

THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

QUARTERLY

FEBRUARY 2006

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Fellow stretch glass enthusiasts,

It is 2006 — imagine that — another year well underway as 2005 is more and more a distant memory with every passing day. I hope you had a chance to use some of your iridescent stretch glass during the holiday season if you were entertaining family or friends, or just decorating for the holidays. Once again we hosted an open house for friends, neighbors and business associates and, as has become tradition, we served most of our food on Florentine Green and Ruby Red iridescent stretch glass. This year we loaded up a Florentine Green Dolphin Center Handled Tray with shrimp and used a dolphin comport for the cocktail sauce. I think the shrimp and dolphins went quite well together; if you haven't tried it, you really should. It seems that our iridescent stretch glass just lends itself to showing off food so nicely. If you have some pictures of your iridescent stretch glass in use, please share them with our SGS Quarterly editors so they can share them with all our members.

Speaking of sharing — the 2006 Convention, Show and Sale is only 6 months away. I hope you are making plans to attend as we move to a new location at the Comfort Inn in Marietta with an even bigger display/sale room and in very close proximity with our Fenton Art Glass collecting friends. We are hoping many of them will join us, and we look forward to visiting them, as our conventions will overlap slightly. More information about our 2006 Convention is in this Quarterly; we look forward to seeing you there.

Speaking of sharing, again — have you ever thought of donating a piece or two of iridescent stretch glass to your local museum to help us spread the word about our wonderful glass? I just had the pleasure of seeing the sheer delight on the face of the President of my hometown Historical Society when I presented her with a selection of 20+ pieces of iridescent stretch glass. She has promised to get them on display soon, so everyone visiting the museum in Grafton, NH will soon know what iridescent stretch glass really is. If you have a few extra pieces to share, I'm sure there is a museum or historical society near you that would welcome them for their collection.

One of the highlights of the convention is the election of officers and directors to lead the Society in the future. We have several positions up for election this year; I hope you will consider taking a leadership role with the SGS and helping us get the word out about iridescent stretch

glass. Please let me or any of the other officers or directors know if you are interested in being a candidate for one of the open positions.

As we prepare for the 2006 Convention, I would ask you to think about hosting a small gathering of your fellow iridescent stretch glass enthusiasts. This would be a great way to "get in the mood" for our convention and could also give some of our members an opportunity to "mingle" with fellow members, even if they are not able to make it to convention. Hosting a gathering of members can be as simple as an afternoon or evening get together at your home with everyone bringing a piece or two of special stretch glass to share with the group. Everyone has at least a couple stories of a great find or a piece of glass that was given to them by a special person in their life. You don't need to worry about knowing whether your piece was made by Fenton or Dugan or even whether it is a comport or a compote — just share the history of how you came to have it or what you used it for most recently. Once you are ready to host a local gathering of members in your area, please let us know when and where and someone from the leadership of the Society will try to attend.

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership for another year. And if you haven't sent your renewal in yet, please do it now so that you won't miss the next SGS Quarterly and even more information about the 2006 Convention, Show and Sale and other activities, not to mention the great pictures and technical articles that we pack into each edition of the Quarterly. Thanks for your enthusiasm for iridescent stretch glass and the Stretch Glass Society.

Happy collecting, until next time,
Cal Hackeman, President

STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Midlam passed away on November 4, 2005 according to recent communications with husband Paul. Paul, also known as "Jim," and Barbara have been members of the SGS for many years. We send our sympathies to Paul and his family and hope to see him soon.

Fenton Florentine Line, continued: Covered Bonbons, Candy Jars, & Other Jars

By David Shetlar

After covering the Fenton bowls, comports and vases in previous articles, it's time to review their covered pieces. Since we will be emphasizing the colognes/perfumes, puff jars and boxes in our club display this July (Boudoir Pieces), I will save those pieces for the May Quarterly. I mention them, because the puff jars and boxes often cause confusion. Since many of these pieces could be used to hold cotton balls or jewelry items as well as candies or similar materials, their use (and, therefore, common name) is often in the mind of the owner! We often see candy jars and covered bonbons used to hold cotton balls, Q-tips, etc. So, please don't get overly concerned if you don't see your piece in this article as it will likely show up in future articles!

The term "bonbon" has been used for a wide variety of items by glass manufacturers. In reality, a bonbon is supposed to be a coated candy, so the holder for such candies is also often called a bonbon. Glass manufacturers often made handled bonbons to describe small one- or two-handled dishes used to hold such sweets.

