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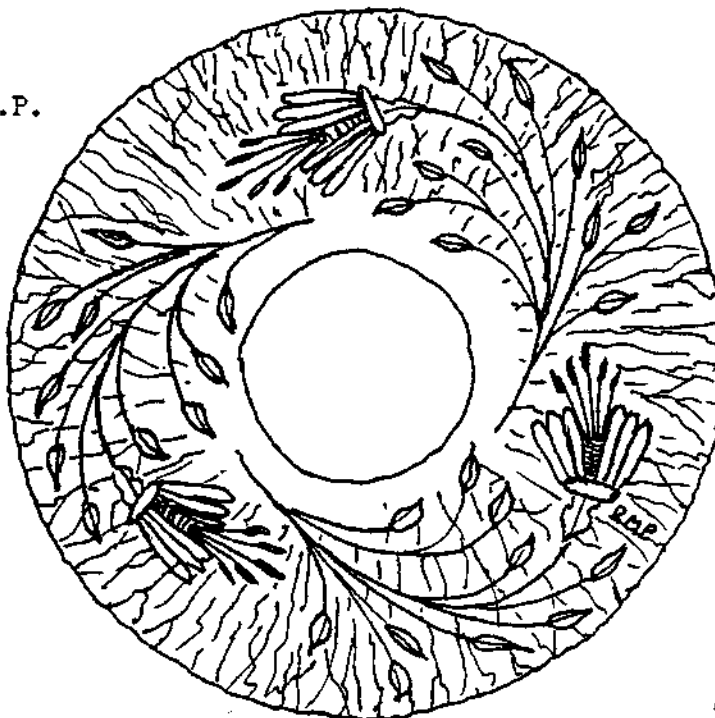
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STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

October 1979

A message from your President . . .

It seems that I was a bit premature in self-congratulations last newsletter. Although the convention was indeed a great success here in our local area, it appears that success, or at least interest, is lagging in other areas. News of any kind is conspicuous by its absence. By that I mean that there has been no great attempt to inundate Paul Miller with items which could be included in the newsletter. If you will recall, Paul agreed to remain as Editor of the SGS Newsletter only if he was provided with content for it. I agreed to another term as president only if Paul would stay on as Editor. The Society agreed that if there were not enough articles submitted for the newsletter that there would be none printed - at least for that issue. This issue came perilously close to not being published at all. It was only because of Paul's perseverance that there is an issue.

The bottom line is this: - whether it is world-shaking or not, articles, bits of information, etc., must be forthcoming from Society members or there simply will be no newsletter - and possibly no Editor. Think it over. Take the time to sit down, write a few lines, and mail it to Paul. Perhaps your latest acquisition - when, where, what and how much.

Most of you know Alma and I collect sandwich trays in Stretch. We now have seventeen in eight different colors. The rest have different handles, different patterns, edge treatment, size, etc. We recently found a bon-bon tray -- a miniature sandwich tray -- in pink. There must be other colors out there somewhere. We would be interested in them if you see any. We also found a banana boat (turned up sides) in marigold. There must be more of these in other colors too. We have completely rearranged our living room so that most of our stretch is in

October 1979

-2-

one location. If you are in Akron, be sure to look us up and come visit if possible.

I am already looking forward to the 1980 Convention in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Hope you a too. Gasoline may be higher priced, but it looks as though it will be available. Stories I hear about the Northwood plant site, etc., make me anxious to get back there and start hunting. Those of you who made the trip to Thelma Lellock's in Punxsatawney are probably looking forward to a trip there also. It just may be possible that Stretch Glass is ready to become known. At least, more people seem to know what it is and that's good. However, as has happened with so many other things, the price is rising and that's not so good. I guess the best thing to do is get it while you can and treasure it. Take care of it now and perhaps it will take care of you in the future.

I thought most of the souvenirs were gone, but there are a few left. They are still \$20.00 plus postage (about \$2.00) and everyone who has seen them has been very pleased. Remember, they are definitely a limited edition. When these are gone, there will be no more. Please write Paul some sort of article for the newsletter. Hope to see you at least in Pennsylvania in 1980 (or sooner). Until then, God bless.

Ken

"Flying Saucer" Powder Box

The powder box (on the following page) is another "UFO" and it looks like one of the Project Blue Book illustrations - (especially with its lid in suspension!). It is pink with lustrous, all-over iridescence. My inclination is to attribute it to Fenton -- but that's just an educated guess at this point.

This has been drawn with the lid separate from the base in order to show the difference between the rim of the base - which comes straight up - and the lid which is dome shaped. There is no indentation or ridge in the lid to make it "fit" securely over the base. As you can imagine, the lid rocks a bit when in place.

