



Volume 43 Issue 2

March-April, 2022

NEXT MEETING

When: April 9, 2022

Where: American Legion Hall

900 S. LaGrange Rd.

LaGrange, IL

AGENDA:

11:00 a.m. Start Time

3:00 p.m. Adjournment

Cost: \$10.00 pp.

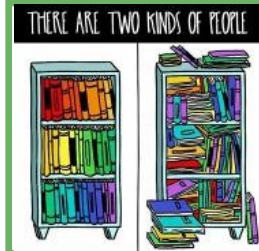
Don't let this be your last issue of *The Society Page*

ENCLOSED:

2022 Membership Form

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The Society Puts Our Books in Order

President's Comments ...

I hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day! There were many signs of Valentine's Day at our February 12 meeting. The meeting was attended by approximately 25 in-person members and about 6 members on Zoom, plus our guest speaker, **Maureen Becker**.



This was our first meeting with the new shortened hours – 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This worked out well. Our meeting featured another "picnic-style" lunch with members bringing their own lunch since we are not doing our usual shared lunch as yet.

We held our usual raffle with lovely prizes provided by **Ken Pakula**, our "Prize Guy," as well as our usual "What's It" with **Eddie and Neil Unger**, and **Ken Pakula**. I want to thank **Joanne Donovan** for pitching in to sell the raffle tickets since **Gail and Jim Crossen** were unable to attend in person. They were, however, on Zoom.

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Vice-President's Corner ...

Greetings Glass Club members!

As I reflect back on our February meeting, my heart remains full. It seemed to me that both programs generated great interest and attention.

Maureen Becker of Becker Estate Sales gave a presentation about her business along with some of her personal experiences running it. She was asked a good number of questions after her talk and a good number of people spoke with her after the meeting was over. I know Maureen has many stories she didn't share with us, but we did need to leave the Legion by 3pm!



continued on page 3 ...

... *President's comments continues*

Thanks to **Walt Kreitling** for handling the Zoom session once again. Due to a battery problem, Walter had to cut his portion short causing the loss of Zoom. Also, **Angela**, our Secretary, was taking minutes while on Zoom, so **Bev Kennett** picked up the "pen" and continued with the minutes in person. Thanks, Bev. See the final minutes for details on the raffle prizes.

Our program for the day was guest speaker, **Maureen Becker, Becker & Company, Estate and Moving Sale**, who provided interesting information regarding the estate sale business. We all learned something new from her program. For the second half of our program, members brought many items featuring the "Human Form," some a little on the naughty side, e.g., glassware with nude stems. This is a collectible subject. Some beautiful items were shown by a number of our members. Thanks to all who participated.

One of my jobs as president is to confirm the Committee Chairpersons for 2022. I would appreciate an email from our current Chairpersons letting me know whether or not you wish to continue in that position. Also, if others are interested in working as a Chairperson, or as a committee member, please let me know. Also, we need another member to fill the position of Member-at-Large.

Our Flea Market/Collectors Market is scheduled at the Legion Hall in La Grange on November 6. **Alice Ewert** will once again take the lead on this. As Alice mentioned, the hall has increased our rent and this will cause the table price to increase a bit. If you are interested in participating, please contact Alice. We will, of course, have more information on this event in the newsletter later on. We will be discussing the event at our upcoming Board Meeting on March 19, the week after our annual show. The legion hall did inform us that we won't be able to get in early in 2023 for set-up, so we will need to look for another location. More details to come.

Plans are being finalized for our 49th Annual Glass Show & Sale on the weekend of March 12 and 13, 2022, at The Concord Plaza Midwest Conference Center in Northlake, IL. **Silvano Brugioni** reported that we have great dealers signed up and I look forward to seeing everyone at the show. If you would like to volunteer for one of the positions that are available to help at the show, please contact **Nancy Lazaris**. I am sure that members will hear from Nancy. Please remember that we need your help to make this a successful show. Please consider volunteering for a little time to spend at the various locations where help is needed.

We are now actively looking for a new meeting location due to the many changes at the American Legion Hall in La Grange. We

need your help. If you know of any possible locations, please send an email to me with the information. Our requirements include main floor easy access, no stairs, adjoining parking lot, kitchen facilities for our use, including available ice machine, and a reasonable price.

Stay well and stay safe. See you at our show!

