

Historical Glass Museum

**Museum Location:**

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

Mailing Address:

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

info@HistoricalGlassMuseum.com

June 2024 Volume 8 Issue 3



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.)

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We apologize for the late delivery of your June newsletter. Since the last newsletter was published, the Board has had to deal with some pressing situations and as the situation was continuously changing, this message has undergone numerous changes as well. So, let us detail what has been happening at the Museum.

Last February, our President and Treasurer both resigned their offices, after having served in those positions since 2018. We were sad to see them go, but their health prevented them from being able to continue to do what they felt was their responsibility to the Museum.

Since then, we found a new, highly qualified individual to serve as Treasurer, and he did so for a couple of months before he, too, resigned his position, due to personal reasons. At nearly the same time, a board member who lived near the Museum and who was taking on (too) many of the duties of running the Museum, had to resign due to family commitments.

At that point, we were temporarily in trouble. We had no Treasurer - who would pay the bills? We had no one local who could perform simple tasks like putting out and taking in the trash cans, meeting with vendors, answering the phone when the alarm people called. It was beginning to look like we might have to dissolve the Museum and transfer the assets to another Museum (as specified in the Museum's Constitution).

That all culminated just as the June newsletter was due to be published. We had no solutions to offer at the time, and things were changing almost daily. So, we delayed the publication of the newsletter. During the June and July Board meetings, we all discussed various means of resolving our problems, and contacted a number of people who might be able to help us. We even discussed the scary thought of dissolving the Museum.

Fortunately, we now see a light at the end of a dark tunnel. One of our members, Monica Barragan, has accepted the position of Treasurer. Now we can pay our bills and make deposits from cash donations and Gift Shop sales. And the Board has also invited Bill Brakemeyer to join the Board. Bill previously served for a short time as interim President, back in 2013. So, the Board is back up to nine members, we have a Treasurer, and the search for a President continues. Financially, we are solvent, although we would like to work on a long-time plan for the Museum's continued existence.

We do appreciate all of our members, local or otherwise, and welcome suggestions from the membership. New ideas and, frankly, some younger participants, are always needed to maintain and improve the Historical Glass Museum.

LET'S LOOK AT JADEITE

Jadeite is a color of glass which describes an opaque, milky green colored glass originally made by one of three glass companies: McKee, Jeanette, and Anchor Hocking. Early production of Jadeite got its opaque green color by the addition of depleted Uranium Oxide to the glass batch. Beginning in 1942 and continuing to 1958, civilian use of uranium was prohibited, so glassmakers had to find different ways of creating similar colors. Thus, Jadeite items produced after 1942 will not glow under black light.



McKee Salt Box

There were some jade-colored glass items made earlier, during the pattern glass period by companies such as Tarentum Glass and Challinor Taylor. But neither of these companies made the color in any great quantity and all are considered very scarce today.

McKee Glass Company of Jeannette, Pennsylvania was the first to make kitchen and dinnerware in this color (trade name "Skokie" green). Beginning in 1930, they produced opaque green dinnerware patterns that included Laurel and Philbe. McKee also made a wide array of kitchen accessories like salt and pepper sets, cannisters, measuring cups and mixing bowls.



McKee Drippings Bowl

Jeannette Glass Company, also located in Jeannette, began manufacturing a similar glass product starting in the mid-1930s. Jeanette is the one that actually coined the term "Jadite" in reference to the product's resemblance to the semi-precious stone. Among the many "Jadite" items produced by Jeanette are salt/pepper shakers, spice shakers, measuring cups, covered mixing bowls and reamers.



Jeanette cannisters, cups, reamer, etc.

Both Jeanette and McKee Jadeite items included depleted Uranium Oxide in their formulae.

Finally, the Fire-King division of Anchor Hocking was the third company to start making this color, which they called "Jade-ite". At the end of World War II, Fire-King began selling "Jade-ite" mixing bowls and batter bowls, plus their coffee mugs, dishware, butter dishes, and more. Fire-King dinnerware patterns included Alice, Charm, Jane Ray, and Shell, all very similar to patterns made by Jeannette and McKee. Fire-King also made a line of restaurant ware that was thicker, heavier, and sturdier than the products intended for home use. Fire-King "Jade-ite" was manufactured and sold between 1945 and 1975 and is highly collectable today.



(continued on next page)

Uranium was once a common coloring agent added to glass (and still is, once again). Uranium glass was particularly popular in the early 20th century, when large quantities of uranium salts were being produced as byproducts of the radium extraction industry. Glass colored with uranium salts is easily identified because Uranium Oxide fluoresces bright green under black light. But you can be sure that these items emit only tiny (barely negligible) amounts of radiation, they are safe to handle, eat and drink from.



Fire-King Dinnerware

(continued in next column)

If a piece of Jadite glows green under black light then you can figure it contains Uranium Oxide and therefore it dates prior to 1943. The later dates of production for Fire-King (1945-75) mean that Fire-King Jade-ite does not contain Uranium Oxide.

There are other companies that produced items in an opaque “clambroth” green color. These include 20th century glassmakers such as New Martinsville, Fenton, Mosser, and Steuben. These companies produced limited lines in their ‘Jadeite” equivalent colors, mostly decorative items as opposed to the practical dinnerware by McKee, Jeanette and Fire-King.

