

Cambridge

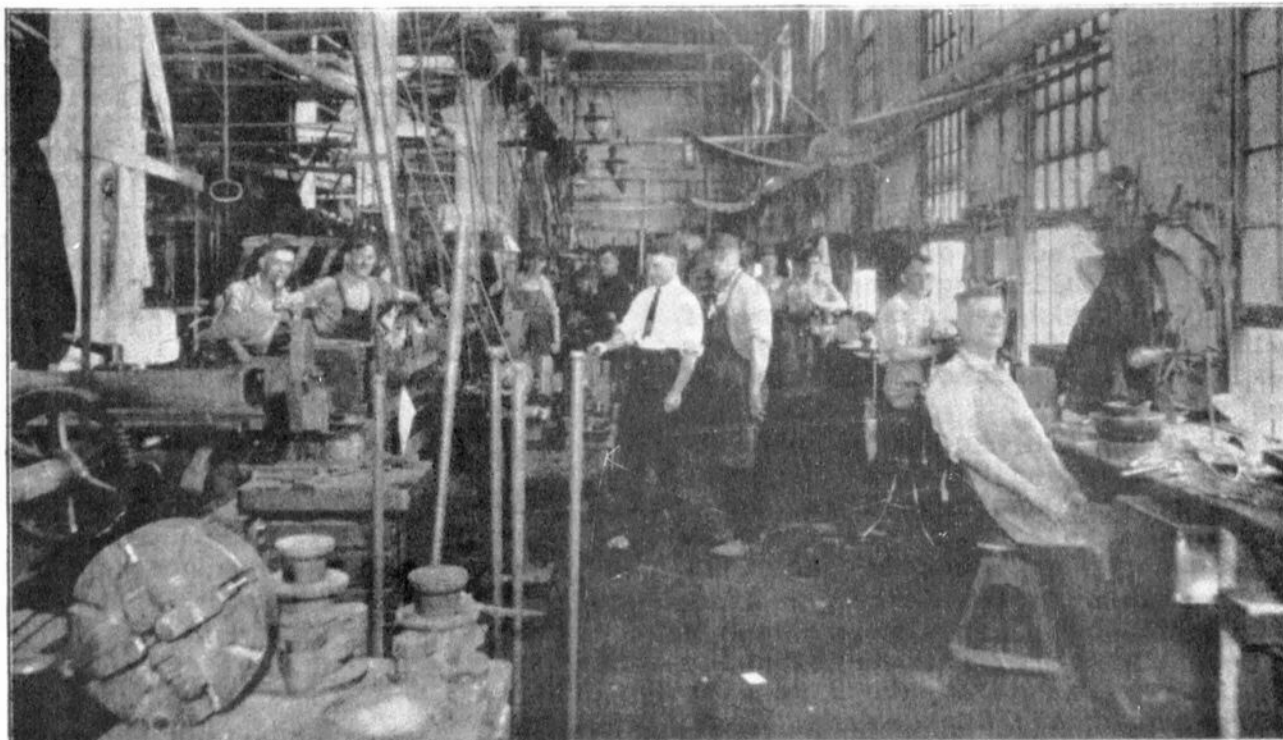


Crystal Ball

ISSUE No. 9

JANUARY 1974

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



MOLD AND MACHINE SHOP

Molds must be made before glass can be produced, requiring skilled men and a heavy investment in machinery.

FROM THE DESK OF -

President Charles Upton

CAMBRIDGE CRYSTAL BALL

P. O. Box 416

Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Official Publication of

NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE COLLECTORS, Inc.


President Charles Upton




Vice President: Ruth Forsythe

Secretary Richard Pavlov

Treasurer John Wolfe

Final installment of a series of articles on Cambridge Glass by Charles Upton.

The trademarks of the Cambridge Glass Company were NEAR CUT, JAPONICA, which is very rare, CROWN TUSCAN, and the main trademark. the  .

NEAR CUT was made from 1910 to 1920 and there were many different patterns, some of which were not marked. The JAPONICA is a hand enameled decoration of the bloom of the Japanese Quince and was produced around 1937. Not all pieces were marked however, and the marked ones will demand a much higher price now. CROWN TUSCAN was the delicate flesh pink color of opaque glass, which was one of Mr. Bennett's favorites. These pieces could be marked with the  or they could be marked with the Gray Acid mark of the CROWN with the word TUSCAN and the  below it. The  marked many pieces and when discontinued around 1935, was replaced with a paper sticker, which was a black and yellow oval, denoting, "GENUINE HAND MADE CAMBRIDGE-MADE IN U.S.A."

