




MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972



Midwest Glass Chatter
February 2009

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Membership

The Midwest Glass Chatter is a monthly publication and is a forum through which collectors can share information.

Membership cost is \$15.00 per year, per family, due each December 31. All jar/bottle related collectors are welcome. Send to MAFJBC, Attn: Joe Coulson, 10515 Collingswood Ln, Fishers, IN 46037

Next Club Show

July 12, 2009

Make your reservation now!
The hotel's phone number is 765-284-4200

Meeting Minutes, February 1st, 2009

The February club meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 11 members.

Anne Szopa presented the Treasurer's report. Expenses included the cost of club T-shirts (for resale), creation of the Robinson DVDs, and printing the newsletter. Income included renewal from club memberships. Also presented was a preliminary report on the January Show expenses. It looks like we will break even. More details to follow in the next report, since not all of the expenses have been received yet.

Anne mentioned that the cost of the Display Award jars have gone up considerably. We may have to discuss alternatives after the July Show is over.

During the meeting Anne received a bill from the "Cole Extortion Co." (Dick Cole's sense of humor!) for the club website annual fee. Dick had paid the bill and was reimbursed.

Dave reminded everyone that club dues are due again. It is that time of year. Please send your membership renewals to Joe Coulson, so he can

keep the address and email database up-to-date.

Dave told us that our January Show had 68 dealer tables, 10 displays, 50 rooms rented at the motel, and 112 people through the door on show day. He expressed appreciation to Kenny Mace at the Convention Center. Kenny was very accommodating to all of our needs. Dave also wanted to recognize Kathy Hewson at the Signature Inn. The club received a nice card from Kathy, and she said the hotel staff really liked our group.

Dave said that one of the highlights of the January Show was an evening dinner at Bruner's restaurant. There were over 22 club members in attendance, and a great and lively time was had by all.

Dave mentioned that he would be attending the upcoming Columbus, Ohio and St. Louis, Missouri shows. There is a big antique show occurring at the same time as the Columbus show. Several of our club members will be there with fruit jars for sale.

Dave met with Peggy Lawrence at Minnetrista to determine the meeting space that would be available to us for this year's club meetings.

Jean Harbron received input from club members on future meeting Show and Tell themes. Here is the outcome of both discussions:

April 5—Minnetrista Cantina at 1:30pm. Show and Tell: Bring metal lids and screw caps.

May 3—Minnetrista Cantina at 1:30pm. Show and Tell: Bring amber jars and bottles.

June 14—Minnetrista Cantina at 1:30pm. Note that this is the 2nd Sunday of the month instead of the 1st. Shown and Tell: Bring jelly jars and related items.

July 11—This will be the Fruit Jar Get-Together at the Signature Inn, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1:30pm.

August 2—Annual Club Picnic. Location To Be Determined. Show and Tell: Bring purchases from the July Show.

Sept. 13—Minnetrista Cantina at 1:30pm. Note that this is the 2nd Sunday of the month instead of the 1st. Show and Tell: Bring Product jars.

See you all at the next meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

Special Show and Tell by Karen Vincent

We had a special surprise for Show and Tell at the February meeting. Karen Vincent (Director of Collections at Minnetrista) brought a recent acquisition for us to see.

Nancy Ball (Teed), granddaughter of Edmund B. Ball (one of the five founding Ball Brothers), had been doing some garage cleaning recently at her Arizona home. She came across a presentation horse saddle that her father, Edmund F. Ball, used while riding the horses there.

Karen told us that this was the first public showing of this item. No preservation work had been done yet (although it probably would not require much). It will be shown as part of the "125th Anniversary of the Ball Jar" Exhibit that will start at Minnetrista in April.

The saddle was hand-made by Austin "Slim" Green, who was a well-known saddle maker. It took Slim between 50 and 150 hours to make a saddle. The saddles are worth from 10 to 20 thousand dollars on the market today.

Slim passed away at the age of 91 in December of 2007. He apprenticed himself

to the great saddle-maker, Pop Bettis, making his first saddle at age 19. His hand-tooled saddles have been featured in museums, including the Smithsonian Institution. He created work for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, actors John Wayne and Robert Redford, and many other politicians, actors and rodeo stars.