Jackie Alton,
President

49th Annual
Glass Show & Sale

Sponsored by the 20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois
Saturday, March 12th, 2022 - 10am to 5pm
Sunday, March 13th, 2022 - 11am to 4pm
Admission: \$10.00 per Person / \$9.00 with this card

*Specializing in: Depression,
Elegant, Carnival, Pattern, Art,
& Mid-Century Modern Glass,
Pottery & Utensils*

Mary Lou's Crystal Repair ♦ Door Prizes ♦ Glass Identification ♦ Reference Library

Location: **THE CONCORD PLAZA MIDWEST CONFERENCE CENTER**
401 West Lake Street, Northlake, IL 60164
Free parking and shuttle bus to front door

*For information or to be contacted in the event of an unforeseen cancellation,
please call or text 708-655-1702, or email brugioni@ameritech.net*

Visit us on Facebook, or our website at: 20-30-40glassociety.org








... Vice President's Corner continues

The second program of 'Celebrating The Human Figure' or 'Naughty and Nice Glassware' whichever you prefer, was absolutely intriguing. I'm not sure if it was the glassware or the presenters so I'm going to say it was the fabulous combination of both. Many thanks go out to **Ken Pakula, Kris Kammerer, Mary Kreitling, Mary Sue Lyon, and Neil and Eddie Unger** for their participation and sharing of such varied examples of glassware. It's not always so easy to pack up your glassware for display. It takes a lot of time and work. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Thank you to **Walt Kreitling** for his camera work and tech know how (and battery power) to make the presentations available to our Zoom participants. I mean, 2 years ago, who would have 'thunk' it?

Our April 9th meeting will feature two very different types of glass programs. Hocking's Colonial Knife and Fork in Pink will be one program and Gold-Trimmed Imperial pieces will be the other. I do hope you'll attend to not only learn a thing or two, but to support the club and visit with friends. It would be a delightful spring surprise to see some familiar faces that we have been missing.

Our June meeting will be held on **June 11th at Buck's Pit Stop restaurant in Hodgkins**. Buck's is very accessible, and the food never disappoints. Details and the luncheon order form will be in the next newsletter.

When you come to the glass show in March, stop by my booth and say howdy. And I will always entertain ideas for future glass presentations.

Signing off,
Joanne



H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth
circa 1931



The raffle prize at our 2022 Show & Sale will be a large set of the *Princess* pattern by **Hocking** in a regal Topaz yellow made from 1931 to 1935. While we can't be sure that Hocking had any specific princess in mind, this would be a great way to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II on her 70th Jubilee!



From your friendly, hardworking, Glass Show Chairman:

GLASS NEEDED!

Door prizes and New Member gifts for the March Show.

Please donate a piece of glass (or two) worth approximately \$20. Bring your donation to a board member before the Show or drop it off at the Midwest Conference Center during Friday's set-up.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to make the Show a success!

Silvano Brugioni



February 12th MEETING RECAP

Submitted by Angela McEntee, Secretary
& Beverly Kennett, Secretary Emeritus



Treasurer's Report: Beverly Kennett reported income of \$3,411.50 and disbursements of 1,927.04, leaving a balance in the checking account of \$3,381.53 as of February 9, 2022. The balance in the money market account is \$14,576.04.

Flea Market: Alice Ewert reported that the flea market will be held on Sunday, November 6th. She explained that the room rental rate has gone up. Therefore, we may need to increase the table rents in order to cover the cost. The executive board will consider options. Alice also reminded us that the board will be reviewing and updating the club's constitution and by-laws.

Unfinished Business: A member questioned if we would be paying a discounted rate for the rental of the Legion Hall when we hold our meetings, due to the fact that we are not using the kitchen facilities for our pot luck lunches. Board members clarified that we are paying less due to fact that we reduced the hours we are using the hall. Also, the kitchen is still open us, but it was the board's decision to have Bring Your Own Lunches instead of pot luck lunches due to the COVID restrictions in place. David Taylor also reminded members that our admission fees and raffle income have not been covering the rental rates for a while. There are also unseen expenses that the club pays every month, such as the cost of insurance and rental for the storage facility that houses our supplies and our library. These expenses have been depleting our bank accounts for several years, therefore meeting fees will not be reduced at this time. Joanne Donovan reminded us that she welcomes any ideas for new meeting venues.

Old Business:

New Business: The next Board Meeting will be held on Zoom on Saturday, March 19th.

Jim Larsen read a "Thank You" from Lana. She is grateful for all the cards and notes of encouragement. Jim says she is doing well with her treatments, she did not attend our meeting in order to quarantine for her health.

President's Report: No report.

Bette Bruce moved to close the meeting. Jeff Hayden seconded and the meeting was closed.

