

# Czech Collectors Association



Fall Newsletter  
October 2008

## The Ingrid Brand – Sculpture in Glass

By  
Deborah Truitt

“Ingrid” is the name of a series of artistic pressed glass items made by Henry Schlevogt and named for his daughter. Henry was the son of Curt Schlevogt, who around 1900 founded a firm in Jablonec (Gablonz) to produce glass beads and buttons. Henry’s wife, Charlotte, was the daughter of Heinrich Hoffmann, the owner of a glass company that made and exported sculptures, beads and hollow-ware.

Henry began his career as a trade representative for A. Sachse & Company, first in Venice and later in New York City. From 1927 to 1930, he worked in his father-in-law’s firm where he was involved in the development of new products, including glass sculptures in the style that Lalique was making popular. When Charlotte died shortly after giving birth to their daughter, he decided to move into his father’s firm.

But Henry knew that the “beads and buttons” business was a difficult one. And this was the time of the Great Depression. He knew he had to find something unique that customers could and would buy from him alone. In a letter to his daughter written in 1945, Henry explained that his experience in other countries guided him to create items in such a beautiful material that the price wouldn’t matter.

At the Spring Trade Fair in Leipzig in 1934, the Schlevogt firm introduced a line of ornamental crystal sculptures, and the same year presented the line at the Chicago World’s Fair. The “Ingrid” brand was born. It was well received and Schlevogt began producing it on a large scale.

Schlevogt wrote: “I told myself that artists used marble for their sculptures; we should make marble out of glass. And we should get the designs for this marble-glass from sculptors.” He reached out to designers working with the Wiener Werkstätte (including Franz Hagenauer, Ena Rottenberg, and Vally Wieselthier) and to designers who worked for other major glass firms, such as Bruno Mauder (Moser), Eleon(or) von Rommel (Lobmeyr), and Alexander Pfohl (Josephinenhütte and the Glass School in Nový Bor). The result was a complete line of ornamental sculptures, perfumes with figural daubers and/or impressed stoppers, liquor sets, toilet sets, devotional items, figurines, table ware and vases.



1) “Small Grape Harvest” (12.5 cm) in jade marbled glass, designed by František Pazourek around 1935. Pazourek graduated from the Kamenický Šenov School of Glassmaking and the College of Applied Arts in Prague. He was the head of Heinrich Hoffmann’s molded-glass studio from 1929-1931. This shape has been in continuous production at the Riedel factory; new colors were added in the 1950s.

The technology existed at the Riedel glassworks in Polubný for making this artistic, marbled, pressed glass. Just because the shape was pressed, did not mean that it was of inferior quality – the glass was pure and there was plenty of hand-work to finish the items. Workers ground out the mold marks and frosted or polished the surfaces. They even engraved some of the details.

The 1939 catalog shows over 200 crystal and another 80 jade/lapis items. Most readily identifiable of Schlevogt’s items are those made of jade (green) and lapis (blue) marbled glass. Collectors need to be cautious, however, since other firms made items of similar material that are now being called “Ingrid.” In addition, unauthorized versions of Ingrid items have been made from reverse-engineered molds.

At times, it can be difficult to distinguish between items made by the Hoffmann and Schlevogt firms. They both used the same designers and had their glass pressed at the Riedel factory; Henry Schlevogt had started to develop some of his ideas while he worked at the Hoffmann firm; Schlevogt took ownership of some of these molds. While Hoffmann is known for his butterfly mark, Schlevogt (and other firms) bought Hoffmann molds (including the butterfly mark) when the Hoffmann firm went out of business in 1939.

When the Czechoslovak pavilion won a Grand Prize at the 1937 Paris World’s Fair, Schlevogt’s ornamental sculptures by Ena Rottenberg (“Nude”) and Josef Bernhard (“Mask”) were part of the reason. By 1940, the Schlevogt firm owned over 1300 glass molds, coin molds and hand presses. It had its own cutting, sand-blasting, and acid-etching workshops. Henry Schlevogt had achieved his goal of creating a successful business enterprise.

2) The sculpture “Mask” (37 cm), designed by Joseph Bernhard (Munich), won a Grand Prize for Schlevogt as part of the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the 1937 Paris Exhibition. [Photo: Susan Via.]



The Czechoslovak government nationalized the glass industry after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and sentenced Henry Schlevogt to prison in Siberia. A national administrator, Eduard Dressler, took over business operations. Schlevogt was released in 1948, but banished. He took his family first to Austria; then accepted an offer to manage the glassworks in Romilly-sur-Andelle, France. He sold this firm in 1972 and died in Paris in 1984. Ingrid Schlevogt still lives in Paris.

