

MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1971

Midwest Glass Chatter
January 2007

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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

Details to be announced.

Fruit Jar Get-Together, January 13, 2007

The January club meeting was replaced by the Fruit Jar Get-Together on Saturday, January 13 at the Signature Inn in Muncie in the second floor Conference Room. Club President Emeritus Norman Barnett opened the event and welcomed about 60 people in attendance (the room was full!). Dealer and Exhibitor packets were made available, so they could be picked up in advance to save time and effort for everyone on Sunday morning.

A "Thinking of You" card was passed around for Carolyn Kerr. Carolyn (and late husband Alex) has long been loved by the collecting community. We wish her the best!

The next topic was the rules for the auction following the get-together. If you want to put a reserve on an item the fee is: \$1 for a reserve of \$1-\$100; \$2 for a reserve of \$101-500; and \$3 for \$500+. Items could be placed in the auction as we went around the room for introductions and show and tell.

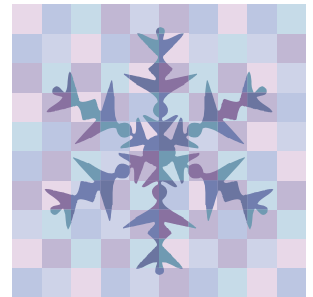
Tom Caniff was our first show and tell person. Tom displayed an SCA (sun-colored amethyst / light purple) PT, THE Brelle JAR. This jar is very scarce and was made circa 1914-1916 by Brelle Glass Co., San Jose, California. It is

interesting to note that Frank Brelle unsuccessfully tried to get the Ball Bros. Glass Mfg. Co. and Hemingray Glass Co. to make his jar.

Tom also showed a clear HP (unlisted), MASON (debossed) modern jar. This jar came as part of a jelly-making starter kit. It is similar in appearance to the modern Classico pasta sauce debossed Mason jars. This jar also says "not for microwave use" - a sign of a truly modern jar and quite a contrast to sit this jar next to one from the very early days! Tom also shared an aqua pickle jar: George R. Emerson, Connecticut.

Father Patrick Wilhelm's first jar was a very rare aqua QT, MASON'S (U.S. flag) STANDARD. There are only two of these jars known, and to everyone's surprise, Jim Sears brought his example of this jar and sat it beside Father Pat's! The jars have different base mould numbers (1 and 2) which would lead you to believe that several of these jars would have been made originally.

Father Pat also brought several newer and unlisted Quattro Stagioni (translates to "four seasons") clear jars. These were purchased on a trip to Toronto, Canada. Father Pat has not seen them



for sale at retail stores here in the U.S. The jar sizes ranged from 1/2 liter, 1 liter (different shapes), 1 1/2 liter. The jars take a Kerr-type American closure.

Joe Coulson was next and he displayed a previously unreported aqua QT, "Calypso" MASON (no lid and band, but closure is typical Mason Improved style). Joe purchased this jar from a dump digger in England (no items recovered from the dump dated later than 1910).

Joe also showed a clear HP (unlisted) with plain sides, but embossed on base: ROOT and some plant numbers. Joe wonders if this jar may have been made by the Root Glass Co. in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Joe also shared a couple of go-withs. The first was a copy of the book, "A Christmas Carol," privately printed by Ball Bros. in 1926. The book had a note inside from Ball Bros. indicating that it

Fruit Jar Get-Together, cont'd

was a give-away to employees for Christmas that year. Joe's second go-with was a copy of the Scientific American, April 28, 1866, which contained details about Illig and Neuberger's Fruit Can (patented April 11, 1865) and also Chrysler's fruit jar (patented Nov. 21, 1865).

Chuck Erb did not bring any jars for display, but he did donate two DVDs for the auction—with proceeds to go to the club. The first DVD covered the last Indianapolis fruit jar get-together in 1998. The second DVD contained camcorder footage from the club's first get-together in Muncie in 1999.

Jean Harbron displayed a very interesting little amber jar with a wooden jacket. Jean brought this jar on behalf of her sister, Wanda Yoder, who could not attend in person. It was interesting to note that such a small jar had such an elaborate wooden jacket and pail handle. The lid was embossed Phoenix Tea Bags, Hoosier Coffee Co.

Mike Jordan brought five Mason's Patent Nov. 30TH 1858 jars with the Hero Cross symbol. There were a variety of colors (approximately): aqua, amber, sun-colored amethyst, yellow green, and blue green.

Don Frazier told us an interesting story about a house fire that destroyed his multi-thousand dollar fruit jar collection. Don said that his insurance coverage with the Collectibles Insurance Agency fully paid for the loss. Don brought two plastic baggies full of jar closures that he

rescued from the burnt remains. This was put in the auction!

