

eCrystal Ball

Published monthly (except July) by National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. to encourage and report the discovery of the elegant and boundless product of the Cambridge Glass Company of Cambridge, Ohio

Issue No. 394 (e-14)

March 2006

OH, BRITANNIA!

by Georgia G. Otten

Once again, an idea pops up for another "seek and find" mission within various resources. Most everyone associated with collecting Cambridge glass knows the history of the company and its founder, A. J. Bennett. This information can be gleaned from the wonderful *Members Only* section of the NCC website using articles from back issues of the Crystal Ball. The search engine is excellent!

I do not intend to reprint all the information on the company background, just a few tidbits from various articles by various authors to lead into the subject matter. The 'idea' I mentioned for this little article is to gather up the British influence on some of the names used by Cambridge Glass Company for etchings, engravings, and even a color.

Arthur J. Bennett (Bennett m. English is the Medieval form of Benedict) was born January 18, 1866 in London, England. His apprenticeship as a young man had been with the London firm, John Mortlock Co. and he gained more experience with the larger firm of Shoolbred's & Barker, Ltd. He came to America sometime in 1882 when he was 16 years old and was first associated with the Jordan March Co., in Boston. Later he was in New York. Breaking his affiliations



Windsor Castle etch

with B. F. Hunt & Sons, Mr. Bennett entered the manufacturing field at Cambridge. Except for a brief period as general manager for the National Glass Co., Mr. Bennett's complete attention has been given to the Cambridge factory.

Mr. Bennett, although living in the United States, frequently traveled back to his native country. He was intrigued with, and had many acquaintances among the Royals. The names of some of the engravings used in Cambridge glass production reflect the admiration Mr. Bennett had for the English Royal family. For example: King Edward, Queen Mary, King George, Crown Prince, Duchess, and Prince Charles. Another engraving

based on an English name is Cordelia. The actual meaning of the name is unknown but could be from a Celtic name meaning "daughter of the sea." This name was first used in this form by Shakespeare, who used it for one of the daughters of King Lear. Another fine engraving with an English influence is #937, Buckingham, which I feel for sure would come from one of the royal residences, Buckingham Palace.

Windsor! Derivation of the name Windsor is "from a surname which was from a place meaning 'riverbank with a windlass' in Old English." *Windsor* has been the surname of the royal family of England since 1917. Arthur Bennett may have had influence and

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Cordelia engraving



King Edward engraving

CONVENTION 2006: IT WILL BE HERE SOONER THAN YOU THINK

National Cambridge Collectors, Inc.

PO Box 416 Cambridge, OH 43725-0416

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• All Benefactor & President's Circle memberships include Associate Memberships for all adults sharing the residence of the master member.

• Additional Associate memberships are available at \$3 each.

• President's Circle includes Convention registration and a copy of each new NCC book, when published.

National Museum of Cambridge Glass



Located at 136 S. 9th Street in downtown Cambridge, OH

Closed for the season; reopens in April

Contacts

NCC Museum [open April thru October only]
 (phone) (740) 432-4245
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Websites

- NCC WEBSITE
www.CambridgeGlass.org
- NCC WEBSITE - MEMBERS ONLY SECTION
www.CambridgeGlass.org/NCCmembers
(User Name: NCC • Password: Nearcut)
- MIAMI VALLEY STUDY GROUP WEBSITE
www.mvsg.org

Address Changes

Please send address changes to:
 Membership - NCC
 PO Box 416
 Cambridge, OH 43725

or by e-mail to:

lin26@hocking.net

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President's Message

Infectious Spirit

Well, I just got back from taking Cooper for his morning walk, and the fact that 21" of snow fell overnight was undaunting to the little guy's spirit. I was trudging along through the mountains of white, while he was jumping, pulling and generally having a ball. I have to admit his exuberance was infectious. We stopped to look around and there is no doubt that this was one of the most beautiful mornings we have ever experienced here in Midland Park.

When I was getting ready to go out, all I could think about was how much effort I was going to have to expend moving all this snow. After watching Cooper's glee - his willingness not to let the snow, which stands taller than he does, get him down - I had a genuine change of heart, deciding to look at the day with a completely different eye. Also, I began to think of Cambridge, as I always do, on mornings when I write this message and it dawned on me that this kind of infectious spirit is what has sustained me through my two years as president of NCC.

