

# QUARTERLY

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## President's Message: **Nov 2014**

Greetings Fellow Stretch Glass Enthusiasts –

Happy Holidays to one and all. This is a wonderful time of year to use our colorful stretch glass AND to share our interest in stretch glass with friends and family who may be visiting for a few hours or a few days. Ken Stohler, our Membership Director, is keen on suggesting that if we just point out or talk about our stretch glass we may find others who are (or become) interested in this unique and beautiful glassware. I'll be using my stretch glass to serve goodies at my holiday open house and to display fresh and silk floral arrangements all through the Holidays, and I hope you will be enjoying your stretch glass as well.

We are off to an exciting start in our 2014-2015 SGS year. We have 5 priorities, all of which are designed to deliver great value to you, our members, and to continue to advance the Stretch Glass Society as THE leading organization for everyone collecting, seeking to learn about or just admiring vintage and contemporary iridescent stretch glass. We are acutely focused on providing learning opportunities and raising the awareness of stretch glass and the SGS.

Tim Cantrell is planning more Stretch Outreach discussion calls in 2015. I hope you will join us for one or more of them. We invite you to tell us about your favorite stretch glass, ask questions about pieces you want to learn more about and listen as the experts talk with us about the featured stretch glass (photos are sent in advance so you can see what we are talking about).

Ken Stohler and Roger Christensen are reaching out to each of you with suggestions on how you can help us spread the word about, and build excitement and interest in, stretch glass and the SGS. They are also reaching out to other glass collectors through various collector clubs to invite them to learn about stretch glass and become part of the SGS.

Mike Getchius and I are leading a refresh of our website with the goal of making it more user friendly and informative. We are building [www.stretchglassociety.org](http://www.stretchglassociety.org) into THE source for information on stretch glass and the SGS. If you haven't visited the website recently, please check us out. Kathy Eichholz continues to keep our Facebook group active and full of information – if you are a Facebook user, please visit our group, post comments regularly and share photos of your favorite stretch glass.

Sarah Plummer and Kathy have launched the first of several sales campaigns on eBay, providing members and prospective members alike with the opportunity to purchase stretch glass from our inventory while becoming



## STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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a new member or renewing an existing membership. Look for our listings on eBay and share them with your friends and fellow collectors.

Anne Blackmore, Joanne Rodgers, Bob Henkel, Michael Krupar, Kathy and I are already at work planning the 2015 Convention, Show & Sale which will be held July 22-24, 2015, in Marietta, OH. Building on the very successful format and schedule we had in 2014, we will once again assemble a breath-taking club display and provide Member Displays showing your favorite stretch glass. And, of course, there will be seminars, glass for sale, and lots more.

With the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of stretch glass fast approaching (in 2016), we have assembled a top notch team of Helen & Bob Jones, Dave & Renée Shetlar, Dean Six, and Russell & Kitty Umbraco to plan a celebration designed to re-acquaint lovers of beautiful, colorful glassware with iridescent stretch glass.

Are you excited yet? I sure am. Would you like to participate on one of these "Action Teams?" We welcome your participation. Just give me a call or send me an email and we will get you involved so that you can share your ideas and help us continue the growth and success of the Stretch Glass Society as we enter our second 40 years.

I hope you have a wonderful wrap up to 2014 and a fun beginning of 2015. There is no better time to be a member of the SGS and a lover of iridescent stretch glass – and it is only going to get better. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support. I look forward to talking with and/or seeing you in 2015.

*Cal Hackeman*, President 2014-2015

### Asking for Support for the Christensens

Roger (contact info above) sent news that Maggie has suffered a serious stroke and is moving from hospital to hospice Thanksgiving week. He adds that miracles do happen. I know they'll appreciate our support – either expressed or silent – as they face this difficult time together.

### New Address and News from Sharon & Bill Mizell

The Mizells have just moved to the new home they've been renovating for the past year. Their new contact info is: [REDACTED]

They also share the news that Bill has just had surgery for bone cancer in his arm and now faces weeks of chemotherapy. You're welcome to call or send cards.

### 2015 Convention Show & Sale Club and Member Displays

The 2015 Convention Action Team is pleased to announce that the Club Display will feature candlesticks and matching console bowls, otherwise known as "Console Sets." We would like to have each console bowl sitting on a black (or other color) base, to give the full effect of the original look of console sets. (If you don't have a base, bring your console set and we will try to match it to an appropriate base.) Just imagine dozens of stretch glass candlesticks flanking matching console bowls atop black bases!