I feel that a person with a thorough and total knowledge of this company could write a full length book on the subject of Cambridge Glass because of the size of the factory, the 53 years of existence, and the millions of pieces produced.

To those of you who own a collection of the many animals and figures, produced by the Cambridge Glass Company, hold on to them. These animals and figures will soon become one of the top collectables in the Cambridge line. The Crown Tuscan has always been a favorite color being the easier color to find, along with Royal Blue (to which I am partial) the Carmen, Mardi Gras, most any hand enameled or painted pieces, Silver Overlay pieces. Japonica, which seems to be one of the most rare pieces, are in my opinion the most collectable. I cannot, however, forget the Rubina and the Carnival items which seem to be the favorite with any advanced collectors. There are many more that may be favorites, but

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Cambridge, Ohio 43725

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this is all determined by taste and demand of the collectors. What a dull world this would be if we all liked the same thing.

Continued on page 3

COLLECTORS CORNER

By BOB COYLE

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all CRYSTAL BALL readers!

Here are our 1974 "Predictions" Since this is only in fun and for your reading enjoyment, the staff of the Crystal Ball is not responsible for the outcome of these predictions, be they good or bad.

WE "PREDICT".....THROUGH OUR
"CRYSTAL BALL"

Color of 1974 Carmen
Opaque Colore of 1974 . Primrose &
Milk Blue

Pattern of 1974 Mt. Vernon
Etching of 1974 Wildflower

We also foresee that Nude Stem items will continue to rise rapidly in popularity and during this year, a Rubina Flying Lady Bowl will be found by one of our members. The "Sleeper" of 1973 will appear to be the Cambridge Flower Frogs which will be evidenced by their steady climb in price during 1974.

We predict that the 1974 Cambridge Antique Show and Convention will amass more Cambridge Glass under one roof than has ever been shown for sale anywhere. The membership of the National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. will pass the 500 mark in 1974 and several new study groups will crop up in different sections of the country.

Our "CRYSTAL BALL" also predicts that 1974 will bring about the first All-Cambridge Auction.

Cambridge Rosepoint will remain the number one pattern on the Thanksgiving dinner tables and Cambridge Japonica will be the "I don't ever see any for sale" item on the lips of all Cambridge Collectors.

The "Sleeper" of 1974 will be the Bridge Hounds or Pencil Dogs. Due to the reproductions on the market,

their popularity has decreased, but the careful buyer will find these items to be a wise investment for the future.

In closing, the Staff of the CRYSTAL BALL predicts that 1974 will be known in the Antique Collectable World as the year for Cambridge Glass and that the "gasoline shortage" will be eliminated and be replaced by the "Cambridge shortage".

See you next month at Collectors Corner!

... FROM THE DESK OF
continued from page 2

This is only a small fragment of the history of the Cambridge Glass company, of Cambridge, Ohio and I would be most willing to answer any questions, which I am capable. I cannot, for numerous reasons, determine the value of any item through a letter and for this reason I have published a Price Guide, which is correlated to Harold and Judy Bennett's Book "THE CAMBRIDGE GLASS BOOK" which has 59 color plates and contains around 1200 examples of Cambridge Glass. Other books available on the subject are "CAMBRIDGE, OHIO GLASS IN COLOR" by Mary, Lyle and Lynn Welker of New Concord, Ohio, who also published a reprint of parts of the old Cambridge Glass Catalogs. This book is very helpful in identifying shapes, etc., but it is in black and white only. Another reprint of the old catalogs is available from Virginia McLean of Fairfax, Virginia.

No one can really appreciate fine hand-made glassware unless they have seen it made. This is still possible, as there are still 5 factories in Cambridge, Ohio that are making glassware by the old methods. These factories do not compare in size or operations with the old Cambridge Glass Factory, but nevertheless, they are still doing it the same way in the small factories. Visitors are welcome at any time, and I am sure that they will be most willing to show you around and let you watch the craftsmen at work. Many of the men working in these smaller factories are employees of the old Cambridge Glass Factory and are still applying their same skills in the making of today's new glassware.

Colors in Cambridge

... by Jabe Tarter



Among the most highly collectable and scarce in Cambridge Glass is the Mardi Gras. It is unusual and beautiful, regressing from the usual end-of-day glass of the period. And yet having so much the same characteristics of the so-called end-of-day as to be confused in the hands of the collector.

Arthur J. Bennett, that master mind of beauty and creation wanted something different in the line of glass which did not copy that of other glass houses. He had always appreciated end-of-day glass, but didn't want the same thing he had seen in the poorly made glass. Neither did he want a cased glass, such as was prevalent from other houses.