Karen told us that Nancy Ball also donated her father's 1905 baby buggy to Minnetrista. It had firewood stored in it when she uncovered it in the garage.

Karen mentioned that the Minnetrista museum has over 1200 linear feet of Ball archival material. She encouraged our club members to come and visit and look at what the museum has to offer for researchers. Karen said that Minnetrista is currently conducting daily tours of the Ball houses.

Everyone really enjoyed Karen's presentation. Ed's saddle was very intricately detailed. And for fruit jar collectors it was a special treat, because a large figure of a Ball Jar was embossed on the side of the saddle!



Edmund F. Ball holding the saddle



Ed riding in the saddle in 1996—Ortiz Mountain Ranch



Addendum: The Ortiz Mountain Ranch in Cerrillos, New Mexico is currently for sale. It consists of 11,500 acres and is available for \$3.4 million.

According to the real estate listing: "The famous Ball family (known for Ball jars and glasses) owned the

property from 1966 to 2004 and used it for a cattle operation. After the death of Edmund Ball the ranch was donated to the Nature Conservancy, with the exception of a 640-acre parcel retained for the Ball family heirs which contains the Ball Ranch headquarters."

Show and Tell

Club members were asked to bring items that they purchased at the January Show, or other recent purchases or findings.

Dick Cole brought several examples of a special run vase which he gave free to anyone who wanted one. At some time in the past Minnetrista had used them for flower vases in one of the rooms. They were made at the glass plant in Winchester, Indiana to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the plant (1899–1999).

Dick displayed a clear PT freezer jar (front: sculptured fruit design) with uncommon wording on the base: Ball (script) Sculptured Pattern Mason Jar. The plant code on the base indicates this jar was made at the El Monte, California plant. Most jars of this style have wording on the base which says: Genuine Sculptured Glass.



Dick found this uncommon jar by scrounging around at Ball in empty warehouses years ago. The jar was found in an electrical shop and had been used as a storage container. Dick had a buddy with him while looking around. His buddy picked the jar up and sat it back down, and he didn't look at it close enough to realize it was unusual.

This jar is also the only one in this sculptured design style with the Ball logo in the middle of the measurement graduations on the side. It may have been part of a sample run that El Monte had sent to Muncie!



Jean Harbron displayed two clear PT Ball Wide Mouth jars (above: For Freezing—Fill Here; left side: ounce measurements; right side: metric measurements; reverse: sculptured fruit design, with Made In U.S.A. at heel). Both jars had the same embossing, but one was taller than the other one.



Jean also displayed an

SCA QT Mason (with looped underline; and with octagon shaped neck).

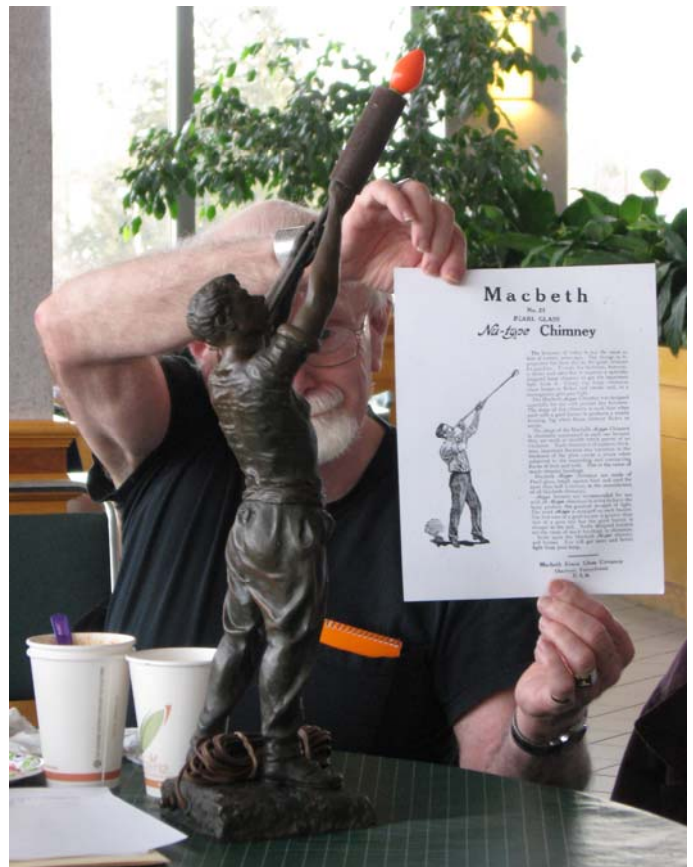
Lou Ebert shared a very unusual item. It was an antique lamp made in the figure of a man blowing glass!