The powder box is $4\frac{1}{2}$ " tall (including the lid) to the top of the finial, and is $6\frac{1}{4}$ " wide at the widest (bulbous) part. (It appears to have a touch of "secretary spread.")

Powder jars (boxes) are another uncommon shape in Stretch Glass and, in perfect condition, would fall in the same price range as the colognes.

* * * * *

If any of you out there have like items in different colors, how about dropping a note to SGS News and telling us about it?

October 1979

-3-

REFLECTIONS

Over a period of years, I've watched Stretch Glass blossom from a "whatzit" to a recognized collectible. I can recall dealers offering the glass as "carnival glass" (some of it is included in the Carnival Glass books); "Imperial Jewels", "Tiffany", "Steuben ", "Durand" etc. This still happens occasionally, but the two best-known books entitled "STRETCH GLASS" by Wiggins and Umbraco , individually, have enlightened both the dealers and the collectors of this beautifully simplistic iridescent glass. During this time of growing awareness, experience has taught me to recognize the common, the popular, the unusual, the scarce and the rare. After a dozen or so years of constant searching - flea markets, shops, shows, auctions etc., if an item appears only ONCE -- it's safe to consider it scarce... perhaps even rare. If you are trying to determine how scarce an item is, just ask yourself "How often have I seen this item?...in this size?... in this color?"

Some of the shapes that appear the most frequently are various sized bowls, compotes covered candy dishes, candlesticks and fan vases. Apparently when Stretch Glass was made, these items were very popular--- especially the console sets. Those were the days when dining rooms had big tables requiring a centerpiece bowl and buffets held a bowl and candlesticks. These items were more decorative than serviceable and were not subject to as much damage as the more functional items.

Items such as Lemonade sets were meant to be used - and they were. Sudden changes in temperature and cast iron sinks took their toll on these fragile items. Today, finding a set in "mint" condition can be quite a challenge.

To determine what will be harder to find today, one has only to consider the casualty rate of a given item. For instance, consider the lattice edged bowls and plates made by US Glass Co. How many can you truly expect to find in PERFECT condition? If you find an example that is WHOLE -- there's a good chance there'll be a crack in the lace somewhere. (These often occurred in the making, too.) Beverage sets were used; dresser sets were used. (Did you ever try to take the lid off one of those powder jars with powder on your fingers?) Powder jars, when found, often have some roughness around the lid area- either on the base rim or inside the lid. Colognes are extremely difficult to find with the dauber still intact.

October 1979

-4-

Punch sets apparently never were produced in large quantities. Use took its toll of the few that were marketed and today you can consider yourself very fortunate if you own one. In fact, you're very lucky if you have just a punch CUP. Coffee cups and saucers are also in very short supply.

Other items that are in great demand and short supply are the DOLPHIN items. They were made in a wide variety of shapes and sizes such as compotes, candlesticks, covered candy dishes, footed fruit bowls, fan vases, bowls etc. They were not only beautiful, they were very vulnerable. The dolphins sometimes "wiggled" as they came out of the mould causing a crack in the tail. If they survived that, they got a "fat lip" along the way. Nicks on the lower lip and a few scales missing are the signs of use to look for on these pieces. The ones that are found in perfect condition are to be treasured; even the less than perfect are eagerly sought by Stretch Glass collectors, Dolphin collectors and Fenton Glass collectors.

Well... what about the console sets, compotes and covered candy dishes? Should they be passed in favor of the rarities?Certainly NOT!

The bowls and candlesticks are some of the most beautiful, showy, graceful examples of stretch glass to be found and they can decorate today's home as elaborately as they did the homes of the early 1900's. The fluted compotes are as unique and individual as the glass makers who fashioned them.. one by one. The covered dishes (candy or other) come in a tremendous variety of designs, shapes and colors which would make a beautiful specialty collection by themselves. The challenge would be to find them all in perfect condition. We haven't even touched on the variety of COLORS!

The advantage to Stretch Glass is that, for the most part, it is still affordable to the general collecting public but it is steadily increasing in price. There are still "sleepers" to be discovered because Stretch Glass STILL hasn't been as fully exposed as it could be.

In future editions of SGS News, we hope to cover some of the unusual shapes and discoveries, as well as the better known lines, in a comprehensive way. Line drawings will be used to illustrate rather than photos in order to get sharper detail.

We MUST HEAR FROM YOU -- THE COLLECTORS. Send us your notes, photos, letters and share your finds. WHAT GOOD IS A COLLECTION IF YOU CAN'T SHARE IT WITH SOMEONE.