3) Scent bottles and atomizers from the Ingrid line are very collectible. This is one design from Schlevogt's 1939 catalog. Schlevogt used jade and lapis marbled glass, as well as crystal, for many of the designs.



The former Riedel factory in Czechoslovakia went through administrative changes imposed by the government. The Ingrid molds located at the factory continued to be used. New colors were introduced, including yellow, amethyst, pale blue, and pale green (these were not marbled). Interestingly, during the rebuilding years of the 1940s and early 1950s, raw materials for glassmaking were inconsistent in quality. The result was some "rare" colors because quality standards could not be maintained.

In 1990, the Czech government started the processes of restitution and privatization. The centralized glass industry was divided into smaller units and sold. In 1993, Ornela Co., Ltd. bought some of the units that had formerly belonged to Riedel; this included the Ingrid molds. Production of Ingrid items continues today at the factory in Desná. [See [www.desna-glass.cz](http://www.desna-glass.cz).] The firm sandblasts "Desná" on its current production.

[I have located and photographed 5 catalogs from the Schlevogt company. In addition, I have 2 catalogs created after 1945. The website [pressglas-korrespondenz.de](http://pressglas-korrespondenz.de) has published some catalog pages, along with many articles comparing Schlevogt pieces with others. Knowledgeable people in Europe are planning to publish a book sometime around 2010.]



4) Vanity set with a floral design, made of jade marbled glass. The same base had a variety of tops, including several stoppers and a candlestick. Other items in the set included a powder box, brushes, mirror, trays and a vase. These appeared in Schlevogt's 1935 catalog.



5) The Ingrid line included devotional items such as figurines, molded plaques, and crosses. Subjects included the Madonna, Jesus as a baby and a man, and saints. These molded plaques (11 cm) are two of many devotional items designed by Ida Schwetz-Lehmann (Vienna); they appeared in Schlevogt's 1939 catalog. The Bohemia Crystal label indicates this particular piece was made after 1950.

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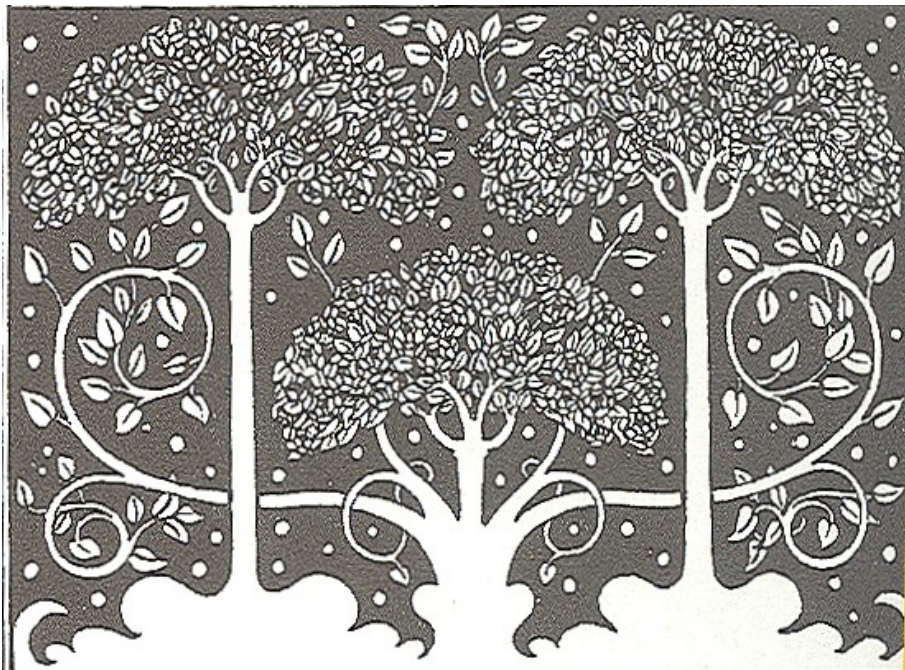
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## *Letter from the CCA President*

Dear fellow CCA members,

It is hard to believe we are already into the second year of my term as President. This year has been a busy one and we can all be proud of what has been accomplished by our Association.

Our 2008 Convention Committee pulled off another successful Convention with six excellent Speaker Presentations, three informative Mini-Sessions, an extremely well attended and interactive Annual Meeting, an excellent Show and Auction and lots of time for socializing, good food and entertainment. Next year's Convention is booked for June 4th through the 7th at the Opryland Radisson Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. There is still a lot to see and do in Nashville!