There are times when so much is happening in your personal life, as well as in the land of NCC, that it is easy to get down, and wonder why you're working so hard. Then along comes one of those indomitable spirits who make you bounce right back and want to work all the harder. Most recently two people fall into this category.

The first one is Mike Strebler. Mike was the creator of the Symphony Model, which is a creative plan to help NCC look at its membership in a new light. It is a great idea, which I suspect will have an enormous effect on the future life of NCC. Without a doubt, it was a great idea but even great ideas run into bumps in the road and kind of bog down. The effect could be that a great idea is lost to lack of follow-through. However, Mike has that infectious spirit and a strong will that would not let that happen. Mike continued to push, while incorporating great suggestions from others until this project got off the ground. Thankfully, the new Symphony Model is in effect. As you get your Renewal Notices this year you will

have the chance to become part of this great idea. Thanks, Mike, and thank you all for joining in with a spirit that has always been what is best about NCC.

The second person this year who has helped to revitalize me with his infectious spirit is Alex Citron, your Crystal Ball Editor. Alex has been working extremely hard to create both an Electronic CB, as well as develop a higher quality print version, which he feels the membership deserves. He has been willing to take chances to explore new avenues, to risk all to create a better product. This can only be done with true courage of spirit, which has been infectious to me. Looking at last month's CB, and seeing the quality product that was delivered in my mail, I for one am inspired to thank Alex, as well as feel invigorated to work harder for NCC. If you liked the new CB as much as I did, please let Alex know, as I am sure he is eager to hear from you.

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The Crystal Ball

PO Box 416 Cambridge, Oh 43725
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Staff

Executive Editor Alex Citron
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An electronic version of this newsletter is available via e-mail. Just contact us at NCCCrystalBall@aol.com to start your free subscription. You will continue to receive the paper version as well.

Dealer Directory is \$24 for 12-months, size limited by box (see page 11). Includes listing on NCC webiste.

Editorial Policy

Research materials submitted are subject to review by the Research Editor or other experts. All submissions are subject to editing for length, accuracy and conformity to norms of style, spelling, punctuation and grammar. No advertising will be accepted on behalf of candidates for NCC or other elected office, nor for or against any legislative matter before the NCC Board or membership.

Artwork must be submitted in electronic (jpeg, tiff or bmp) format, unless special arrangements have been made in advance with the editor. Photos must be minimum 300 dpi.

Advertising Rates

1/8 page \$15	1/4 page \$20
1/2 page \$30	Full page \$50
(plus \$5 per photograph)	

Classified Ads: 10 cents/word, with a \$2.00 minimum.

Electronic submissions should be e-mailed to NCCCrystalBall@aol.com. Use Word, PageMaker or Adobe PDF. Mailed submissions and all payments should go to PO Box 416 Cambridge OH 43725. Deadline is 10th of preceding month. Ads must be paid in advance. *Show listings are FREE; send info to PO Box or e-mail address 60 days before event.*

2006 MUSEUM CHECKLIST COMPLETE

by Cindy Arent

The checklist is now finished and we are ready to open for the new season on April 1, 2006. It is hard to believe that this will be the fifth year at the new museum location! The new displays are in place, cases cleaned, silver polished and the gift shop stocked as well as other general museum cleaning and maintenance. Many of the new displays for 2006 can be viewed on the NCC website, www.cambridgeglass.org under the museum section - slide shows.

This year it has been very difficult to prepare for the new season because we haven't been able to tear down for any extended period of time. In December, we were involved in the OCCA Tour of Homes and have also had the privilege of hosting many other special guests.

On January 10, two Travel Writers from Geiger & Associates of Tallahassee, Florida visited the



Squeek & Dorothy Rieker cleaning the glass cases, in preparation for the museum's 2006 season

museum to do a site inspection and were met by Betty Sivard and Carl Beynon. Betty and Carl heard many positive comments during the inspection. The representatives will put together an itinerary for a group of Travel Writers who will be visiting the area later this year. They received a portfolio of museum information and hopefully we will see them again soon.



Carl Beynon and Joe Miller open the Cambridge Glass Co. safe at the NCC Storage building. It was full of water, which was bailed out using buckets and cups.

A top hat that belonged to Arthur J. Bennett (see below right) has found its way home to the museum. When Cambridge resident Jim Starr visited the museum last fall, he decided to donate the hat that had been in his family for 60 years. It is now displayed in the museum dining room.