Fenton used the term "covered bonbon" to refer to wide, bowl-shaped glass items with a lid suitable for holding tasty bonbon candies. The #10 bonbon (figure 1) and a covered bowl (figure 2) are very simple in design and have thin, ball-knobbed covers. These items are not common, and being thin, they are often chipped. These two pieces are most commonly seen in Velva Rose, but Florentine Green, Celeste Blue and Tangerine pieces are known. The most common Fenton covered bonbon is the #643, one pound (figures 7 & 8). Since Northwood and Diamond made nearly identical pieces, this bonbon can be very confusing to the beginning collector. The Fenton piece has a thin basal stem, but the lid (when present) has the key identifying characteristic - no lip on the thin rim that fits inside the base. (See "AISG," pg 174 or <http://shetlargo.com>) Northwood and Diamond lids have a ridge on this lip. Fenton covered bonbons can be found in nearly all their Florentine Line colors, but Tangerine, Royal Blue, and Aquamarine are quite difficult to find. There should be Ruby examples out there, but I have never seen one. Fenton also made a #543 covered bonbon (figure 6) which has a bowl base, but the same lid as used in the #643. None of these are common. To confuse collectors more, Fenton made two other covered bonbons, #943 (1/2-pound) and #1043 (1-pound) that have narrow rays on the bases and lids that look much like the Diamond #900 (Adam's Rib) line. However, these are easy to differentiate! The Fenton rays are impressed while the Diamond rays will be raised. Finally, Fenton used their small "melon rib" (#847) mold to make the base for their #844 covered bonbon (figure 11). Finding these bonbons with the lids complete (all have the flower finial) is extremely difficult. The bases are fairly common which suggests that the lids were often broken and thrown away.

Fenton's candy jars are usually urn-shaped or diamond-shaped when viewed from the side. The simplest forms are the #8 (1/2-pound) (figures 12 & 13) and #9 (3/4-pound) (figures 14, 15, & 16) jars. These jars come in

most of the Fenton colors, and the #9 jars were frequently decorated with factory cuttings (grapes - figure 14; match-stick - figure 15; or floral - figure 16) and gold trim. The #9 base was commonly used to make comports with various top treatments (e.g., flared, square, two-sides-up, and crimped). The #1532A (1/2-pound) and #1533A (3/4-pound) jars are the same shape, but with dolphin ornaments on two sides (figures 23-25). The #1533A mold is still being used, but the base is different! In this case, the old items have a thick basal rim with a small lip inside while the newer version is a slimmed-down version without this lip inside. The #835 candy jar has a six-sided foot with matching panels on the sides of the jar (figure 18), and the lid is the same one that is used in the #636 jar. The base of the #835 jar is also used to make a variety of comports, parfais, and vases. The last of the urn-shaped jars include the #635 (1/2-pound) and #636 (1-pound) which both have panels separated by wide rays. These exact forms were also made by Northwood, though the Northwood ones are slimmer along the sides of the jar and their lids have that tell-tale notch in the fitter ring. I notice in my book that I don't have the height correct for the #636 jar. The Fenton jars are normally 10 1/4-inches tall while the Northwood jars are more near 10 1/2-inches tall. Occasionally, you might find Fenton or Northwood jars decorated by secondary decorating factories (not illustrated).

The diamond-shaped jars include the #568 1/2-pound version (figure 26) which is often called "diamond optic" by collectors (optic: pattern from the inside). Again, the base of this jar was commonly used to make a fan vase. The #735 1/2-pound and #736 1-pound jars have optic rays in the bases and lids (figures 27-31). Again, the bases of these two jars are commonly found made into fan vases and occasionally into crimped comports. The large number of bases found without lids suggests again that the lids were often chipped and thrown away. Note the two decorated jars (figures 30 and 31) that have acid etched designs highlighted with gold paint. The first design appears to be the "Drapes" pattern and the second one the "Fingered Swirls, Arrows and Flowers" pattern, both made by the Wheeling Decorating Company. Don't use these decorations to confirm the origin of the glass as I have seen the same two decorations on Northwood pieces, too!

The three other pieces I've included is a small, wide jar (figure 3) which has the same style of lid as the bonbons in figures 1 & 2. I suspect that this may actually be a puff jar, but could be used to hold other items, including candy. The #76 lidded marmalade jar (figure 4) is a very uncommon item, especially with the slotted lid being intact. This item was not figured in the stretch glass book ("AISG"). Finally, the wide jar with under plate (figure 5) was originally thought to be a U.S. Glass item and Frank M. Fenton often stated that he was sure that it was not a Fenton item. However, when a complete set showed up in Fenton's unique Cameo color, and Arna Simpson showed up with the under plate in Tangerine, there was no disputing that this WAS a Fenton item. The plate has a ground base (7 3/8-inches), is about 11 1/2-inches wide and has a depressed ring in which the jar rests. The jars (3 7/8-inch ground base, 4 1/2-inch wide and 3 5/8-inch tall) are occasionally seen, but the plate is the difficult item to find in order to complete a set!