Bob Henkel will be assisting Kathy & Tim Eichholz in organizing the display. We encourage you to start looking through your collection now, and let them know what console sets you can contribute to what promises to be a stunning Convention 2015 Club Display. —————→



We also invite you to start thinking about your own individual member display. The 2015 member display theme is "Showcasing Similar Stretch Glass." Your display may feature items with similar forms or colors, those made by the same manufacturer, or pieces you'd use together for a special event. We look forward to seeing your table "Showcasing Similar Stretch Glass" at the 2015 Convention.

It is not too early to begin planning how you'll share your favorite pieces of stretch glass in next year's club and member displays.



Arna & Bill Simpson's 2013 display of center-handled servers



Sharon & Bill Mizell's 2006 display of Topaz vases

Stretch Out each  
What is missing?  
ur!

We wish that every member of our Society could travel to Marietta and share in the camaraderie and learning experience of our annual convention. Because that isn't possible for many of you, we initiated periodic "Stretch Out" teleconference calls to give all members the opportunity to learn about stretch glass from the experts, have your questions answered, and share information about your own collections and recent finds.

The consensus of those who have joined us for these calls is that they are "Informative and fun!" The only thing we're lacking is involvement.

Our October 2nd "Stretch Out" discussion focused on "Center-handled" pieces, but there were also interesting comments about what is currently "hot" in stretch glass, in particular "out West," where it is getting very hard to find. Of course, if you know where nice stretch glass is "easy" to find, PLEASE let me know!

Our next two calls are scheduled for the first Thursdays in February (2/5/15) and April (4/2/15). The topic for the February call will be "Stretch Glass Rarities," but remember, there is always time to talk about your question or latest find. The calls are at 8 pm Eastern, 7 Central, and 6 Mountain Time, and the call-in number is [REDACTED], followed by ID: [REDACTED].

We will send out a reminder a week or so ahead, when we will repeat time and call numbers, so please be watching and ready for more interaction between iridescent stretch glass "fanatics." *Tim*

## Our Upcoming eBay Promotions by Sarah Plummer

Your SGS Board of Directors has put together four campaigns to reduce some of our stock of souvenirs, and gain new members at the same time. As most of you know, we haven't had new pieces made for us at Fenton for the past few years. But we do have a variety of souvenirs that have been in storage. Over the next eight months, we will be selling four separate pieces on eBay, with an SGS membership included.

The first offering will consist of a year's membership from January thru December 2015, and a single Emerald Green melon candle holder. This opportunity will run from the beginning of November through January 1, 2015. A second candleholder will be available as an additional purchase, for those who desire a pair.

The Ruby Red mayonnaise bowl will be offered from December first through February 14, 2015, as it will be striking for both the winter holidays and for Valentine's Day.

Beginning February first and running into spring, we will be providing the Aquamarine dolphin-handled comport. This piece would be perfect for use as a centerpiece for your Easter or Passover table, or just to be enjoyed as a harbinger of spring.

Finally, the sunny Topaz Opalescent footed bowl will be offered from April first into June. This bowl has a multitude of uses. Obviously, it could be a Mother's Day or Father's Day gift. It would be a perfect wedding present. It can be used as an accent piece or candy dish for the new member's home. The bright and sunny summer color will be a perfect lead-in for our July convention. The term of the membership that is available with this piece will extend through 2016.

Prices for each piece are as follows: Emerald Green candleholder (\$29.95); Ruby mayonnaise bowl (\$34.00); Aquamarine dolphin-handled comport (\$35.95); and Topaz Opalescent footed bowl (\$29.95).

Should an existing member wish to take part in this promotion, their membership will be renewed thru 2015 (or 2016, in the case of the Topaz bowl).



Dec >  
Feb



Apr >  
June

Nov >  
Jan



Feb >  
Apr



Christmas, Hanukah, New Year's Eve, Valentine's Day, Easter, Passover, Mother's Day, Father's Day, June wedding, Birthday



## STRETCH in Depth

### Stretch Glass Rarities I: Diamond Glassware by David Shetlar

At the end of one of our “Stretch Out” meetings, it was suggested that we might try to assemble the stretch glass rarities as a topic for one of our club displays. “Rare” is always a difficult topic as many folks confuse rarity with desirability! To give you an example, I see the Fenton ruby punch bowls nearly always described as “rare!” No, they are not rare! There are, at least, a couple dozen of the ruby punch bowls known, with many of them being in carnival collector’s possession. Even the stand would not be considered rare (at least in my opinion), as they are constantly showing up at sales. So what gives? Desirability! Big, red stretch glass pieces are attractive, impressive and the desire to own one is high. I know of some 8-inch plates in stretch glass that I’ve seen only once or twice. I would consider these rare, but who cares? In the following series on stretch glass rarities, I’m going to have to go out on a limb and talk about what I consider to be truly rare, but I’ll also have to discuss that desirability factor!