Letters reminding area teachers about our educational field trip program "A Dash through the Past" have been sent. Last fall we had almost 300 students participate in the museum learning stations and hope to see 300 more this April and May.

We are already planning new displays for 2007 thanks to a wonderful donation from Tim Mosser of Mosser Glass, Inc. This past summer Tim told us that he was doing some cleaning at the Variety Glass factory and asked if we would be interested in a safe from The Cambridge Glass Company. Were we ever excited! On January 16, Carl Beynon, Sharon and Joe Miller and I went to Variety Glass to pick up the safe. The men loaded it onto the Miller's truck using a fork lift. We were really fortunate to have

our own fork lift at the NCC Storage Building to unload it from the truck!

The safe needs some restoration work, but is in good shape overall. It will be used in 2007 to create a Cambridge Glass Company Paymaster's Office display in the museum Edna McManus Shepard Education Center. How will we move it to the museum? I'm sure that will be another adventure!



A small portion of the recent Viola Roth bequest, on display for 2006 in the museum's sample room. More photos of the 2006 displays are on the NCC website: www.cambridgeglass.org

We hope to see you at the museum in 2006. If you find that you will be in Cambridge at a time when we are not open, please do not hesitate to contact us in advance. Someone will be happy to open the museum for your visit.



A.J. Bennett's top hat is now displayed in the museum's dining room. The cane has a Cambridge Glass doorknob as a handle.

The Calendar

NCC Events

2006 National Convention, Show & Sale

June 22 thru 25, 2006
Mark the dates now!

August Quarterly Meeting Saturday, Aug. 19

*If you know about any
upcoming glass shows or
other glass events, please
pass the word on to us
at least six to eight weeks
before the show dates.
These listings are free of charge.*

Upcoming Glass Shows & Other Glass Events

March 11-12:

20-30-40 Glass Society's Show
Northlake, IL
Call: (708) 354-5966
E-mail: glassclub@aol.com

March 18-19:

Long Island DG Show & Sale
Freeport, NY
Call: (516) 798-0492

March 24-25:

North Jersey DG & Pottery Show
Allendale, NJ
Call: (973) 267-7511
E-mail: pduchamp@optonline.net

April 1-2:

Lincoln Land Pottery & DG Show
Springfield, IL
Call: (217) 546-4790
E-Mail:
margaret_davis37@sbcglobal.net

April 8-9:

Nutmeg DG Show
Southington, CT
Call: (860)-569-3595
E-mail: bobmarotto@cox.net

April 23-24:

Rocky Mtn. DG Society Show
Castle Rock, CO
Call: (303) 722-5446

May 7:

Toronto DG Show
Mississauga, Ontario
Call: (905) 846-2835
E-mail: walt@waltztime.com

July 8-9:

National Depression Glass
Association (NDGA) Show
Waxahachie, TX
www.NDGA.net

THE 20-30-40 GLASS SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGOLAND'S ANNUAL DEPRESSION ERA GLASS SHOW AND SALE

CONCORD PLACE

MIDWEST CONFERENCE CENTER

401 West Lake Street Northlake, Illinois

MARCH 11 & 12, 2006

SATURDAY 10 pm - 5 pm and SUNDAY 11 am - 4 pm

ADMISSION \$7 PER PERSON (\$6 with this ad, limit 2)
FREE PARKING WITH SHUTTLE BUS

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CHARLES LOTTON WILL BRING HIS WONDERFUL ART GLASS FOR DISPLAY AND SALE
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WEBSITE: www.20-30-40society.org

Logo Patch



This attractive, embroidered Cambridge Logo Patch is now available from the Elegant Study Group. It measures 2" by 3.5" and can be ironed or sewn onto almost any fabric. Proceeds benefit the NCC.

Only \$5, postpaid

To order, call or e-mail

Ken Filippini

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lobstrboy1@aol.com

Nudes:

- A Heatherbloom #3011 Comport sold on 1/16 for \$330.
- A Royal Blue #3011 Ashtray sold on 2/1 for \$268.
- A Crown Tuscan #3011 Cigarette Box, gold-encrusted Portia, sold on 1/22 for \$1,008.
- A Crown Tuscan #3011 Ashtray, also gold-encrusted Portia, sold on 1/22 for \$561.
- A Crystal #3011 Claret, etched Gloria, sold on 2/15 for \$820.