Lou shared an advertisement that he had received with the purchase of an antique lamp chimney from the Macbeth-Evans Glass Co. The advertisement showed the figure of a glass-blower very similar to the one in the lamp (although several features were reversed).

Lou also brought a newspaper clipping from The Marion Daily Chronicle, June 2, 1891, page 3.

“Canned Fruits in Pompeii—A curious story is told of the origin of canned fruits. Years ago, when the excavations were beginning at Pompeii, some jars of preserved figs were found in the pantry of one of the buried houses. On being opened the fruit was found to be fresh and good, thus showing that centuries ago the art of preserving fruit was practiced and that we are indebted to the ancients for many a delicious dish—New York World.”

[Editor's note: I found the following from doing a Google search on the Internet. I still have not been able to locate the original excavation details. So, we can't accept this as a "fact".]



Show and Tell, cont'd

From the book, *Medical Annals: A Journal of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, NY, 1884*, page 343—"When excavations were first begun in Pompeii a party of Cincinnatians found there in a pantry many jars of preserved figs the fruit was found good. Investigation showed that the figs had been put into the jars in a heated state an aperture left for vapor to escape and then sealed with wax. The next year fruit canning was introduced into the United States."

Sue Wilson brought a clear PT #3042 York Peanut Butter jar. It had a figure of a man milking a "peanut cow"! Sue also brought an old ground mouth battery jar.



Colleen Dixon displayed an SCA HG #2476 RED (key) Mason's Patent Nov 30th 1858. She also showed us a very large Ball Corporation historical timeline poster. Both items were purchased at the January Fruit Jar Get-Together Auction.

Bill and Maralee Wherrett are new club members from Valparaiso, Indiana. They joined us for the first time at this meeting. Bill told us that he was raised by his Grandparents and that they

canned a lot. Bill bought several jars recently at a garage sale as well as from a booth at an antique mall.

Bill has performed genealogy work back to the 1600's. The Wherrett's came to Indiana in 1835. One of his ancestors, Henry Wherrett, started as an errand boy in a glass works, then swept floors, and eventually worked his way up to President of the company, which was later bought out by the Pittsburgh Plate Glass company.

Anne Szopa shared a clear (yellowish tint) QT #2213 Mountain Mason (base: I.G.Co monogram), made circa 1935-1936 by Intermountain Glass Co. of Salt Lake City, Utah; an aqua QT #1594 Lynchburg Standard Mason, made circa 1923-1925 by the Lynchburg Glass Corp. of Lynchburg, Pennsylvania; a clear QT #650-2 Commonwealth Trade Mark Jams & Jellies (Australian); and a clear (American Jelly Glasses #239) Geneseo Jam Kitchens, made circa 1899, lid: Pat'd Oct 18 1898, Schies closure, figural globe table jar.



Norm Barnett brought a copy of the book "Treasure in

a Cornfield", which was signed by the author, Greg Hawley. This book was about the steamboat Arabia, which sank in 1856 with all of its contents preserved on board. The river that it sank in had changed course over time, which left the steamboat under a cornfield. There is a museum in Kansas City, Kansas where all of the original contents are on display (no items were sold). Norm told us that Greg Hawley was recently killed in a car accident by a reckless driver.

Norm showed one page in the book which displayed 6 Arthur's Patent pottery fruit jars with ORIGINAL stamped metal lids!



