

HERITAGE NEWS & VIEWS

FALL 2016



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Glass Turtles and Bellows Flasks

By Dale Murschell

(Heritage Newsletter, February 1985 & 1989)

Glass Turtles

Another of the many glasshouse whimsies is the turtle. This is the one whimsey that has gotten kicked around for years. That's because it is supposed to be a door stop. They were made by the glass workers for use at home or for gifts. They are solid glass with a rounded top and a flat bottom. They are made upside down in an open mold with the head, feet and tail being pulled to their form from the molten glass. Supposedly the origin of these turtles was the fact that a glob of a new batch of glass had to be withdrawn from the furnace and placed in a rounded hollow container to inspect the glass. Since these globs were of no value, glass workers began pulling the glass, before it cooled, to form feet and a head making the glob look like a turtle when it was removed from its container.



Turtle pictures taken from [Glasshouse Whimsies](#)
by Joyce E. Blake.



Turtle Pictures taken from [Glasshouse Whimsies](#), An
Enhanced Reference by Joyce Blake & Dale Murschell

Naturally, to have these newly formed creatures last, they had to be placed in an oven for slow cooling. Since these turtles were about the size of your hand and weighed a couple of pounds, they were naturals for door stops. The most vulnerable part of the turtle is the feet which are generally protruding from the sides and get broken off easily. The workers at Gayner Glass got around this problem by keeping the feet under the turtle body. The neck can be straight out or pulled up as high as the back. Generally the older turtles are not very colorful compared to other whimsies.

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Turtles have been continuously made since the mid 1800's with the Clevenger Brothers examples being of many bright colors and a more elaborate style. The early color was mostly clear or aqua. Today's price range is between \$4 and \$30 depending on origin and condition. There are no more reports of any efforts to mass produce turtles. It is difficult to find an early turtle in perfect condition. They are one whimsy which still has a use today.

Bellows Flasks

A bottle, flask, or figural made in the form of a bellows is another Glass House Whimsy with its origin in Europe. Although there is no indication of a production effort of these flasks, they are quite popular and available. Producing these flasks in quantity would not have been cost effective because of the amount of applied work required. For this reason, these flasks must have been whimsies made by the glass workers during their own time in both Europe and somewhat in New England and New Jersey.

The shape resembles the form of hand-bellows as were once used at the dressing table for powdering hair. The concept of a bellows or a "blow bag" dates to the 11th century and they were called bellows from the 16th century on. The bellows had many uses in the home or industry. Whenever forced air was required glass workers took to making glass examples of these bellows in the early years and continued into the early 1900s. Very small examples were used to hold perfume on the dressing table. Larger examples, mounted vertically on a stemmed circular foot, would contain perfumed water which slowly evaporated, adding a pleasant scent to the room. Recent examples have been fitted with a cork as if to contain liquid refreshment.

Most examples are garnished with much applied glass work of loops, crimped edges, trailings, prunts, collars and ribbon like threading. Local examples are mostly aqua or clear, while the foreign examples have various Nailsea influences of colored glass, colored applied items, or of colored loopings.

Occasionally, one of these flasks will stand independently on the bellows handles, but most examples must be displayed on their side. The tops might be finished in a variety of fashions including unground stoppers, sheared or applied lip. The glass worker must have viewed the bellows flask as a real challenge to his ability with glass or why else would there be so many of these superfluous flasks?



Bellows Flasks: Aqua and Clear



Nailsea Flasks: 6 inch & 9 inch



Looping Flasks: White & Blue



Featured Display

If you haven't been in to see the new Blenko Glass display, you are really missing out on a special, one of kind, display of beautiful pieces. The Blenko pieces were a donation to the museum from Willard D. Hess of New Bern, N.C. and the estate of Mildred Brusco Costill of Clayton, N.J.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Heritage Glass Museum Annual Membership Meeting/Open House

Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
(Business Meeting at 12:45 pm and Presentation at 1:00 pm)

Special Guest Speakers: Jeff Vanaman and Richard Towne

Jeff and Richard will discuss their interest in Early Canning Jars and their collections

Place: Heritage Glass Museum
25 East High Street,
Glassboro, NJ
Phone: 856-589-4164

Refreshments will be served

Acquisitions (Since Spring 2016)

The museum trustees express sincere gratitude to the following contributors who recently made generous donations noted below:

- Pink depression glass footed cake plate, 1/2 pint Davis Dairy milk bottle, Clevenger Brothers paper-weight: donated by Maureen Reilley of Papano Beach, Florida in memory of her grandparents, Robert I. Reilley and Marion Walker Reilley of Glassboro.
- 18 Wheaton bottles, various colors: donated by Diana Pierce of Glassboro.