Presentation #1: Maureen Becker has been running her business, Becker Estate Sales for 32 years. She told us there are at least 150 companies in the Chicago area that run estate sales. She warned us to ask many questions if we use their services and be careful of scammers who will find ways to profit from selling your things without giving you your percentage of the profit. Maureen contracts for 40% of the profits from a sale, which is on the higher end of the average rate. Her rate takes into account her experience and her many contacts that help her price such a wide variety of items.

Maureen explained that the market has been changing over the years. Depression glass has not been as popular as it once was, but she has been starting to see some younger people looking for pieces to start collecting the glass. She confirmed what we all already know: mid-century modern pieces are quite popular right now.

What's It: Joanne brought in three pieces to be identified: a green Heisey octagonal candy dish, an amber Fostoria #2394 candleholder, and some stemware, thought to be from the 1970's-1990's, that was probably imported.

Raffle winners:

Jeff Hayden – Atlas, milk glass reticulated comport

Alice Ewert – green Cameo/Ballerina candy jar

Christina Rowinski – crystal Rosepoint oblong footed bowl

Nancy Skirsch – pink Fenton stretch glass bowl

David Taylor – pink Lancaster satin console set with painted decoration

Bev Popp – green Northwood opalescent Button Panel bowl



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIZE GUY

Holy Cow! I'm a SOX fan, but almost everyone can relate to Holy Cow as iterated by former Cardinal, Sox, and Cubs game announcer Harry Caray. Our VP, Joanne, gave me a heads up about the April 2022 programs. Holy Cow, what on earth will The Prize Guy be able to find for raffle prizes.

There will be two programs on opposite ends of the spectrum. Knife and Fork, very masculine in size and spirit. And gold trimmed Imperial Glass, which couldn't be more decidedly feminine. Ugh, what a challenge for The Prize Guy.

In my mind crystal and green Knife and Fork appear much more frequently than does the pink version. And thinking about gold trimmed Imperial Glass, well, ya' never see it because Alice Ewert has it all in her collections.

My hunt starts tomorrow! One element in my favor is the nearness of April Fool's Day to our next meeting date, April 9th. What do you suppose would happen if I just accumulated a collection of weird stuff? The trouble is that something weird to me, might be a favorite collectible to someone else. Hmmm, what to do?

Because after the past two years of limited and restricted shopping, The Prize Guy nooks and crannies are almost bare. There is a boxed set of Mac Beth-Evans Crystal Leaf tumblers, which I've had for a few years. That's the good news! The bad news is that a budding artist decorated the box with crayon scribbles. I also have a couple of large serving bowls, one from Cambridge and another from Tiffin. And then there's the unusual flower frog we found on our way home yesterday.

Well, it's a start anyway. And let's face it, I do have a month or six weeks to find a few more items. I promise to do my very best.

Be sure to mark your calendars right now with the date of the next society meeting, April 9th, 2022. You wouldn't want to be the only person to not see how The Prize Guy solves this dilemma. Until then, stay safe and happy junkin'!

Ken Pakula

A Glass Identification Library in Your Pocket

I'd like to share with you a useful tool that I recently learned about. You might find it handy when out hunting treasures. You've heard people describe things as "the best thing since sliced bread". Well, I'm not sure what I will tell you about is exactly that ... but on the other hand, how useful to you would a loaf of bread be in the middle of a thrift store?

I am likely a little slow to find out about what I'm going to tell you. If you already know about it, please turn the page and find something more useful to you. Ha! ... good luck with that. (smiling)

On a trip to Salvation Army, I found a few pieces of china that I was mildly curious about. In such situations, I have frequently pulled out my cellphone and gone to the Replacements site. I did just that on this occasion. I do a search using as much unique information as I can see about a piece of china or glass. It can take a while to scroll through all the possible matches that pop up. Sometimes this will pay off and provide you with an ID, and sometimes you have just wasted time.

On my recent look at Replacements, I noticed something that said, "Try our Identification Tool". To be honest, I'd seen this a couple of times before but ignored it. I assumed that the procedure would be to send them a picture of the item and then wait for days, or possibly weeks, for them to study it and maybe get back to you with information. That doesn't work when you are out junking. You are in a hurry to scurry through that store so you can move on to the next one on your list. On a whim, I thought I'd try it and pushed the little red camera icon. The next page offered a choice of china, glassware, or flatware. I chose china and was instructed to photograph the piece in question. Simple suggestions for a good photo were given. I did my best to photograph the plate as they wanted. Not easy in the aisle at the Army, it turns out. I sent the so-so picture and within seconds, Replacements sent their information ... a photo from their database that correctly matched my picture. It turns out that two companies used this design on their items, and they provided me with information about both. The site also identified an older piece of Noritake.

