

Historical Glass Museum

February 2021 Volume 5 Issue 1



Museum Location:

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

Mailing Address:

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



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 currently are not able to update it.)

We encourage you to “FOLLOW” our page, as that will alert you to any new posts that are made to the page. If you would like to share photos of your collection, others will surely enjoy looking at them.

We have posted a video of the local TV show “Voice of the Inland Empire,” which did an interview (in 2018) with our president, Steve Barnett, and presented a tour of the inside of the Museum. Since then, our displays have changed, so you will need to come in and see what’s new, once we reopen the Museum.

Keeping in Touch

Southern California is being hit very hard by the COVID-19 virus. Most every business is shut down, and, unfortunately, the Museum is no exception. We have been closed since the beginning of December, and until the situation improves, we’re going to stay closed. That means no income from visitors or gift shop sales.

Fortunately, we received a wonderful donation of \$10,000 in memory of Liz Paldanius, a founding and Life Member of the Museum. The gift was from her daughter, Marti Noyes. This donation was applied to the Restoration Fund.

We have been fortunate to have received a number of other generous donations, which help to defray expenses that we incur regardless of whether we are open or not.

Our Facebook page has been featuring interesting pieces of glass from the Museum collection. We’re trying to expand our sphere of influence to glass collectors who may not have heard about the Museum. When you check us out, be sure to “like” the post and “follow” us.

The Board is considering ways to hold our seminars online (Zoom?) Nothing definite yet, but we’ll let you know when we come up with a plan.



Fund Raising (for FREE)

Amazon Smile is a program by Amazon where every time you make a purchase, a small amount of the purchase goes to your selected charity. No charge to either you or the charity. All you need to do is sign on to:

Smile.Amazon.com
instead of Amazon.com.

The first time you do so, you can select the charity of your choice. We strongly suggest the **Historical Glass Museum**. After that, every time you want to make a purchase on Amazon, simply do it by signing on to Smile.Amazon.com and when you purchase, Amazon donates a small amount to the Museum. Easy.

That adds up -- over the last couple of years, this has amounted to over **\$170** for the Museum from those supporters who have joined the program. Fourth Quarter 2020 alone amounted to \$31.54. If you join, that number could grow.



Fenton Epergne

WHAT ABOUT THIS CUTTING? A STORY ABOUT THE SEARCH.

By David Adams

One of the most confusing topics, when looking at glass stemware, arises when one tries to identify a cutting. Many patterns which were acid-etched are fairly well documented and are among the most popular collectibles such as Cambridge Rose Point, Heisey Orchid, Fostoria Navarre, Tiffin Classic, etc. But there are relatively few cut patterns that spring to mind – perhaps Fostoria Cynthia and Holly, Cambridge Adonis and Achilles, or Duncan Lily of the Valley. There are many cut patterns that are quite similar to one another, and very difficult to identify.

This is a story about one cutting and about the serendipitous route that my wife took to discover the company that made the decoration.



It all began when we purchased a set of Heisey Jamestown goblets with a cute sunflower cutting (at left). My wife, Linda, is originally from the Kansas City area and the sunflower cutting attracted her. She set about to find out more about the cutting. After searching every book we could find about Heisey, she determined that this was definitely NOT a Heisey cutting.

OK, but then what company did the cutting?

There were literally hundreds of small companies during the early to middle 1900s that purchased undecorated stemware (called “blanks”) from the various glass manufacturers and then decorated it in some fashion (mostly cuttings). You may be familiar with the “Charleton” enamel decoration found mostly on Cambridge, but also on a number of products of other companies. It was sold as Charleton by the company that did the decorating.

There is no book dedicated to showing cuttings from many American companies. One of the few books that proves helpful is “Crystal Stemware” by Bob Page and Dale Frederiksen of Replacements, Ltd. It is that book that eventually helped to solve the mystery of the sunflowers.

But now, the story continues with us finding a second set of stems having the exact same cutting of sunflowers. This set was definitely NOT made by Heisey. They had a very short stem, almost like that of an iced tea or footed water rather than a goblet. Upon searching the “Crystal Stemware” book for that shape goblet, Linda came across an illustration of a Bryce stem with the sunflower cutting.



Well, now we know it was Bryce. Or was it?

Bryce manufactured their own stemware, and it seemed unlikely that they had purchased Heisey goblets to decorate. Maybe the cutting was not done by Bryce either. Hmmm...