Norm also shared three pictures of rare fruit jars that he had taken a long time ago. The jars were: amber Lafayette (with profile); amber Victory (encircled by patent dates); and an amber (cracked in back) QT Ball Pat Apld For.



Joe Coulson displayed several jars which he had purchased at the January Show. This included a couple of error jars (misspellings): a clear QT Ball PEPFECT Mason; and a Ball blue PT McDonald New PERFECT Seal.

Joe also shared an aqua QT PORT (on base, along with the letter Q) wax sealer in perfect condition; and an SCA PT Trade Mark Banner Wide Mouth.

Dave Rittenhouse brought several recent purchases: an aqua PT J.J. Squire (broken piece out of mouth, but doesn't show when displayed because it is on the back); and an amber HG Mason's Patent Nov 30th 1858 (the word Patent is spread out wider than usual).



Dave also shared a yellow green HG Rall Mason (Ball Root reworked mold). There was a period after Mason and large mold repair mark to the right of the reworked R. Dave thought this was very interesting because he had an aqua HG Root Mason with the same mold characteristics!

Club Lending Library Available Again

We recently "re-discovered" that we had a club lending library. An old inventory list was with the books. According to the inventory list, a few books are missing (possibly checked out and never returned?). Dick Cole is our newly appointed Librarian. Please let him know if you would like to borrow a book or donate other books to the club lending library. The book inventory list is published on the club website along with the name of the person who has a book checked out.

Author	Title	Pub	Note
Barclay	Canadian Fruit Jar Report	1977	
Barclay	Canadian Fruit Jar Report Book 2	1986	
Barry	The Advertising Trade Card and Prices	1981	
Bowditch	American Jelly Glasses; A Collector's Notebook	1986	
Creswick	Fruit Jar Works, Vol. 1 & 2		missing
Glass Package Inst.	Glass Packaging For People	n.d.	
Greer	American Stoneware	1981	
Heckler & Skinner	American Bottles in the Charles Gardner Collection		missing
Heckler & Skinner	Blaske Collection: American Historical Flasks	1983	
Hench & McEldowney	Bibliography of Ceramics and Glass	1976	2 copies
Inst. Of Silica Chemistry	The Structure of Glass	1958	
Kendrick	The Mouth Blown Bottle	1968	
Kevill-Davies	Jelly Molds	1983	
Knittle	Early American Glass	1927	
Kovel	Kovel's Bottles Price List #9	1992	
McCann	Fruit Jar Annual 1996	1996	
McKearin	American Flasks & Bottles and their Ancestry	1978	
Mueller	The Port Glass Company, Belleville, IL 1902-1920	1982	
Ostrander	A Guide to American Nursing Bottles	1984	
Raycraft	Collector's Guide to Country Stoneware and Pottery	1985	
Ring	For Bitters Only	1980	
Ring & Ray	For Bitters Only Update and Price Guide		missing
Robinson	The Parable of the Jars	2008	DVD
Roller	Fruit Jar Patents, Vol. 2, Book 1	1997	
Roller	Fruit Jar Patents, Vol. 2, Book 2	1997	
Roller	Fruit Jar Patents, Vol. 3	1996	
Shand	Glass Engineering Handbook	1958	
Scholes	Glass Tank Furnaces	1950	
Spain	Better Glass Making	1958	
Stanworth	Physical Properties of Glass	1953	
Van Rennseler	Early American Bottles & Flasks	1926	
Webster	Decorated Stoneware Pottery of North America	1985	
Zumwalt	Ketchup, Pickles & Sauces		

I had a BALL at Mason's by Jeff Klingler

[Editor's note: We love to hear about visits to see other people's collections. Think about sending in your own write-ups. Thanks, Jeff!]

