

Historical Glass Museum



January 2025 Volume 9 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

Keeping in Touch

Things have been moving along at a somewhat slower pace at the Museum during the past couple of months. We had 81 visitors in November, then slipped to only 60 visitors in December,

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Sales have been a bit slow in the Gift Shop, with \$785 in sales in November and a little over \$500 in December.

ADMINISTRATION

Michael Krumme has agreed to serve as President until we can recruit someone to assume the role who lives relatively close to the Museum. It is important to have someone who is authorized to sign for the Museum be located fairly close, to be able to deal with various vendors and workmen.

Would YOU be interested?

We also seek a Vice President and an eventual replacement for Treasurer.

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

We've scheduled a Fry Glass workshop on February 15. Details on page 3.

PARKING LOT SALE

We're having an inventory reduction sale in our parking lot, March 15th. Details on page 3. Mark this on your calendar.

FROM THE COLLECTION



Automobile bud vases

Here are a pair of automobile bud vases from the Museum display that is on loan from the estate of Dr. Stan Korfmacher. These actually served a purpose in the early days of automobiles, where there were odors from fuel, exhaust, and even sometimes the perspiration from the humans in the vehicle, as air conditioning wasn't available.

The auto vase is comprised of a small bud vase with a bracket that allowed it to be mounted inside the car either on the dashboard or by a passenger side window.

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.* Just reply to any post.

Vases came in many designs and colors, in a variety of price ranges. Adding fragrant flowers to them not only improved the smell but also added a touch of elegance to the car interior.

Butler Brothers
Original Ideas Coupled with Energetic Hustling Make Success Quick and Certain

Gift Goods in **HOLIDAY BOXES**

Genuine Cut Auto Vase

HAND CUT

4K5005—6½ in. high, clear crystal, genuine cut flower, nickel plated brass holder, non-splash edge, will not rattle. 1 in fancy box. Each **\$1.00**

The advertisement above is from 1926.

WHAT IS GLASS?

By Gary Schneider

[Reprinted from *Fostoria Reflections*, July 1996]

Many people think that glassware is melted sand. That is not entirely true. Sand, by itself, will not melt below 3,000 degrees of heat. There are only a few rare metals like Platinum that can be used to hold the sand for melting at such high temperatures. Thus it is not practical to melt pure sand by itself on a commercial scale.

If a sufficient quantity of soda ash or potash is mixed with the sand, these chemicals act as fluxes (on the sand) and will reduce the melting temperature to 2,400 degrees. Crucibles or "pots" made of hard-burned fire clay will withstand this temperature without softening or collapsing and therefore are used extensively in the melting of glass.

In addition to sand and the fluxes, either lime or lead must be added to the batch as basic materials in order to make a tough, stable glass that will withstand the weathering action of the atmosphere.

The ingredients which are used to make quality glass include:

Sand - the most important single ingredient.

Soda - the alkali, is used to cause the other ingredients to melt or to combine. Because it has this combining property soda is called a flux.

Potash - also an alkali, and also a flux, is frequently used instead of soda. It is more expensive but, combined with lead, gives to the glass its clear bell-like tone.

Lead - as an oxide, is used to give density and brilliance to the glass. Also, the presence of lead causes the mixture to melt at a lower temperature than it would if lead were not included.

Lime - instead of lead is used for pressed ware because lime glass sets quicker while pressing. Lime contributes strength and toughness.

Other substances - such as white **Arsenic** or black oxide of **Manganese** are included in the sand "batch" to neutralize the impurity which cannot be removed from the sand no matter how much it is cleaned before using.

Sand is the most important single element used in making glass. Quality glass is made from the purest, most expensive sand. First the sand is pulverized into a powder. Then it is washed to remove all foreign material. Next it is baked to destroy all vegetable matter. Uniform grains are obtained by sifting through copper gauze. This is done to assure that all grains will melt uniformly.

Particles of iron, found in all sand, are very injurious to crystal glass. When these iron particles melt in the fire pot, they act like a pigment to discolor glass. As a final precaution, all sand passes over a roller magnet which picks out any remaining iron particles. Fostoria used only snow white West Virginia sand.

Pictured below is a "batch" record showing the ingredients used to make the color *crystal* at Fostoria's Factory 1 on August 26, 1929. All measurements are in pounds unless otherwise indicated. This size batch would produce about 975 pounds of glass. Notice the cobalt oxide amount of only 1/28 of an ounce (in 700 pounds of sand)!

FACT. NO. <u>1</u>	
POT #	DATE <u>8/26 1929</u>
COLOR <u>CRYSTAL</u>	
BATCH USED	
Sand	<u>700</u>
Soda Ash	<u>300</u>
Soda Bicarbonate	
Litharge	
B. Lime	
Syn. Limestone	<u>125</u>
Potash	
Niter	<u>35</u>
Bone Ash	<u>5</u>
Arsenic	<u>3</u>
Bar. Car.	
Manganese	<u>14 oz.</u>
Alba	
Cobalt Ox.	<u>1/28 oz.</u>
Antimony	
Feldspar	
Lepidolite	
Pot. Bichr.	<u>7.3; 80; X</u>
Uranium	<u>1) 2130</u>
Copper Ox	<u>343</u>
Chrome Ox.	
Selenium	
C. H. F. G.	
Nickel Ox.	
Boric Acid	
Tin Oxide	
Gold	
Cullet	

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.