Back home, I tested a couple of glass stems that I had. One of them I knew but I wanted to see how they did with glass. I took a picture of a yellow water stem in the Tiffin Flanders pattern. I could not get a clear picture of the etch. The site responded with two choices of Tiffin etches on that stem in yellow. One of them was the correct Flanders. The program isn't perfect, but it's pretty impressive!

The Editor



AS SEEN BY NEIL

At the February meeting



Bev, wonders why that dang Tommy Dorsey song won't get out of her head.



Dick, wonders why Bev won't stop humming that dang Tommy Dorsey song.



Our guest presenter, Maureen Becker



Mary wonders if she still loves her Cupid Brocade. Yes, of course she does!

Mary Sue wonders why she dressed like her glass.



Ken wondered if he should talk about glass, or sing a dang Tommy Dorsey song. In the end, common sense prevailed and he presented some great glass.



A wonderful meeting full of wonderful people.





Bette gets lost in the joy of beautiful red glass



Alice gets lost in happy thoughts



Popeyes was the popular lunch of the day. Chicken nostalgia?



FYI, This will be your **last copy of The Society Page** if we do not have your **2022 membership renewal**. We'd love to have you continue to socialize with the Society!



Whispers from the Library



Nancy Lazaris is still looking for volunteers to fill some positions for the March show. If you are able to help, we really need you to make the days a success. Please contact Nancy to offer your support!



The Society offers thanks to the folks who have made it possible to connect members who are not able to attend meetings in person to our activities via ZOOM.
Bette Wittenberg for setting us up on ZOOM and sending the invitations.
Walt Kreitling for getting behind the camera and beaming 20-30-40 into the universe.
Greg Greenwald and Scott Knutson (founding, and currently only, members of our West Coast Chapter.) Greg and Scott took the reigns of ZOOM when Bette had to zoom away from the camera at the February meeting.

PLEXIGLAS

Not everything beautiful is made of glass.
There, I've said it.

~~GLASS~~ SHOW AND TELL

Loretta's Lovely Lamp

After seeing examples of depression glass lamps in the last issue of The Society Page, Loretta Schoppe was moved to share photos and information about a lamp that has long been near and dear to her. We are so happy that she did.

From Loretta:

In 1954, Loretta and her husband bought a house and needed furniture for their new home. While shopping at Harlem Furniture a special lamp made of Plexiglas caught her eye. There was a male and a female version of the lamp design. The lamps were expensive (see following article), so Loretta elected to purchase only the female of the pair. In addition to the unique design of this lamp, it has special features that might not be immediately obvious to the observer. The disc at the bottom can light up and serve as a nightlight. There is also a switch that causes the female figurine to spin when activated.

Loretta's lamp is in pristine working condition, with one exception. An attempt to wash the original shade with water caused it to fall apart. Years later, she ran across an article that clued her in to the type of lamp that she had. It was made by MOSS! The article also included information about the danger of washing the shades. Sadly, too late. Loretta says that surprisingly, the lamp is not frequently commented on by visitors to her home.



So that's what he looks like! The "Bali Dancer" and her drum-playing companion feel the beat on #XT 831. (Judging by the rather generic detail, these are the Decovase kits, rather than Yone, versions of the "Bali" pair.) Each, 2' 10-1/2" h. Courtesy of Joe Anthony and Marie Christine Lendick

The same "Bali" figures, as interpreted by Yone, on another #XT 831 pair. Courtesy of Joe Anthony and Marie Christine Lendick



On a cold and snowy day in the 1950s, Loretta's fanciful lamp sits in the front window and sheds light and cheer on the neighborhood.

In the photo at left, both "Bali Dancer" lamps can be seen with the original shades. A variation is shown on the right.

The Editor thinks Loretta chose a very good replacement shade ... it works well with that great finial.

Learn more about MOSS LAMPS in the following pages.

After seeing Loretta's wonderful Moss Lamp, I was interested to learn more about this type of lamp and the company that made them. A little searching online brought me to this great article full of information. I contacted the source ... **Journal of Antiques & Collectibles** (<https://journalofantiques.com>) and was very generously and graciously granted permission to reprint for our readers. Thank you very much! I understand that their April issue will be concentrated on glass, so you might want to check it out.

