



VICTORIA VIEWS

Two Rare Works of Nicholas Kopp

By Mel Murray

(Cont'd on page 3)

It is certainly good for me to get back to writing again. I have a couple of things I would like to tell you about at this time. You know, if you have ever read my glass books, that I have this admiration for Nicholas Kopp, a genius of a glass-maker, who came to the United States and settled in a glass plant in West Virginia. Charles Foster, then former governor of Ohio, was working closely with the glass industry in Fostoria to get glass plants built in his hometown. Fostoria had just lost one of its basic glass plants, located near the site of the present Black Cat Restaurant in Fostoria.

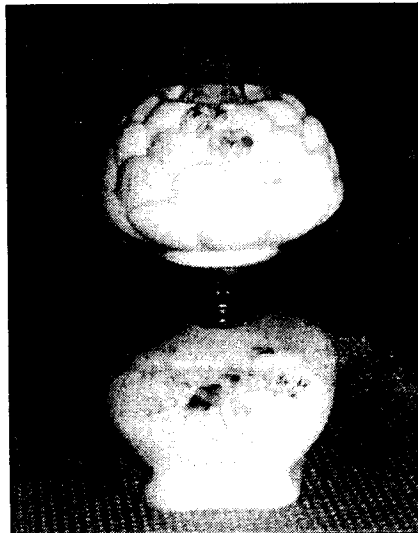
Foster was against building a glass plant in the same location. Foster felt that the new plant should be built nearer to the other glass plants, who had wisely used the proximity to an industry that had brought in a water-producing facility. Foster reasoned that being near the water-producing facility would be good for the new glass plant. Foster got his way and the new glass manufacturing plant was built where the Ohio Farmers Grain Corporation offices now stand.

One employee of one of the Fostoria glass plants at the time, with the surname of Kopp, approached Foster to tell him of his son, Nicholas Kopp. The younger Kopp was then a manager of a glass plant in West Virginia. Foster had heard

of the younger man, but did not know that Nicholas Kopp was the son of the man, then working in Fostoria. Foster immediately contacted the younger Kopp, and the rest is glass history. Young Kopp came to Fostoria, with the secrets of making European glass in his mind and memory.

To get to the reason for today's glass article, I have a couple of pictures to share with you today. The first is Exhibit A, which I have in my collection at home, is a beautiful hand-blown item of cranberry glass, and it is cut glass. I saw this in an antique shop, near Findlay, and was moved by it. It is a most gorgeous item of glass, but it was expensive, and I thought of it as having been made personally by Nicholas Kopp. He often made expensive glass items which he sold exclusively. This item has a metal base made of Sterling Silver.

I spent some time thinking about this piece, and finally asked the folks at the antique shop if they would ask the owner of the beautiful cranberry item, if he could possibly give me a special rate on the piece. He came down, and I bought it, with a full un-



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The list above includes cash gifts only. In addition, however, we have received vital support from other local companies which have provided such support as: legal work, maintenance, inspection of the building, rent subsidy, additions to our exhibits, etc. We appreciate all of your support. This is the time in which we will be making our corporate appeal for 2003. We hope you will continue to support us as we work for a better Fostoria. Again, if you have made a donation and your company is not represented on the list above, please contact Ed Reed at 435.1939. Also, if you would like your corporate gift to be anonymous, please indicate that on your form.

**The Glass Heritage
Gallery**

"A museum for the glass made in
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Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday, Saturday

The President's Page

Bill King (KingB123@aol.com)

Winter's Here!

As the year comes to an end, we have to focus on next year, 2003, Ohio's Bicentennial year! The Bicentennial should bring many visitors to Ohio and should result in many Ohio citizens touring the state to celebrate our first 200 years of statehood. Fostoria, Ohio has certainly played a role in those first 200 years and hopefully will play a continuing role in Ohio history.

We want to insure that many of those touring our state include Fostoria and specifically the Glass Heritage Gallery in their travels during 2003. During the coming months we'll be reviewing the inventory and will attempt to eliminate duplication of items on display. We'll also work on making sure the Gallery looks refreshed for the Bicentennial year.

However, during the months of January and February we will reduce the days that we are open. This was a difficult decision but I believe it's in the best, long-term interest of the Gallery. Some of the volunteers who keep the Gallery open head south for the winter. As

mentioned in my article in the last Victoria Views, we do need more volunteers. If you're available and willing to volunteer please let me know.

Effective January 1, 2003, we will open Thursday and Friday from 10 a. m. until 4 p. m. and on Saturday from 10 a. m. until 2 p.m. Special hours or tours may still be arranged by calling the Gallery at 419-435-5077 or me at 419-435-7014. Please provide as much advance notice as possible when requesting special hours or a tour.

Closing on Tuesday and Wednesday during January and February, will provide us an opportunity to accomplish work on inventory and other issues that are difficult to accomplish while the Gallery is open.

