

# Cambridge



# Crystal Ball

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ISSUE NO. 6

OCTOBER 1973

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Published monthly by the NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE COLLECTORS, Inc.  
To encourage and to report the discovery of the elegant and boundless product  
of the Cambridge Glass Company, Cambridge, Ohio



A NOON HOUR GROUP of workers from the Furnace Room

FROM THE DESK OF -  
President Charles Upton

officers of this Cambridge Glass Com -  
pany invited Mr. Bennett to come to  
Cambridge and manage their comporation.  
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The first recorded glassworks in the United States was in Massachusetts and appeared there around 1639 (earlier attempts were made in Jamestown, Va.) Two important figures in the develop - ment of the art of making glassware in the United States were Baron Stiegel in Pennsylvania and Deming Jarves in Mass - achusetts. Deming Jarves discovered a new method of pressing glass in a mold and this discovery put Sandwich Glass far ahead in the manufacture of glass - ware that, before this, only the wealthy could afford.

Wood was first used for fuel to melt the silica sand and when natural gas was discovered in the United States in 1775, in Kanawha County, West Virginia, it soon became the most desired fuel for the melting and cooking of the glass.

The first commercial natural gas well was drilled in 1821 in Fredonia, New York and by 1824, the gas from this well was being used for lighting pur - poses in Fredonia. From these dis - coveries, along with the discovery of a fine clay, in Guernsey County, Ohio, and the later discovery of an abundant supply of natural gas in the area, the Cambridge Glass Company was born in 1873.

Because of the failure of the first promoters of the company to sell enough stock to finance the venture, the com - pany did not materialize until the ef - forts of 5 different men some 28 years later. Determined to their goal, they accomplished the task of raising the needed cash to get the company going. They overcame the many obstacles which faced the first fathers of the company and in 1901 they received their cor - poration papers and started to search for a qualified person to operate the Cambridge Glass Company. Their search led them to a Mr. A. J. Bennett of New York City, who was educated in London. He was a young and qualified man, re - ceiving his apprenticeship in the glass and pottery trade in his native city. He was employed by a large firm in the Eastern part of the United States who imported glassware and china. The 5

CAMBRIDGE CRYSTAL BALL

P.O. Box 121  
Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Official Publication of

NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE COLLECTORS, Inc.

President . . . . . Charles Upton  
Vice President: . . . Ruth Forsythe  
Secretary . . . . . Richard Pavlov  
Treasurer . . . . . John Wolfe

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P.O. Box 121  
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Mr. Bennett agreed and it was under his close supervision that the first piece of Cambridge Glass, a crystal water pitcher, designed by himself, was produced in May, 1902.

This first piece of Cambridge Glass is still in existence and is in the proud possession of a grandson of Mr. Bennett's, in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Mr. Bennett became the sole owner of the Cambridge Glass Company when the power behind him failed and seeing that the company was headed for destruction, offered to buy the company, after trying for three years to keep it going. He bought the company from the National Glass Company for the sum of \$500,000. It was through the determined efforts of this man that the Cambridge Glass Company continued to become one of the world's producers of the finest glassware known.

It did not take long for Mr. Bennett to re-organize the company and it was from this re-organization that developed the successful team that made the company prosper and grow. The payroll was over 700 and there were 3 shifts during the rush periods. The majority of these workers were skilled in their trade and worked with pride for the man that treated them like one of the family.

Those who were fortunate enough to see the factory when it was still in operation know well of the vastness of the facilities. It is saddening to enter the main furnace room today and not see the 3 huge round furnaces which contained the 56 pots of glass. Pots were used instead of tanks because a better quality of glass is obtained from the use of pots and this was Mr. Bennett's goal, to produce fine glassware. The 3 furnaces have since been removed from the factory by the present owners and not much is left that would tell the story of Cambridge Glass. The Imperial Glassware Company of Bellaire, Ohio purchased all the molds, designs, and patents and are reproducing some of the items. This may cause some difficulty for the layman, but to the experienced eye, it is no trouble at all to distinguish between the old and new.

(continued next month)

## NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE



COLLECTORS INC.

### CAMBRIDGE CANDELABRUMS



1268 2-Light  
Lustre Cut Prism Candelabrum



1274-13 1/4" 2-Light  
Lustre Cut Prism Candelabrum  
Rock Crystal Engraved 560

# COLLECTORS CORNER

By BOB COYLE

The 175th. Guernsey County Celebration occurred in Cambridge, Ohio on August 17th. and 18th. Several thousand people filled the streets of downtown Cambridge for this event.

As you read in our last issue of the Crystal Ball, the National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. sponsored a Flea Market which was set on the streets surrounding the Cambridge Courthouse. There was a variety of dealers - one from as far away as New Jersey - displaying their various items for sale. Cambridge Glass was not in abundance, but there certainly were some choice pieces offered.

A local Cambridge Collector - dealer quickly picked up a Gold Encrusted Rosepoint Carmen sandwich plate. As they say: "the early bird usually catches the worm".