Caprice:

- A pair of Crystal Reflector Candle Holders sold on 1/16 for \$400.
- A pair of Mandarin Gold #1338 (Tri-Level) Candle Holders sold on 1/15 for \$183.
- A Moonlight Blue #100 Cruet sold on 1/26 for \$189.

Flower Frogs:

- A Crystal Blue Jay Flower frog sold on 1/30 for \$123.

Swans:

- A Moonlight Blue 8.5" Swan sold on 1/17 for \$526. Interestingly, another one just like it sold on 2/6 for \$158.
- A Frosted Crystal 9" Swan, with orange enamel head, sold on 1/23 for \$304.
- A pair of Milk Glass 3.5" Swans, Charleton-decorated, sold on 1/24 for \$585.

Etches:

- A Crystal #1533 domed Cheese Cover, etched Rosepoint, sold on 1/31 for \$510.
- Two Rosepoint 7-piece Epergne Sets (each consisting of a #628 single candlestick, two #1563 candle arms, three #1536 peg bowls, and a #1633 vase) sold on 1/29 for \$1,076 per set.
- A lovely, little #3400 Perfume etched Elaine, with a hard-to-find intact dauber, sold on 2/12 for \$295.
- A set of four 8 oz Peachblo Tumblers on a center-handled tray, etched Golf Scene, did not sell. The high bid of \$316 did not meet the reserve.

Etches:

- A striking Peachblo Decagon center-handled server, with etch #738 and gold trim, sold on 1/22 for \$35.



- A Crystal 32 oz Decanter, etched Gloria, sold on 1/16 for \$275.
- An Amber 3400 Round Butter Dish, with lid, etched Diane, sold on 1/21 for \$255.



- A Pink Keyhole Comport (on the "stretched" stem, etched Diane, sold on 1/25 for \$311.
- A Crystal #1066 Covered Comport, etched Rosepoint did not sell. The high bid of \$214 did not meet the reserve.

- A Crystal 11" Basket, etched Rosepoint, sold on 1/15 for \$482.

- A beautiful Royal Blue #3400/2 Bowl, gold-encrusted Apple Blossom, sold on 1/29 for \$578.



- A Crown Tuscan #3400 Line 5" Vase, gold-encrusted Rosepoint, sold on 2/3 for \$61.
- A Crown Tuscan 8" Vase (at right), gold-encrusted Portia, sold on 2/3 for \$80.

Miscellaneous:

- An undecorated Carmen #1335 12" Vase sold on 1/17 for \$128.
- An Amber 3400, 32 oz Ball Decanter, with an unusual silver overlay of a rider and foxhounds, sold on 1/22 for \$136.
- A very nice Rubina Console Set: a Honeycomb 6" Bowl with a pair of 8.5" Sticks, sold on 1/31 for \$455.
- A Light Emerald #1 Keg Set, including 6 Barrel Tumblers and Ebony Tray/Stand, sold on 2/1 for \$235.
- A 10-piece Forest Green Farber Cordial Set (#3400/156 Decanter, eight Cordials and a Tray) sold on 2/2 for \$150.
- A Royal Blue Tally-Ho Ice Bucket sold on 1/31 for \$88.
- A "Three Canny Scotts" Canape Set sold on 2/11 for \$246.



- A Cinnamon (frosted amber) Everglade #23, 5" Vase sold on 2/16 for \$77.



NCC WEBSITE ADDS BOOKSTORE

In mid-March, the NCC's website will launch an exciting and convenient new service for members. A virtual bookstore will premiere, allowing members to purchase books and merchandise, renew memberships, make donations and even register for NCC events; all on-line, using major credit cards or checks

Unlike the NCC's ebay store, which primarily serves the non-member public, the website bookstore will be available only through the "members-only" section of the site, and requires the use of the member password. The password appears on page 2 of every issue of The Crystal Ball.

In addition, eligible book purchases in the new virtual bookstore already include the member 10% discount.

The new service will be electronically linked to the Electronic Crystal Ball, so subscribers can shop directly from their monthly newsletter. The new service also allows members to put their membership dues or event registration fees on their credit card; a convenience requested by many members for some time.

There are no additional fees for the use of the virtual bookstore, and transactions are guaranteed secure by PayPal, a leader in the on-line shopping industry.

To access the new bookstore, just go to the members-only page of the NCC website at:
www.CambridgeGlass.org/NCCmembers

Then enter the User Name and Password (see page 2) and click on the link for **NCC Bookstore**. You will be asked to re-enter the Password, and then you're ready to shop!