Dan Corker showed us some rare early jars with original closures: an aqua PT, J. C. Baker's Patent Aug 14 1860; aqua PT, The Chief; aqua PT, Eureka Patd Dec. 27th 1864; and an aqua PT, Star figure encircled by fruit.

Anne Szopa shared an amber 10 oz. bottle made by Ball Brothers. The bottle had pyro-glazed yellow and black labeling which read "Spike it you'll like it!"

Jeff Harper brought several hard to find Ball Refrigerator and Freezer jars with original metal screw caps. There were four different styles of caps. Jeff was also wearing a very nicely made t-shirt with a Ball Perfection advertisement on it. Jeff collects Ball jars and would love to find an example of this jar with the embossed patent dates.

Jeff also made an announcement about a new Internet website for Ball jar collectors: The Ball Jar Collector's Community Center (look at the back page of this newsletter for the link). Jeff showed an invitation (created by Michael Rutledge, also in attendance) printed on the Ball "Good Things" note cards. These were handed out during the weekend to those who were interested. The goal of the website is to get a photo of one of every Ball jar known! Please consider contributing your own photos for this effort.

Mike Keith displayed a set of Millville Atmospheric

Fruit Jars in a variety of sizes. Mike is an enthusiastic new collector from Millville, Indiana, and he is trying to get one of each of the known sizes of this jar. The jars he showed included a square shoulder QT, round shoulder QT, and three half gallons (72 and 80 oz. capacity).

Mike also showed a Ball Perfect Mason with disconnected underscore; and a sun-colored amethyst QT shoulder seal Ball Special.

Paul Haas teased us with his first jar to show, which was a 1 gallon jar (rare size) recovered from a circa 1870 pit in Lancaster, PA. As he pulled it out of the carrying box, he told us the jar was only missing three things: the lid, the band, and.... the bottom!

Paul also displayed an aqua PT, A. Stone & Co. with internal threads in neck for threaded glass stopper (#2 type). He showed us an aqua QT jar with a fancy AG monogram and wondered if it was European made?

Jim Sears brought an unusual light aqua MASON'S IMPROVED jar which had a ground mouth, and on the base: 3/4 Ltr. He is looking for more info on this jar.

Jim also shared some amazing colors of Mason's Patent Nov. 30TH 1858 jars with the Hero Cross symbol: yellow amber QT with cross on base; very dark teal HG; and a yellow amber HG. He brought these to add to the colorful Hero Cross jars that others were bringing for show and tell.

Joe Merkel mentioned to



*Joe Merkel shows us
one of many colorful
Mason's Patent
Nov. 30TH 1858
Hero Cross jars*



Fruit Jar Get-Together, cont'd

everyone that work is continuing on the Mason jar book (limited in scope to ground lip jars; collaborating with Jim Sears). Joe then proceeded to amaze us with a rainbow display of 14 different Mason's Patent Nov. 30TH 1858 Hero Cross jars: yellow, shades of amber, light cornflower blue, Ball blue, and olives!!

Randy Hoffman was next, and he continued the parade of wonderful colors of Mason's Patent Nov. 30TH 1858 Hero Cross jars: clear, cornflower blue, variety of olives, and amber!

Larry Munson displayed an unusual fruit jar ring box. This was labeled as "2-XL" Pints and was a smaller size box. This may be a new variety.

Greg Spurgeon displayed a wonderful olive green BUCKEYE jar with matching color lid! This jar has not been previously listed in this color. It was made circa 1860s by Adams & Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Tom Schumm showed us a sky blue HG, L & W XL jar with an unusual ramped closure (it is more common to see the groove ring wax seal closure). This jar was made circa early 1870s by Lorenz & Wightman in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Rick Lease brought an unreported jar. He recently discovered two examples of this jar: a clear HG, THE MASON TRADEMARK PAT'D IMPROVED. Rick also brought two other jars which he has linked to this rare jar by their mould characteristics! One of them was a clear HG,

THE "MASONS" IMPROVED.

Rick also shared a rare aqua QT, BROOKFIELD 55 FULTON ST N.Y. Rick has the clamp for this jar, but he is still looking for a lid.

Rick's last jar was a clear PT, PYRAMID (in slug plate circle). This scarce jar had a smooth lip, old style Lightning seal.

Leon Shores brought a couple of jars to show and then place in the auction. The first jar was an aqua PT Woodbury with an original product label for Sonome Sweet Pickled Figs. The second jar was a sun-colored amethyst QT, The Vacuum Seal Fruit Jar with an original cardboard disc closure!

Don Burkett was our last presenter. Don showed us the only known example of a clear QT, The Akron (reverse: MASON'S PATENT 1858).

