

Historical Glass Museum

November 2022 Volume 6 Issue 5



Museum Location:

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

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375-2395

www.historicalglassmuseum.com



Visit us on
Facebook

The Museum has a 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 are unable to update it.)

The Facebook page has a video of the Museum (a few years old, but still shows off the interior and part of the collection).

Please FOLLOW the Facebook post to help boost our ratings.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The months of September and October saw a surge in sales at the Gift Shop, no doubt due to the sale in progress. This income really helps cover day-to-day expenses.

Our Fenton workshop held in October drew 17 attendees, which rather filled the limited space in the Museum that we have for such events. But we're happy to welcome that many and more to these free, educational workshops.

The Verlys glass workshop scheduled for November had to be cancelled due to health problems for one of the presenters. We plan to offer the Verlys workshop some time next year.

The holiday season is just about here. We will be closed over Thanksgiving weekend (Nov 26-27), and Dec 24-25 for Christmas and Dec 31-Jan 1 for New Years.

We are normally open on weekends (noon-4pm) and more than ready to greet walk-in visitors. We welcome tour groups of eight or more by reservation. If you would like to schedule a group tour, call Bill Summers at 951-850-0915. He may be able to schedule you during the week, if you prefer.

BIG SALE IN GIFT SHOP

We have received a large number of donations of glass in recent months. After sorting through the items, we need to reduce our inventory of duplicates and sale items.

Therefore, we are offering
**50% OFF for members and
30% off for non-members,
from now through the end of
the year in the Gift Shop.**

This is a great opportunity to stock up on Christmas and birthday gifts.

ON DISPLAY

Shown below is a pair of shelves of Verlys glass in the Museum. This is just part of the donation of Verlys we received from Thomas Rigali Roy and his partner Harold Cheyne III. The workshop on Verlys that had been scheduled for this month, had to be postponed due to a medical situation. It will be held next year.



BRYCE BROTHERS

The history of glass manufacturing in the United States is older than the nation. It was the first industry in the Jamestown settlement in Virginia. It is one of the major industries of southwestern Pennsylvania, where nearly 100 glasshouses existed over the years. In the small town of Mount Pleasant in Westmoreland County, *three* famous companies existed. Each was known around the world, yet only one of them receives the recognition it deserves. The companies are **Bryce Brothers**, **Lenox**, and **L. E. Smith**. Bryce is the least recognized mostly because very little has been written about it, but they produced a prolific amount of stemware over the 100+ years of operation.

James Bryce formed Bryce, McKee & Company in 1850 with two of his brothers and the McKee brothers in Birmingham, PA (now known as the South Side neighborhood of Pittsburgh). Four years later, the McKees left and the company was renamed to Bryce, Richards and Company.

Then in 1865, the company again changed the name to Bryce, Walker & Company. In 1879, John Bryce broke away from Bryce, Walker & Co., eventually forming the Bryce, Higbee Co., while his brothers remained. Meanwhile, in 1882, the Walkers sold their interest in the glass company to the brothers, at which point the business was renamed to Bryce Brothers Company, the name which finally stuck until the company was acquired in 1965. Thank goodness we're done with name changes!

In all, *six generations* of the Bryce family were connected with Bryce Brothers in various capacities, and the company survived for 115 years, manufacturing fine blown and pressed wares. Because most paperwork didn't survive, we don't have many detailed records of production.

In 1881, Bryce Brothers joined with 14 other companies to form the U.S. Glass Co. Bryce became Factory B. That lasted all of two years, when, in 1883 Bryce withdrew from U.S. Glass. The brothers purchased a closed plant in Hammondville, PA, and produced glass there under the Bryce Brothers name. Then, in 1896, they constructed and opened a new plant in Mt. Pleasant, PA, where they continued operations until the company was sold in 1965.



Paneled Daisy c.1890

By the beginning of the 20th century, Bryce employed 250 people and produced pressed and blown crystal stemware, giftware, candlesticks, pitchers, sugar bowls, creamers, and teapots, as well as table and barware.

Bryce Brothers had become one of the largest producers of flint glass in the United States. The Bryce Brothers Company manufactured custom-made, quality products, which were used internationally in restaurants, private clubs, hotels, and even by the Federal government, often customized with acid-etched client crests and insignia.