The virtual bookstore will be available on the NCC website within the next few weeks, as soon as ebay store manager, Alex Citron and Webmaster, David Adams get everything up and running smoothly.

With this new service, the NCC takes one more big step into the electronic age.

President's Message

from page 3

Now, I realize that I just compared two of NCC's most creative members to my dog Cooper, but I am sure both Alex and Mike - because of their indomitable spirits - will understand. What I am really comparing is their willingness to face hard situations, and tough decisions with a strength that is inspiring. As long as NCC has members like these two who are willing to work for it's future growth and take chances on innovative ideas, I suspect we can all rest easy because the future is bright. Thanks to both of them.

Ken

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Cat's Meow Collectible - National Museum of Cambridge Glass

This unique, limited-edition Cat's Meow depiction of the NCC's museum was commissioned by the Elegant Glass Collectors Study Group. Proceeds benefit the museum.

\$20 each

See page 16 to order, or visit the ebay store at:

www.stores.ebay.com/National-Cambridge-Collectors



Convention Corner

"The Ladies of Cambridge"

Thursday, June 22 thru Saturday, June 25

by Shelley Cole

Greetings! Spring is fighting to push winter out of the picture here in Virginia. I've seen crocus and phlox blooming already. That means March is almost here and I'm pulling together the last pieces of Convention 2006. We have some new things coming our way in the form of programs and are working with the local school system to get some of the local school children involved with convention. More on that next month.

This month, I want to tell you about our Field Trip opportunity. On Thursday morning, those who are interested will car pool to Wheeling, WV to the Oglebay Mansion Museum and Glass Museum. Here's some information from the Oglebay Web Site.

"The Mansion Museum, built in 1846 by Hanson Chapline, was originally an eight room farm house. The Wheeling Mansion went through seven different owners before it was purchased by Earl W. Oglebay in 1900. Mr. Oglebay made the mansion and its surrounding grounds his family's summer estate, and he called the estate Waddington Farms. Upon his death in 1926, after many renovations and expansions of the mansion, Mr. Oglebay willed his estate to the city of Wheeling in order that it become a facility for education and recreation for the region. The mansion became a museum in 1930.

Period antiques, glittering glass treasures and fun heritage activities await visitors who stop and explore The Mansion Museum.

The Glass Museum, situated adjacent to the Mansion Museum is a treasure house of sparkle and glitter. Featuring over 3000 examples of Wheeling Glass made from 1829-1939, the glass museum displays cut lead crystal, Victorian art

glass, Peachblow, pattern and depression and Northwood's carnival glass and many other glass examples showcasing Ohio Valley history.

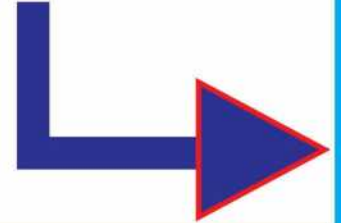
Every visitor to the Mountain State will enjoy viewing the largest piece of cut lead crystal ever made, The Sweeney Punch Bowl. Five feet tall and weighing 225 pounds, this crystal treasure is world famous - a remarkable masterpiece of Victorian glass.

The Northwood Gallery contains crystal, carnival, colored and opalescent glassware made by the Ohio Valley glass manufacturer H. Northwood & Company. This is the focus of this new display of valuable glass. A tour of the gallery will leave visitors in awe as they discover the work of one of our region's most respected glass artisans, Harry C. Northwood. Located in the lower level of Carriage House Glass, the gallery is housed in Oglebay Institute's sparkling glass museum."

It's a lovely location and an easy one hour drive from Cambridge. One could easily spend just a few hours or the whole day at this beautiful estate. The Glass Works Grill at the Wilson Lodge on the Oglebay grounds serves a full lunch menu for those who wish to take advantage of it. Admission is \$12.00 for a guided tour and \$9.00 for an unguided visit. That price gets you into both museums. The Glass Museum usually has a glass worker presenting demonstrations and we've made a special request that he be there that morning.

**The Registration Form
will be in the April issue
of the Crystal Ball!**

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS



Letters

To the Editor:

I appreciated the slick paper printing of the February newsletter. I would like to see it printed that way every month, even if it means raising dues. The increase in dues can be justified by the clarity of the pictures. Also, since this is a first class organization it deserves a first class publication.