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26



Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 29



Figure 30



Figure 31

32ND Annual Convention, Show & Sale July 27 – 29, 2006

Comfort Inn, Marietta, OH

by Pam Steinbach, Director

Nearly all of the "t's" are crossed and "i's" dotted on this year's convention schedule and your complete registration packet will soon be assembled and mailed. Okay, we know that February *seems* like a long time away from the July convention, but it's only 4½ *short months* away and when competing with hundreds of other glass collecting enthusiasts for hotel rooms, today really wouldn't be too early to make your arrangements.



The Comfort Inn, in Marietta, OH, is this year's convention headquarters. It can be reached by exiting I-77 at exit 1 which is immediately north of the bridge over the Ohio River. The hotel is visible from the road and is located on the

south side of State Rt-7.

The hotel has contracted with the SGS to hold a block of rooms available at our convention rate (see information on outside cover) only until **JUNE 30TH**. After that date, any remaining rooms will be released to be filled at their normal rate. If you want/need to locate another hotel in the area, you may contact the Washington Co. Convention & Visitor's Bureau via telephone **800-288-2577** or on line at <http://www.mariettaohio.org>. If you are considering flying in for the convention, they should be able to provide information about nearby airports as well.

Schedule Highlights

Specifics on the convention schedule are still being finalized, but traditional elements include:

- Club Group Display
- Member Only Sales Stampede
- Banquet Speaker
- Stretch Glass ID
- Seminars

The Comfort Inn offers a wonderful room for us to set up in. It's large and well lit by two full walls of windows in addition to very good overhead lighting. We are making arrangements to provide rectangular tables and round tables for our sales and display areas.

After much consideration, we are pleased to announce that this year's group display theme will be **"Boudoir and Night Table Items."** Besides the obvious perfume/cologne bottles, puff boxes, bath salts, sets, trays, etc., we are expanding this category to include guest sets/tumble ups, cigarette boxes/holders, ashtrays, shaving mugs, hair receivers, lamp bases/shades and bud vases. The majority of these items were produced by the Fenton Art Glass Company, but there are a few that some of the other makers

produced as well. This should make for a very interesting display. We are encouraging everyone to bring (or send) any and all pieces in any color that fall into these categories to be part of our club display. The display we are planning will be quite different from previous years (do I have your curiosity peaked yet??).

Dave and Renée Shetlar are coordinating the group display again this year and we are all excited about it. Start looking through your stretch glass right away and plan to bring, at least, one item for this effort. If you don't think you will be able to be at convention, but want to send the Shetlar's an item (or more), please contact them to make arrangements. If you have questions, you may reach them at [REDACTED] or you may also call me at [REDACTED].

Day and Event Changes

Please make note that the 2006 schedule will be significantly different from previous years with regard to arrival day, setup, etc. **Arrival and setup will be THURSDAY, JULY 27TH from 1PM to 7PM this year.** You will be able to draw your "line-up" number for the **Sales Stampede** when you pick up your name tags and sign in. **The Stampede will take place at 7:45PM THURSDAY with our Wine & Cheese Welcome Party following.**

About 15 minutes prior to the start of the exciting Stampede a **special raffle drawing will be held** which will give five lucky members the privilege of holding **one of the first five Stampede line-up positions!** These special raffle tickets, limited to 3 per participating member, will be sold during setup from 1PM-7PM. Details will be provided in your registration packet.

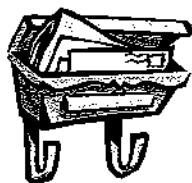
The traditional Glass ID session, banquet and Stretch Glass Raffle are scheduled for Friday with time allowed for lots of "outside" events that are taking place such as the opening of the 24th Annual Antique Flea Market & Glass Show at the Washington Co Fair Grounds, a chance to visit the Mississippi Queen docked in the area for the day and your opportunity to scour the many antique shops and malls in the area.

Saturday, too, is packed with activities including our Annual Breakfast Business Meeting, the popular Iridescent Stretch Glass Whimsey Auction and two seminars – one on vintage stretch glass by our own Dave Shetlar and one on Fenton's contemporary stretch glass by Scott Fenton, National Sales Director for the Fenton Art Glass Company.

The public, as always, is invited into our display/sales room on Friday, from Noon to 5:30PM and Saturday, from Noon until 5PM. So, if you are meeting friends who are not members of the SGS, invite them to join you at these times and you can give them the "grand tour of iridescent stretch glass!"