CASH DONATIONS:

November 2024

\$30 Kelly McIntosh

December 2024

\$300 Lucretia Irving

NON-MONETARY DONATIONS

November 2024

Tim & Linda Keenan
Marni Ruhland
Ted Zehfuss

December 2024

None

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

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 15 - WORKSHOP H. C. FRY GLASS COMPANY

Members Barbara Jenks and Wendy Steelhammer will be presenting a talk on Fry Glass. You may not be familiar with this company, but in a few short years, they produced an amazing array of glass products, from brilliant cut glass to oven-proof dishes to stemware to art glass to industrial specialty items. The company even manufactured pumps to dispense gasoline! Be sure to come for this one – Fry is a neat company! Begins at 11:00am. Light refreshments provided.



Fry Ovenware



Fry Art Vase

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We welcome the following new members:

November:

Lori Fuller

December:

None

Please encourage your glass friends to join the Museum, as each membership adds support to our ongoing efforts. It's only \$30/year and that's reduced to \$10/year for students.

Please, come on in for a visit. We'd love to see you,

MARCH 15 PARKING LOT SALE

The Museum is planning another Parking Lot Sale for **March 15th**. The sale allows us to reduce the amount of glass that has been designated for sale in the Gift Shop. We have an excess of inventory, and don't want to spend money on storage fees, hence this inventory reduction sale. Mark your calendar.

The sale will be for one day only, **Saturday March 15th**, in the parking lot behind the Museum. Weather should be wonderful. All proceeds will go toward the day-to-day operation of the Museum. Below is a photo from the previous sale. Volunteers are welcome!



**Historical Glass Museum
1157 N Orange Street
Redlands, California
PARKING LOT SALE**

**Saturday, March 15
10am - 4pm**

INVENTORY PROJECT

We are embarking on a project to update and photograph the inventory of the museum's collection. This is an essential undertaking, as we are creating a computer based database for future records. Kathi Jablonsky, a retired appraiser and Board member, will be the project coordinator.

Kathi has completed work on the Steuben collection, the paperweight collection, and the American Verlys (including the latest donation we received after Thomas Rigali-Roy gave his presentation in October). The next two groups to be worked on will be Paden City and New Martinsville.

The project is a rather large undertaking, as it uses a software package called CatalogIt. This package allows us to include significant details about each item, such as:

- ☑ Artist/Maker, dates, materials, techniques
- ☑ Dimensions, shapes, numbers, and names
- ☑ Attach photos and documents
- ☑ Record donor information

When the project is complete, the Collection database will eventually be accessible online from both computers and cell phones. Plus, the Museum will have a permanent electronic record of our inventory.

If you would like to volunteer your time, Kathi could sure use the help, as it takes a lot of time to photograph and then do the data entry for every item. As you will see in the next column, Kathi had some fantastic help this fall, from a couple of wonderful interns. But she could use YOU as a volunteer helper, and you'd get to learn a whole lot while contributing your time to the Museum. How about it? Any volunteers?



2024 Interns – Jesenia & Antoinette

To volunteer, visit our web site and click on "Contact Us."
<http://www.HistoricalGlassMuseum.com>

MEET OUR INTERNS

The Historical Glass Museum was fortunate to have two interns this Fall, from a Cultural Resource Management course in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Cal Poly Pomona. Jesenia Garcia and Antoinette Parker did mini-internships consisting of (20) hours each supervised by Board Members Kathi Jablonsky and Jacque Rocha.



To begin with, they learned general museum procedures including identifying donated items, pricing for the gift shop, organizing the book library upstairs and assisting with the Verlys workshop.

Next they were taught the process of inventorying the museum collection including research, photography, measurements, inspecting condition, database entry, marking items with inventory numbers and placing labels with them on display. As you can imagine, this process is quite time-consuming, but it also lends itself to learning about the objects being identified. The end result for the Museum is progress in cataloging our inventory for historical purposes.

The internship ended too soon, of course. It was a great experience for all involved. Our thanks go to these two young ladies. We look forward to having more interns to assist us in the future.

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.

We regret that we must temporarily suspend our group tour option. We hope to resume tours shortly. We are still open during our regular hours.

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: **\$6,380.63.**

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President: Michael Krumme
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Shirley Barnett
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to our members and supporters! As another year for the Historical Glass Museum begins, I am reminded of the many people whose efforts keep the Museum open and functioning, whether by serving on our Board of Directors, as a docent, as a financial supporter, as a presenter of Museum programs such as our seminars on various glass topics, or as a "message carrier" to other groups and the public at large. All these activities contribute in their own way to the "whole" of making the Museum a destination and a gathering place.