The second issue about rare is that shaping and color have to enter into the picture. Fenton’s melon rib fan vases are as common as they come, except for some of the colors! Persian Pearl is very uncommon as well as the Royal Purple ones. I see plain ruby melon rim bowls, but I’ve never seen one in stretch...THAT would be exceedingly rare! Whimsies and unique factory decorations can add to rarity. Stretch glass collectors often land on one side or another when it comes to decoration. Many think that additional decoration generally detracts from the stretch effect while others cherish the embellishments!

I reviewed my images and documents and decided that there really isn’t much made by Central that should be considered rare other than a single handled server that we have identified as being made by this factory. Basically, they made two sizes of bowls and two sizes of trumpet-shaped candleholders. Purple and cobalt blue pieces are difficult to find, but obtainable. So, in this discussion, I’ll start with the Diamond production.

Diamond made many different pieces in their #900 line, which we call Adam’s Rib today (Figs. 1-6, 16, 17). I find it interesting that most of the pieces of this line are pretty difficult to find in stretch except for the large comport which is figured in *American Iridescent Stretch Glass* (plates 35-37). In fact, there’s been a couple on eBay for months that have gone unsold! I know of only one wide-based bowl (Fig. 1) which is 8 1/2-inch wide

with a 5 3/8-inch base and is in green. I heard that there was a blue one out there, but it had been broken! Bummer! Another larger bowl (Fig. 2) is about 10-inches wide with a 3 7/8-inch base. This bowl is relatively common in non-iridized pieces, but this one is milk glass with a smoky-brown stretch iridescence. The Adam’s Rib candy jars (Fig. 3) are very difficult to find, especially in perfect shape, and are known only in green and blue. Likewise, the large #900 vase (Fig. 5) and the pitcher that is made from the vase (Fig. 4) are very difficult to find and also known only in blue and green. The handled mugs are obviously more common (Fig. 4), most likely because they came as sets that have been broken up over time. Finding the #900 creamer and sugar sets (Fig. 6) has become nearly impossible. Again, green and blue are the only colors known. After looking at them for years, I now believe that the shelf-support style vases (Figs. 16 & 17) are likely in the #900 line, but I have no catalog pages to confirm this. The rib style is identical to the other pieces in the #900 line. This vase comes in a 9-inch and 12-inch tall version. I know of three or fewer of each.

A distinctive feature of Diamond’s production is an array of wide-based, low bowls. None are very common, but the three-footed one with a ground marie is quite rare (Fig. 7). In Fig. 8, I show the bottom of the bowl. This bowl is in the 10-12-inch range and the three feet look like they are applied, but they were formed in the mold. Egyptian Lustre (black) and Midnight Wisteria (dark purple) pieces are known. Because of the ground marie and no obvious mold seams, dealers often think they have a piece of true art glass. Diamond made another three-footed bowl (Fig. 12) which was likely made in competition for the Fenton fern bowls though the Diamond bowl is about 8-inches wide and has a snap marie that wasn’t ground off. Diamond also made three sizes of blown-molded, low bowls. None are common and they can be mistaken for art glass pieces because the mold seam is often obscured during finishing. I’ve picked the intermediate size (Fig. 27, in *Topaz*) as an illustration. This one is about 9-inches wide and has a 3 5/8-inch base. It is the same bowl as Plate 32 in my book! While quite rare, these bowls often are in the “who cares” category when in colors other than Egyptian Lustre!

Most of Diamond’s comports are not rare, but the saw-edge one was only recently found in a giant size (Fig. 11). It has a 4 7/8-inch base and is 8 3/4-inch wide. The smaller versions have 4-inch bases and the tops are in the 5 1/2 to 6-inch range. Diamond made two straight-sided, trumpet-shaped vases (Figs. 9 & 14), but the smaller one is more difficult to find. The tall one is 8-10 inches tall, depending on whether it has a rolled rim or it

(continued on page 6)





Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 12



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 23



Fig. 24



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 25



Fig. 26



Fig. 30



Fig. 31



Fig. 27



Fig. 28



Fig. 29



Fig. 32



Fig. 33

is pulled up. The smaller one is only 4 1/2-inches tall and I've only seen it in the Egyptian Lustre color.

Diamond made quite a few very large bowls and none are as common as the Fenton large bowls! Fig 10 illustrates the most "clunky" of these bowls! These bowls have 5-inch bases and when straight-sided, are about 12-inches wide, and when flared, they can reach 15-inches in diameter. The glass is nearly a quarter inch thick! I've only seen a couple of these bowls in blue and Egyptian Lustre. Diamond's punch bowl (Fig. 13 in Topaz) is nearly identical to the Fenton #604 bowls except that the foot is less than 4-inches. And, the largest bowl of any manufacturer is the bowl with optic narrow panels (Fig. 15). This massive piece is 16-inches wide and one each is known in Egyptian Lustre, Blue Crackle and crystal stretch. It must have taken a really strong worker to have handled this piece in a snap and I suspect that several gatherers (the folks who pulled out globs of hot glass from the pot) had to have been used to pull out sufficient glass in order to fill the mold! The mold and plunger must have also been huge!

