

Historical Glass Museum

June 2020 Volume 4 Issue 3



Museum Location:

1157 N. Orange Street
Redlands, California
909-798-0868

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375
HistoricalGlassMuseum.com



The Museum has a new page on Facebook, for those who like to indulge in social media. Search for REDLANDS HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM. (There is an older page without the word Redlands, but we currently are not able to update it.)

We encourage you to “LIKE” the page, as that will alert you to any new posts that are made to the page. We can then show things like new donations and maintenance progress to a large audience all at once.

We also encourage you to post your impressions of the Museum on that page, so that others may be inspired to pay us a visit. That is one way that YOU can help spread the word that there is a beautiful museum in California dedicated to American-made glass.

KEEPING IN TOUCH



We have not yet received permission to reopen from the Governor of California. The Board has reluctantly postponed reopening until at least the weekend of July 11. When we do, we will ask our visitors to wear a mask and we will have to limit the number of visitors at one time to maintain spacing. These restrictions are for our safety as well as the safety of our visitors.

It might not seem like there would be expenses when we've been closed for the last couple of months, we still have bills for trash, electricity, water, insurance, landscape maintenance, taxes, and more. While we concentrate at times on the Restoration Fund, the Museum is always in need of, and appreciative of general funding, never more than the present.

NEW TAX LAW

Congress may have helped out the Museum recently. Here's how:

In response to the coronavirus crisis, the CARES Act added a new above-the-line deduction to encourage more charitable giving. Even if you take the standard deduction on your 2020 tax return, **you can still deduct up to an additional \$300 for cash donations to charity you made during the year.** (The CARES Act also lets itemizers deduct more of their charitable gifts.)

While the Museum was closed for three months, there was virtually no income from gift shop sales or donations from admissions. Perhaps you are in a position to take advantage of the CARES Act and help the Museum with a donation.



Available in the Gift Shop

WE NEED YOU !

Our museum is run by an all volunteer board of directors and volunteer docents.

We welcome any member who would be willing to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board meets for about two hours (or less) on the first Tuesday of each month from 10:00am until about noon. Some Board members attend via conference call – you don't have to travel to Redlands.

DID I HEAR SOMEONE SAY “CHOCOLATE GLASS?”

By Shirley Barnett

I LOVE Chocolate, Yummm, my husband can attest to this fact. When I heard there was something called “Chocolate Glass”, I said “Yikes, I have to check this out!”

A small town called Greentown, Indiana had an abundance of natural gas and an eagerness to create their own glass manufacturing company. The Indiana Tumbler & Goblet Company was founded by D.C. Jenkins, Jr. and opened in June 1894. It produced glass for only nine years, until 1903. At the beginning the company made primarily crystal and transparent colored glass items. In 1900, the company’s success was assured when the glass chemist Jacob Rosenthal came to Greentown and perfected his secret formula for chocolate glass, an opaque brown glass.

Chocolate glass is sometimes mistakenly called caramel slag. It is a variegated opaque pressed glass ranging in shades from dark brown to light tan. It became darker or lighter depending on its exposure to the heating process during manufacturing. At the time, master glassmakers never revealed all the secret ingredients of their formulas. It was said that Rosenthal may have added oats to his glass mixture!

Two main patterns were designed especially for chocolate glass, Leaf Bracket and Cactus. However, based on public demand, the company also utilized molds from its earlier pattern lines such as Shuttle, Austrian and Dewey. Novelty items were also created to meet the demand for buyers including covered animal dishes.