Thanks for your support during the past year and I look forward to your continuing support to keep Fostoria's glass history alive!

Two Rare Works of Nicholas Kopp

By Mel Murray (Cont'd from page 1)

derstanding of the owner's generosity.

The second item, the miniature lamp, was also hand-made by Nicholas Kopp. It was owned by an antique dealer in Las Vegas. He sent me a picture of it, and I was so impressed with the eloquence of its delicate painting that I was convinced it was also personally made by Nicholas Kopp.

Someday, the works of Nicholas Kopp may be seen, as they belong to his granddaughter in Pittsburgh. Kopp had no male heirs. Someday I am hoping that I can get a personal view of Kopp's creations. The granddaughter wants to write a history of her grandfather and all those wonderful files that she had described to me. What a wonderful blessing for all of us admirers of Nicholas Kopp, if we were able to read about those wonderful works waiting in that attic in Pittsburgh.

If you come down to the Gallery in Fostoria during the next few days, I shall let these items be on display.

The Editor's Page

R. Edson Reed and Sarah M. Reed (edsareed@core.com)

MEL MURRAY - I am pleased to have an article by Mel Murray as a part of this edition of *Victoria Views*. Much of what we have learned over the years concerning the glass made in Fostoria, Ohio has come from the research done by Mel over many years. We are thankful for that and hope that Mel will be able to contribute more articles in the future.

FOSTORIA GLASS SPECIALTY LADLE - At the annual meeting in September, Mel surprised those gathered by showing us the last piece of glass, a hand blown Iris ware ladle, made at the Fostoria Glass Specialty Plant circa 1920 and presenting the ladle to the GHG. The gold ladle pictured on this page was given to Mel by Fostoria residents Arthur and Mary Bickelhaupt. At first glance, it appears to be very heavy, but it is actually very light. It is a wonderful piece of work and we value it highly.

THE GLASS PRESS - Several years ago the Fostoria, Ohio Glass Association was given a glass press from the glass plant in Moundsville, WV. This was a gift from the Fostoria Glass Society of America. We thought at the time to display it in the Gallery, but found that it did not fit through the door. Since that time, it has been on display at Jim Maxwell's Foster Glass Works, just three doors from the Gallery. Jim's business has grown to the point where he needs the space for displays. We are searching for a place

to display the glass press. What do we need? A location with high traffic in the immediate downtown. If you have suggestions, we would like to hear them.

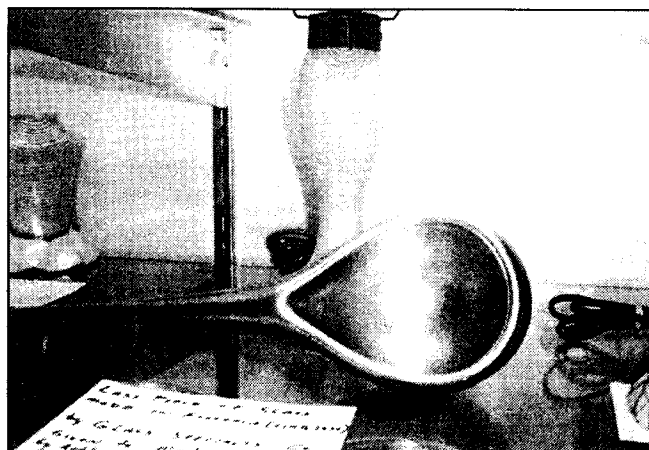
CRISS CROSS — People often ask where we find glass. One place is at shows such as Harrisburg or Indianapolis, even Springfield. It is more fun, however, to find it in shops and malls. This year, when we went on vacation, I kept a log to share with you the glass we had found and where we had found it. The problem was....we found almost no glass. Almost! We did find a Consolidated Criss Cross sugar shaker in cranberry. We located this particular item at the Camelot Antique Mall in Easton, MD. Finding a piece of Criss Cross is rare. Finding a piece valued at \$950. for \$300. is even rarer, There is glass out there. It may be hard to find, but it may be worth your while to spend some quality time in the GHG, studying patterns, before you leave on vacation. By the way, the latest Harrisburg Show was great. Lots of glass.

The last piece of glass made at Glass Specialty Co. A gift to Mel Murray from Arthur and Mary Bickelhaupt. It is now located at the Glass Heritage Gallery.

Lena Phillips—Treasurer

With much regret the Board of Directors has accepted the resignation of Mrs. Lena Phillips as Treasurer of FOGA. Lena served in that capacity for over a decade and did so with great dignity and much charm. The Board of Directors unanimously voted to give Lena a Life Membership in FOGA and presented it to her at the annual meeting in September. Lena will continue on the Board of Directors.

Thanks, Lena, for a job done well.



