1950s Stemware
Part II
by Mark Nye

In the April issue, stemware introduced by the original Cambridge Glass Co. during the 1950s was discussed. This month's subject is stemware introduced by the company formed after the sale of the original company and also known as the Cambridge Glass Co. While much of the management was new, the second Cambridge Glass Co. employed many of the workers from the original company and the glassware it produced remained essentially unchanged.

The new company began producing glass in March 1955 and ceased production in 1958. During that period, eight new lines of stemware were brought out, these being: Sonata, Allegro, A-56, Invitation, and Connoisseur in 1956; and Queen Mary, Doric, and No. 3799 in 1957.

The Sonata line molds were ordered during the summer of 1956 and the first trade journal advertisement appeared in December 1956. A February 1957 trade advertisement read in part: "...For everyday living, formal or casual entertaining, the oval line of Sonata joins in the festivities. Quietly, in complete harmony with other favorites, it adds to every happy occasion throughout a lifetime, it is destined to become a part of the future's inheritance." The Sonata goblet is illustrated in a Cambridge catalog issued in 1956. Sonata stemware, made in Crystal only, will be found etched Leaves and engraved Anniversary, Charm, Spring, and First Lady. Sonata stemware and other items remained available until the company ceased all operations in 1959. Sonata stemware consists of goblet, sherbet, low sherbet, claret, cocktail, wine, cordial, and footed ice tea.

Surviving Cambridge records show that in December 1955 the molds used for the Sweetheart stemware line were reworked. The new line was described as having "pumpkin ball shape stem" and was originally designated as B-56. Not (Continued on page 11)

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Cambridge Crystal Ball

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Membership is available for individual members at $17.00 per year and an additional $3.00 for associate members (12 years of age and older, residing in the same household). Of the master member dues, $12.00 is credited to a one-year subscription to the Crystal Ball. All members have voting rights, but only one Crystal Ball per household. Effective 1/1/96, multi-year memberships are available: 2 years for $33.00, 3 years for $49.00. Back issues of the Crystal Ball are available for $1.00 each or 12 issues for $10.00. Complete sets for $79.00.

1996-1997
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1997 Glass Show .... Mary Beth Hackett, Joy McFadden
1997 Flea Market ....................... Mike Arent
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National Cambridge Collectors Inc. owns and operates the Museum of Cambridge Glass at 9931 East Pike Road, Cambridge, Ohio. Open April through October 9AM-4PM Wednesday through Saturday and Noon-4PM on Sunday. March open Friday-Sunday. Closed November-February, Easter, July 4th.

ADVERTISING RATES

Display Rates (camera ready ads preferred)

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Classified Rates

10 cents a word  $2.00 minimum

Abbreviations and initials count as words. Type sizes cannot be mixed in classified ads. Payment in full must accompany all ad copy. Contact Editor for copy assistance.

Dealer Directory

Six Line Maximum  $24.00 for 12 month contract

Cambridge Crystal Ball assumes no responsibility for items advertised and will not be responsible for errors in price, description, or other information.

Advertising copy, letters, articles, must be received by the 5th of preceding month to be considered for publication in the next issue.

Please address all correspondence (include SASE) to:
National Cambridge Collectors, Inc.
P.O. Box 416
Cambridge, OH 43725-0416

President Rick Jones 914-631-1656
Vice President Mark Nye 517-592-3578
Secretary Bud Walker 609-965-2413
NCC Museum: Phone and Fax 614-432-4245

Please notify us immediately of any address change.

Opinions or information stated in any signed article or letter printed in the Crystal Ball are those of the author and may not agree with National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. The Editor reserves the right to refuse and to edit any material submitted for publication to conform to the editorial style of the Crystal Ball. Members are encouraged to write to NCC and the Crystal Ball sharing their knowledge and questions!
President's Message

Expand the Hobby Protection Act of 1973

We recently received a letter from an organization called the National Association of Collectors. They alerted us that Congress and the Federal Trade Commission are considering possible legislation to require permanent marking of reproductions. The current act was largely designed to protect things like political items. They are now looking to make it far more wide-ranging.