Bennett knew that there was no such thing as mixing all the pots of glass together at the end of the day to make a spatter color. To have mixed all colors together would have made a muddy color or mixture resembling slag. And he wanted to change the name of this misnomer.

In the early 1940's, he asked the late John Degenhart to experiment with blowing glass and see what he could come up with. The bases of

paperweights and the different colors had already given the idea to John, and his experiments started.

Mr. Degenhart took a gather of glass on a blow pipe and began experimenting. Ground cullets of different colors of Cambridge Glass were laid out in a "scattered row". The partially blown piece was heated and rolled in the cullets. It was reheated and blown further. The final step was to swing the piece to give an elongated effect.

While it was still attached to the blowpipe, the top was cut off, that is the bubble formed by blowing, and the top was shaped into the form needed.

Mr. Bennett was so pleased that he immediately dubbed it Mardi Gras after the confetti filling the streets of New Orleans at Mardi Gras time.

The blowpipe was broken off leaving a rough pontil mark. That was one of the trademarks that the pontil mark would not be ground smooth and polished.

Unlike the popular end-of-day (an erroneous name), Mardi Gras from Cambridge is quite heavily flicked with colored cullets near the bottom, but widely scattered nearer the top.

The glass was not in full production until after John Degenhart left Cambridge Glass Co. to form the Crystal Art Glass. But under the direction of Mr. Orme, Mr. Bennett's son-in-law, it saw wide distribution.

Actually the discovery of Mardi Gras, a glass with scattered ground cullets on clear base glass, was an extension of the paperweight bases from both the Cambridge Glass and later the Crystal Art Glass.

It is still scarce because it has been confused with the spatter glass from other factories. But while the other firms molded their glass from the blowpipe, all of the Cambridge Mardi Gras is free hand and shaped entirely from the blowpipe.

The original piece of Mardi Gras, blown by John Degenhart for Mr. Bennett was given to John before his death. It is now part of the collection of this writer.


HAPPY NEW YEAR and HAPPY GLASS HUNTING IN 1974.

By John C. Wolfe, Jr.

Did you make a New Year's Resolution? Well, if you didn't, you should have. Possibly one something like this: I'm going to learn more about Cambridge Glass and find more unusual pieces this year than in any past year. There are many pieces pictured in catalogues that we have never seen, so I'm sure this will be a good year for all of us, as someone will be turning up such things as Royal Blue Lady Bowls, nudes holding unusual things as a Heatherbloom crackle glass goblet, large Royal Blue or Carmen Swans, Milk Glass or Primrose Rams Head Bowls, etc. It will be extremely interesting and fun to hear from you concerning new discoveries as the year goes by.

I just recently returned from a trip through the Western states and here is a brief report on my findings, in the way of prices, supply and demand. I was somewhat disappointed by the fact that I did not find but a few unusual pieces and prices in many cases were two and three times as much in comparison with most prices here in the Ohio area. I was gone only three weeks and drove some 7500 miles and there was no possible way for me to cover many of the shows and shops on my way.

My first stop after leaving Ohio was Indianapolis. Here I visited the Cox Antique show and several area shops. Crown Tuscan seemed to lead the way in supply. I saw three pieces of gold encrusted signed Crown Tuscan pieces that ranged from \$195.00 to \$325.00 each. I would like to have been the owner of a purple Carnival inverted strawberry tankard pitcher marked near-cut, but the dealer's price was \$3,000.00. I attended shows in Omaha, Nebraska and Sioux City, Iowa. The supply at shows was very limited with Rosepoint stemware prices at \$18.00 to \$22.00 each. I attended at least a dozen flea markets on the way with the Pasadena Rose Bowl leading the way. Prices were about average.

The Crown Tuscan was the most overpriced item. Nudes and swans could scarcely be found. In talking with several dealers, the interest seemed to be very good as they said that Cambridge glass customers were increasing with many of the Heisey collectors starting to buy it. The awareness of dealers on what they had was very good with the exception of the near-cut patterns. Most of them had an above market price on it as it was considered pattern glass and they usually didn't know the age or place manufactured. There were a few sleepers as there will always be and from a couple of these generous, or should I say un-educated people, I was able to buy a Rubina Honeycomb bowl (signed ) for a mere \$9.00. Another item of interest was a large black amethyst vase, 18" tall with hand enameled orange and pink roses with green leaves.

One fact that this trip verified for me was that Cambridge Glass possesses the greatest potential and an unlimited variety of shapes, designs and colors that any company ever manufactured and is available for collectors, today.