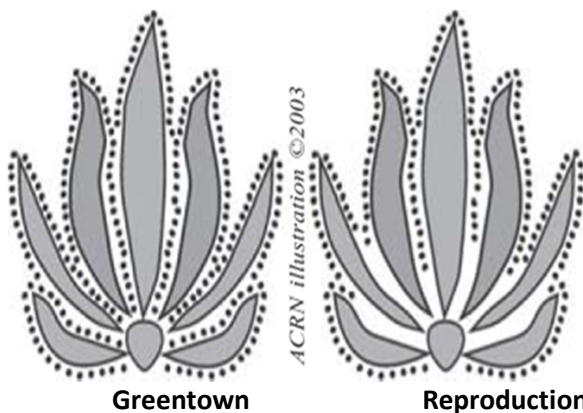
Tragically, a catastrophic fire destroyed the factory in 1903 and it was never re-built. Jacob Rosenthal ended up moving to the Fenton Art Glass Company in Williamstown, West Virginia. Fenton later introduced their Water Lily and Cattails pattern in chocolate glass in 1907. Fenton created a commemorative plate in chocolate glass in 1976 to celebrate the American Bicentennial. They made other chocolate glass pieces and all of these later items have the Fenton mark on them.



Mosser Glass Company of Cambridge, Ohio also made a limited amount of chocolate glass including : Log Cabin sugar and creamer, Grape butter dish, sugar and cream.

Since the 1950’s at least 12 U.S. glass companies have made copies of the Greentown’s most famous patterns and colors. There are many reproductions, but fortunately the majority of the copies were made with new molds, since the old molds were destroyed by the fire in 1903.

As an example, in the Cactus Pattern, the easiest way to identify a reproduction is noting the beading around the plant segments. In the original pieces the beading goes completely around and in between each segment of plant. On reproduced items the beading does not surround each segment.



Two excellent resources for Greentown Glass are:

- GREENTOWN GLASS, THE INDIANA TUMBLER & GOBLET COMPANY, written by Dr. James S. Measell.
- A GUIDE TO REPRODUCTIONS OF GREENTOWN GLASS, written by Dr. James Measell

I now have three pieces of Greentown Chocolate glass in my collection and I know with my chocoholic tendencies it is only the start!

Check out page 5 for some additional photos of chocolate glass items.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS ...

We would like to acknowledge the donations of glass or other items, to be used either for display at the Museum or to be sold in the Gift Shop to support the Museum's operations. The following people donated glass and/or other items since the last newsletter. Thanks to all for your support of the Museum.

NON-MONETARY DONATIONS:

Steve & Shirley Barnett- security cameras \$300.00

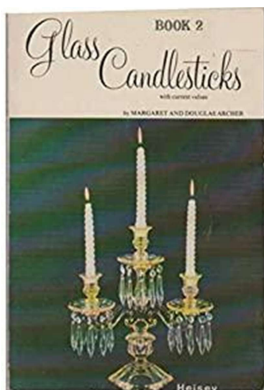
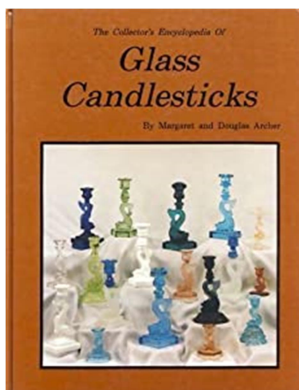
CASH DONATIONS:

Dorothy Peterson \$10.00
Cheryl Bryan \$30.00
Andrea Burke \$50.00
Martha McGill \$100.00
Bill Summers \$300.00
Barbara Thomasson \$20.00
Jacque Rocha \$17.50
Ralph Beachler \$30.00
Bill Kleese \$200.00

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of these donors for their generosity.

ANOTHER TYPE OF DONATION

Every month, on the third Thursday, we hold a cleaning session at the Museum, beginning at 10am. Volunteers help to clean the shelves in the cases, and perform other tasks to help keep the Museum looking good. We welcome any help we can get. The donation of *YOUR TIME* is as welcome as a cash donation. Come join us.



IN MEMORIAM – DOUGLAS ARCHER



The Board is sad to announce the passing of Douglas Archer at the age of 94, one of the founding members of the Historical Glass and a friend to many glass collectors across the nation. He was also one of the Museum's Life Members.

Doug was born in North Carolina in 1926. He enlisted in the Navy at age 17 (in 1943), serving in the Pacific on board the Battleship USS Indiana. Upon discharge, he married Margaret. He graduated from the University of Kentucky, and worked as a planning engineer at AT&T.