What follows is a letter I sent on May 5th in behalf of our organization. I highly encourage you to add your voice. It needs to be sent to the address below and reference the case as I've shown. If you take the time to write, would you please send us a copy c/o the P.O. Box on Page 2.

Secretary, FTC, Room H-159
Sixth and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20580
Re: 16 CFR Part 304 - Comment

Dear Federal Trade Commission:

I am writing you in behalf of a non-profit organization, National Cambridge Collectors Inc. We represent thousands of collectors of the fine handmade crystal made by the Cambridge Glass Company in Cambridge, Ohio. We are a 501 c 3 corporation with our charter dedicated to an education and preservation mission.

We are very pleased that you are entertaining legislation to govern the production of reproductions of antiques and collectibles. We are very concerned about the impact that reproductions are having on the hobby of collecting and the value of existing collections.

We are very pleased that you are entertaining legislation to govern the production of reproductions of antiques and collectibles. We are very concerned about the impact that reproductions are having on the hobby of collecting and the value of existing collections.

The elegant glassware business was a thriving domestic industry from the turn of the century through the depression and on into the post-war era. This handmade crystal was a work of art and a true American artisan activity. The glassware today is highly collectible. It is beautiful and reasonably priced when compared to new, imported crystal.

Due to a variety of circumstances, including labor and other economic issues, one by one the major domestic companies went out of business. Cambridge closed for the final time in 1958. The molds and other production equipment were sold to the Imperial Glass Company which eventually folded itself. Our organization was formed in 1973. The membership invested a considerable amount of money to buy what molds we could from Imperial. Unfortunately, we could not get them all.

Several of these molds are being used today to reproduce Cambridge Glass. To the novice collector it is somewhat difficult to tell the difference between the original and the new. The items are infrequently marked as reproductions and are now being made in colors very similar to Cambridge's originals. (Cambridge was the most commercially successful company at producing Crystal in colors, from the opaque to the transparent). Needless to say, this has resulted in caution from the new collector and grave concern to the long-time collector who may have quite an investment in antique crystal.

We strongly urge you to take action to protect hundreds of thousands of Americans for whom collecting is a passion. It is a celebration of Americana and is being threatened by reproductions. Please act now to require clear markings to alert the collector that an item is new, not old. Many of your constituents will thank you for such an important action.

Our organization, through private funds, established a Museum in Cambridge, Ohio, to display the works of Cambridge Glass and to preserve its historical documents. It is open to the public most months of the year. It is only through the generosity of volunteers and private donations that we are able to preserve this important part of Americana.

We thank you for your consideration to expanding this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Richard D. Jones

As we continue our preservation mission, I would like to take the time to thank those volunteers who continue to keep our Museum of high quality. Our Interior Committee devotes countless hours to arrange displays, handle general clean-up and to maintain our inventory. It is a massive job.

All members benefit from their efforts and I hope you have a chance to visit the Museum during the convention or some other time this year. It's worth the trip!
NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE COLLECTORS, INC.
24th ANNUAL CONVENTION
JUNE 1997
TENTATIVE EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

9:00 a.m.  Registration Desk Opens  Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
9:00 a.m.  Golf Group Departs  National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. Museum
10:00 a.m.  Golf Outing  River Greens Golf Course
9:30 a.m.  Fenton Factory Tour Departs  Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
9:30 a.m.  Dalzell-Viking Factory Tour Departs  Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
11:30 a.m.  Fenton Factory Tour  Fenton Art Glass Co. Factory
4:00 p.m.  Orientation Session - First Timers  Conference Room - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
7:00 p.m.  Picnic  Pool Side - Best Western Motel

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

9:00 a.m.  Coffee With Cambridge  National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. Museum
9:00 a.m.  Registration Desk Opens  Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
1:00 p.m.  Cambridge & The 1950s - Mark Nye  Conference Room - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
4:30 p.m.  Antique Show Opens  Exhibit Hall - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
7:30 p.m.  Convention Chairman's Reception - Cash Bar  Galleria - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
8:00 p.m.  Friday Night Supper  Galleria - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
9:00 p.m.  Mini-Auction  Galleria - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