A few of the pieces that no doubt will tower above the others are the statuesque figure line, animals, Rosepoint and the colors of Carmen, Royal Blue, and Crown Tuscan. Collect what you like the best, but it is good to keep in mind what other collectors like also. This creates the demand and the ever important price.

Best wishes for the coming year and I will try to have an article in the next issue on reproductions.

NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE



COLLECTORS INC.

Patterns

by Ruth Forsythe

1974 and a whole new year of collecting fun ahead. Also a prediction that our club will become bigger and better.

The December 2nd. meeting was an indication that members are very interested and many suggestions were made to improve an already good organization. The suggestion that other members write an article now and then for the news letter was very sound. We feel this would make the news letter more interesting and more diversified.

Can't wait to see who will write and what subject they will choose. So, come on club, let's get going. How about an article on patterns. Send to Richard Pavlov, 623 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge, Ohio 43725, before the 15th. of the month.

SNOWFLAKE*

Since the snow will probably be flying, we thought it appropriate to choose the pattern SNOWFLAKE for the month of January.

Note that the principal motif of the pattern is a soft feathery snowflake. The snowflake is framed in concave lines which to on to surround hobstars, fans, etc. A neat small scalloped almost crimped edge further enhances this pattern.

An early pattern since the accompanying photos were taken from a 1909 catalogue. Do not know if pieces

were marked Near Cut. However, SNOWFLAKE is another Near Cut Pattern.

SNOWFLAKE is almost the same pattern as the Fernland toy set pictured in the December issue of the CRYSTAL BALL.

*Ref. - Minnie Watson Kamm.

(Editors note: We will be happy to print articles by our subscribers, however, they must contain your reference material.)

"NEARCUT" DESIGN 2635.



Butter and Cover.



Spoon.



Cream.



Sugar and Cover.

For a pattern at a low price it is unequalled, it makes a very pretty show and is worked out on good and very practical shapes. It has always been a leader in sales and has proved to be one of our most successful patterns.

PRICE LIST.

	List Price	Per Doz	Per 100
Four Piece Set	4 00	1 1/2	1 1/2
Butter and Cover	1 00	1	1
Sugar and Cover	1 00	1	1
Cream	1 20	1 1/2	1 1/2
Spoon	1 00	1 1/2	1 1/2
Tumbler	90	1 1/2	1 1/2
Quart Jug, height 8 1/2, inches	1 00	1 1/2	1 1/2
7 inch Special Square Nappy	2 00	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/4 inch Unfinished Nappy, square	40	20	20
3 1/2 inch Nappy, A Shape	35	17	17
4 inch Nappy, C Shape	35	17	17
4 1/2 inch Nappy, D Shape	35	17	17
5 1/2 inch Nappy, E Shape	35	17	17
6 1/2 inch Nappy, round or A Shape	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
7 1/2 inch Nappy, barrel or C Shape	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
8 1/2 inch Nappy, barrel or D Shape	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
9 1/2 inch Nappy, barrel and crimped or E Shape	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/4 inch Unfinished Nappy, round	35	17	17
5 inch Footed Compurt, A Shape	80	13	13
5 1/2 inch Footed Compurt, C Shape	80	13	13
6 1/2 inch Footed Compurt, D Shape	80	13	13
7 1/2 inch Footed Compurt, E Shape	80	13	13
8 1/2 inch Footed Compurt, A Shape	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
9 1/2 inch Footed Compurt, C Shape	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
10 1/2 inch Footed Compurt, D Shape	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
11 1/2 inch Footed Compurt, E Shape	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
11 inch Bread Plate	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
8 1/2 inch Pickle Tray	80	13	13
10 inch Celery Tray	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
Tall Celery, height 4 1/2, inches	1 50	1 1/2	1 1/2
Oil, 5 ounce capacity	30	15	15
*Salt & Pepper Shaker, Nickel Tin Top	70	35	35
*Tongue	30	15	15
8 inch Tall Vase	40	20	20
8 1/2 inch Tall Vase	50	25	25
Condiment Set on Tray	4 00	1 1/2	1 1/2

We quote above prices for FULL PACKAGES ONLY. When LESS QUANTITY is ordered, ADD 10 PER CENT. to above prices.

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Special Square Nappy.

Club News



Meeting of the National Cambridge Collectors Club, Inc. was called to order on December 1, 1973 by President Charles Upton at the Cambridge YMCA.

