

# Historical Glass Museum

June 2022 Volume 6 Issue 3



## 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 on the page, others will surely enjoy looking at them.

## Keeping in Touch

It sure has been nice to be open again, and we have been busy the last two months, greeting 153 visitors.

The Fenton Workshop in February on “Fenton Coin Dot, Coin Spot, from the 1940s and 1950s” drew an audience of 26. On page 5, you can see the winners of the door prizes given at the Workshop.

Our workshops have been very popular, and we want to thank our vice president, Bill Summers. Over the past few years, Bill has developed quite a following for these informative and entertaining sessions.

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 company we have contracted to do our landscaping has started the preliminary work, after waiting *more than a month for paperwork to be processed by the City*. I guess that’s normal, right? The new irrigation lines are coming along, but we’re not expecting to do much planting while the temperatures hover around 100 degrees.

## GIFT SHOP

June is the traditional month for weddings. So, we have chosen June to feature **30% off in the Gift Shop**. Members still get their normal 10% off, so that makes a total of 40% off for members.

We have quite a selection of stemware, suitable for toasting the happy couple, along with many practical items. Come check it out.

## FENTON WORKSHOP

The next Fenton Workshop will be held on **June 25th** at 11AM on “**Victorian Era & Fenton Rarities**.” Light refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes, so come on down!

This will be our last workshop for the summer. The days are just too hot in Redlands to hold workshops during the height of summer. We are planning several workshops for the fall, so stay tuned.

## OUR WEBSITE

### Historicalglassmuseum.com

The Museum has a web site, where we post information related to the organization, such as a list of officers, how to contact us, a brief history of the Museum, membership information and other items.

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.

# VERLYS OF AMERICA

By Orva Heissenbuttel

(reprinted from Glass Review, February 1979)

**NOTE:** The Museum recently received a large donation of American Verlys from Thomas Rigali-Roy and Harold Cheyne III which is now on display, some of which is shown in the photo below.



The Holophane Lighting Company was founded in 1898 by Otis A. Mygatt, to manufacture heat-resistant glass (borosilicate glass) for use in reflectors, lenses and illuminating light fixtures. A site for their plant was chosen across the street from the Heisey glass factory in Newark, Ohio.

In 1935, they began production of a type of art glass called "Verlys Decorative Glass". Its major feature was a design in high relief, accentuated by acid etching (frosting). The first sculptured glass of this type was introduced by Rene Lalique of France in 1906, and was copied by other French companies. The original Verlys, made by Verlys France, dates from 1931.



Verlys of America was established in 1935 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the American Holophane Lighting Company, Inc. About two-thirds of their molds were purchased from Holophane Francaise in France, while the remainder were designed and made in America. There were three renowned American artists: Carl Schmitz, Ted Mehrer and Victor Schreckengost designing thirteen pieces, and some are signed and dated by the designer.

At first the pieces were made of high quality lead glass, but later they were made of good quality soda-lime glass. The technique was basically one of molding the glass, then



acid-treating the relief portions to emphasize the design, while the plain surfaces were polished for contrast. (In the late 1940's, production costs necessitated etching the entire piece).

A total of 64 items were produced, mainly bowls and vases. All of these are shown in Carole and Wayne McPeck's *Verlys of America Decorative Glass*. All of the items were produced in crystal etched, about half in color — Amber and Dusty Rose (are the rarest), Directoire Blue, Opalescent Crystal and Topaz — for a five year period from 1935 to 1940. Verlys was marked in two ways - a diamond tipped pen was used to sign the piece, or the same style signature was permanently impressed in the glass at the time it was molded. All first quality Verlys will be marked, with very few exceptions. (The French Verlys has a molded signature which includes the word "France").

(continued on page 4)

## 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:

#### April/May 2022

Thomas Rigali-Roy & Harold Cheyne III

### CASH DONATIONS:

#### April 2022

\$100.00 Cheryl Bryan

\$70.00 Doreen Ward

\$100.00 Martha McGill

#### May 2022

\$250.00 Wendy Steelhammer

\$20.00 Paul & Joanne Snowden

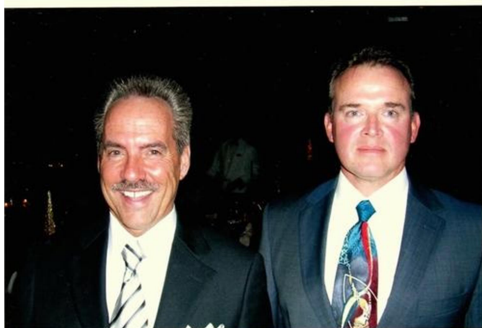
#### June 2022

\$100.00 Lynn & Richard Borino

\$200.00 Heisey Club of California

\$50.00 Barbara Thomasson

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of these donors for their generosity. We rely on donations to continue our mission.



The photo above is that of Thomas Rigali-Roy and Harold Cheyne III, who donated the Verlys glass shown in the photographs which accompany the article. These gentlemen plan to visit the Museum in June. We thank them for their generous donation.