7:00 a.m.  Flea Market Opens  Beech Grove Family Development Center
11:00 a.m.  Antique Show Opens  Exhibit Hall - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
1:00 p.m.  Programs From Years Past  Conference Room - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
3:00 p.m.  Glass Identification - Lynn Welker  Conference Room - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
4:00 p.m.  Bring & Brag - Lynn Welker  Conference Room - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
6:30 p.m.  President's Reception - Cash Bar  Galleria - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
7:00 p.m.  Annual Banquet Speaker - Dean Six  Galleria - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

8:30 a.m.  Buffet Breakfast  Galleria - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
9:30 a.m.  Annual Meeting  Galleria - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
11:00 a.m.  Antique Show Opens  Exhibit Hall - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center
1:30 p.m.  Cambridge Glass Co. Workers Reunion  Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center

Have A Safe Trip Home
See you in 1998
Convention 1997 Update
by Mark Nye, Convention Chairman

Even though the 1997 NCC Convention begins within the month you still have time to make plans to attend. If you are planning to attend and have not yet mailed in your registration form, do it today! Registration forms must be received in Cambridge by June 16. If for some reason you are unable to return the form by the cutoff date, a telephone call to the convention chairman not later than June 18 will reserve your place at the convention.

I hope everyone has made their motel reservations. If you are unable to obtain lodging of your choice in Cambridge, the Zanesville motels are an alternative and are not a great distance away. Motel lists were published in the May issue.

Included in this issue is the tentative Events Schedule. The final schedule will be in your convention packet and should be used at convention since last minute changes, although not planned, might occur.

If you arrive Thursday after the registration desk closes, you can still attend the picnic that evening and Coffee with Cambridge the next morning. Registration lists and temporary name tags will be available at the functions.

### Thursday Events

**10:00 A.M. GOLF OUTING**

All golfers are to meet at the NCC Museum at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 26, 1997, to arrive at River Greens for 10:00 a.m. tee times. Golfers who wish to meet at the course can exit I-77, west on Route 36 to state Route 751, and south about one mile to River Greens Golf Course.

**7:00 P.M. POOLSIDE PICNIC**

In the spirit of the '50s...
Getting into the theme of this year's convention, the Cambridge Cordials study group will be dressing the part Thursday evening at the NCC pool party. Join the Cordials and "rock-n-roll the night away...."

- Be “nifty” — dress like in '50 !
- Don’t be “square” — BE THERE !

The Cordials hope that you will dress the part too both Thursday and Friday nights.

In addition to the group tours to Fenton and Dalzell Viking, it is possible to tour the Boyd and Mosser glass factories, both of which are located in Cambridge.

Please bring donations for the mini-auction. Donated items need not be museum-quality pieces, just something with which we can raise money for the Museum. Remember the mini-auction is a fun auction, selling everything from good Cambridge to empty bottles and cookies! It is not a scaled-down version of the All Cambridge Auction held in March, but rather a fun way to support the Museum. All items are donated and all of the proceeds go directly to the Museum.

If the mood strikes you, dress 1950s on Friday night.

There will be a prize for the best dressed! On Saturday night, bring that special Cambridge goblet or glass from which to drink your favorite beverage of choice.

See you in Cambridge.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

We are saddened to report that Gwendolyn I. Cortese, of Winter Haven, Florida, passed away on April 22, 1997.

Gwen was a homemaker. She owned and operated The Wilshire Motel and The East End Bar, and she worked for the former Cambridge Glass Co. as a guide for tourists. She was long-time member of NCC and will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph J. Cortese, in 1977; two sisters, Margaret Thaxton and Betty Mitchell; and a brother, Charles Mitchell.

She leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Charles A. and Debbie Cortese of Phoenix, AZ; a stepson and daughter-in-law, Ralph and Geneva Cortese Jr. of Cambridge; a sister, Mary Martha Mitchell of Cambridge; a sister-in-law, Carolyn Mitchell of New Jersey; four nieces, Cynthia Arent of Cambridge, Melinda Thaxton of Ft. Wayne, IN, Lori Mitchell of Azusa, CA, and Lisa Mitchell of Los Angeles, CA; two grandchildren, Casey and Amber Cortese of Phoenix, AZ.