Thanks for experimenting. Keep up the good work.

Jack Lyttle

The support is very much appreciated.
- ed.

Meanwhile, in Florida...



NCC members Linda Gilbert and Fleur de lys Healy at the NCC's book table at the recent South Florida Depression Glass Show.

ANSWERS - SOME GO BACKWARDS OR UP

B U T T E R C U P Q I C I F X N I D X T S Q G K U F G T O N N
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OH, BRITANNIA

from page 1

selected this royal name for use three times: There is an engraving # 500 Windsor, there is a color, Windsor Blue, described in Colors in Cambridge Glass as "a tone of icy blue in opaque glass...." and the name was also given to a fabulous and detailed etching, Windsor. The etching is of a large castle (Windsor Castle?) along a body of water and is combined with a lion medallion. This etching can be found Gold encrusted D/972 or Silver encrusted D/972-S. The etching, plain or encrusted is a most impressive and sought after etching among Cambridge collectors, as are pieces in Windsor Blue.

Cambridge had many engravings, over 350, and many of their names were taken from English town names, gardens, castles, beaches and streets. Examples are: Ardsley #1005; Landsdowne #1049; Dover #1034; Bexley #1072; Exeter #810; Avalon #806; Berkeley #851; Chesterfield #952 and Montrose #1004.



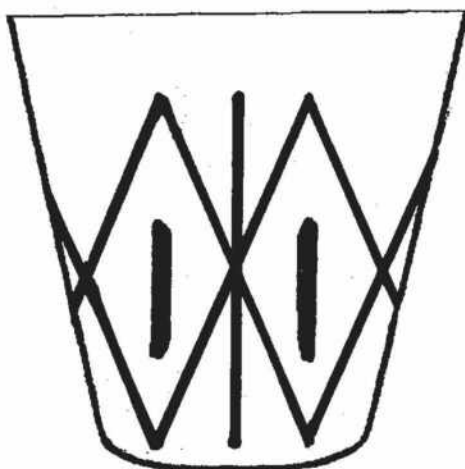
Above: Buckingham engraving
Below: Dover engraving
At Right: Lancelot engraving



Additionally there are: Brentwood #854; Mansard #906; Cranston #960 and Whitehall #981. Also chosen for an engraving name is a probable fictional character. A knight from King Arthur's Court, Lancelot, engraving #76 in the Cambridge record.

While most of the names from England evoke thoughts of royalty, wonderful gardens and mysterious castles, I did find one name for a Cambridge engraving, Stafford #850, and the internet travel log reads, "Stafford is the county town of Staffordshire in England, and probably the most boring place on the planet. If you ever find yourself in Stafford, here are the best ways to leave..." It would seem that Arthur Bennett liked all aspects of England and its history! I am sure there are many other English based names within the Cambridge engravings and perhaps the etchings as well. Please feel free to research those yourself. I surely did not give them all.

With the foresight, wisdom and hard work, Mr. A. J. Bennett, coming from England and borrowing from England's history and daily life, built one of the finest glass production companies, The Cambridge Glass Company, Cambridge, Ohio, USA. "This, then, is the living, active throbbing monument which Arthur Bennett has built and made on his foundation of courage" and which we as collectors of Cambridge glass hold close.



Correction

In last month's issue of the Crystal Ball, Sandra Buffenbarger was omitted from the list of 2005 contributors to The Century Club. We thank her for her support, and apologize for the omission.

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Breaking Glass News

Episode I: My Cambridge Mentor

by Mike Strebler

This is the first episode in my series of *Breaking Glass News*. Last month, I gave you an overview of the pieces that have perished with my complicity. A fitting place to start is always the beginning.

My wife, Lisa, introduced me to the world of glass. I can't remember what it was she had that grabbed my attention but it wasn't Cambridge. When we moved from Chicago to Akron in fall of 1978, some friends gave us a New Martinsville Janice basket with a cobalt handle. I think this was probably the first hook. When we got settled in Akron we started looking for other cobalt pieces. I think in early June of 1979 we went to the Burton, OH flea market. We came home with a box of anything cobalt, from Shirley Temple to Sergeant's pitchers.