Diamond used the blown-molding technique to make many of their vases. These came in about four sizes and most were pinched in some way or another (not shown). One that has always been a confusing piece is the very delicate vase in Fig. 18. This one has a distinctive straight side at the base and most have six crimps. The shape is nearly identical to art glass vases that come from Europe, but when you look at the base of this vase, there is no ground pontil. I've only seen this vase in green and crystal, but wonder if other colors are available. Another distinctive design on many Diamond blown-molded vases is what is called a crackle finish by collectors (Fig. 23). The vases are fairly common and obtainable, but when they are turned into a basket, we are now in the rare category! I'm also including what is often called the "Plain Jane" basket (Fig. 24) which used to be attributed to Imperial. However, this basket can be found in green, blue and crystal which are not normal colors for Imperial's carnival or stretch glass! None are really common and they are usually found at carnival glass conventions!

Diamond made numerous covered bonbons and cathedral-shaped candy jars that are very similar to Fenton's. However, they made a three-footed jar (Fig. 19) that has optic panels in the lid and base. This has a small snap base inside the three feet. I've only seen this jar in the Afterglow color which was Diamond's name for pink stretch.

When it comes to Diamond's pitcher and tumbler sets, none are as common as Fenton's. The pitchers are blown molded, but the tumblers can be blown-

molded or pressed. The set called "smooth panels" by carnival collectors (Fig. 25) comes in blue and green. The pitcher has optic rays while the tumbler has external rays. The pitchers should have lids. Fig. 26 contains a squatty pitcher and blown-molded tumblers in marigold. This set has been difficult to identify, and I'm going by the shape of the handle which is typical of many of the Diamond blown-molded pitchers. The tall blown-molded vases are occasionally turned into pitchers (Fig. 30) and these are rarely found in blue, green, topaz and crystal. Two pitchers in my stretch glass book have contrasting handle colors (topaz on crystal and topaz on blue)! One of the most difficult to find pitchers is the ribbed optic, blown molded one (Fig. 31). This appears to be from one of the Victorian crystal glass molds which was also used to make some carnival glass pitchers. This example has obvious stretch effect in blue glass.

Diamond made two different handled servers, and neither is as common as the Fenton, Imperial and U.S. Glass versions. I picked the heart-handled version (Fig. 29), for the color sheet. The second is pictured here.



For some time, Berry Wiggins was having difficulty identifying the stemmed goblet (Fig. 28), but he eventually landed on Diamond as being the maker. This can be found in blue, green and crystal and none are common. Diamond made several smoking items, but they are rarely found with a stretch finish. I know of only a couple of the match box holders (Fig. 20). I suspect that their thin and fragile nature left few survivors! Diamond also made two sizes of plates that have a distinctive set of rings on the outer margins (not shown). A cup (Fig. 21) and creamer (Fig. 22) also have these rings. None of these pieces are common, but having plates and cups suggests that more items may be in this line!

Finally, I had to put in some car vases. Technically, these are not rare, but they are highly prized by several collector groups. Ones marked "Benzer" are the most common (not shown), but others with pointed tips (Fig. 32) or flat tips (Fig. 33) appear to have had applied metal bases when sold.



ON **ebay**™ And One Pretentious Non-Rarity!

**"Vintage Northwood Tumble Up/  
Guest Set Topaz Stretch Iridescent  
Rare, \$1,047.00  
Buy it now"**  
(10-17-14)





## A Short History on Writing about History by John W. Rowe

*(As my wife and I were getting ready to leave the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention of the SGS, Stephanie asked if I would consider writing an article based on the research I conducted for my Master's Degree in History. My thesis was on the tableware division of the American glass industry. Stretch glass was a part of this research and is discussed in chapter one of my thesis, although not the central focus of either the chapter or thesis.)*

This article furnishes some insight into the processes I used for writing my Master's Thesis in History, which was titled ***Affordable Consumption: How Working-Class Americans Drove the Glass Industry to Success, 1880-1930.***

My decision to write a thesis rather than sit for a comprehensive exam was strongly influenced by comments from several of my professors. One believed the discipline of research and writing was an important experience in the graduate educational process. Another believed that graduate papers should be elegantly written, and that the author should have passion for their subject. I had learned that I liked to research and follow the often long and diverse trails to the gems of hidden evidence. I found this very fulfilling and enlightening. As one of my professors informed us in class, "History is only as good as the last piece of evidence."