Did You Know?



Unlike some collector's items, old bottles and other glassware can be found in almost every part of the world. Though the word "archaeology" is not often applied to American and Canadian relics, North America has proved to be one of the richest hunting grounds for the amateur archaeologist. Actually, the types of sites found in this country are very similar, in origin at least, to those encountered in the classical world. In Syria, Greece, and Italy, the archaeologist explores so-called lost cities, the remains of towns and villages that have been unoccupied for two thousand years or more. In America, we call them ghost towns. The only essential differences are their ages, and the fact that New World sites are primarily located near surface level. (Heritage Newsletter, September 1982)

John Landis Mason, a native of Vineland, Cumberland County, helped change a nation's eating habits with the invention of the Mason jar in 1858. Since then, Mason's jars have been used, reused, and handed down from one generation to the next, enabling families to preserve canned fruits, vegetables and even fish and meat that taste fresher than those that were dried. (New Jersey Firsts, by Harry Armstong and Tom Wilk).



Heritage Glass Museum Business Supporters



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Glassboro, NJ 08028
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20 Warrick Avenue
Glassboro, NJ 08028
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www.wecom.com

Coming Events

“White Lace and Promises: Two Centuries of Weddings”- New Exhibit at the Gloucester County Historical Society Museum. Museum Hour: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1-4 p.m.; Last Sunday, 2-5 p.m.; First Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Unity Day at New Street Park October 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Boro in Lights (Tree Lighting): Friday, December 2, 6-9 p.m.

Heritage Glass Museum Annual Membership Meeting/Open House: Saturday, November 19, 11a.m.-3p.m. Guest Speakers, Jeff Vanaman and Richard Towne.

Civil War Day: Sunday, October 23, 12-4 p.m. Glassboro Historic West Jersey Depot

Trunk or Treat: Thursday, October 27 5:30-8 p.m. Glassboro Fire Department.

Help Wanted

The Heritage Glass Museum is always in need of members, volunteers, and/or trustees. You do not have to be an expert to help out in some way. It can be an excellent learning experience, as well as, a wonderful way of contributing to the community. Docent training is available to volunteers.

Trustee News

- The trustees extend their heartfelt sympathy to the family of former trustee Tim Sykes on his passing.
- The trustees’ annual outing was to the Gloucester County Historical Society Museum in Woodbury. The tour was very informative and enjoyed by all. Those that attended were Carol Schoepske, Linda Rudisill, Diana Pierce, Gene Costill, June and George Armstrong, and Richard and Evelyn Towne. Following the museum visit, lunch was at Charlie Brown’s Steakhouse.
- The trustees welcome our newest trustees, Richard and Evelyn Towne. Richard and Evelyn have been very helpful for the past few months and are a great addition to our board of trustees.
- The trustees continue to look for direct descendants of Col. Thomas Heston, The Whitneys, and the Stangers to be included in a future commemoration of their contributions to South Jersey glass and Glassboro. Please contact the museum.

Officers

President: Carol Schoepske
 Vice President: Gene Costill
 Treasurer: Eric Houghton
 Recording Secretary: Carol Lewis
 Corresponding Secretary: June Armstrong

Committee Chairpersons

Acquisitions: Chairperson, Rick Grenda
 Building: Chairperson, Eric Houghton
 Community Liaison: Diana Pierce
 Gift Shop: Chairperson, Linda Rudisill; Assistant, Carol Lewis
 Library: Rick Grenda
 Membership: June Armstrong
 Programs/Tours: Rick Grenda
 Publicity: Rick Grenda
 Newsletter: Chairperson, Carol Lewis; Assistants, Carol Schoepske, Linda Rudisill

New Members

Michael Fisher

Life Members

Trustees

Armstrong, June
 Costill, Gene
 Grenda Rick
 Houghton, Eric
 Lewis, Carol
 Pierce, Diana
 Rudisill, Linda
 Schoepske, Carol
 Towne, Evelyn
 Towne, Richard

Kephart, Mary (Emeritus)
 Kephart, Wilmer (Emeritus)
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**Heritage Glass Museum
25 East High Street
Glassboro, NJ 08028**

Would you like to become a Museum member? Do you know someone who enjoys preserving and enjoying glass history?

Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Check appropriate type: New _____ Renewal _____ Gift _____

Check membership selected:

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- _____ BUSINESS (\$75/year)
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**Make checks payable to:
HERITAGE GLASS MUSEUM and mail
check with this form to:
Treasurer, Heritage Glass Museum
25 East High Street
Glassboro, NJ 08028**

Signature: _____ Date: _____