We extend our sympathy to Gwen's family and friends. We and others do care and share in your loss.
HEISEY COLLECTORS OF AMERICA, INC.
27 Annual
ELEGANT GLASS SHOW
Celebrate the legacy of A. Heisey & Company with 50 prominent dealers, from across the US.

--- Preview ---
Wednesday, June 18, 1997
$10

--- Free ---
Featuring Free
All-Heisey
Glass Display
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Saturday, June 21, 1997
12 noon to 5 p.m.
FREE Admission
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Proceeds benefit The National Heisey Glass Museum

TIFFIN GLASS COLLECTORS
12th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE
Featuring Tiffin Glass &
Other Elegant Glassware

SCHOOL OF OPPORTUNITY
780 E. Co. Rd. 20, Tiffin, Ohio

Fri., June 27, 1997 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Premier Admission - $6.00
Saturday, June 28, 1997 10 AM - 5 PM
Sunday, June 29, 1997 11 AM - 4 PM
General Admission - $2.00 (Good Both Days)

Information: 419-447-5505 or 419-447-4452

Dean Six to Speak at Saturday Night Convention Banquet

Dean Six is a lifelong resident of West Virginia growing up near the glow of small marble factories. He has since that time attained degrees in history and law. His lifelong fascination with glass, as object and industrial history, led him in 1997 to seek to document all the hot glass producers from his home state. Since beginning, he has identified over 450 glass factories that have produced in West Virginia. His book sharing that research, tentatively called the West Virginia Glass Encyclopedia, is projected to be done in the year 2000. He has written extensively about glass. Articles have appeared in The Daze, Glass Collector’s Digest, and other glass periodicals. He wrote the history article for the book Seneca Glass Company: A Stemware Identification Guide, published by Replacements, Ltd. His glass interests are diverse including being the glass author for the book Arts and Crafts Movement, Chartwell Books, which was published in the US and UK.

Dean serves on the board for the National American Glass Club and is a past president of the Pittsburgh chapter of the NAGC. He was cofounder of the West Virginia Museum of American Glass Ltd. and edits their quarterly newsletter. Dean travels widely seeking and lecturing on glass history. His perspective is often unique as his interest comes from how glass was made and from history and not from a purely object-oriented view. He does admit, however, to having a glass collection.

Bogart’s
Bed & Breakfast
62 W. Main Street, New Concord
New Concord lodging in 1830 Federal Style home, decorated with antiques throughout

Bogart’s Antiques
7527 E. Pike, Norwich OH
Quality Antiques Bought & Sold

OWNERS: Jack & Sharon Bogart
872-3514 or 826-7439
Triangle-C Finds

Metal-Handled 64 oz. Doultons

by Joseph A.A. Bourque Sr.

Dear Reader,

It has been a long time since I last wrote an article about Cambridge glass.

The Cambridge glass trademark is usually described as a C in a Triangle. I think of it as a Triangle with a C in it. Therefore, I title my articles as: Triangle-C Finds.

Recently I received a splendid gift which I care to share with you. It's a Cambridge Ohio Glass Company 3400 Line pitcher, 64 ounces, with amethyst coloration. It's a Doulton Style and Pinch Type combination. It has a fancy chromed metal handle. It sits on a chromed metal base. The condition is mint.

Although it's not a rare item, I find it worthy of writing about since I am unable to find any reference material. The Doulton jug is quite an alluring Triangle-C gem. The metal handle with bracket and bracing neckband are a perfect fit for the jug blank. Note the points of contact where bare metal rests on the thin glass midpoint of the pitcher, and upon the delicate rim of the collar. I think it would be risky to use it. Anyone who owns one of these must treat it gently. (See Figure 1.)