One of the great things about any hobby, is sharing your chosen passion with others. I have been an avid fruit jar collector for a long time now and hanging out with fellow collectors is one great way to learn things about these jars that date back to the 1850's. Usually the most common ground for such a gathering would be at local bottle club meetings or the various bottle shows held all over the country. But one of the best ways to see examples of jars not usually found "in the wild" is to make a visit to another long time collector's home. Findlay Antique Bottle Club members Richard Elwood, Marianne Dow and myself [Jeff Klingler] did just that a couple of weeks ago. Mason Bright had extended an invitation to come and see his jar collection a year or so ago, and finally we found a weekend to make the trip up to Michigan and see his fabulous Ball Jar Collection.

Mason has focused on collecting BALL jars for decades and has amassed quite a spectacular collection of virtually every kind of Ball jar ever made. Now seeing how BALL has made billions of jars with countless variations, I would say it is impossible to put together a COMPLETE collection of Ball-made jars. But Mason Bright comes just about as close to this goal as anyone ever has.

Mason converted his basement into one of the nicest display rooms I have ever seen. Complete with work tables, chairs, even little stools to sit on and really check out those jars on the bottom shelves, this area is perfect to spend a day and absorb all the great BALL JAR history that is in this one room.

The shelves of the "museum" are in chronological order starting with the oldest BALL jars from the 1880's to the latest modern day jars. The pictures that follow are just a small taste of what is included in the collection. No doubt, other serious

BALL jar collectors would focus on different jars. But these are some that really caught my attention as we made our way around the room.



These jars pictured above are some of the oldest "Buffalo jars" made during the few short years that the BALL factory was located in Buffalo, New York.

The following jars are a

light green midget Porcelain Lined, an amber Ball Mason's 1858, and an olive 3-L Loop Ball Improved.



I had a BALL at Mason's, cont'd



A row of "Christmas" Masons



Colorful Ball 3-L Mason jars



A nice line of Perfections



Milkglass and Clear V Lids



Great colored Ball 3-L jars



"Brownies" Wooden Box End



Ball blue, Clear St. Johnsbury



Swift Seal (script!)



Milkglass Ideal



Carnival BPM



Clear La Abeja

My very favorite piece in Mason's vast collection is this little jewel !!!!

[Jar pictured to the right]

An INCREDIBLE 277 SOLID POUR!!! Bruce Schank, you really have sunk me on these solid pours, and I would just love to have this "jar" sitting on my shelf!

There is absolutely NO WAY to even begin to describe all of the 1600 Ball jars that sit on Mason's shelves. And not just the jars, mind you! There are go-withs galore, boxes of jar rubbers, lids, jar openers and lifters.... it just goes on and on. I really don't think you could take it all in with one visit. I saw things at Mason's that I have never seen before in all of my years of collecting. It was just nothing short of FANTASTIC!

All in all, it was one GREAT afternoon! Mason and Nancy were super hosts and I want to say thanks again to the both of them for having



us over. If any of you ever have the chance to visit other collections like this one, all I can say is "DON'T HESITATE! GO NOW!" And on the flip side, invite someone over to see YOUR jars too. It really is one of the best ways to share your passion with others. You will promote this great hobby, share your knowledge with others, and probably make some new Best Friends Forever.



Jeff Klingler (with the "solid pour" jar) & Mason Bright

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
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A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



The sign in the lobby of the Minnetrista museum indicates that a tour of the George Alexander Ball mansion is available several times during the day.

Announcements

- Membership renewal forms are being mailed with this newsletter. If you are already paid up then your membership card will be included with this newsletter instead.
- Did you enjoy Jeff Klingler's report on his trip to visit Mason Bright and his wonderful collection of Ball jars?! Well, due to space limitations, we could not include all of the pictures that Jeff took on his trip. You can see many more pictures on the Internet:
<http://www2.wcoil.com/~aux/MB/MB.html>
- The Treasures of the Steamboat Arabia website has fabulous pictures and tells the story of the fate of this ship and its well preserved contents:
<http://www.1856.com/>
- Glass Discoveries is conducting Auction #60. Bidding begins March 10 and ends March 23. This auction includes several good fruit jars, including: an aqua R.M. Dalbey, an amber Beaver, an aqua Lafayette profile, and an aqua Common Sense jar. You can sign up at this website and color printed catalogs are available:
<http://www.glassdiscoveries.com/>