Blowpipes

by Jack K. Paquette
A Review by Sally Reed

A 559 page book of facts can look formidable at the outset. I wondered why I had promised to spend vacation hours digging into this detailed account, but I had agreed to write a review for the up-coming newsletter.

"Blowpipes" is a totally different approach to glass research than the other books in our collection. It is an account of how the companies in nine communities of northwest Ohio developed, prospered, and—for the most part—failed. Of seventy-some glasshouses that were established in northwest Ohio, only five were still producing glass by 1980: Fostoria (in Moundsville by then), Seneca (in Morgantown), Tiffin, Libbey and Ford Plate Glass in Toledo. The first three did not survive the 1980's.

Each of the Ohio communities is dealt with in great detail, with facts well researched and documented from publications of the late 1880's and beyond—the local newspapers of those times and the trade journals that flourished to carry news of the latest patterns being produced as well as the business status of the various plants. (Those of us who have read Mel Murray's glass books are familiar with references to *China, Glass & Lamps, Crockery and Glass Journal, & Pottery and Glassware Reporter* as being sources of information about the glass-making business of the times.

But this is not a book about patterns and designs. Don't look here to see what company produced those lovely pieces that your grandmother handed down to you, nor for the value of those items in today's market. This is about the business end of glass-making—the wheeling and dealing that occurred when companies began to discuss locating in a particular area, the optimism and greed, the role of natural gas in enticing companies to pull up stakes in one part of the country and move here for promises of cheaper fuel, cheap land, bonuses, and tax breaks.

The opening chapters about the development of the American glass industry and the effects of the gas boom in northwest Ohio were easy to read. The section on Fostoria's glasshouses was fascinating because we have been immersed in this history. We know about most of the players and some of the connections that existed between them. We can understand the difficulties that got plants into trouble—all the ups and downs are well documented in this excellent work.



BLOWPIPES

A HISTORY OF THE GLASS INDUSTRY
IN NORTHWEST OHIO

JACK K. PAQUETTE

But when I tried to delve into those facts about some of the other communities, I found my eyes glazing over. The details of it overwhelmed my senses when the names and places were not as personal to me as reading about the firms that were familiar.

The author certainly did his research to show us how companies were formed and reformed, flourished and folded. The effects of financial backing, business experience or lack of it, and actual glass-making knowledge could lead to success. But ultimately the reduction in natural gas led to almost all of the glass-making businesses relocating to other parts of the country and we are left with scraps of history to ponder and stories to tell those who follow.

Membership Information

Please note: In order to eliminate misunderstandings concerning membership we have changed the notes at the top of your label. The year listed on your label is the year for which you are paid in full, January 1 to December 31. The date which follows is the date on which you paid for your membership, the date we received the payment, or the date I entered the payment in our master list. That latter information will change as the year goes by. Shortly we will be using a code such as B7 to replace the dates as they cause confusion. Membership is from January 1 to December 31 of the year listed on your label.

As of Dec. 1st we have 30 Life Members, 113 members paid through 2002; 97 members paid for 2003, 10 members paid through 2004. Our total membership is 250. As you can see

on page 2, we also have a sizable number of corporate and business members.

For the 113 members who have 2002 on their mailing label, this will be your last edition of Victoria Views. Please take time to renew your membership. Because of postal regulations governing bulk mail, we are including a membership form in every Victoria Views. Only those wishing to renew for 2003 or those wishing to make corporate donations need respond. But Don't let that membership form go to waste: give a friend or loved one a gift membership in the Fostoria, Ohio Glass Association.

If you should hear of someone who thinks he or she is current but has not received a copy of Victoria Views, please have them contact Ed Reed 419.435.1939.

Memorial

We have received a \$100. donation to the GHG from Patricia and John Boland , Pamela Boland and Margaret Boland in memory of Mrs. Betty Spahr. There have also been other donations to the GHG in memory of Mrs. Spahr who was not only a docent at the Gallery, but also an avid collector of glass, with a particular fondness for Consolidated's Criss Cross pattern. Mrs. Spahr was also a very nice lady. She is missed.

We have
three copies of
Blowpipes
available in the
Glass Heritage
Gallery.
The cost is
\$27.00



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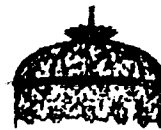
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TWO CATALOG REPRODUCTIONS

The Board of Directors has had two early catalogs reproduced and now has them available for sale.

1. A Nickel Plate Glass Co. Catalog from July of 1890 listing clear, frosted and opalescent patterns produced by the company. The price for this is: \$16.98 plus \$2.00 shipping. Ohio residents add \$1.02 tax.
2. A Fostoria Glass Novelty Co. Catalog (circa 1920) showing many of their cut glass patterns. The price for this is \$11.32 plus \$2.00 shipping. Ohio residents add \$0.68 tax.

For More Information on Ads, please contact Edson Reed at (419) 435-1939
 Place your business card ad above: \$25.00 for 4 issues.