The handle itself is made of a solid, heavy silvery metal. The neckband, nuts, bolt, and base are brass. (The chromed base is held to the pitcher by a light gray compound.) Notice the curved top and curled end of the stylized Acanthus leaf atop the handle. If you can't relate to it, look at some of the handles in the Krome Kraft book (Julie Sferrazza) or the Farber Brothers' catalog. Their Acanthus leaves are similar. (See Figure 2.)

I thought this vessel would be listed in the particularly useful 3400 Line compilation in the Crystal Ball of September 1981 arranged by Mark Nye. I did not find it listed.

Doulton Style jugs are of the 3400 Line. They are not found to be abundant. Pinch Type items are not plentiful either. There are but two Doultons and two Punch items

(Continued on page 8)
I did some research in an attempt to locate data regarding this 64-ounce jug with the puzzling history, but with negative results. Number 154 of the listing pertains to a 14-ounce Pinch mug (see Welker's Book II-12). I wondered if there was a No. 154 pitcher to go with this mug. Research disclosed that a No. 154 Doulton Pinch pitcher did indeed exist; however, it was a 76-ounce one (1940 Cambridge catalog - 67 & 412; Colors in Cambridge Glass plate 32-1-2).

In measuring this vessel, it was filled to the neckline. It held exactly 64 ounces. When filled to the brim it held 71 ounces. It is not a 76-ounce pitcher. (See Figure 3.)

This pitcher never had a glass handle applied to it. The surfaces of it are unexplored and in a pristine, glossy state. The back of the collar, which would normally be applied to the end of the upper part of the handle, has never been worked on. (See Figure 4.)

Dear Readers, I would appreciate hearing from those of you who have a Cambridge 64-ounce Doulton Pinch pitcher with or without a metal handle so we can share it with the membership.

Until the next Crystal Ball,

Joe

(The pitcher was a birthday gift from daughter Darlene and her fiancé Patrick. It was purchased at auction as a piece of "Nash" glass.)
In the Crystal Ball 3400 Line compilation, No. 154 listed a single item, a 14 oz. Pinch mug (Welker Book 11-12).

This Doulton Pinch Pitcher, 76 oz., can now be added to the 3400 Line compilation, along with the No. 154 Pinch mug.

In the long run, we hit only what we aim at.
Aim high.

Henry David Thoreau

- TIFFIN - DUNCAN MILLER - FENTON - HEISEY -

22nd Annual Duncan Miller Convention
Glass Show & Sale
Sponsored By
The National Duncan Glass Society
July 26, 27, —11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Alpine Club
735 Jefferson Avenue, Washington, PA
I-70 Exit 6 1/2 Mile
Admission $3.00
$.50 Discount With This Card/Ad
Auction Saturday, July 26, 1997 — 6:30 P.M.
Thistlecrest Auction House, Rt. 40 E.
For Information Call:
(412) 225-9950

- NEW MARTINSVILLE • PADEN CITY • MORGANTOWN •
long after the molds were changed the company began using the same line number, 3795, used for Sweetheart for the new line and then named it Allegro. An advertisement for Allegro appeared in the March 1, 1956, issue of "CROCKERY AND GLASS JOURNAL." The July 1956 issue of CGL contained an illustration of a Paisley etched Allegro goblet with this caption: "Paisley crystal with delicately etched design, low fluted stem, is $2.35 retail." While primarily a Crystal line, Allegro was also made in a very limited amount in Smoke and Smoke Crackle. Engravings on this line include Fascination, Fiesta, Fire Fly, Peter Pan, and Spring.

The molds for the line of stemware designated A-56 were ordered in early October 1955. Actual production probably started in early 1956 when the line became known as Today. Cambridge price lists from 1956 and 1958 listed A-56 only in Crystal. A December 1956 trade journal advertisement stated the line was available in four color combinations: Crystal/Amber, Pistachio/Crystal, Charcoal/Gold, and Pink/Charcoal. Charcoal as a color name does not appear in any known Cambridge catalogs, price lists or other surviving documentation. It is possible that Charcoal is simply another name for the color listed as Smoke. The collector will on rare occasion come across a piece of this line heavily encrusted with gold.