A full schedule and details will be published in the May *Quarterly* and in the convention registration packet, but as usual, you can look forward to interesting learning sessions, friendly conversation and loads of iridescent stretch glass to see and buy.

**Find Your Favorite Color at the 2006
SGS CONVENTION, SHOW & SALE!**



Letters & E-Mails

[Editor's Note: The following inquiries were received during the later half of 2005]

Q:

Recently purchased these 2 pieces on E Bay. Do you know who made the pieces. No stretch on the red tray & it reminds me of Diamond. Am always looking for pedestals of all types so bid on this tray. Received it today and it is really red & interesting - not sure that it held another piece of glass.



Also received the red candlestick and it is wonderful deep red, but who made it? Fenton?

A: Your glass base looks like one of the trivets made by several companies, including Imperial and Anchor-Hocking (Royal Ruby). The little candleholder is a recent Fenton (2003) production. It should have a logo in the base, but these are fairly thin and the logo often gets burned out during the reheating process. I believe that there is a pair of these currently posted on eBay under the stretch glass category. We were going to buy a pair, but their initial cost (about \$125 for a pair) seemed a bit much for new glass!

Q: Hello, Can you identify this piece of glass for me?? I've seen different colors but not this shape.. It does have an Imperial emblem on the bottom. Any value? Thank you very much...



A: Hello and thank you for emailing the SGS! About the only things we can tell you for certain about your vase is that, yes, it is Imperial and that it is in their Pearl White color.

We assume that it is approximately 4.25-4.5 tall with a 2.75 base diameter. If so, it would be identified as #4 in the Art Glass line (the name given by Imperial to this line of stretch glass which was blown-molded). This line

was first developed in 1916, but didn't appear in any company catalogue (#103G) until 1918.

A photo of the page from this catalogue is shown in the "Imperial Glass Encyclopedia, Volume I, A-Cane" by the National Imperial Glass Collector's Society, edited by James Measell (pg 169). There are no photos of this particular piece either in this publication or in ours ("American Iridescent Stretch Glass"). The only vase similar that we show is the #2 in Pearl White (pg 98, plate 450). If you do not have a copy, you may be interested in looking at our personal website at: <http://shetlartglass.com/stretchglass/SGCompanies/Imperial/Imperial1.htm>.

We are not able to place a value on your vase because the photo appears to be out of focus and we can not see the quality of the iridescence. Value for stretch glass collectors is based on the iridescence, the condition (no chips or cracks), the scarcity and whether or not it is marked (for Imperial pieces especially). A piece such as yours with good qualities all around should be valued between \$100-130 in this color.

Hope that this information helps!

FOLLOW-UP: Dear Renee & Dave, Thank you for getting back to me. I couldn't find a picture of it either. Am I to believe that this piece may be that old?? 1916-1918. It does measure 4.5" tall that but the base is only 2.5". Does that change the price? Also there are some flakes missing off the bottom, does this come from the grinding or is it actual damage? The iridescence is in perfect condition. I've also included a picture of the Imperial mark, will that help to date this piece?? Thanks for your opinion in advance..Kareen

Kareen, 1916 is the earliest reference to the Art Glass line in salesman's publications and it appears to have continued production through the '20s, so yes, this vase was likely produced sometime in those years.

Are you sure that you are measuring the base from the outside rims? It should be within, at least, 1/8" inch of the 2-3/4 inches in width. The slight roughness you see around the ground bottom is typical due to the nature of this type of production. I quote from an article Dave wrote for an earlier issue of the "SGS Quarterly" (newsletter):

"Practically all the Art Glass was made from rather simple vase and bowl molds and all the pieces were "stuck up" for shaping and iridizing. Stuck up pieces are heat attached to a metal ring and they must be removed by breaking this attachment. This means that the bases of all the pieces had to be ground smooth. Many other pieces of stretch glass made by Imperial were placed into other lines and these pieces will have a normal foot or marie that was placed into a snap for handling."

The "iron-cross" trademark was used by Imperial between about 1914 and the early 1930s and some Art Glass pieces are not marked with the trademark at all, so we can only identify a general range of time for production. Renee Shetlar, Dir/Technical Information



Seekers & Sellers

Seekers

Bill Crowl

Unusual shapes and colors; one piece or a collection bought and sold.

Cal Hackeman

I am always looking to acquire mint condition Iridescent Stretch Glass – 1 piece or an entire collection – my wants may be in your collection. I also have a large selection of Iridescent Stretch Glass – over 100 pieces for sale. A list and photos are available to anyone upon request.