Right now, one of our most important needs is to increase our pool of docents who serve during our operating hours on weekends. Docents welcome visitors, show them around the Museum, answer their questions, and serve as cashiers and wrappers in the Gift Shop. If we do not have a full slate of docents in any given month, we may have to close on one of our regularly-posted "open days" on Saturday or Sunday. We advertise the Museum as being open from 12 noon to 4 PM on weekends (except for major holidays.) Sometimes visitors travel a great distance to visit us. We do not want to disappoint them by finding us closed during our regular posted business hours. If we are closed on even one regularly-scheduled "open" day a month, we also miss out on the income that our Gift Shop generates.

If you live near the Museum (or even if you don't), and you're familiar with what's in there, we need YOU! We can partner you with an experienced docent for the day, who will show you what to do. You do not need to have an encyclopedic knowledge about glass, just a willingness to greet the public and show off what we rightly consider a gem in the City of Redlands. Just click on the "Contact Us" button on our web site.

Michael

ODDS AND ENDS

Board member Andy Hoder has been overseeing a number of necessary tasks around the Museum. He's monitoring installation of security lighting both in back and on the front porch. He's working to get a set of stairs installed along with a gate from the back to the side yard. He is overseeing a number of changes to the electrical wiring in our 100-year-old house. Also, beefing up the security to the basement of the building. We thank Andy for the donation of his time and attention to these many small, but important, tasks.

TIPS FOR CLEANING CLOUDY GLASS

(Extracted from Heritage Auctions web site)
(<https://www.ha.com/>)

There are many things to consider when collecting glass, but in almost every case, condition is a major factor in the value of any piece of glassware. Most collectors are purists and by that, we mean the collector wants things in mint condition, as if they just came off the showroom floor: no chips, cracks, roughness or sickness. The only exception to this rule are the extremely rare pieces.

Sick glass, or cloudy glass as it is often called, can sometimes be cleared. To understand what is happening to the glass, it is important to understand what type of matter glass actually is. It may seem like a solid substance to the touch but it is actually an amorphous solid, a liquid that was supercooled and is now somewhere between a solid and a liquid. Because of this, liquid can seep into the glass through micro fractures, giving the surface a cloudy appearance.

Cloudy glass is an industry term describing glass that has calcium deposits, which causes a light, foggy appearance in glassware. The water that held flowers in the vase or the repetitive washing of the tumbler is the culprit. Often, cloudiness is caused by consistent contact with hard water (i.e. water that contains calcium, lime, or other minerals) and this cloudiness can be difficult to get rid of.

Of course, vases, pitchers, and glassware are meant to be used, but a good rule of thumb is to thoroughly rinse the item after use and hand-dry with a microfiber cloth. Another good rule of thumb is to make sure liquid does not stay in the glass vessel for an extended period. One could consider using a silver vase for a long lasting floral arrangement.

Over the years, collectors have reported a number of household products that they have found cleaned from lightest to heaviest of hard water stains. Here are just a few of them:

1. Leave the object in vinegar and water overnight to loosen calcium deposits, rinse with warm water and dry with a microfiber towel.
2. Vaseline or petroleum jelly can sometimes remove light calcium build-up. Let it sit for 4-5 days before removing.
3. Fill with lukewarm water and drop in a denture cleaner tablet.
4. Dow Tub and Tile cleaner. Spray on, let sit, then rinse with warm water.

5. Pearl Drops Toothpaste has been recommended for light calcium stains. Dab a little on your index finger and lightly rub. Wash with warm water.

Please keep in mind that these are for sturdier glassware and not for art glass pieces with decorative finishes or that are made of fine crystal. In addition, once glass has become cloudy and been cleaned, it can be difficult to keep the glass clear for very long. The microfracturing is still existent in the glass and thus the cloudiness will reappear over time. These tips can help you improve the immediate appearance of your cloudy glassware and careful handling can prolong the improved appearance.

Remember to **never** wash glassware with cold or hot water. Extreme temperature changes can cause glass to crack or shatter. In addition, fine glassware should not be placed in the dishwasher. Most collectible glassware was manufactured before the invention of modern dishwashers, which heat the water well above the temperature coming out of the hot water tap. Dishwashers can cause hard water stains to appear, some detergents can etch the surface and there is a possibility that vibration of the dishwasher can cause a piece to shatter.

The best way to clean your glass is to wash by hand, always with lukewarm water, mild dishwashing soap (liquid), and dry with a microfiber towel. Avoid cleaning surfaces with hydrochloric acid as an ingredient. Hydrochloric acid is highly corrosive and can permanently damage and etch your glass.

Whether an heirloom, collection or a new hobby, glassware can serve you well and gracefully adorn your cabinet shelves if cared for properly.



Fenton Heart-shaped bowls
from a recent Workshop