Imperial Glass Co. produced the Today line with Crystal bowls and stems in the Imperial colors of Antique, Emerald, Sapphire, and Topaz. They also made it in all-Crystal version as well. The latter cannot easily, if at all, be distinguished from Cambridge production. Engravings on the Today line include Formal, New Star, Roses, Starlite, and Tomorrow. Items in the Today line were those found in most stemware lines: goblet, sherbet, claret, cocktail, wine, cordial, and two footed tumblers, 12 ounce and 5 ounce.

Invitation is another in the series of non-traditional drinking vessels produced by both Cambridge companies. A "stemless" line of stemware Invitation or 3791 was apparently produced using existing bowl molds and a cast foot. Invitation was included in the 1956 price lists but is not mentioned in the 1958 list. As Invitation, it was included in the 1956 price lists in Crystal with all items available. The line with a single platinum rim band was offered in Pink and Crystal and in this instance was known as Modern. Not available as Modern were the wine and cordial. Other items in the Invitation or No. 3791 line are: goblet, sherbet, claret, cocktail, 12 oz. footed tumbler, and 5 oz. footed tumbler.

The last of the 1956 lines, Connoisseur, will be covered in a future article.
No. 3795 - CLARET
No. 3795 - SHEBBET
13 OZ. FOOTED TUMBLER
No. 3795 - WINE
No. 3795 - COCKTAIL
No. 3795 - CORDIAL
No. 556 - 8" SALAD PLATE
No. 3795 - ODLET
Today
Invitation

No. 3791 — GOBLET
No. 3791 — SHEERET
No. 3791 — 12 OZ. FOOTED TUMBLER
No. 3791 — COCKTAIL
No. 3791 — WINE
No. 3791 — CLARET
No. 3791 — CORDIAL
No. 536 — 8" SALAD PLATE

THE CAMBRIDGE GLASS COMPANY, CAMBRIDGE, OHIO, U.S.A.
Robert W. Riley  
P.O. Box 4180  
Springfield, MA 01101  
(413) 739-3669  
P. & l. extra  

after 8 p.m.  

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<td>2651 Feather 8” plate, signed 25</td>
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<td>C90 Caprice ball salt and pepper shakers</td>
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<td>#1 2 1/2” stars, pair</td>
<td>2768 7” plate, signed 20</td>
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<td>----- Stradivari 1 oz. cordials set 125</td>
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<td>#54 Mt. Vernon 7” vase, Sterling Grapes decor</td>
<td>----- Stradivari 1 oz. cordials set 125</td>
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<td>---  --- Ebony console set, 8” bowl set 75</td>
<td>1917/361 Mulberry plainware 10” sandwich tray 40</td>
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<td>and #625 candlesticks with chrome trim</td>
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1997 Calendar Planning  
Be sure to mark your calendars with these important National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. dates. The following are tentative dates for major club activities during 1997:

June 25-29 1997 Convention  
August 23 August Quarterly Meeting/Picnic  
November 1 November Quarterly Meeting  

Today is when everything that’s going to happen from now on begins.  

Harvey Firestone Jr.
We just wanted to send a couple of pictures of our new acquisitions. Each vacation or weekend brings new Cambridge treasures and entrusted memories. Gotta find more...more...more...

Sincerely,

Glenn & Kathy Corbett
(California Cambridge Nuts!)
Recent Finds

We really appreciate hearing about and seeing what other people are finding. Please let us know about your recent finds. It's always great to see pictures of your finds as well!

PICTURED ON PAGE 16 (from left to right)
Top Row: Gold Krystal Apple Blossom stem, Amber Charlotte, Peach Blo Apple Blossom box.
Middle Row: Ebony compote, Topaz urn, large Crown Tuscan shell.
Bottom Row: Pressed Rose Point, Carmen ice bucket, Trefoll plate.

Or so we thought...

by Michael Neilson

After attending the annual benefit auction and talking with so many people about "recent find" stories, a lot of people said I must be the luckiest guy around. A number of them said I should write a little about some of my best finds, so here goes.