Wilmington #945

In 1963, the Bryce Brothers Company entered into a contract with the United States State Department to supply U.S. embassies *worldwide* with crystal ware. Finally, in 1965, Bryce Brothers Glass Co. was acquired by Lenox Inc., also located in Mount Pleasant.

See more examples of Bryce Glass on page 6.

You'll fall in love with the rich classic beauty of this exquisite new stemware pattern by Bryce. And you'll find great comfort in knowing you can add to it through the years, for it will forever be open-stock. Master-Artisans skillfully hand-blow every piece from the clearest of molten lead crystal . . . carefully cut each stem to gem-like brilliance. It is almost unbelievable that the price of Bryce Aquarius can be so moderate, hand-fashioned as it is by one of the oldest and most illustrious of American houses. Also available with bowl and foot in smart new colors to match table settings. Write for literature and the name of your nearest dealer.

Bryce
Brothers Company
Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania
Fine Hand-Blown, Hand-Cut
Lead Crystal Since 1841

Glorious
adventure
in fine American
crystal

Aquarius
by Bryce

approximately
\$130
each

1952 advertisement

THANKS TO OUR DONORS ...

We would like to acknowledge the donations that we have received since our last newsletter, of cash, 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.

CASH DONATIONS:

\$130 David Gubser

NON-MONETARY DONATIONS:

Ann Klein
Bill Summers
Gretchen Midgley
Doreen Ward
Jacque Rocha
Jim Schools
Susan Lominska
Judith Kipp

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of these donors for their generosity. Of course, we must also acknowledge the donation of TIME from those who maintain our collection, serve as docents and participate in the general cleaning days (third Thursday of each month). Thanks to all!



For a short video of the workshop, visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaDLuNAF7rE>

OCTOBER SEMINAR

On October 15, vice president Bill Summers gave a presentation entitled "Victorian Hobnail Glass through the Fenton Hobnail Years 1885-1965 - plus Fenton Rarities." Below are some photos from the well-attended workshop.



Group Tours of the Museum



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.

OCTOBER 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The holidays are upon us. Several members and new members have been taking advantage of our special 50% off sale in the gift shop. This will continue through the end of the year. We are constantly restocking, so come in and get that special piece of glass for yourself or as a gift.

You might also consider a gift membership for someone special.

Our waterwise landscaping project hopefully will be completed by the end of the year, and then we will need to tackle another project to maintain our historic house and museum.

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful holiday season, and happy glass collecting!

Steve

RESTORATION FUND

The Board of Directors established a Restoration Fund designated to set aside funds for restoration and maintenance of our century-old building.

Projects planned for the near future include repairs to the floor in the upstairs storage area, replacing the roof, and minor electrical work.

The upcoming Holiday season would be a perfect time to make a donation in honor of a family member as a Holiday gift.

The fund's balance stands at: \$22,947. 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

RECENTLY FEATURED ON FACEBOOK

As a way to promote interest in the Museum, we have been posting photos featuring interesting pieces from the Museum collection on our Facebook page.



This covered compote by McKee was made circa 1886. The original name was *Deer and Pine Tree*. It is a scarce item, and was part of a donation by member Martha McGill as part of her mother's collection.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

The months of November and December tend to be busy times for families, so we do not schedule workshops during this time of year. We have several in the works which will be scheduled for 2023. Check our web site or the February 2023 newsletter.

A SALUTE TO OUR LIFE MEMBERS

The following is a list of our Life Members, who have each made a significant contribution to the Museum. Some of these folks have since passed away, but we still honor their commitment to the Museum.