Throughout the Convention, and at the meeting, members provided valuable suggestions for the future of our Club and the Convention

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, June 13, 2008. At that time the membership passed our new By-Laws that can be seen on the CCA web site [www.czechcollectors.org](http://www.czechcollectors.org). If you would like a copy mailed or emailed to you, please contact our Secretary, Jorie Martinez. We thanked our outgoing Board members for their dedicated service to our organization – Patti Ferguson, Arlene Larke and Mary Gawle and welcomed our enthusiastic incoming members Donna Leventhal, David Phelps and Jorie Martinez. The new Board members will stand for a two-year term. This year, they will join Karl Lagler and myself to complete our five members Board of Directors. Contact information can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As you will see, our Newsletter is taking on some new formats thanks to Jorie as well as great member input. Amy is thankful that she will have more time to dedicate to the web site now that she has passed her Newsletter responsibilities on to Jorie. The site has already been updated. Please contact Amy with photographs and/or new information. Our Newsletter and web site should provide more than just Convention updates. Help us by submitting your own ideas and information.

If you know member information that should be shared, please contact our Membership Director, Donna Leventhal.

This year our Publicity Director, Arlene Larke, worked closely with the Board and the Convention Committee to connect with many state, national and international organizations which subsequently published information about our Czech Collectors Association and our 2008 Convention, as well as many excellent member written articles to enlighten the world about the ABC's. If you have an article or an idea for an article, please contact David Phelps. He can direct you to someone who will help you organize, edit and proof your document.

Finally, we are all saddened by the death of David Druse. It is hard to imagine a Convention without him.

All the best to all of you for the rest of 2008 and the New Year.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Macmillan

CCA Financial Report – September 30, 2008

Beginning Balance		\$13,376.03
Income:		
Dues & Convention	\$9,510.00	
Table Rent	105.00	
Silent Auction	720.00	
Auction Commission	597.87	
Miscellaneous Income	<u>167.49</u>	
Total Income:		\$11,100.36
Expenses:		
Convention	\$7,982.26	
Printing	1,044.85	
Membership	424.32	
Postage & Mailing	426.29	
Opryland	339.30	
Speaker Honorarium	100.00	
Board of Directors Expense	148.12	
Web Hosting	<u>155.00</u>	
Total Expenses:		\$10,620.14
Balance as of 9/30/2008		<u><u>\$13,856.25</u></u>

Submitted by,  
Karl Lagler, Treasurer

First Person Narrative by Bonnie Pabian

Hi Mary(Gawle),

I was in NYC in September and met Libby who took me to lunch at Sardies and this got me to thinking how I first met Libby, First convention in Kansas City in 1996. A bunch of us were sitting around a large table eating dinner and getting acquainted. Burt Smith, Ardyth Sanders, the 3 sisters and me and others were part of the group. All of a sudden this lady starts choking and we all just sat there and stared at her. A man from the next table did the Heimlich Maneuver on her and got her breathing. This was Libby. She said don't tell (Charlie her son), and I don't know if she ever did or not. Been friends ever since.

Love, Bonnie

**Welcome new CCA Members!**

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Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center  
250 W. Fairground Road  
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A special belated thank you goes to Silver Sponsor Mary Gawle, who joins nine (9) other Silver Sponsors and one (1) Gold Sponsor (names listed in the CCA Newsletter March 2008).

Donna Leventhal, Membership Director

*Martha saw our convention advertising in Tennessee and phoned me. She became a member and drove from Memphis to Nashville to attend the convention.*

*Sandra*

Dear Sandra:

Thank you for all you did in planning the CCA Convention. It was great! I really learned a lot. I knew I liked Royal Dux and I had a piece or two of Amphora but I didn't realize how much more is out there.

I am so happy with the Royal Dux pair that I got from you. I'm glad you mentioned the mantle. That is where I put them.

Your enthusiasm and plans made everything go like clockwork. I learned so much and I want to learn more. Thank you for encouraging me to come. Everyone really made me feel welcome.

Sincerely  
Martha Tibbs

## “Travels with your CCA Members”

### An Antiquing Guide to America

By David Fein of South Beach Antiques

Hello CCA members,

After reading, and writing for the CCA newsletter I have decided it was time to involve every member in what they love most, the finding and collecting of Czechoslovakian and Bohemian antiques. It is time to get help from each and every one of you, as well as to introduce you to your fellow members. Every quarter I will ask you my fellow members to submit your favorite local antique haunts, shows, and secrets for searching out our favorite goodies. This will be able to be used as a guide for our travels around the country in the quest for our beloved Czechoslovakian and Bohemian items. If there is a special booth in a mall I'll ask you to please include a photo so if possible we can add this as well.