## VERLYS (continued)

Very little Verlys was produced by Holophane during World War II, and production ceased entirely in 1951. Then, some of the Verlys molds were loaned to Heisey in 1955. More than a dozen items were made there -- without either the Verlys or Heisey trademark -- until the molds were returned in July, 1957. These pieces, known as "Heisey-Verlys" were made in crystal etched, and one color only -- Limelight (turquoise).

Holophane made no further use of the Verlys molds, and they were sold to the Fenton Art Glass Company, of Williamstown, WV in 1966. Fenton has used a few of the molds - with the Verlys mark removed - to make items in color not originally made by Verlys in Newark, so there should be no confusion with the old. Shown below are two "Seasons" vases from the Museum collection, Verlys is on the left and Fenton on the right.



Fenton will most likely use their own trademark on future items made in the Verlys molds, thus creating still another collectible -- Fenton-Verlys. Holophane is still making glass in Newark, and the company is now considered the largest producer of glass lighting fixtures in the U.S.

*Editor's Note: The original article has been updated and augmented with pictures and added text.*

## 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.

We have a Museum tour scheduled for June 11 for the Orange Blossom Model A club. There will be six Model A Fords accompanying the visitors, so come on down and see the neat old cars, and while you're at it, check out our latest displays.

## RESTORATION FUND

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

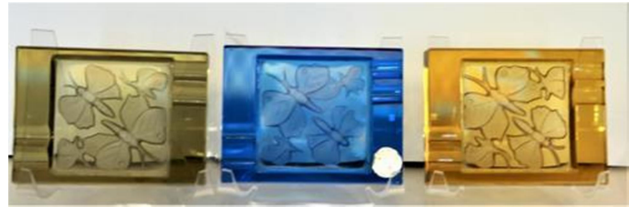
The major restoration to the exterior of the building has been completed, and the building looks fabulous. The first ongoing project is to redo the landscaping around the Museum. We finally received City approval of our plans and are now proceeding with the first phase.

The Board approved an expenditure of \$3,000 as an initial payment for landscaping services. The site plan has been approved by the City of Redlands and work is under way.

The current balance in the Restoration fund is: \$16,945. The Board welcomes cash donations designated for the Restoration Fund. If you wish, 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



Verlys "Butterfly" ashtrays

### JUNE 2022 FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Summer is approaching fast and the heat is already upon us. Our landscape project is still progressing, and with the drought here in California the water wise landscape will help.

We had a significant donation of American Verlys glass (64 pieces) from Thomas R. Rigali-Roy and Harold J. Cheyne III. The Verlys glass is on display now, so come in to learn about and enjoy these beautiful pieces.

This month we are also expecting a tour from the Orange Blossom Ford Model A Car Club. I'm sure they will enjoy the special display of the automobile bud vases. We will have pictures to share with you in our next newsletter.

Many thanks again to our generous donors of money, glass, and their time to help keep our museum open and operating.

*Steve*

Below are some glass advertisements from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Do you recognize any of the patterns?

page 288 MARCH 1912

### Floor Aquariums

Lancaster Glass Co.

**ALL GLASS!**  
Holds water all of the way to the bottom. Fish can swim from bottom to top.

**C-2070—1 in carton, 12 lbs.**  
**Each \$3.75**  
30 in. high, bowl diameter 9 1/2 in., base diameter 7 in., extra heavy blown crystal glass, hollow cylinder tube.

1932 Butler Bros.

**70,000 Pcs. HAND-Made Crystal!**  
**75% Less**  
THAN THIS YEAR'S REGULAR PRICES!  
because made too fine and expensive to sell quickly in today's depressed markets!

**25,000 Pieces of Beautiful Hand-Made, Jewel-Like CRYSTAL Glass from the Same Maker!**

**10¢** and **5¢**

1932 Philadelphia Inquirer

## DOOR PRIZE WINNERS IN THE LAST FENTON WORKSHOP ON FEBRUARY 26, 2022

Here are some photographs of the winners of door prizes at the Fenton Workshop held at the Museum in February 2022. The next Fenton Workshop is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup>.



### MEMBERSHIP CORNER

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:

**Thomas Rigali-Roy**  
**Harold Cheyne III**  
**Colleen Bent**

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE  
HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM

A good 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. And if a person is a full-time student, dues are \$10 per year.

If you live within a reasonable distance of the Museum, your support could be in the form of TIME. We need volunteer docents (we will train you) who can work one or two weekend days a month from 12 noon to 4pm. It's fun, you meet lots of nice people, and you are supporting our efforts.

Also, the third Thursday of each month is Cleaning Day. We do general cleanup, plus we select one or more cabinets where we remove and dust the glass collection. All volunteers are welcome!

Finally, we are soliciting members to join our Board of Directors. You need not live close to the Museum, as our meetings are held via conference call. We currently have Board members from Nevada and Utah. We'd love to have some "fresh blood" helping to guide our progress. Call 909-798-0868 and leave a message.

**Next Fenton Workshop**  
**June 25th at 11AM**

***"Victorian Era & Fenton Rarities"***