May of 1973... EVERY MONTH!

A new Study Group has just been formed (well, everything was new then) in Washington, DC.

Robert Coyle reported that he'd been to a small, local antique show in Newark, OH, and picked up a Carmen Flying Lady, a pair of Carmen Evergalde two-lights and a matched pair of CT covered urns, gold encrusted Diane and a Carmen Japonica urn. A small, local show?

A member was selling some glass (I always find these amusing) - including a Royal Blue Keyhole Ivy for \$10.

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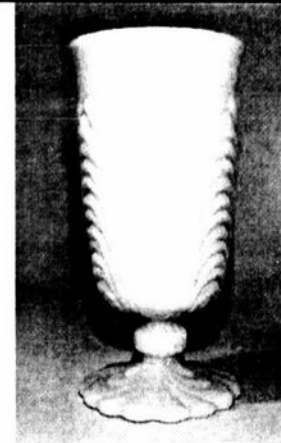
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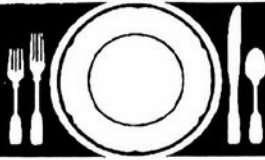
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## The Harrisburg Show

from page 4

project. These displays reach an untapped and decidedly younger group. The Library displays open up one avenue to new collectors, and are a "minimum effort" project. At this year's convention, Myrle Scott and I will be available at the Joint Study Group Meeting, Friday June 27, 11:00 am, at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center. We will be ready to help with questions and distribute materials for this project, which already has two NCC Library displays in the works. We will also be available to discuss other ideas, and take recommendations. Please join us.



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# It's Your Newsletter

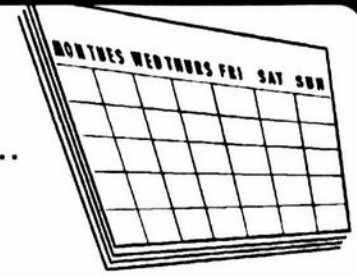
The editor and staff of your Crystal Ball need your help. We have been struggling lately to fill the newsletter with interesting and timely material about the NCC and the history of Cambridge Glass. We know you can help with this.

As you have seen, Les Hansen has been writing a superb series of articles about the Cambridge colors, as developed by Henry Hellmers. Beyond those fine pieces, however, we have seen very little in the way of research and historical material. We know there are many of you who have developed special knowledge about various aspects of Cambridge Glass. This month's article by Bob Robinson about flower blocks is a perfect example. We hope to see more articles like Bob's.

There has always been more to this publication than research. We'd like to get some of those great stories about surprising finds and solved mysteries. We figure every collector must have an amusing anecdote or two. No, you don't have to write like a great novelist. Just tell your story on paper; it's the content - not the style - that people are interested in!!!

The NCC is more and more interested in regionalism and regional activities. If you visit a local glass show or auction house, if you find a shop with some nice glass, if you stumble upon a worthwhile flea market, let us know. We all like to know about new sources, and with so many of us travelling so much, we always want to know where to stop in for some shopping! That's some useful information we can share in this newsletter.

## NCC Calendar Upcoming Events...



**August 23, 2003 (tentative)**  
12:00 noon • NCC Quarterly Meeting & Luncheon  
at Theo's Restaurant in Downtown Cambridge

**November 8, 2003 (tentative)**  
6:30 pm • Quarterly Meeting & Educational Program  
Holiday Inn - Cambridge

The bottom line is this: The Crystal Ball is your newsletter. Make it what you want it to be. Without the support and contributions of our members, we cannot create a publication of value month after month. Once upon a time, we could fill the pages with catalog reprints, but most of them have been published in books now. The reprints look better in the books, anyway.

Please don't nod your head and say to yourself, "Yup, that's something I ought to do someday." Sit down at your computer (or take out a pencil and paper) and write something for your Crystal Ball. If even 10% of the members did that, we'd have enough for a year's worth of issues... maybe even more! I'll say it one more time: this is your newsletter. Make it what you want it to be!

Thanks a lot...

Alex

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*Membership Renewal Notice:  
If the date above your name  
is 07-03, this is your last issue,  
and your NCC Membership has  
expired.  
Please renew today.*