For the later arrivals, some of the more special items offered included a Royal Blue footed shell compote, a set of six Gold Encrusted Rosepoint tumblers, a pair of double branch Carmen candleholders, a Carmen Nude Stem compote, and a pair of Nude Stem Candlesticks with Royal Blue tops. Pretty fancy pieces for a Flea Market - don't you agree?

After we combed every inch of the market stalls and uncovered every item that resembled a piece of Cambridge Glass, our attention was drawn to a large group of people assembled on the front of the Courthouse. Believe it or not, they were observing a Rocking Chair Contest. At this point - (mid-afternoon on Friday) - there were two contestants remaining in this marathon contest and they had rocked for 79 hours or better. In order to succeed in this contest, the participants had to keep their rockers moving and were disqualified if they stopped for more than five seconds. Besides having

their own enthusiastic supporters, the cash donations by many of the local merchants proved to be even more an incentive for the contestants. I am told that the contest finished in a draw between these two young men who started the contest with a group of approximately twenty participants.

After the excitement of the "Rockers" and a quick hot dog and coffee at one of the several food concessions, we set out for a walking tour and a little window shopping.

The stores on the major downtown Cambridge streets were interestingly decorated with the Antiques and treasures of the past - many of them being historical items of Guernsey County origin.

Bonham's Department Store was the scene of the National Cambridge Collectors exhibit. What an exciting display it was with a dining table set with a complete service of Rosepoint.

Ed Ruby's vast Swan collection almost covered the entire floor of one window. A collection of Farberware was highlighted by a beautiful Amethyst and Farber epergne.

A vote of thanks to Charles Upton and Ronnie Gant for making the window display such a great promotion for the National Cambridge Collectors, Inc.

Congratulations are in order for Dick Pavlov and the first prize award to Pavlov Music Center.

See you all next month at Collector's Corner with more Nationwide News.



Small "Bunny" Box and Cover



# Patterns

by Ruth Forsythe



## RED SUNFLOWER

Indian Summer - Vacationers back to work - Children back to school - Cool evenings and sunny days - the perfect time of the year to go Cambridge Glass hunting.

We suggest you keep in mind RED SUNFLOWER while hunting.

RED SUNFLOWER is an old Near Cut pattern made around 1910. The glass is thick and clear to permit deep cutting. The flower looks more like a field daisy than like a sunflower. The creamer pictured has four short feet and these special feet were patented by the Cambridge Glass Company.

Decoration consists of a large sunflower plant repeated around the body three times. The flower, stem and foliage are all deep cut to imitate cut glass. Flanking each flower are two sharp ovals with deep bevelled edges. The ovals have a large sunburst in the center with faceted figures above and below. The base has a large deep-cut four-pointed star with a sunburst in the outer half of each and fine-cut center.

The rim is gilded on the top and so are the sunbursts on the sides. The background is ruby-flashed, except for the back around the handle, which is left clear. The handle, too, is clear. The mold is four-part. There will be some variation in different pieces as to the gilding.

RED SUNFLOWER was made in table sets, a tumbler with four feet, footed water pitcher, footed 6" and 8" berry bowls, 9" rose bowl, lamp, cruet, etc. Pieces are usually marked Near Cut.

Recently exhibited in a show in Chicago, was a table setting of RED SUNFLOWER (Covered Butter, Covered Sugar, Creamer and Spooner.) Bob Coyle called the set to my attention and we both agreed it was breath-taking.

The only reason I didn't buy the set was that it was one-hundred dollars more than I was willing to pay. And don't think I didn't give it some serious thought. I used all the old reasoning collectors are famous for like "you only live once. I don't bowl or smoke or do lots of things other people do that take money; even considered a belated birthday present to myself." All of this is the weak side of our make-up. Probably a year from now, I will kick myself for not giving in to the weak in me. It may be only whispering, but maybe we should listen.

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Did you know that the CAMBRIDGE GLASS COMPANY made these?



Inverted Show Jars.  
Made in 4, 8, 16, 32 oz. capacities



A. J. BENNETT

President  
The Cambridge Glass Co.  
1901-1939



W. L. Orme

President  
The Cambridge Glass Co.  
1939-1954

NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE COLLECTORS INC.

Charles Upton, President  
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Make checks payable to:

National Cambridge Collectors, Inc.  
P. O. Box 121  
Cambridge, Ohio 43725

A non-profit organization.

Benefits of the club will be a newsletter which will contain informative data on Cambridge glass; news of reproductions; a dealer directory; want and classified ads, along with articles on former Cambridge employers and many special articles of interest.

A convention of Cambridge Glass Collectors is being planned for May 1974.

Purpose of the club is to establish a museum in the city of Cambridge or Guernsey County so collectors can enjoy and study the beautiful glassware.



THE SELECTING ROOM

Every piece of glass made in the factory carefully inspected for flaws and blemishes before shipping.

National Cambridge Collectors, Inc.  
P.O. Box 121  
Cambridge, Ohio 43725  
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