In writing about an aspect of history, any number of questions must be answered before the first word is put to paper. What is the intent of the effort? What type and area of history is of interest to the author? Is this a broad subject or a narrower one? Since this was a thesis, it was necessarily limited in its size and content. Compromise always hovered nearby regarding what could be entered.

A simplistic explanation of a thesis is that it is a multi-faceted product that begins with a research question, preferably one that has not been asked previously. The balance of the paper argues the evidence obtained by research that, hopefully, answers the question, although the research may not provide the answers expected or desired at onset of the project. In my case, there were many twists and turns that brought unexpected delights, surprises and disappointments.

My subject was vast in depth and width: the American glass industry. Realizing I needed to set limits, I decided to focus on my first and greatest interest within the glass industry. This was the tableware division rather than the bottle, chimney, or window/plate glass divisions. This still covered a period of more than two hundred years, requiring further refinement.

After more consideration, I selected a timeframe. I chose the years 1880-1930 due to the rapid expansion of increasingly intricate glassware designs, the types of

glassware being manufactured, and because much of the glass I have collected was produced during those years.

I again narrowed my focus and selected, as examples, three types of glass developed during that period. These were opalescent, carnival and stretch glass (although the last two names were furnished much later by collectors). These new types of glassware were a radical departure from the crystal and flint glass previously produced for the tableware industry. The developments that led to their production is a fascinating story, and the sales for companies that produced them were significantly affected for many years to come. My final narrowing selection was the Ohio River Valley as the region in which I would concentrate my research.

With these decisions made, the search for source material began. Collector books are fine for reference, but often limited in historical value. Original source evidence is the best, but too often material is obtained from second or third hand sources and just repeated and footnoted. It is important to try to follow evidence back to the original source, if possible. These may be scholarly documents, period newspaper ads, trade journals or publications and period magazines ads. Company ads, industry or company internal documents, wholesale or jobber publications and wage and move lists are also great sources, as are Government publications from the Census Bureau, Department of Labor and Department of Commerce. Museums dedicated to specific glass companies are a wealth of information as are museums dedicated to all aspects of glass research. The Juliette K. and Leonard S. Rakow Research Library at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY, and the Museum of American Glass in West Virginia, located in Weston, WV, are two such splendid museums.

In my graduate classes, I had researched and written papers on various aspects of the glass industry. Thus I had some research material in hand prior to beginning my thesis research. What I did not find was any prior research on my subject. I realized I would need to conduct a search for new source material. This resulted in the summer of 2011 being dedicated to original field research at various locations throughout the Mid-West, with my trusty Executive Research Assistant, aka my wife Vickie, assisting me every step of the way. Thus began a wonderful adventure, and my thesis advisor deemed the final product "Masterful."

Once bitten by the research bug, it never seems to end, and I already have ideas for other articles from my thesis research. Enjoy!

*(Thank you, John, for sharing this history of your thesis! You provide valuable source material suggestions for anyone doing historical research on any subject, glass being our favorite, of course. We look forward to hearing more. Stephanie)*

## Sometimes Ruby is Red by Gary Senkar

During a recent visit to the Imperial Glass Museum archives I came across some pieces of ephemera that I had not previously seen. Included were copies of Imperial promotional mailings, mostly from the period 1924 to 1926. Among these was a four page brochure entitled "Twelve Trumps". Included in the 12 sale items was a #600, i.e., Chesterfield, seven-piece drink set in three frosted ice iridescent colors; Iris Ice, Green Ice and Ruby Ice.

On another page in the brochure an "explanation of colors" is found. Ruby Ice is described as "a satin red iridescent glass." Also included was a printed order form for the items in this brochure dated 1924.

### Explanation of colors:

Saphire	a bright blue iridescent glass
Nuruby	a bright red iridescent glass
Peacock	a bright rainbow iridescent glass
Iris Ice	a satin, mother of pearl glass
Green Ice	a satin green iridescent glass
Ruby Ice	a satin red iridescent glass

### Pressed Seven Piece Drinking Sets in 3 frosted ice iridescent colors— Iris Ice - Green Ice - Ruby Ice

height of pitcher 8½"



Each drinking set consists of 1 large half gallon tankard  
and six 12 ounce tumblers

**Special Lot 2021** (1 barrel) consists of 1 dozen 7-  
piece drinking sets, evenly assorted in 3 frosted ice  
colors mentioned above.