I guess I will start. My name is David Fein and I live in Southeast Florida.

In the Palm Beach area the best shows for finding great finds is the *Piccadilly Shows* at the Fairgrounds that take place the first weekend of the month Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In West Palm Beach the best shops are in “Antique Row”, South Dixie Hwy between Belvedere Rd. and just beyond Southern Blvd.

Just south in Lake Worth on Lake Avenue there a quite a few shops and malls. My two favorites are *Yesterdays* and *Carousel Antiques*, where I have found quite a bit of Mrazek and glass.

A few miles south of that is Delray Beach. In Delray Beach you have the *Atlantic Antique Mall*, on Atlantic Avenue, which has more than 5 showcases showing Ditmar Urbach, Mrazek, and other deco Bohemian pieces (*pictures 1 +2*), this is the best mall in the area. On North bound Federal Hwy there is the *Delray Beach Antiques* mall, this is lower end but I have found pieces here. A few miles south is the *Hillsboro Antiques* mall, on Hillsboro Blvd, this is at the northern edge of Broward County; this has a combination of good and very bad items and is hit or miss, mostly miss, but it is the largest in the area.



#1



#2



In Broward County, the area that used to be the antique capital was Dania, just south of the airport on Rt.1; it has lost much of its luster as well as dealers but it should not be missed because it still has around 150 dealers in shops and malls in the small strip.

South of this is the Miami/Miami Beach in Dade county. The draw for this area is not the shops, which have dwindled, but a collection of major and minor shows that bring a cache of antiques that has to be seen. The "grand daddy" of them all is the *Miami Beach Antique Show* in the winter time usually January or February, more than 1500 dealers with only the top top end items, here for a price, you can find it all. The *Radisson Show* across from the airport another high end show around the same time. The *Modernism Show* at the Knight Center can be good some years, falls mid-way during the *Miami Beach Show*. The twice-monthly *Lincoln Rd* outdoor show Oct-May where you probably have the best chance to find a great piece for a great price. There are many other shows but these are the best for the finding.

*In the San Diego area members Lauren and Bill Baldwin who have a great booth at the Antique Warehouse (Picture #3) in Solana Beach in the Cedros design district sent this in:*

Hi David,

Where to go antiquing depends on if you have a car and where you will be staying. Things can get pretty spread out here and only certain areas have access to rapid transit.

There are so many things to do out here for anyone wanting to make a vacation out of the trip - Sea World, Harbor Cruises, Zoo, Indian Casinos, Sea Port Village (shopping), the gas lamp district (restaurants), and Balboa Park (museums). (Hint: Stay out of Mexico- drug cartel wars going on right now. Lots of street shootings.) A train station is right downtown and a trolley that can pretty much get you around. *Calendar Antique Shows* has a good show at the Del Mar racetrack several times a year, though the next one isn't until November. Horseracing will be there for a while this summer. Carlsbad has a great street fair the second Sunday in May. About 100,000 people show up and there are several antique stores in Carlsbad to prowl around in.

My favorite antiquing trip down here is to go to Temecula. You do need a car. It's about an hour east of the coast along Hwy. 15 in the foothills. The Indians have a big casino/hotel called Pechanga, which is about 10 minutes from the antiques district. Spend the day antiquing and have dinner and play at the casino at night. Great fun! The antiques district is on the west side of Hwy. 15 and they have a number of shops and malls. My favorite is *Across the River Antiques*, also *Nana's Antiques*. There are another couple of malls that I can't remember the names of; the stores is located on Front St., Main St. and Felix Valdez Ave.

If you are staying closer to downtown San Diego and Sea World, Ocean Beach on has several good stores on Newport Avenue. Again, you need a car to go there. Adams Avenue has a lot of stores, but I don't care for it because all the shops are small and located several blocks from each other so it's a pain to shop there.

La Jolla has a lot of shops with high-end stuff, but you would be very lucky to find any bargains.

Carlsbad (the sister city of Karlsbad in the Czech Republic) is on the coast and can be reached by train from downtown San Diego. They have several small malls there on State Street and you can easily walk to them.

Oceanside has a lot of consignment shops on the coast highway. Merchandise at them will vary and you need a car since the shops are several blocks apart.

Vista has a couple of stores in their downtown area near Plaza. Sprinter Train gets you there.

Escondido has 3 good malls I like; it's about a half hour inland. You would have to ask them if the Sprinter Train is close enough to walk to, if you don't have a car. I'm not sure.