October 1979

-5-

Isn't it about time we set aside a week for Stretch Glass -- the way the Carnival Glass collectors have done? Why not set up a display in a prominent place such as your local library, a bank or at a show. Tell people, show people what Stretch Glass is and how they can use it to bring color into their homes. Why wait for a convention? Do something in YOUR location! Spread the news all across the country-- get out your books, publicize. Let people know that you are looking for "this kind of glass".

AND SEND US THE NEWS!!!!!! What have you done? What have you found? We don't need to know what you paid for it (unless you want to share that information). How do you do your buying? Do you frequent all the those, fleas, yard sales, garage sales etc? Do you buy through the mail? Have you had some good experiences you can share -- or how about the BAD ones from which we can all learn a lesson?

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER, FOLKS! What YOU PUT IN -- WE PUT OUT! If we are just talking to ourselves, we might as well fold our tent and go home and save a lot of postage.

Signing off til next time --

connie diamond

"Joyce" Cologne*

This quarter we are showing you line drawings of two dresser set items - a cologne and a powder box. Neither of these items is shown in the Stretch Glass books or the Heacock book, "Fenton - The First Twenty Five Years."

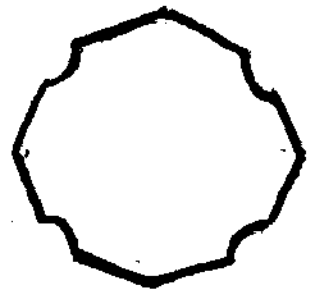
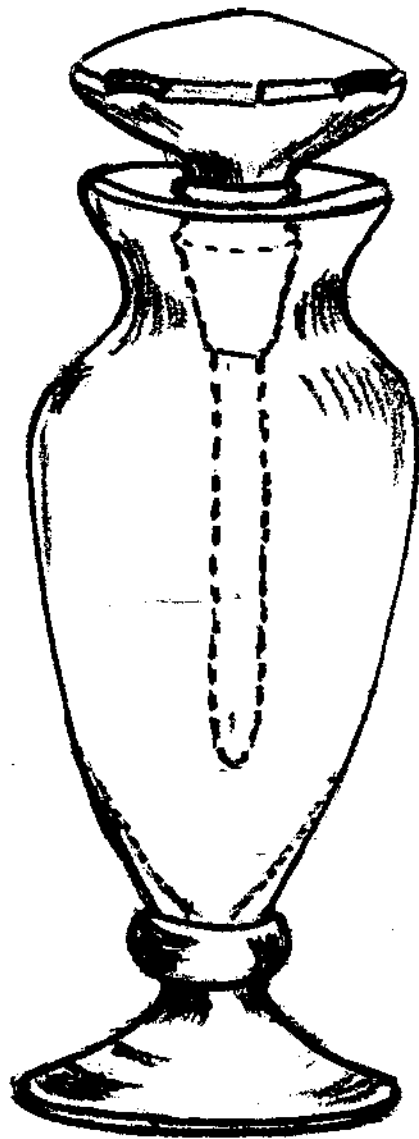
The "Joyce" cologne is 4-3/4" tall with the stopper in place. It is the same size and shape as the Diamond Optic cologne by Fenton but is without pattern of any kind. The base color is a lovely light green and the iridescence is smooth, uniform and of excellent quality.

Colognes are not easy to find and yet there are four different varieties pictured in Heacock's book. Here we have yet another different shape. When found in perfect condition, they will range in price from \$35.00 to \$65.00.