As collectors, I hope and believe you will all enjoy this information. But I have to be honest ... it's mostly for Loretta. Enjoy this information and your lamp, Loretta! We'll just read along over your shoulder. Editor

Moss: The Lamps That Spin

Once seen, never forgotten – that's a Moss lamp! These Plexiglas marvels first cast their unique glow on households of the 1950s, and have delighted collectors ever since. Perhaps that's because there's such a variety to choose from. Many Moss lamps come equipped with spinning figurines and spun glass shades. Others incorporate clocks, radios, music boxes, fountains, and even intercoms into their design. For the truly adventurous, there are Moss room divider, Moss coffee tables, Moss wall plaques, cigarette lighters, bars and aquariums. Each lights up, each uses Plexiglas(r) as its primary material – and each is, as a 1958 Moss ad boasted, “truly a conversation piece.”



Moss lamps were a product born of necessity. In 1937, Gerald “Gerry” Moss founded San Francisco's Moss Manufacturing Company, after previous experience as a lamp wholesaler. When the wholesale building burnt down, Mr. Moss had two options: go into manufacturing, or go out of business. He chose the former.

The first Moss lamps were traditional ones, metal-stemmed with fabric shades, intended to blend into, rather than dominate, home decor. Then, World War II intervened. With steel at a premium, luxuries such as metal lamps were given low priority. Forced to come up with a new raw material for the company's products, Gerry Moss turned to staff designer Duke Smith. Smith had the answer: Plexiglas.

Dubbed “plastic” in the Moss literature, Plexiglas (“plexi”) was an acrylic product developed in 1934 by the Rohm & Haas Company. For Moss Manufacturing, Plexiglas had several points in its favor: it was inexpensive, no other company was using it – and most importantly, Plexiglas was not rationed. Lamp production at Moss could continue, although now with an entirely new focus.

As quickly as Plexiglas replaced metal, modern lamp stylings at Moss replaced traditional ones. Since Plexiglas could be cut and assembled in ways metal could not, Duke Smith took full advantage of this adaptability. In his work, angled plexi pieces not only form the lamp bodies, but also jut out in every direction imaginable. Smith's designs are excitingly original – but there was more to come.

Encouraged by postwar sales of Plexiglas lamps, Gerry Moss knew that all his company needed for even greater success was a driving force, capable of working with, and inspiring, staff designers. And what better choice than his wife, the energetic and creative Thelma Moss? By 1950, Mrs. Moss was already an established entrepreneur, owning sixteen Mode O'Day women's wear shops throughout California.

Contemporaries recall Thelma Moss as a dynamo. Noted one, “her mind could go in one hundred different directions at the same time.” Working closely with talented designers Duke Smith, and later John Disney, Mrs. Moss let her imagination run rampant – and what Thelma imagined, her designers brought to life.

As stylish and colorful as her lamps, Thelma Moss made the most of every new opportunity. Noting the attention attracted when she made Moss factory rounds accompanied by her poodle, Terry, she soon incorporated him (decked out in horn-rimmed glasses) into company promotional photos. When a plexi champagne fountain, designed for the 1956 wedding of her daughter Carol, proved a hit, fountain lamps quickly joined the Moss line. Thelma's ingenuity, coupled with Gerry's merchandising know-how, even led to Moss sponsorship of an early '50s TV show, “Stairway to Stardom,” with contestants and celebrity guests ranging from Rudy Vallee to Hilo Hattie, receiving Moss plexi products for their participation.

A major reason for the continuing popularity of Moss lamps is their unique style; even for the fabulous '50s, the Moss line bordered on the extreme. Faced with this unusual approach to home lighting, other lamp manufacturers of the period were somewhat bemused. Says Sid Bass of Rembrandt Lamps, “when they first came out, we laughed and said ‘that isn't going to go.’ But we were wrong.”



Moss lamps were sold primarily through furniture dealers, with new models introduced at each season's market shows. Dealers would order from a prototype, with actual production then based on the number of orders placed. If a particular model attracted no orders, it was either revamped for a future show, or sold as one-of-a-kind. That production flexibility means that there are well over 1,000 different models in the complete Moss inventory. Fortunately, many of these were captured in photos taken for assembly purposes. While some may never be seen again, others proved very popular. #2293 for instance, a fluorescent-tubed floor lamp dubbed the "Leaning Lena" because of its angled stem, was a best-seller. Because "Lena" remained part of the Moss line for every year of production, examples turn up frequently on today's secondary market.