Then one day, Linda was searching the “Crystal Stemware” book for a completely different goblet, when she came upon an illustration of the Heisey Jamestown goblet with a different cutting altogether (the cutting was named Springtime). It didn’t feature sunflowers, but the “style” seemed to be quite similar to that on the sunflower goblets. The company was identified as “Kusak.”



She then asked me “what’s a “Kusak” and enlisted my assistance. A quick Google search came up with a web site for Kusak Cut Glass Works of Seattle, Washington. Obviously this was not a company that we were at all familiar with. So, I took photos of the Heisey Jamestown goblet with the sunflower cutting and sent an email to the company asking if this was their product.

Much to my surprise, I received a very nice reply from Mr. Anton Kusak III (pronounced “coo-sock”), the president of the company. He was impressed that Linda had figured out that Kusak was, in fact, the company that had produced the cutting on both the Bryce and Heisey stemware. He went on to tell us a bit about the company’s history and invited us to look him up if we ever visited the Seattle area.

So, mystery solved, the end, right? No, there’s a bit more. It happened that we were scheduled to do a show in Portland, Oregon. Of course, that’s just “right down the road” from Seattle, and we made arrangements to visit the company. So, after the show, we headed north and arrived at the Kusak Cut Glass Works, where we identified ourselves and asked for Mr. Anton Kusak.

He was happy to see us, and he gave us a tour of the place, and we got to see a master cutter at work. He also explained the history of the company. His grandfather (Anton Kusak) had founded the company in 1914 after emigrating to the US from Czechoslovakia. The company was strictly a cutting works, and they purchased good quality glass from a number of American manufacturers. They then cut their own patterns and sold the resulting product under their own name. This was a common practice throughout the country, although most cutting shops were located nearer to the glass manufacturers clustered in the northeast and Midwest. He acknowledged that Heisey and Bryce were two of the numerous glass companies that they bought from, as the crystal was of high quality.

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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:

Jacque Rocha
Bill Summers
Bill Kleese
Doreen Ward

CASH DONATIONS:

November

\$100 Bill Kleese

December

\$20 Tom Felt

\$250 Wendy Steelhammer

\$100 Andrea Burke

\$50 Joann & Paul Snowden

\$100 Susan & Mark Taggart

\$300 Steve & Shirley Barnett

\$10,000 Marti Noyes in memory of Liz Paldanius

January 2021

\$120 Lucretia Irving

\$70 Gretchen Urban

\$200 Lynn & Richard Borino

\$200 Heisey Club of California

\$20 Allison Anders

\$10 Anonymous

\$100 Joseph Morelli

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



Dugan Art Glass vases (c. 1905-06)

[Cutting – continued]

The neatest part of the visit was when he explained that the sunflower cutting was an extremely difficult pattern to cut – it required a master cutter because the petals on the sunflower were done by feel, rather than by sight. The pattern was cut by Jaroslav Kusak, the brother of the founder of the company, and when he died, they had to discontinue the pattern, as no other cutter in the company could produce that cutting.

We ended the trip having learned a lot about cuttings, and we purchased two magnums with the sunflower cutting to go with the Bryce and Heisey goblets we already had. The glass for these magnums had been made in the Czech Republic, where Kusak was getting most of their glass since their American suppliers were out of business.



Bryce, Heisey, Czech

One more thing of note: Kusak's most popular cutting was called Jasmine, and we have found that pattern cut on a number of different Cambridge glass nude stem items. Sadly, like so many companies dedicated to the glass industry, Kusak has since closed permanently.



Kusak's Jasmine on Cambridge nudes

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.

At the present time, group tours are not being accepted, since the Museum is closed due to the corona virus. Please bear with us, as we await the governor's permission to reopen.

RESTORATION FUND

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

The major restoration to the exterior of the building has been completed, and the building looks fabulous. The next phase of restoration will be a new roof, but it seems like the current roof is still sound, so we have time to raise additional funds towards its eventual replacement.

The current balance in the fund is: \$17,133

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
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FEB. 2021 FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The year 2020 has passed us all by and though it was a tough year, 2021 has arrived and there is much to be thankful for. Hopefully, with the vaccines coming out we can anticipate the re-opening of the Museum soon.