Our booth is in the *Antique Warehouse*, which is an antique mall in Solana Beach along the coast near Del Mar. The train will get you there from San Diego, however it is the only antique mall in the area. Lots of interior decorating type stores there too.



So that's the quick tour. So, grab your map and see where you'll be. If you want, let me know how you'll be getting around and I can give you better details.

Have fun. Lauren

*Hope you liked this – for you fellow members, please send your local guides and information to:*

David Fein, [dbf57@hotmail.com](mailto:dbf57@hotmail.com)

*Please include a photo if there is an especially great showcase or booth, and don't forget to introduce yourself!!!*

Historical Insights into the Origin & Production  
of the Bernard Bloch/Eichwald Group in Bohemia

by Ian Macmillan

In the summer of 2007 a couple from Scotland contacted the CCA with a concern regarding their 40-year involvement with studying and collecting Bernard Bloch/ Eichwald ceramics.

As collectors of Austrian, Bohemian and Czech glass and pottery we too often feel the frustration of the lack of historical documentation. With glass we struggle with the lack of marks. With pottery, which is generally marked, we wonder when it was made, and who were the potters and the designers. We are making progress. Deb Truitt and her late husband Robert made great strides in the research of Bohemian glass and Deb continues to devote countless hours to this passion. Richard Scott brought us huge insights into the world of Amphora and from that has fuelled a worldwide interest into turn of the century Bohemian pottery.

To have our Scottish friends Margo McKinnon and Daniel Blyth step forward and share their knowledge and collection of Bloch/Eichwald pottery represents an unexpected treasure trove of facts and beauty. Their concern that their lifelong passion with Eichwald would not have a home will be put to rest.

Daniel speaks many languages, including Czech and German, and as a result on their many trips to Austria and Czechoslovakia he and Margo have developed many contacts and acquired numerous historical insights. Of interest to the Amphora collectors is their close friendship with Petr Spacek who lives in Teplitz and has amassed a huge knowledge of Bohemian pottery. You are probably aware that he provided Richard Scott with a wealth of ephemera and personal knowledge of the ceramic history of Teplitz.

An examination of the development of the Bloch/Eichwald empire must focus on the medieval towns of Hohenstein (Uncin) and Eichwald (Dubi). Also, let us not forget the chaotic political and economic forces operating in the Bohemian area in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Both the glass and the pottery industries faced extreme difficulties in their bid to survive.

The following represents a chronological summary of the pottery producers in both towns that eventually became part of the Eichwald Empire. Where possible I have indicated marks, which often cannot be found in our normal reference books, i.e. Rontgen and Kovel.

**Hohenstein (Uncin)**

- **1822** – Karl Huffsky and family started ceramic production in a small inn (later became Bloch building number 21) – specialized in black and white terralite kitchenware and roof tiles. Impressed marks CH, VH, UH.
- **1869** – **Huffsky factory acquired by Bernard Bloch.** Specialized in siderolite, terralite, majolica and faience articles.
- **1870** – Johann Jechel opened earthenware factory (later Bloch building #30). Impressed HJ mark.
- **1872** – Jechel factory sold to Hirsch and Heller specializing in bisque and gold colored ceramics. Impressed HH mark.
- **1875** – Became Falkmann, Heller & Sohn
- **1881** – **Falkmann, Heller & Sohn factory acquired by Bloch.**
- **1901** – Josef Luft opened building number 79 and produced decorative goods and earthenware with a monogram JL mark.
- **1903** – Carl Lowe opened building number 25 specializing in terracotta.
- **Bloch purchased these later two factories** (Luft factory- building #79 and Lowe factory – building #25), sometime prior to his death in 1909.
- **1909** – **Boch's middle son of five, Otto, inherited the Hohenstein factories.**
- **1939** – Factories commandeered by the Germans and completely closed by 1949.

## Eichwald (Dubi)

### Uberbuschmuehle (Upper Factory)

- **1869** – Anton Tschinkel founded pottery specializing in siderolite, terralite and majolica. Impressed mark AT.
- **1870** – Tschinkel displayed at Vienna at two trade fairs (employed top designer E.T. Behr)
- **1887** – Factory purchased by Glassig.
- **1889** – **Factory purchased by Bernard Bloch.**
- **1910** – **Three sons, Oskar, Arthur and Otto inherit factories. Oscar got Uberbuschmuehle, Arthur got Unterbuschmuehle and Otto got Hohenstein.**
- Oscar and his American wife struggled through the depression but eventually went bankrupt in 1934/1935.