Members present were:
Frank and Vicki Wollenhaupt
Jack and Sue Rettig
Loren and Virginia Yeakley
Stephen H. Bradley
Bill and Phyllis Smith
Dave and Sue Rankin;

Dave and Sue Rankin
Mary Henderson
Tom Henderson
Alex and Mary Jane Henderson

Wilbur and Mary Henderson
Al and Mary Jane Miller
Everett and Shirley Patterson
Gerald and Ruby Landman
David and Joy McFadden
Mildred Willey
Richard and Frances Pavlov
Anna Marie Pavlov
Charles and Mary Alice Upton
Edward Ruby
Robert Coyle
Ruth Forsythe
John Wolfe.

Minutes of the September 16th. meeting were read by Secretary Richard Pavlov and approved by members.

OLD BUSINESS: The work performed for the club by Atty. Russell Booth was brought to the attention of those present. Since all time and advice concerning the establishment of the constitution and by-laws of our club was made available with no charge, a show of appreciation was in order.

A motion was made by Gerald Landman and 2nd. by Dave Rankin, to make Russell Booth a permanent member of the National Cambridge Collectors Club and also receive all correspondence. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

A second motion by Sue Rettig and 2nd. by Bill Smith; was to give Russell Booth a First Issue Cambridge plate. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

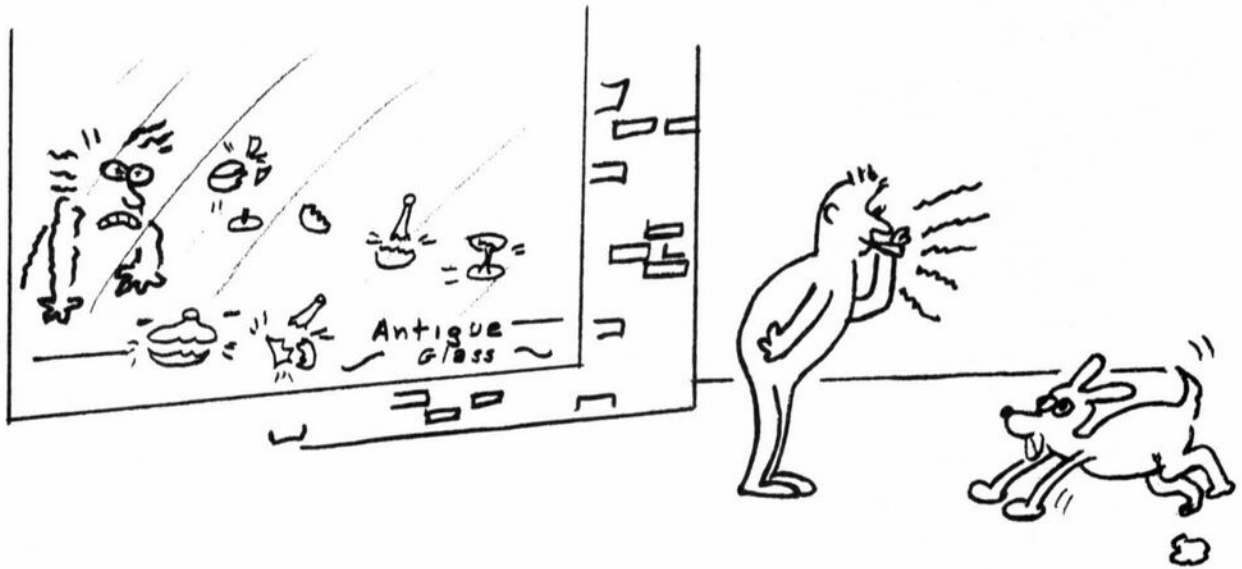
- A. The News letter was discussed and suggestion made that members submit articles for printing.
- B. A Cambridge Club reference catalog was discussed.
- C. A motion was made by Frank Wollenhaupt to print the minutes of the meetings in the CRYSTAL BALL. 2nd. by Sue Rankin.
- D. Convention business was brought up by Bob Coyle. He was named Chairman of the event with John Wolfe and Ed Ruby as vice-Chairmen.
- E. The members from Dayton volunteered to help with the Registration Desk.
- F. The plate was discussed concerning the amount to be made; and color. John Wolfe and Charles Upton said they would follow up with meetings with Imperial Glass at Bellaire.
- G. A display room at the May show was discussed and decided against because of the danger of loss and breakage.

TREASURER'S REPORT - John Wolfe
\$672.68 in the checking account.

Plate costs - \$1833.73

Amount due to club from ads - \$140.00

After the meeting, an auction was held with a signed Rubina bowl going for \$90.00. A good buy! Members then displayed glassware that they brought to the meeting and cookies and coffee was enjoyed by all.



National Cambridge Collectors, Inc.
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