Moss lamps were expensive for their time. Original table lamp prices ranged from \$29.95 to \$79.95, with floor lamps averaging \$120-150. By comparison, high-end designer lamps by other companies were being advertised at "\$40 the pair". Still, despite their pricetags, Moss lamps proved popular. Previously, furniture dealers had to sweeten customer deals on expensive items, such as sofas, by "throwing in" lamps or other accent pieces. With Moss, that tradition went out the window. As one dealer remarked in a letter to the company, "with your lamps, we usually end up throwing in the sofa!"

As a general rule, collectors can be quite confident that if a lamp is made of Plexiglas, it was made by Moss. Other extravagant lamp designs of the 1950s utilized plaster, wood, and metal, but when it came to Plexiglas, Moss had the field to itself. In fact, by the early 1950s Moss Manufacturing was the largest user of Rohm & Haas Plexiglas in the United States.

Unfortunately, there is no standard identification marking on a Moss lamp. While many bear a "Moss Mfg." stamp on the base interior, others do not, and original Moss hang tags were, in most cases, removed long ago. Junction boxes on lamp motors designated for sale in California carried the Moss I.D., as required by law, but this was not always the case with lamps intended for sale in other states. However, those seeking other surefire Moss indicators are in luck. Besides the company's distinctive use of Plexiglas, there are additional clues – starting right at the top.

Shades:



Although Moss also made use of fabric shades, those of "spun glass" were a company trademark. No other manufacturer was able to duplicate the Moss spun glass shade, and the company guarded its shade formula closely. Ingredients were ordered from different suppliers and combined secretly at the Moss factory. Spun glass is much like the "angel hair" used in holiday decorating. Workers would place spun glass in sheet metal shade molds, then coat it with the Moss secret adhesive formula to create a hard shell. After curing, says Jerry Slater, former Moss General Manager, completed shades would "pop right out like cookies from a pan." Because spun glass was surprisingly lightweight, it was possible to create oversize shades with little interior support. Some Moss floor lamps have shades that are nearly 30 inches square. An added benefit: the consistency of spun glass is such that light filters through the shade, casting an attractive glow on the lamp and its surroundings.



Spinners:

Mention "Moss Lamps" and you may get a puzzled reaction. Mention "the lamps that spin" and recognition dawns. Although not all Moss lamps feature figurines on rotating platforms, those that do leave a lasting impression. And, like the spun glass shades and Plexiglas bodies, rotating figurines are a Moss-only trademark. Moss lamps produced during, and just after, World War II were non-figural Plexiglas. With the 1950 arrival of Thelma Moss and John Disney, platforms with hidden motors were incorporated into the lamps, and ceramic figurines, with pins running up through their bases, were attached to the platforms. When the correct switch was thrown, each figure began its sedate spin.

For the most part, the figurines used on Moss lamps were by design houses noted in their own right: Hedi Schoop, deLee Art, Ceramic Arts Studio, Lefton, Yona, Dorothy Kindell, Johanna, and Decoramic Kilns figures all make appearances on Moss lamps.



Plexiglas means Moss, spun glass shades mean Moss, figurines often mean Moss-but perhaps more than any other indicator, this one holds true: if it spins, it's definitely Moss. As Moss spinner lamps increased in popularity, the firm's designers moved on to the next question: if a lamp could spin, what else could it do? The answer was "just about anything." Beginning in the mid-1950s, there were Moss Music Box Lamps, each featuring a "Golden Tone Music Box." A pull of the chain, and tinkling standards of the day delighted the listener. Moss radio lamps kept entertainment close at hand, and intercom lamps provided room-to-room communication. Clock lamps ranged from clock table lamps to clock room dividers, grandfather clock lamps, and even a clock coffee table.

Bursting with ingenuity, the Moss designers also came up with fountains, waterwheels, and aquariums, each equipped with its own functioning Moss lamp. The wonders reached their zenith with the "Fish Tank Bar", which combined the functions of a lamp, aquarium, and bar, all in one unit. Originally retailing for \$199.75, the "Fish Tank Bar" can, if hooked today, net more than \$2,400.



Vintage Moss lamps are now in their golden years, and with age comes attendant problems. Most common among these are yellowy Plexiglas (the result of too many smoke-filled evenings in 1950s living rooms), drooping, shaggy, shades, and spun-out spin motors.

Fortunately, there are relatively easy remedies, which can in many cases restore a Moss lamp to its showroom luster.