My timeline gets a little fuzzy here. But I figure it was June of 1979 when we went to our first NCC show at the Shenandoah. We had never really been exposed to Cambridge glass but decided to go to the show after seeing

an advertisement. Lisa and I were eyeing a 3011 Royal blue cupped comport when it got snatched and sold (\$95). We were bummed. That's when NCC member and show dealer Virginia Houston noticed our disappointment and offered to sell us the one in her personal collection. We met with Virginia in her home and were impressed by all the Cambridge and her love of the glass. Virginia was heavy into flower frogs. We left with the comport and a lifetime of Virginia's friendship.

Lisa and I were happy with our first piece of Cambridge glass. Since it was the only piece we had, it was prominently displayed on a living room table. One day I came home from work and found Lisa in tears. The house was still standing, smoke wasn't coming out of the windows, nor was water running out from under the front door. Once she gained her composure I understood. She motioned to two pieces of our 3011 Royal Blue. She had knocked it over while dusting it.

Back in those days it was hard to find Cambridge. There was no eBay or even

mall. If you wanted something you had to trek to shows and shops. So replacing the comport took time and effort but was ultimately accomplished. Now that our collection has grown to in excess of a thousand pieces, I really should be over it. But I'm not. I'll always remember how we managed to break the first piece of Cambridge glass we ever owned and how we came by it. At that point our entire collection of Cambridge glass consisted of a broken comport. What an illustrious start to collecting Cambridge glass.

We enjoyed our glass friendship with Virginia throughout the years, until her passing. She helped us learn about Cambridge and shared the enjoyment it brought. I don't know if I ever told her we broke the comport. It didn't really matter. This single piece of broken glass provides me with the memories of a woman who loved glass and gave so much to us.

Next month, "Don't ship glass in a wooden box."

FROM THE EDITOR

Recently I gave notice to President Ken Filippini and the Board of Directors that I would be stepping down as Executive Editor of *The Crystal Ball* at the end of 2006. New obligations in my "non-Cambridge" life have made it impossible for me to continue devoting the time and effort this newsletter deserves.

Firmly entrenched in middle age, I have finally realized one of my life-long dreams, and have recently become Executive Director of a new community theatre company here in Virginia. This rewarding and very exciting endeavour is exceedingly demanding of my time and my creative energies. Since I am someone who will not do a job unless I can do it well, I under-

stand that I will shortly be unable to give this newsletter what it needs.

Therefore, I have told Ken that he needs to replace me by year's end. He has done an admirable job of trying to dissuade me, but I have not relented. I am confident he will find a volunteer to do a first-rate job; the members of NCC always come through when called.

As I move through my last year in this position, I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the many members who have supported and encouraged me during a period of considerable transition.

The *Crystal Ball* is moving forward with new technologies, and with a renewed

commitment to be an attractive and useful tool for spreading the appreciation and preservation of Cambridge Glass. It is only with the efforts of many people in NCC that we have been able to make the advances I believe we have. I will do whatever it takes to assure that the transition to a new Editor does not interfere with the forward direction of our newsletter.

Although I'm sure I will express this again, let me say how much I have enjoyed giving this service to NCC.

--Alex

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Our recent revision to the membership structure has provided for a level of philanthropy known as the President's Circle. The President's Circle is the highest support level to our Membership Fund. No one associated with NCC should be surprised to learn that our first members in the President's Circle are Rick and Cindy Jones. This Cambridge household has been one of our leading benefactors over the past years. Rick was also the President of the Board of NCC for many years. During his tenure as President the new museum was acquired and opened. Now, with this new expression of generosity, he and Cindy are leaders in our quest to provide for the long-term financial future of the organization and the



museum through annual giving. Thank you Rick and Cindy for your leadership.

Two days are all that separated the honor from belonging to Squeek and Dorothy Rieker. Again, there should be no surprise to see Squeek and

Dorothy out in front supporting NCC through their membership in the President's Circle. They are longtime members and have operated the NCC Auction for the past nine years. Squeek reviewed his charitable giving for the year and felt NCC deserved to be one of his favored choices. He said he felt assured that a gift to NCC would be efficiently utilized in carrying out the charitable nature of the NCC mission.

On behalf of the NCC membership, the Board of Directors thanks these two Cambridge households for their exceptional financial support.

Let us know what you think of this issue of The Crystal Ball. Do you think it looks better than usual, worse, pretty much the same? Is there anything you'd like us to add? Remove? Change? What parts do you enjoy? What parts could you do without? We really want to hear from you... e-mail NCCCrystalBall@aol.com, or write to the NCC's PO Box. Thanks!

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