My wife Lisa and I began collecting Cambridge Glass about four years ago. I had covered a number of Cambridge Glass shows and events for the Cambridge newspaper and had admired the beauty of the glass at each of the functions. My late mother had left me a few pieces of Cambridge, but nothing very rare nor with the many beautiful colors that Cambridge had to offer.

After doing some promotional pictures for the 1994 convention, Cindy Arent convinced me to visit the show and the flea market. On Saturday morning, we were off to the flea market, though we really weren't expecting to buy anything. Or so we thought...

Our first buy was Royal Blue keyhole ivy ball. We made the rounds from booth to booth, buying some Blue Caprice, a pair of green Dolphin candlesticks and a few other pieces.

It had happened. I had been bitten by the Cambridge Glass bug.

Shortly thereafter, we started hitting a few shops here and there buying this and that and learning more and more about Cambridge. In mid-September of that year, we traveled to Riverfront Antique Mall in New Philadelphia. We entered and headed to the right down the first aisle. About four booths into the aisle, amidst a vast array of what was mostly furniture, sat a cabinet. On the cabinet's top shelf sat a pair of what we thought were Carmen 12-inch urns decorated with Japonica. Being so new into Cambridge, we were unsure if they were the real thing. We checked the price tag and thought it read $1,650 each. "Boy, they must be real," we thought.

Just to be sure, we went to the other side of the mall to examine the Colors in Cambridge book. With no success finding the book (which we’d seen there several times before), we went back to look at the urns again. A second look showed the price to be $165 each. So were they real or not?

Well, at that time the dealer arrived at her booth to set out more items for display (but no Cambridge). I asked her if she knew if this was Japonica or not since the price tag said only "Red Urn." She had no idea what Japonica was, so we made our next move.

Determined to solve this mystery, we started calling friends who had more knowledge of Cambridge and Japonica. Alas, it was a beautiful Saturday and no one was at home. So I called a local dealer and explained what I had found. She said it sounded like it was real; she then told me even if the urns weren't Cambridge, she'd give me the store price if I decided to sell them. Well, that sounded good enough to us. Back to the booth we went.

When we got there, Lisa and I both gasped as there was another couple standing there staring at the urns. "My Gosh," I thought. "Are they going to buy them? Do they know what they are?"

Luck was on our side. The couple obviously had no knowledge of Cambridge and moved on. What a relief!

We got the urns down and asked the dealer, who was still there, if she would come down on the price, but she said it was firm. Unfettered by her lack of dickering, off to the cashier we went. Being as nervous as could be while waiting to pay for this potentially incredible find, I almost knocked one of the urns off the counter. The attendant said, "Calm down. It's just a piece of glass." She was obviously wrong.

(Continued on page 18)
WANTED: Rare or unusual pieces of Cambridge Glass, especially Opaques or Carnival. Also Cambridge Art Pottery. Top prices for outstanding pieces. Call collect 609-965-2413.

There's a special mini auction at convention time each June. Willard will make most bids double, which is the intended opportune. The museum is the benefactor. No bargains are allowed, often starting beyond reason, to the quick delight of the crowd. And so, expect your dollar will have many more as twin - if you expect to be a winner and go home with anything. If it is something you covet - a value glass, very dear, join the crowd of donors to brag about it, another year.

Paul E. White

(OR SO WE THOUGHT... - Continued from page 17)

Upon returning to Cambridge, we ran into longtime collector Cindy Arent. We showed her one of the urns and she confirmed what we had hoped. Indeed it was truly Japonica. We told her what we had paid.

"It's too bad you don't have a lid," she said.

At that point, not only did we pull out the lid, but another identical urn. There was a look of shock on her face.

From there, the story of our first great find took off, reaching collectors everywhere. We told our story in antique malls in several neighboring states, to which people often responded, "So you're the ones who found them."

Since then, we've found numerous great finds at "very" affordable prices, including a 10-inch Crown Tuscan swan (Style I), an etched dragon vase, a Pamona vase, and an Ebony gold-encrusted Chantilly urn, just to name a few. But none will top the Japonica urns, at least not yet.
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