Today, jadeite is highly sought after by collectors. At the time it was produced, jadeite was not a high-end product. Jadeite wares were sold at five and dime stores and were often given away as promotional items. Citrus reamers were given away to customers for free with the purchase of boxes of fruit, and smaller jadeite items were included in bags of flour or boxes of oatmeal in hopes of enticing consumers to buy the complete set or larger, more expensive items such as dinner plates.

Jadeite has many boosters, including Martha Stewart and her daughter Alexis. Martha’s jadeite collection was featured prominently in her cooking show, which helped drive up the popularity of jadeite in the 1990s. Purists consider only McKee, Jeannette, or Anchor Hocking products authentic jadeite. However, jadeite’s newfound popularity has inspired production of new pieces by companies like Martha Stewart’s company, Martha by Mail. Cracker Barrel makes jadeite reproductions that are fairly close approximations of old pieces.

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. See the next page for photos of some recent donations to the permanent collection. Thanks to all for your support of the Museum.

A WORD ABOUT DONATIONS

Currently, we are short-staffed and at the same time we have a fairly large backlog of donated glass for sale in the Gift Shop. We regretfully have to ask that if you are contemplating donating a quantity of glass, please hold off until the fall.

By the way, we could always use help with unpacking, sorting, and pricing of donated glass. If you are willing to help, contact us through our web site:

www.HistoricalGlassMuseum.com



The Historical Glass Museum hosts a sizeable collection of Jadeite items, among them this unusual clock set, made by Vidrio Products Co. of Cicero, Illinois.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We haven't been featuring very many of our recent acquisitions in the newsletter, but there's a little room in this edition, so here are some recent acquisitions for you to enjoy. Thanks to those who donated these extremely nice items to enhance our collection.

In addition to these items, which become part of the permanent collection, the donors have also provided items which will be sold in the Gift Shop to support the day-to-day operations of the Museum.

Bill Summers had an "unknown" piece that he donated for the Gift Shop, but it turned out to be a Co-Operative Flint #477 5-½ inch Bon Bon and Cover, in the Sunset color, which dates to the 1920s. It will definitely become part of the permanent collection!



David & Linda Adams donated a tall etched vase with the Kalana cutting, made by Dorflinger Glass Co. and decorated by the Honesdale Decorating Company, which was a subsidiary of Dorflinger. The vase dates to the early 1900s.



Bob Crha donated this interesting azure Fostoria Fairfax dinner plate from 1920 with a custom etching commemorating Columbia College (before it was a University).



Sharon Neebe donated a number of items, some of which will go in the Gift Shop, but below is a black & crystal New Martinsville vanity set to become part of the permanent collection.



And here is a beautiful Fenton Hobnail punch set in the Rose Magnolia color, made for only a few years in the mid-1990s. It will be available for sale in the Gift Shop for \$495.



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.

The Museum hosted two tours since the last newsletter: "Red Hat" on the 20th for 12 visitors the "Options for All" Tour on May 28 for 12 visitors (9 were kids). Tours don't normally happen during the hot summer months.

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 current balance in the fund is: **\$5,879.11**. The building does require periodic maintenance and the Restoration Fund is still an active need. The Board welcomes cash donations designated for the Restoration Fund. You may also 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

THANK YOU, ANDY

The refreshed striping in the parking lot looks great, and we got a new chain on the parking lot gate. Thank you to Andy Hoder for springing for both of these items.

AUGUST 2024 FROM THE BOARD:

The last couple of months have been challenging for the Board, but we seem to be in good shape at present. So, we would like to tell you some ways that **YOU** can be a part of the continuing mission of the Museum.

We can always use more docents to host visitors and show them around the Museum. We will train you to open up and close the Museum, coach you on the history of the historical hundred year old house, and the collections. Generally we have two docents serving together on a given day, so you will have someone there to keep you company and guide you. Docents can serve as little as one day per month, either during our normal operating hours of Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 4 PM, or assisting when a tour has been booked on a weekday. All that is required is a love of glass, and a willingness to help.

We can always use more helping hands at our monthly "Cleaning Day" on the third Thursday of every month. Can you spare a Thursday morning to help out?

The Museum has many projects and ideas that are good, useful, and supportive of the Museum. But to bring them into reality (or keep them going), we need more volunteers with a positive, helpful attitude who can do the day-to-day (or even occasional) task to keep it running.

Help us keep the Museum up and running, and keep alive the vision that our founders had for future generations to enjoy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Here is the complete list of directors and docents, as of August 6, 2024:

Board Members

President: (open)
Vice President: Bill Summers
Secretary: Michael Krumme
Treasurer: Monica Barragan
Board Member: Kathi Jablonsky
Board Member: Jan Korfmacher
Board Member: David Adams
Board Member: Doreen Ward
Board Member: Barbara Jenks
Board Member: William Brakemeyer

Docents

Bill Summers
Monica Barragan
Bob Crha
Jacque Rocha
Barbara Jenks
Shirley Barnett
Stephen Barnett

Fenton Workshop – June 8

The Museum hosted another of vice president Bill Summers' Fenton workshops on June 8. The topic was Fenton Crests, Sugars, and, by popular demand, a little bit more about Hobnail.

Here are some photographs taken at the workshop. Shown are Bill Summers and Monica Barragan (docent), plus some of the attendees.



Our Gift Shop is full, with a lot of new items that were part of recent donations. At the same time our storage capacity is at its limit. Therefore, the most logical step is ... *have a 30% off sale for the whole summer.*

Remember that members of the Museum get an additional 10% discount, on top of the 30% so come check us out for early Christmas presents or just for something nice for yourself.