### Unterbuschmuehle (Lower Factory)

- **1873** – Tschinkel built a second factory in Eichwald specializing in high-grade china.
- **1885** – Factory acquired by Carl Teichert from Meissen, of course Meissen was famous for fine porcelain and stove tiles. The Zwiebelmeister china dinnerware was to become works famous.
- **Teichert factory bought by Bernard Bloch.**
- **1909** – **Bloch son Arthur takes over factory** concentrating on blue and white porcelain and stove tiles.
- **1939** – Germans take over factory.
- **1946** – Pre-war manager, Josef Simek, returns and restores a terribly devastated factory. Somehow surviving communism, the factory was privatized in 1991 and became part of Cesky Porcelain, Dubi A.S.



By the time Bloch died in 1909 his ceramic conglomerate was producing roof, stove and floor tiles, majolica and faience, earthenware and expensive china. He was the most influential and farsighted man in the area. His death and the failure of his family to remain united resulted in the demise of all factories except the Unterbuschmuele, the Lower Factory.

Carl Klimt, J. Von Schwartz, Johann Khuen and Schoop all designed for Bernard. These designers produced stunning Art Nouveau and Secessionist pieces. There is evidence that Josef Hoffman and Dagobar Peche also worked for Arthur Bloch. Eichwald production after the war became exclusively blue and white china.

Our Scottish friends discovered numerous revelations about Eichwald pottery that, for the most part, are new information to most of us. Particularly:

1. If you have a piece of Eichwald, it probably has the Eichwald bar mark with a 3 or 4 digit number over a single digit number 1 through 9. The numeral 1 is the biggest size, 9 is the smallest and amazingly most pieces were made in all nine sizes.

2. Color is key in the dating process. Pieces in green or cobalt blue are most certainly pre-WWI. Pieces in primrose yellow, purple and black are all post war and most likely can be narrowed to the 1920's.

3. Pieces marked Eichwald are generally Bloch but Hirsch, Heller and Faulkmann sometimes used the word Eichwald.

4. After the death of Bloch in 1909 the factories made no more Art Nouveau ceramics and were never into Art Deco.

5. During WWII the Germans marked Eichwald with the letter "D" and sometimes the year. Very little was produced during these years as the factories were converted to war production.

6. The final clue to dates is the quality of the artwork. From 1910 – 1925 the artwork was not particularly good. It improved immensely from 1925 – the late '30's and then fell away sharply again.

In conclusion, let me say that this has been an amazing trip through the intrigue surrounding one of Europe's most historic ceramic families. I discovered Bloch family members that no one knew existed and a factory in Teplitz (Crown Oak) that no one knew belonged to the Bloch empire. We discovered pieces marked Bloch/Royal Dux, Bloch/Dressler, and Bloch/Meissen.

It was a wonderful experience and we in the CCA are deeply indebted to the generous contribution of knowledge that Margo and Daniel have shared with us.

*If you have any questions, please contact me at: "Ian Macmillan" <[smacmillan2@hotmail.com](mailto:smacmillan2@hotmail.com)>*



## The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech Collectors Convention

By Amy Lagler

The 9th Annual Czech Collector's Association Convention was a huge success, thanks in large part to a year of planning by Sandra Macmillan, the Convention Chair and CCA President, as well as the generosity and commitment of our local hosts in Nashville, Bob Stinson and Jerry Buchanan. The convention officially started on Thursday, June 12th but, as usual, the festivities started early! Convention goers actually started arriving days before and by Tuesday night there was a small contingent ready to get the party started. They weren't disappointed as Bob and Jerry took all the early birds out for a night of food, drinks, and Blues at B.B. Kings in downtown Nashville. In spite of their late night, many CCA members still got up on Wednesday morning to take advantage of the all day tour around Nashville, which included a visit to see the 45 foot tall gold gilded statue of Athena at the Parthenon, a visit to the Ryman Auditorium, lunch at Dimos, the Country Music Hall of Fame and a Trolley Tour of the city. It was the first of many optional tours included in the convention this year, including a fabulous trip to the Frist Center for the Visual Arts to view an exhibit of Tiffany lamps on Thursday, a day which culminated in an all you eat dinner at the famous Monnell's. I can't speak for anyone else but I ate way too much, including multiple helpings of that delicious banana pudding!