For discolored Plexiglas, the solution is simply to apply a mixture of mild soap and water with a soft cloth. If the film proves stubborn, alternate wiping with a damp cloth, then a dry cloth, and keep repeating until the surface shines. Do not use any abrasives, as they will scratch the Plexiglas, or glass cleaners containing ammonia or alcohol, as these will eventually craze or cloud the surface.

As for Moss spun glass shades, many now look in desperate need of a haircut. Prolonged exposure to bulb heat over the years has caused the spun glass fibers to come loose from the adhesive. Some collectors recommend a brush application of water-based glue or acrylic gel medium. Others report success with a hand-smoothed application of spray starch.

For noisy or non-functioning spinner motors, original Moss replacements are unfortunately no longer readily available. The best option here is to check at a clock shop for similar motors, which often prove workable substitutes. Attention to restoration and repair will not only add to a lamp's value, but will also present it in its best light-as a brilliant design icon of an earlier age.



After World War II, in the invigorating anything-goes world of modern design, Moss lamps fit right in. But as the 1950s edged into the 1960s, and unified decor schemes became popular, consumer interest shifted to lamps that were lamps, rather than "conversation pieces." A 6-foot Plexiglas floor lamp decked out with a 30-inch spun glass shade and a spinning figurine was no longer the ideal addition to a suburban home. It just didn't blend. Moss tried to recapture public interest in the mid-1960s with its Tami line of traditional ceramic-based lamps, but by 1968 buyers were in short supply. Lamp production ceased, and Moss Manufacturing became Moss Lighting, a successful distributor of European fine lamps. Gerry Moss died in 1992, and Moss Lighting remained open until the retirement of Thelma Moss in 1997.

Today, the bold design choices and whimsical charm of Moss lamps continue to attract collectors and inspire modern designers. Although admittedly not for every décor, in the right environment Moss lamps are just as the ads promised – sure-fire conversation pieces! Moss lamps have even become part of pop culture, providing background atmosphere in such films as "From Here To Eternity" and "To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar." For the lamps that spin, popular taste has spun full circle.

Donald-Brian Johnson (text) and Leslie Piña (photos) are co-authors of numerous books on mid-twentieth century design, including "Moss Lamps: Lighting the '50s."

Does this look like a scene from your life?

Books are wonderful things and we love them, but they can quickly take over your life if not well contained. I know of what I speak. Luckily, our American glass companies made creative bookends to help us get them under control. Sadly, they were designed at a time when books tended to be smaller. Did people not have as much to say back then? These stylish little chunks of glass would be very challenged to hold a row of today's larger books. Think of those "coffee table books". If you put legs on some of those, they could BE the coffee table. With the exception of books like the small Hazel Marie Weatherman book, they are not up to the task of most larger glass research books ... and that is why we need them so much. Imagine two cute little smooth-bottomed pieces of glass trying to support your entire collection of Gene Florence.



As with lamps, I don't know of a single book identifying and documenting all the various bookends that were made to organize books. Ironic? Therefore I am not well-read on this topic and we will be forced to accept the identifications that accompany pictures for some of these finds. Many however, are pretty well known and of agreed upon origin. Viking applied a clear label that didn't really stand out. Many of their items still have that label attached.

A flock of birds to choose from



Cambridge Pouter Pidgeon



Cambridge Eagles



Fostoria Eagles



Viking Owls

Dogs (even glass) are man's best friend. Which of these would you take home from the pound?



Cambridge Scottish Terrier



Scottie, Mosser for NCC 1999



New Martinsville German Shephards



New Martinsville Viking Wolfhound/Borzoi



Viking Bassett Hound



Viking Yorkie/Shi Tzu

The cats, sort of



Cambridge Lions



Viking Lions



Viking Tigers

There are some very nice horses bookends. Some companies made similar designs. The “rearing” horses have differences in the manes and hollowness of the base that help in identification.



I believe one set is Fostoria and one is New Martinsville. Without seeing them, I hesitate to go on record.



Dalzell Viking



Westmoreland?



Federal



Fostoria Zebras



Unidentified—but aren’t they wonderful?



L.E. Smith jumpers

A few more notable examples



Dalzell Viking Buffalo/Bison



Heisey Angelfish



Tiffin Burmese



Paden City



Fostoria Elephants



Imperial Lenox Cathay



Tiffin Clipper Ship



Viking Hippo

2022 SOCIETY CALENDAR

April 9.....Meeting at American Legion

PLEASE BRING A BAG LUNCH AND MASK

June 11 Buck's Pit Stop, Hodgkins

August 6..... Meeting at American Legion

October 8.....Meeting at American Legion

BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

January 15, 2022

March 19, 2022

May 7, 2022

September 17, 2022

October 29, 2022

Location planned for ZOOM at this time

SUNSHINE DEPARTMENT

If you know of one of our members who is ill, has had a loved one pass or just needs cheering up, please contact Christine Moran.