Sellers

Ina Tipton

I have 30-35 pieces for sale. Please contact me for further information.

Dave & Renée Shetlar

We have a new DVD available showing the production of SGS Souvenirs from 1994-1999 as well as 2005's Ruby Trumpet Vase and video showing the process of blow-molding a vase. Please contact us for details.

Conventions, Shows and Sales

San Diego County & Southern California ANNUAL CARNIVAL GLASS CONVENTION March 1 to 4, 2006

Country Suites by Ayres
Ontario, CA (close to the Ontario Airport) For more information call – 909-794-4843 or email judymax3@aol.com

20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois ANNUAL DEPRESSION ERA GLASS SHOW & SALE March 11 & 12, 2006

Midwest Conference Center
Northlake, IL For more information visit the website at –
<http://www.20-30-40society.org>

8th ANNUAL WWWCGA CONVENTION April 4 to 6, 2006

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Brighton, MO For more information call 314-291-6700

Heart of America Carnival Glass Assoc. Convention April 26 to 29

Embassy Suites Hotel
Kansas City, MO For more information call 816-891-7788
DAVE SHETLAR SEMINAR SPEAKER 7PM, APRIL 27!

How Do YOU Use Your Stretch Glass?

Here are a couple of pictures sent in by Cal Hackeman from the recent holidays. THANKS, CAL!



More Photo Highlights from Convention 2005



Getting caught up and reacquainted at the Welcome Reception



Joanne Rodgers' For Sale Table

Some nice, unusual pieces showed up on many sales tables in 2005.



Glass ID session with Dave Shetlar and captive audience

GET YOUR STRETCH GLASS KICKS IN 2006!

27-29 JULY 2006

32nd Annual SGS Convention, Show and Sale

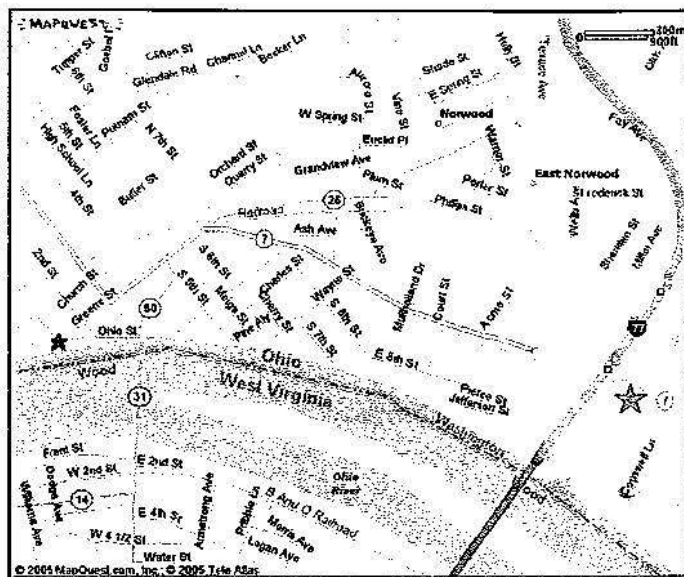
Comfort Inn

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For Stretch Glass Society Members
Mention SGS Convention When Making
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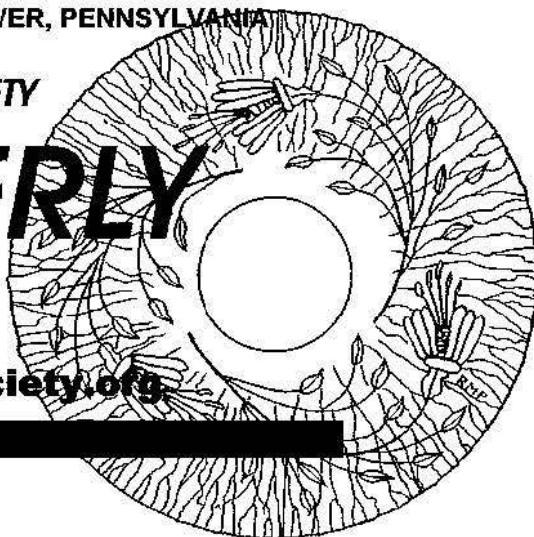
NFGS headquarters at the Lafayette, Front St.
and SGS headquarters at the Comfort Inn,
exit 1, East on Rt. 7

FOUNDED APRIL 21, 1974 IN DENVER, PENNSYLVANIA

THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

QUARTERLY

<http://stretchglassociety.org>



First Class Mail

TO:

NOTICE: The SGS Quarterly newsletter distribution schedule is: FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST and NOVEMBER.