The seminars started on Friday morning with Ian Macmillan's fascinating lecture on the connections between Bernard Bloch and Eichwald pottery. As a supplement to his talk, Ian passed around photocopies of an original Eichwald catalog, with page after page of pottery that most of us have never seen. Who knew that most of the Eichwald pieces we have seen were actually produced in 9 different sizes? We had all barely recovered from the shock of Ian's discoveries when Dieter Forthuber began his lecture on Loetz glass. Talk about a feast for the eyes! The pieces Dieter presented from his collection were astounding, drawing gasps from the audience as he explained the difference in variations, patterns, and colors that Loetz utilized in their production from 1890-1930. And the information just kept coming! After a brief break for lunch, we again all convened for a series of mini sessions where convention attendees got a chance to talk to the experts about Czech birds (David Phelps), Imperial and Dugan Look-a-Likes (Alfredo Villanueva-Collado), Czech fan vases (Karen and Cy Beman), Ditmar Urbach (David Fein), and Bohemian Pottery (Ian Macmillan). These mini-sessions were followed by the day's last presentation, an informative lecture on the types and styles of Czech Costume Jewelry by Aggie Elwell. Aggie also thankfully took the time to give us a tutorial on how to tell the real vintage Czech jewelry from all the "new vintage" pieces being offered for sale today.

For those in the market for Czechoslovakian treasures (aren't we all?), Friday also offered plenty of opportunities for buying at our annual show and sale. As usual, there were hundreds of pieces for sale that simply can't be found in any other marketplace, giving convention goers a chance to add long sought after examples to their collections. Patti Ferguson's collection of Bimini style blown glass pieces was also on display at the show, leaving many of us to wonder how she found all those magnificent pieces (not to mention how she managed to transport them to Nashville and get them set up without breaking a single piece!). With all there was to see at the show Sandra practically had to push us all out the door so we could all go get ready for a night of music and entertainment at the Grand Ole Opry.

Saturday morning came much too soon but having two more interesting seminars on tap helped get most of us out of bed and into the convention room. The first, Deb Truitt's lecture on Ingrid glass, was a detailed and informative presentation on the production of this popular glass by the Curt Schlevogt firm. Like Ian's lecture the day before, Deb's talk also featured original catalogs that showcased the perfumes, boxes, and vases included in Schlevogt's Ingrid line. Deb's lecture was followed by Paul Martinez's talk on finding Czech Pottery online. Paul's talk was a continuation of his presentation at the 2007 convention and included additional information to help collectors treasure hunt in cyberspace for specific pieces. It was a fitting end to a very exciting and educational group of seminars that showcased both the range of Czech decorative arts and the impressive research going on in all the different fields of scholarship and collecting.

Following the Saturday seminars the convention attendees gathered for our annual auction. This year the auction was comprised of a wide range of glass, pottery, perfumes, and jewelry from Mary Gawle's collection, as well as a large collection of Czech Amphora from the Larkes. As this year's auction also drew in local collectors, the crowd was large and the bidding was lively. And, at the end of the day, both the consigners and buyers were happy, with most of us walking away with pieces to add to our collections or our inventory. We were also all happily looking forward to the Saturday night banquet! Featuring a cocktail hour, an always-entertaining exchange of door prizes (which this year involved some aggressive maneuvering to be the last one to lay claim to the bottle of Jack Daniels), a delicious meal, and Samuel Smith's keynote speech on Tennessee's historic potteries, the night didn't disappoint. It was a fabulous ending to an exceptional convention. All of our thanks to Sandra and her team of helpers and to Bob and Jerry for being such wonderful local hosts and for doing such a great job entertaining all of us who came early and stayed late!

For more pictures of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech Collector's Convention visit our website at [www.czechcollectors.org](http://www.czechcollectors.org)



Barbara Plummer, Deb Truitt, & Sandra Macmillan  
outside the hotel.

Libby Frischer and a handsome cowboy  
outside the Grand Old Opry.





1. Bonnie Pabian checks out David Fein's pottery at the show.



2. Patti & Gene Ferguson pose in the lobby with local hosts Jerry Buchanan & Bob Stinson.

## CCA 2008 Convention Director Report

Millennium Maxwell House Hotel

Nashville, Tennessee, June 11 – 15, 2008

By all accounts this year's convention was another successful educational, social and shopping venture. The registration was up by 47% over the past several years, even though many regulars were saddened that they could not attend. Our increased advertising and enthusiastic members inspired many new members and interested collectors to contact the CCA Convention staff and/or to access information through our web site. This year's attendance included 10 new members and two willing spouses! It was really great to meet new collectors and reconnect with old friends. Special thanks to Bob Stinson and Jerry Buchanan who were the perfect Southern hosts in an amazingly interesting and diverse city!