1. Email me at cdm1951@sbcglobal.net
2. Text me at 630 202-0129

PLEASE NOTE—Members should NOT call my home with messages as I will not receive them.

NEWSLETTER CONCERNS?

Contact the newsletter committee ...

Christine Moran -Newsletter Distribution-U.S. Mail

Bette Wittenberg-Newsletter Distribution-Email

Address Change?-Sally Cousineau

To offer content-David Taylor, Editor

Loretta Schoppe is still recuperating and would probably appreciate words of encouragement from our members.

Longtime former member, Jeanne Lehner was discharged from the hospital on February 13th. She has been undergoing many lung issues and really misses all of us and attending our meetings. Please send Jeanne some kind words of cheer. If you need her address, contact the Sunshine person, Christine Moran at cdm1951@sbcglobal.net or text at 630 202-0129.

Lana Larsen enjoys the cards that she receives as she continues her treatments. She says the cards and thoughts make the hard days a little better.

Fads come and go. Frankly some of them don't go quickly enough. Maybe you have heard of (or partaken in) activities like flagpole sitting, goldfish swallowing, or seeing how many people could stuff in a phone booth. Thankfully those fads have faded away. Well, so have phone booths, so that one was inevitable. It seems that we are at the dawning of a new fad ... one that I can strongly endorse. The displaying of our beautiful American-made glass in public libraries seems, somehow, to just feel right. You will recall that in the previous Society Page we saw that Joanne Donovan and Judy O' Brien represented the club with a gorgeous display at the Indian Prairie Library. We will now see evidence that this wonderful pairing of libraries and glass may be the new rage. This, of course, is a good thing.

FOSTORIA ON DISPLAY AT AURORA LIBRARY by Mary Kreitling

The Mid-West Early American Pressed Glass Club, located in Aurora, Illinois, was formed in 1933. Since February of 1946, the club has supplied rotating exhibits at the Main Aurora Public Library in a beautiful glass display case on the third floor of the library. The library committee changes out the exhibits every three months, using collections from the membership. The collection doesn't have to be EAPG or even glass, since members' collections cover all areas of antiques and collectibles.

A few years ago, I was asked to do a program for the club on a topic of my choice. Of course, I chose to speak about Fostoria, and specifically Fostoria stemware. After the program, the stemware was installed in the display case at the library. And I decided to join the club.

In January, the Library Exhibit Case Committee was in need of an idea for the next display. I volunteered to help and gathered up 25 Fostoria candy boxes from all around the house (I had no idea I had that many!). The candy boxes are now on display until early April. I don't think many of you live out here in the Western suburban boonies, but if you are in the area, stop by to see the display. It covers candy boxes from 1913 up to 1983, and many of the Fostoria colors are represented. My hope is that viewers will see something they like in the case and start collecting Fostoria glass!





20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois
The Society Page
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Website: WWW.20-30-40glassociety.org
Library: WWW.librarything.com/catalog/20s30s40s
Facebook: WWW.facebook.com/203040gsofil

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The purpose of the society is to gain more knowledge of the American glassware of the 1920's, 30's, and 40's and to further the preservation and pleasure of collecting glassware

TO -

We're on the web!

20-30-40Glassociety.org

ENCLOSED:
2022 Membership Form
Come Join Us!



2022 STRETCH OUT DISCUSSIONS

Discussions will begin at 8 pm Eastern, 7 Central, 6 Mountain & 5 Pacific Time.

All are welcome to join the Zoom meetings

The Discussions will now be conducted on the interactive Zoom platform.

The Zoom invitation and photos of the stretch glass being discussed will be available at

www.stretchglassociety.org

Come share in the discussion and show your stretch glass.

The speakers for our discussions are Kitty and Russell Umbraco, Dave Shetlar, Cal Hackeman, and Sarah Plummer.

January 13, 2022 Unique and special Purpose Items

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9196004533?pwd=aFJ5WkppcF16SXZDTU1Oa3ZjTzk4QT09>

March 10, 2022 Show and Tell - Candlesticks

May 12, 2022 Colors of stretch glass in late Period

September 8, 2022 Show and Tell - Wisteria, purple & amethyst stretch glass

November 10, 2022 Overall Enamel Decorated Pieces

Further information is available on our email: info@stretchglassociety.org