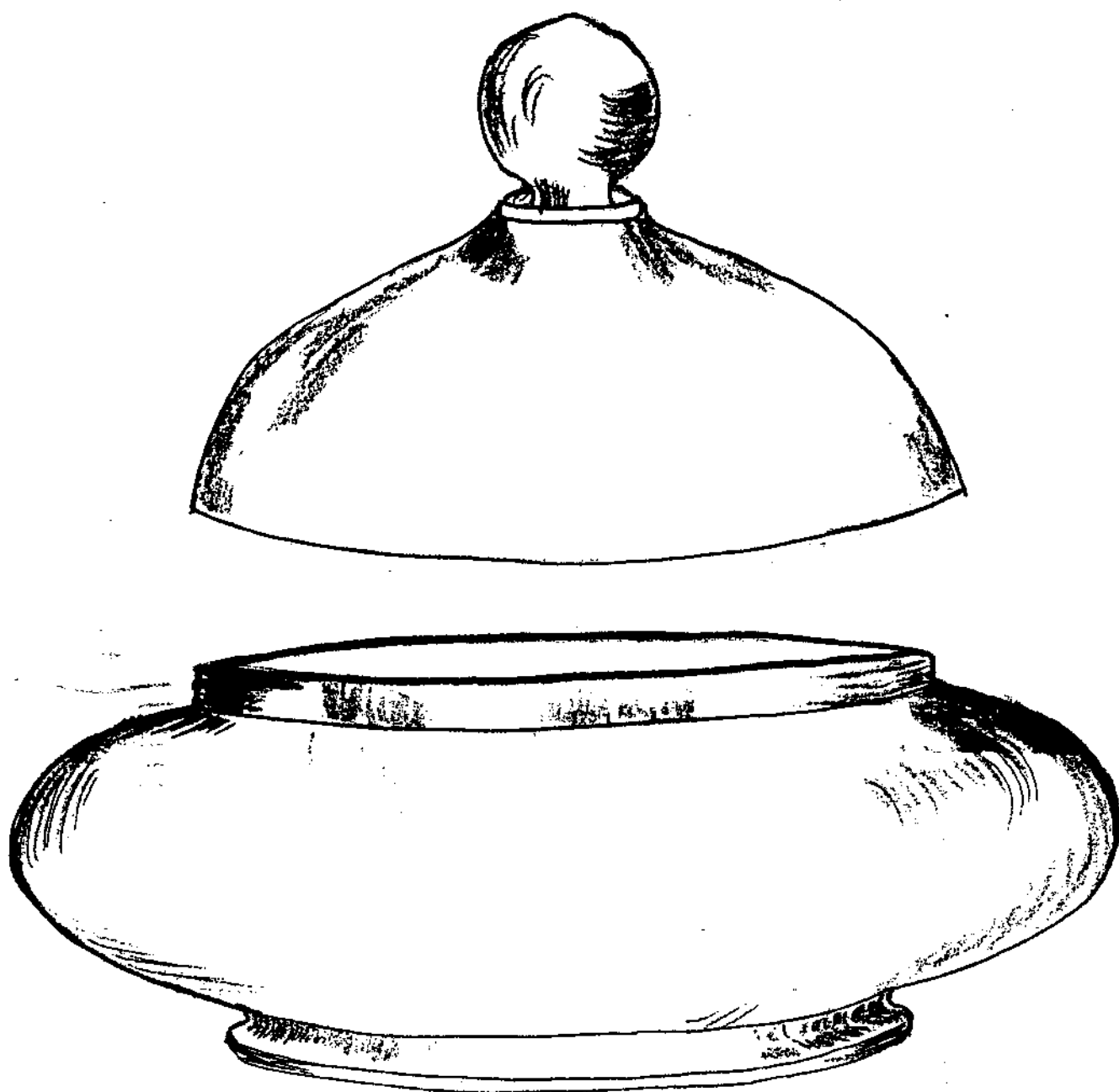
*I've taken the liberty of naming this cologne for the young lady who has so generously given of her time and talent to do these illustrations for us.

Thank you, Joyce . . . from all of us!

Ed. My enduring gratitude and grateful thanks to Connie for her contribution to the newsletter for this quarter. A million thanks, too, to Joyce for sharing her artistic talent with all of us. Perhaps I could persuade them to do it again. They have made the task of getting the newsletter out to you a breeze for me. Thanks again - so much!



Sketch By
Joyce P. Massaro



Sketch By
Joyce P. Massaro

October 1979

**STRETCH GLASS
IN COLOR**

By Berry A. Wiggins

This is the first book on Iridescent Stretch Glass for immediate mailing. Who made Stretch and how to identify Stretch Glass are answered in this book. Articles on Fenton, Imperial and Northwood taken from original catalogs and old magazines.

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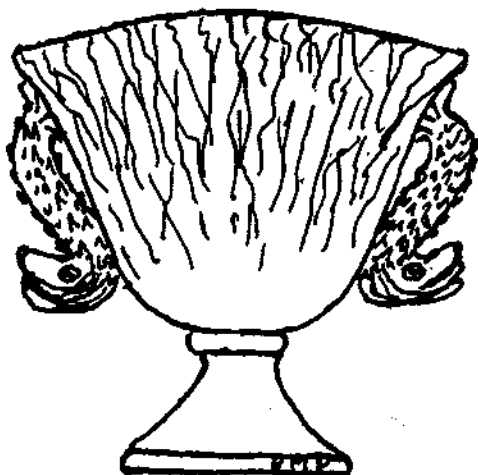
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