Nancy Chinnock	Dixie Huckabee
Donna Curtis	J.H. Huckabee
Chris & Joyce Dean	Robert H. Lawrence
David Gubser	Roberta P. Lawrence
Sam Kisse	Julie Binkley
William Kleese	Morris Exley
Michael Krumme	Doris Exley
Bill Line	Bernice Hanson
Linda Lowe	Leonard Hanson
Linda McCracken	Edith Lefeber
Lillian Moloian	Nina Mashburn
Marti & Everett Noyes	Jean Masse
Michael & Linda Reeder	Robert Minton
Dr. Brandi Roth	Kimberly Nordstand
Gary & Maryann Schneider	Mildred L. Patterson
Paul Ward & Charles Schoenknect	Elizabeth Paladnius
Lynette Smith	Fredamay Smith
Barbara & Joe Soelter	Stella Stubbe
Neil Spidell	G.B. Roekel
Bill Summers	Ivan J. Thomason
Joseph & Linda Svehla	Joann Tortarolo
Betty Thomas	Charles & Dorothy Ziller



Verlys "Wild Duck" bowl

FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION



Early American Pattern Glass (pressed glass) very rare Spoon Holder topped with Jumbo the elephant from PT Barnum Circus. This item was made by Central Glass Works of Wheeling, WV, and was patented on Sept 23, 1884. The piece measures about 12" tall and 6" wide. An exceptional addition to the Museum collection.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

New Members since last newsletter:

Sarah Cordova
Yessica Nelson
Greg Sloan (new docent also)
Margie Rogers
Lu Marianne Delefortrie
Carolyn Ulrich
Beth Waddell
Monir Halabian
Peggy Carter
John & Tamarah Coombs
Ofelia Capetillo

Welcome to all new members. Thank you for supporting *your* Museum. If you can spare the time, we can sure find a way for you to help.

NEW PROJECT

We are embarking on a project to update and photograph the inventory of the museum's collection. **Kathi Jablonsky**, a retired appraiser, will be the project coordinator.

We are working on the Steuben collection presently. Each object will have images, measurements and full description. We plan on sending out spotlights regularly featuring items added to the database. She has started with the Steuben and other Art Glass items. Below is a sample page, illustrating what the finished product looks like.

We are seeking volunteers to assist with this; the next scheduled session is November 15. This is an opportunity to learn skills applicable to appraising and museum practices. Volunteering your time is another way that you can support the Museum.

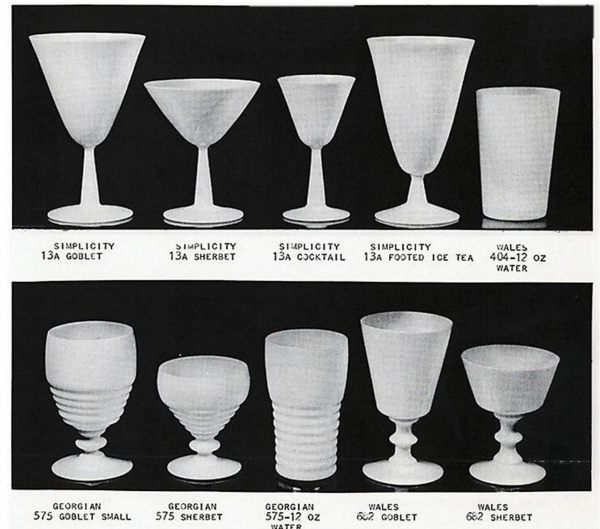
If you are interested in assisting, please contact Kathi at KJ@jablonskyconsulting.com

BRYCE BROTHERS


(continued from page 2)




Bryce catalog page from 1950s



Bryce Milk Glass – 1957

vase Object/Artifact	
	
Description Steuben Cluthra shouldered vase with tapered body, short neck and flared rim.	
Category glass	
Made/Created	
Manufacturer Steuben	Time Period 1920
Inscription/Signature/Marks	
Type Makers Mark Steuben	Location bottom
Other Names and Numbers	
Other Names	
Name Type	Other Name
style / line	Cluthra
Other Numbers	
Number Type	Other Number
shape number	2683
Dimensions	
Height 8-1/4 in	
Materials	
Material Glass	
Material Notes Hand blown. Internal bubble decoration.	
Colors	
Color White	
Color Notes Mottled	
Location	
Location Art Glass Room	

(sample inventory page)



The Beauty of
Amberina

Bryce Glass Company
El Rancho Flame
Textured Bark Glasses/Tumblers
Set of 4 (2 Sets Available)
4 3/4" H, 2 3/8" O, 2 1/4" O at Base
Ombre: Yellow, Orange, Red

Bryce Advertisement - 1955