Doug and Margaret began their glass collection in 1967 when Doug received 45 candlesticks from his sister. Together, Doug and Margaret authored four books on glass candlesticks:
Glass Candlesticks (1975) (at left)
Glass Candlesticks 2 (1977) (at left)
Imperial Glass Catalogs 1904-1938 (1978)
Collectors Encyclopedia of Glass Candlesticks (1983)

They opened the Archer Glass Museum in Kernersville, NC and Doug also helped to design the Imperial Glass Museum in Bellaire, OH.

Most of the Archers' glass collection was donated to the Samuel Cupples House Museum in St. Louis, MO. Among the items they donated included Steuben, Webb, Tiffany and Venetian chandeliers and many candlesticks and candelabra.

Group Tours of the Museum



Although the Museum is open for visitors, at the present time, we cannot accommodate large groups. We must limit the size of groups until the governor gives us the green light to resume our normal tour protocol.

GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Weekday group tours for groups of 8 or more visitors are available by appointment. The charge is \$5.00 per person, with a minimum charge of \$40.00. For information and bookings, call Bill Summers at **951-850-0915**.

Tour bus parking and a handicap ramp are available. The museum entrance and wheelchair ramp are located at the rear parking lot. There is also parking along the street curb on Western at Orange.

IN MEMORIAM – BONNIE ACKERMAN

We are sad to report that Museum member Lisa Ackerman-Baldwin lost her mother, Bonnie Ackerman, on April 10th. She was 93. The longtime owner of **A&P Antiques** in Old Towne Orange, California, and an enthusiastic Museum supporter, Bonnie encouraged her customers to come to Redlands to see the Museum for themselves.

Her shop (which Lisa helps run) was always well-stocked with the Museum's glossy all-color rack cards, which they displayed prominently and handed out eagerly. But Bonnie didn't just tell her customers to visit the Museum; she visited it herself. She especially liked to browse the Gift Shop, and made multiple purchases every time!

Vice President Bill Summers recalls how he would visit Bonnie's shop and find examples of Fenton glass that he wanted to purchase for the Museum collection. Each time, as soon as Bonnie heard where the piece was headed, she would drop her asking price considerably. The Museum family extends its sincere condolences to Lisa and her husband, Dan.

RESTORATION FUND

The Board of Directors established a Restoration Fund designated to set aside funds for restoration and maintenance of our century-old building. It has already been instrumental in restoring the exterior of the Museum. Thanks to all who donated towards the restoration.

The next phase of restoration will be a new roof, but it seems like the current roof is still reasonably sound, so we have time to raise additional funds towards its eventual replacement.

The Board welcomes cash donations designated for the Restoration Fund. You may designate "in Memory of " or "in Honor of " with your donation.

Checks should be made out to the Museum, with a note designating the Restoration Fund. Send to:

Historical Glass Museum
P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375-2395



Don't forget to use Amazon Smile when you buy from Amazon, and designate the Historical Glass Museum as your charity. The Museum receives a donation from Amazon and it doesn't cost you anything. Just go to:

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

make sure you choose Historical Glass Museum as your charity, and then just shop like you normally would.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Since the Museum has been closed for three months, we have had no new members join. As we open up again, we hope to be able to report that we gained some new members by the next newsletter.

MORE CHOCOLATE GLASS



Greentown cruet



Fenton bell



Fenton bowl (mark shown below)



Fenton mark on bowl (above)



In the photograph above all three items are Greentown.



Above is a wonderful example of a Greentown chocolate glass covered sugar bowl in the "Cactus" pattern. It really looks "delicious," doesn't it?

MEMBERSHIP NOTE

Membership in the Museum entitles you to the newsletter, free admission to the Museum and 10% discount in the gift shop. But here's another plus – when we are holding a 30% off sale in the gift shop, your membership still gives you that additional 10%, so you actually receive 40% off !

The Museum's Gift Shop is a great place to find gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions. We are constantly receiving new donations; duplicate or surplus items are made available in the Gift Shop. Why not stop by and see if there is a special piece waiting for you? We'd love to see you.