Special per dozen sets **\$15.00**

It is interesting that all previous references to a ruby glass, i.e. Rubigold, Nuruby and Pearl Ruby were names Imperial originally gave to iridized glass colorations that many glass collectors now refer to as Marigold. These three colors of glass were usually described in the sale materials as deep red or dark red prevailing, with other/all colors of the rainbow present. There were even early advertisements in trade journals touting Red Iridescent Glass, but the item identification codes in these ads were clearly that of Rubigold glass. The best examples of these three color offerings often display strong red tones, but most collectors would not classify them as red.

Although this brochure has given us Imperial's actual name for their red stretch glass, it has posed another conundrum. This advertisement is offering a half gallon tankard and 12-ounce tumblers. The only size #600 pitcher I have been able to identify to date, iridized or not, has a three-pint capacity. Also, almost all known stretch tumblers would be more accurately described as 8-ounce or 10-ounce capacity. I haven't seen any iridized #600 tumblers to reasonably be classified as 12-ounce. Of course none of this means they don't exist. Measure yours, and let me know what sizes are in your collection.

## Fan Vases with Ship Decoration by Ken Stohler

The last Fenton Museum Auction on July 26 at Dexter City was very special for me. Two stretch fan vases with sailing ship decoration fell to my bids. I never thought these museum pieces would be within my budget. The rare Grecian Gold #567 fan vase and the Florentine Green #570 fan vase have raised silver decoration of sailing ships front and back, signed "sterling."

Tom Smith's book *Early Fenton Rarities 1907-1938* shows the Florentine Green vase with ships on page 61. Whitmyer Shows the #570 Florentine Green vase with gold etched ships in the same pattern on page 131. My theory is that Fenton had a stencil made, and these are experimental pieces. The "sterling" decoration appears to be done with a heavy dark silver pigment.

Anyone with more information please email me at: [REDACTED]





Going Once, Going Twice . . .  
by Cal Hackeman

Participants at the Stretch Glass Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Convention, Show & Sale, along with hundreds of other glass enthusiasts, had many opportunities to bid on an array of stretch and non-stretch glass not likely to be available for purchase again for a long time.

On Friday night, July 25<sup>th</sup>, Tom Burns treated us to a great glass auction as the final event of our 2014 Convention. Our convention showroom was filled to capacity, providing many of our guests the opportunity to view the incredible Ruby stretch glass club display as well as member display and sale tables. Several of the auction-goers joined the SGS bringing the total new members added during convention to 10!

Over 250 lots of Northwood, Diamond, Imperial, Fenton and U.S. Glass, including an impressive selection of stretch glass, were sold to the highest bidders. Several of the stretch glass items were unusual enough to attract spirited bidding as the sale continued into the evening. These included several dolphin bowls and comports, a #400 Persian Pearl square vase, an Iris Ice Imperial Floral & Optic footed plate, a large Northwood Russet comport, two examples of Northwood custard stretch glass, a Grecian Gold guest set, a Celeste Blue #16 bath jar with stopper and matching covered puff box and a seldom-seen Jeanette comport in light amethyst. Among the non-stretch highlights was a ruby triple dolphin rose bowl – not iridized -- and two Chinese Yellow dresser jars with Moonstone stoppers, which sold for nearly \$800.

After a few hours of sleep many of us trekked off to Dexter City on Saturday morning for the third and final Fenton Museum Auction at Randy Clark's Schoolhouse Auction Gallery. The display cases were filled with 585 lots of Fenton glass previously on display in the Museum. Again the room was filled to capacity with anxious buyers hoping to add one or more museum pieces to their personal collections.

This auction included lots of stretch glass. Some items were recognized as mates for orphan candlesticks and parts of pitcher and tumbler sets which had been separated and sold previously. A Velva Rose 10-inch candlestick brought \$550. When re-united with its mate sold in the April auction, the combined price for the pair was just over \$1000. These, and the other re-united mates and sets, will hopefully be together forevermore.



Among the stretch glass lots, there were many which attracted strong interest, confirming that rare and unusual stretch glass commands premium prices in today's market. Several of these items could rightfully be termed "important" examples of stretch glass not often seen, let alone available for sale.

Early in the sale a Florentine Green stretch bowl with experimental finish sold for \$200. Soon a Tangerine dolphin comport sold to a phone bidder at \$325. One of the hardest to find items offered was a Celeste Blue cupped Cut Ovals bowl, bringing \$500.



An Amber stretch Big Cookies basket fetched \$2,400 while a Topaz Lemonade Set with cobalt base and coasters sold for a very reasonable \$300. Several Grecian Gold items were offered for sale, but even with exquisite cut decorations, the interest and bidding were minimal. A Topaz Opalescent Rib Optic pitcher brought \$1200 while a Celeste Blue pitcher and two handled tumblers with wheel cut decoration sold for \$675.