Don's other jar was the other known example of THE MASON TRADEMARK PAT'D IMPROVED (the one that Rick discovered). Don made an interesting observation while showing this jar. He said that when a person first looks at the jar he was holding, they might say "this is a jar with 3 cracks in it", but Don was quick to offer his view: "this is a jar I don't have!"

The highlights of the auction included: the Woodbury PT with product label brought over \$200; a PINT STANDARD brought over \$100. The documentary DVDs of the 1998/1999 club shows brought \$20.

At the very end of the event Larry Munson made a special announcement to all who remained in attendance. Larry wanted to point out the great fellowship that takes place at our club show. It truly is a special event where people share with one another. Several other club members echoed the same sentiments that the show is about the people.

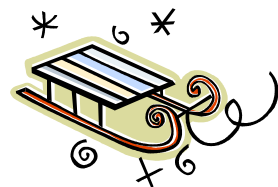
Larry also wanted to recognize his friend of many years, Rick Wheeler, with a special present (Rick's birthday is coming up). Larry gave Rick a jar that had been on his want list for a very long time—a Van Vliet Improved fruit jar!

The club has decided on program themes for our next two monthly club meetings. The February 4th meeting will be at Minnetrista—bring something that you purchased at the January Show, or bring a bottle or jar from your birth state or the state of one of your relatives.

The March 4th meeting will also be at Minnetrista—for this meeting bring a post WWII Ball jar, and Dick Cole will help identify what year and where it was manufactured.

See you all at the February meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary



*Jean Harbron
showed this
interesting little jar
with a wooden
jacket and bail
handle*



Pictures from our January Show



Greg Spurgeon displays a rare olive green BUCKEYE jar with matching color lid during the show and tell session.



Lou Ebert, Rick Lease, and Dave Rittenhouse examine the show and tell jars after the presenters were done, and before the auction.



Bob Dulong (from Canada!) shows a jar to a potential customer on Show day.



Mason Bright (from Michigan) discusses Ball jars with collectors on Show day.



Tom Sproat (Kentucky) looks over items on Jerry McCann's sales table on Show day.



Phyllis Pahlmann won the "Peoples Choice Award" with this colorful display of Elegant Stem Jellies.

Pictures from our January Show



This display by Joe Coulson, "Hemingray By The Numbers", explains how the unique font used for the numbers on the base of these wax seal jars identifies them as being made by the Hemingray Company. This display won the "Most Educational Award" for Joe.



Dick Cole displayed many well-preserved pieces of early Ball literature.



Perhaps no aspect of fruit jars exhibits more creativity and variety than the early closures. Norman Barnett displayed some of the most unusual ones.



Colleen Dixon showed a nice group of product jars and bottles for household use, foods and medicines.



Dave Rittenhouse won the "Dealers Choice Award" for showing these shipping cartons, which were made of wood, together with the jars that were originally packed into them.



Mike Mosier showed a nice variety of Fruit Jar Go-Withs.

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:

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Email: JCoulson@LeaderJar.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG

The next club meeting will be
Feb. 4th at Minnetrista in the
Cantina Room!



A sampling of the colorful Mason's Patent
Nov. 30TH 1858 jars with Hero Cross symbol
that were brought to show and tell.

Announcements

- The February 4th club meeting will be at Minnetrista at 1:30pm in the Cantina. Bring something that you purchased at the January Show, or bring a bottle or jar from your birth state or the state of one of your relatives. For directions or more information, email Dick Cole: dcole@minnetrista.net
- Doug Leybourne informed us that Red Book 10 has been delayed. Lori is helping him redo the book with the latest desktop publishing software. No new publishing date has been announced. You still have time to report unlisted jars and pricing information to him: Doug Leybourne, P.O. Box 5417, North Muskegon, MI 49445.
- Joe Coulson (your faithful newsletter editor) has started a project to obtain copies of all known back issues of the club's Glass Chatter newsletter that can be found. Joe will be publishing a list of the issues that have been collected so far. The greatest gap are those issues before 1993.
- The new Ball Jar Collector's Community Center website can be located at: <http://p067.ezboard.com/bballjarcollectorscommunitycenter>
- The FOHBC 2007 National show will be in Collinsville, IL, August 17 - 19, 2007 at the Gateway Center. The Holiday Inn is the host hotel. For contract or more information contact R. Wayne Lowry, 401 Johnston Ct., Raymore, MO 64083, 816-318-0161, JarDoctor@aol.com
- Jerry McCann was at the January Show distributing copies of the Fruit Jar Annual 2007. Copies are still available and can be ordered for \$35 postpaid: Jerry McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Ave., Chicago, IL 60630-1501.