We continue to benefit from the late Huell Howser's two visits and shows regarding the Museum. His shows are still airing on TV, and each time there is a re-run of the ones about us, we receive inquiries, visitors and even donations to help maintain our unique glass Museum.

We are steadily building our Restoration Fund. We anticipate our next projects to be a new roof and landscaping.

Thank you to all who have made generous donations, both monetary and non-monetary. Even though the museum is closed, the donations help with our monthly expenses and refresh our gift shop.

Hope all will have a safe, productive and happy new year. Keep collecting!

Steve

RECENTLY FEATURED ON FACEBOOK



Steuben Plum Jade



Cambridge A.D. Set



Duncan Nautical compote



Cambridge Samovar

We have been featuring interesting pieces from the Museum collection on our facebook page as a way to promote interest in the Museum.

Special Donation by Marti Noyes In Memory of Liz Paldanius

In January, the Historical Glass Museum Foundation received a generous donation of \$10,000 from life member Marti Noyes. Even more meaningful, the donation was made in honor of Marti's mother, late charter member (and fellow life member) of HGMF, Elizabeth "Liz" Paldanius.

Liz was a charter member of the Historical Glass Museum Foundation. She served on the Board of Directors until 2012 (and is only one of three individuals who were named as Board Members Emeritus), was the Museum's only Historian, and was a tireless supporter of the Museum. When Liz passed away in 2014, Liz's family asked Museum members if they would help identify, organize, label, price and help staff a public sale of Liz's glass collection, in exchange for a donation of 35% of the proceeds. Many members of the Board of Directors, spearheaded by board member Betty Thomas, heeded the call to help out, resulting in a donation of nearly \$10,000 to the Museum by Marti and her family.

For an overview of Liz's life, how she began collecting, and how she came to be involved with the Museum, see the *Winter 2015* issue of *The Looking Glass*, which contains a tribute by her friend, fellow former board member, and longtime Museum supporter, Betty Thomas. This issue of the newsletter has been re-posted to the Museum's internet website.

But let's learn a bit about the donor herself. Marti is a retired Human Resources Manager who now volunteers at the Riverside Woman's Club, and is active with Native Daughters of the Golden West, a fraternal service organization. Marti says, "I never volunteered at Historical Glass Museum -- just tagged along with my mom at times. I sometimes traveled with her to glass shows and conventions, [but] never caught the 'glass bug' myself."

But Marti's husband, Everett "Brick" Noyes has definitely been of service to the Museum. Thirty years ago, he created the stained glass inset for our front door. It consists of multiple colored cup plates which feature an image of the historical home that houses the Museum. The cup plates were specially made for HGMF by the Pairpoint Glass Company. Recently the door inset was vandalized, but Brick volunteered to repair it, and it's now back to its original look.

Marti has passed some of her mother's glass pieces on to her family. She recently gave the last of Liz's Duncan & Miller Teardrop set (which had been Liz's wedding crystal)



Marti with Steve Barnett



Liz Paldanius

to a granddaughter in Arizona. She has also given away pieces of Liz's glass at fundraising tea party events for the Native Daughters of the Golden West.

Marti's generous donation has been allocated to the Museum's Restoration Fund. While the Museum has recently undergone serious wood repair, painting, and a reconstruction of the front porch's foundation, it's only a matter of time until our 100 year old plus building will need more attention. Due to the Museum's closure to tours and visitors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our monthly income from tour donations and gift shop sales (which normally provide an income stream that covers monthly expenses) has been reduced to a trickle. The generosity of our donors during the last ten months has helped us bridge the gap and pay our monthly expenses.

MEMBERSHIP NOTE

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM FOUNDATION?

There are many ways to support the Museum. We are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, and donations are deductible on your income tax returns, to the fullest extent of current tax laws. Please speak to your accountant or tax professional for details about your particular situation.

Another way to support the Museum, and expand our membership numbers, is to give a Gift Membership to the Museum. Why not give a Gift Membership to a friend who collects glass, but may not know about us? Annual dues are only \$30 for a basic membership, plus \$5 for each additional person in the household. Membership dues for a glass club or other organization are only \$30 per year. And if a person is a full-time student, dues are only \$10 per year.

Of course, you can make a cash donation to the Museum, at any time, in any amount. Since the Museum has been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not getting the income from donations by tour participants, nor the sales from our Gift Shop.