Later in the auction a pair of #649 Persian Pearl sticks sold for \$425. A relatively new SGS member purchased a large Ruby stretch console bowl (to be used with his 10-inch Ruby sticks) for \$275. Other hard-to-find stretch glass items included two sterling decorated fan vases (both have sailing ship decorations in great condition), a Topaz cigarette box (\$90), a Wisteria bath salts jar (\$225), a wide flared Wisteria petal bowl (\$200), a Celeste Blue wheel cut vase and matching base (\$400) and a Velva Rose crimped triple dolphin bowl (\$100).

During the 10<sup>th</sup> hour of the auction as the clock approached 9 pm, an unusual Pineapple flared bowl in Persian Pearl stretch sold for \$4500, making it the most expensive piece of stretch glass sold during this auction.

In addition to stretch glass, there was lots of vintage and contemporary Fenton Glass including many off-hand and hand painted pieces. Several of the off-hand winning bidders received a round of applause for their substantial winning bids.

All in all, despite soaring temperatures inside and out, a storm complete with thunder and lightning (was Frank Fenton weighing in on the sale of "his" museum glass?) and the length of time required to disperse this amazing assortment of Fenton glass, it was an experience we will all remember. A number of SGS members now own "important" examples of Fenton stretch and other glass and can proudly display and enjoy them in their collections. Some of these collections, of course, could fill a museum of their own!

My First Stretch Glass Convention  
by Jeff Hodges

I have a confession. Not only do I not own any stretch glass, but, until less than a year ago, I did not even KNOW what stretch glass was. So, how did I get from this state of ignorance, to the state of Ohio, and my first Stretch Glass Convention?

To answer this, let's go back to August 2013, when I was divorced, homeless, and living with my sister. Don't get me wrong. I was happy, and at a better place in my life then I had ever been. Because of this, I decided it was time to get back into the dating scene. However, when asked by the dating site to tell about myself, I felt that saying, "58 year old man, divorced, homeless, lives with sister," did not seem like the way to go. So I wrote "Likes Antiquing.". Long story short, that's how I met Cal.

The story could end here and I am sure you would understand why I came to my first convention, but let's define "Antiquing." Is it something you do once in a while and find pleasant, or does an eight hour outing turn into a two day odyssey because you HAVE to stop at every antique store, mall, flea market, yard sale, garage sale, estate sale, and hole-in-the-wall along the way? Well, for me it is the latter. In fact, during our first get-to-know-you lunch, Cal and I went to an antique mall. Here we discovered we similarly like "Antiquing," and he introduced me to my first piece of stretch glass.

Fast forward to July 2014. Because this convention was important to Cal, it was important to me. I fully expected to be the pack mule. You know, I would pack the glass, pack the truck, carry the glass, unpack the truck, etc. Well that happened, but I also had a wonderful time. Not only did I become acquainted with beautiful, colorful, one-of-a-kind examples of stretch glass, but I also became acquainted with beautiful, colorful, one-of-a-kind "Antiquers," sharing a comaradery known only to serious collectors.

I would like to say that after my first convention, I now own my first piece of stretch glass; but sadly, I cannot. Being with Cal has its own set of challenges. Every time I think I've discovered a unique piece of stretch glass, I hear, "I have five of those," "I have three sets," "That's modern," etc. At this point I enjoy stretch glass ownership only vicariously. However, because of my first convention, I now have connections to you and your expertise. My dark secret can become our nice secret if you contact me when you know of a piece of stretch glass for sale that Cal might not have. If I can afford it (remember, "...lives with sister, homeless..."), then I may not only acquire my first piece of stretch glass, but I may actually have a present suitable for Cal. My email is [REDACTED]. Did I mention I make pottery? But, that is a story for another time.

My Twentieth Stretch Glass Convention  
by Stephanie Bennett

Decade milestones inspire reflection as well as celebration. Only by reviewing our archived newsletters did I discover that I attended my first convention in 1994, 20 years ago. (I missed one, if you're doing the math.)

Frequent flyer miles earned on business trips brought me to Illinois for my first convention. I'd been an SGS member and collector for a few years, but the most stretch glass I'd seen in one place was my own short stack of blue bowls. I remember feeling dizzy and leaning against the wall as I entered the display room. Eldon Schroeder reached out a friendly and steadying hand to welcome me. He and his wife Ramona and other Illinois hosts, John Madeley and Jan Reichling, became my first SGS friends. There wasn't a blue item for sale that I didn't NEED! I went home with only one special purchase, but a greater passion for our glass, more than four new friends, and dreams of conventions to come.

In recent years, the thrill of convention isn't gone, but has mellowed. I can now admire the display room without hyperventilating. My collection has grown to the point that there is rarely something for sale that I really want. This year's visit to "glass country" was tinged with nostalgia, as I went to Dexter City for my last look at Fenton museum pieces, and made my last visit to the gift shop. And each year there are more early friends who I miss seeing. Last year I was deeply saddened to learn of Eldon's passing. I'll continue to miss his kind and gracious presence for conventions to come.

But my overall convention memories are happy, and this year's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was especially so! The displays, decorations, and flowers were breathtaking. Yes, Fenton now completes the ranks of former stretch glass manufacturers. But more Fenton and Imperial collectors are coming to our convention, and joining and enriching our Society each year. And this year was no exception. All events were well attended, and the buzz of glass excitement filled the room for days.

My personal buzz came on Thursday night. After Kelsey Murphy's presentation and the auction of carved Ruby pieces, she showed us several pieces of stretch given to her by MAGWV Director, Dean Six. They were carved and being offered for sale to benefit the museum. When I saw the blue bowl with bluebirds my heart started pounding. The bowl, which I won in silent auction, is worth every penny and benefits a worthy cause; the return of that old familiar rush – priceless! And this year, like every year, I've met a couple of new friends, who I'm already looking forward to seeing again next year.

So please don't disappoint me. Make Convention 2015 a priority in your summer. Come and join the fun!



## Reflections on 30 Years of Stretch Glass Conventions by Joanne Rodgers

In 1974 I became a Stretch Glass Society member but did not attend my first convention until 1984. It was in Independence, Ohio, 30 minutes from my home in Lakewood. Bob Ragan, from whom I had purchased stretch glass, introduced me to other friendly, knowledgeable members gathered in the room. In 1983, the Society had changed from having individual displays and visiting in member hotel rooms to meeting in one large Hospitality, Sales, Display Room as a central location in which everyone could congregate and learn.

For many years conventions, like gypsies, traveled from place to place, taking me to cities I might never have visited. Wherever we met, acquaintances were renewed and new attendees warmly gathered into the circle.

The Society has been fortunate to have had a nucleus of information-seeking members eager to share their knowledge. As older members left us, new members took up the challenge to continue studying and sharing their findings at conventions.

Club displays vary from year to year, but are always informative and spectacular. Both old and new members continue sharing their collections through individual and imaginative displays.

*The Stretch Glass Society Quarterly* newsletter was once our members' only connection between conventions. Now, through the miracles of modern technology, members connect via periodic telephone conference calls, the SGS Website and Facebook. We can ask questions or brag about our recent find of a "rare" piece of stretch glass.

Although electronic communication has its advantages, it cannot replace the opportunity to visit face-to-face. Once you've attended one convention you too will be hooked, as I was in 1984. Plan now to attend the 2015 SGS Annual Convention, July 22, 23, 24 2015 in Marietta, Ohio. I hope to see many of you there.



Yes, the years fly by, and it's  
membership renewal time again!



This year just those members who owe dues for 2015 will receive a separate paper reminder notice, with renewal form and return envelope, via U.S. mail. Please watch your mailbox and send your renewal check right away, before you forget.

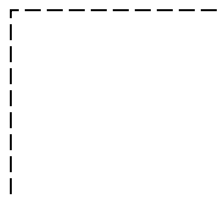
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FOUNDED APRIL 21, 1974 IN DENVER, PENNSYLVANIA

THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

# QUARTERLY

<http://stretchglassociety.org>



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**TO:**

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

## ABOUT THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

**THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY** is an organization of knowledgeable and enthusiastic collectors of iridescent stretch glass, a glassware unique to America. Members share information on the manufacturers, colors and shapes and join in the camaraderie gained through associations with other stretch glass enthusiasts. Membership benefits include:

- A quarterly newsletter complete with identification tips, drawings, color photos, stretch glass selling and buying section and dates/locations of various up-coming glass events. The newsletter is provided by email with the e-membership and in printed format via the USPS with the standard membership.
- An annual Convention, Show and Sale complete with stretch glass whimsy auction and raffle drawing.
- An SGS website with member privileges, a list of stretch glass reference books, and a Member Directory.

### **ANNUAL DUES for THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY are as follows:**

- \$18 e-membership for U.S. and Canadian residents (individual and/or family)
  - \$28 standard membership for U.S. residents (individual and/or family)
  - \$30 (US dollars) standard membership for Canadian residents (individual and/or family)
  - All memberships run from January 1 through December 31.
  - All first year NEW memberships are prorated based on the quarter the new member joins. Those joining in the first quarter pay the full yearly membership: those joining in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter pay 75%, the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 50%, etc.
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## STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please print first and last names and place an "X" in the boxes to the right for each line of information that you **DO NOT** want published in the annual SGS Member Directory.

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

P.O. BOX: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

E-MAIL/WEB SITE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut on dotted line & mail with your check to Stretch Glass Society Treasurer,