Our 2009 CCA Convention has again been booked in Nashville but it will be hosted at the Radisson Hotel at Opryland – [www.radisson.com/nashville](http://www.radisson.com/nashville) (615-889-0800 and fax 615-889-6328). The Hotel has excellent amenities (restaurant, pool, whirlpool & sauna) plus a great location with nearby shopping, restaurants, entertainment (The Grand Ole Opry), and a golf course. The Convention will run from June 4 - 7, 2009. More specific information will be available early in 2009. Check our web site for details:  
[www.czechcollectors.org](http://www.czechcollectors.org).

In June, our Board of Directors voted to search for a 2010 venue close to the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. Please contact me if you are willing to work with the 2010 CCA Convention Team. We are looking for someone who is knowledgeable about the area and who will act as a local resource. As usual we will work through the Convention and Visitors Bureau but we need someone to help us sift through their information and access appropriate Museums and Galleries, suitable restaurants and entertainment, as well as local sites and shopping that would appeal to our specific collectors. If you are interested, please contact me at [smacmillan2@hotmail.com](mailto:smacmillan2@hotmail.com) or phone 905-988-5589.

Hoping to see you in Nashville!

Respectfully,  
Sandra Macmillan



### Next Amphora Event

The Steering Committee for the Amphora Collectors International is currently planning a gathering of Amphora collectors in conjunction with the LA Modernism Show to be held May 1,2,3, 2009. The Modernism Show is a quality show in the Los Angeles area. It is held at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. In conjunction with the show we have plans to visit the collections of two Amphora collectors in the Los Angeles area. This is a great opportunity to take in a quality antiques show, meet other collectors and see a beautiful array of Amphora in a collector's home.

For more details concerning this event, please contact Bea Levenhagen at 717-519-9199  
[tombeaz@comcast.net](mailto:tombeaz@comcast.net)

Arlene Larke

### Harrach Glassworks.

In 2012, the Bohemian glassworks founded by Alois Thomas Raimund, Count Harrach will achieve its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continuous production. The glassworks innovated and produced excellent quality glassware despite wars, fires, and economic crises.

The glassworks (now named Novosad & Son) and museums in the Czech Republic are planning exhibitions to celebrate this remarkable accomplishment. Although planning has just started, the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague intends to publish a book to accompany the exhibits (prepared by Jan Mergl, Jan Schöttner, and Helena Brožková). I also spoke with the Directors of the glass museums in Jablonec, Nový Bor, Kamenický Šenov, and Sušice and to the Director of the Krokonoše Museum located in the former Harrach chateau in Jilemnice – they are all interested in participating.

I am preparing a proposal to the Corning Museum of Glass that the museum should sponsor a complementary exhibit – possibly one that would travel throughout the United States. I know Corning's collection of Harrach glassware, and it would need to be supplemented in order to provide a comprehensive display of the glassworks' production. To this end, I would like to know who has what pieces of Harrach glass, and whether you would be willing to loan your piece(s) for such an exhibit.

I am also proposing that CCA sponsor a trip to the Czech Republic (and possibly other countries in Europe) in 2012 to visit the various museums, chateaus formerly owned by Counts Harrach, and the glassworks.

Actions:

- 1) Please contact me if you have any pieces of Harrach glass or know anyone who has some. Eventually, I would like to have photos of your pieces. I will not give this information to anyone except those working on these efforts. I will use the photos to determine the scope of production that we can cover in any exhibit/publication, and will obtain your permission before using the photo for any purpose.
- 2) If you like the idea of CCA sponsoring a trip to the Czech Republic in 2012, please contact me. If you would be willing to help plan the trip, let me know.

Deborah Truitt, 13550 Ashbury Drive, Carmel IN 46032. [randdglass@sbcglobal.net](mailto:randdglass@sbcglobal.net).

## First Person Narrative by Tom Rood

### *My Granny "Gave Me the Bird"*

Whenever we are out "antiquing" at flea markets, antiques malls, or small antique shops, I always wonder what each fellow antiquer collects. I wonder why an antiquer decided to collect within a certain area and I would love to know how they started collecting. The same holds true with fellow Czech collectors. Sometimes the story behind the collecting is just as fun and interesting as the actual collecting!

Living in a small town with a population of 5000, many people know that Jane and I are collectors of Czech glass and Czech deco lady figurines. Every time we have visitors at the house, our Czech collection is always a topic of interest and discussion, and I always have to tell the story of how our collecting came about.

Our story actually started when I was a very young boy. I had always been interested in birds and at age 10 or 11, I became a breeder and exhibitor of fancy show pigeons. My grandmother had a small house in our backyard, and she too liked my birds. She would make sure they had fresh water when I was at school. When we were on vacation or on weekend trips, my grandmother would take care of the birds. At this young age, I can always remember a bird figurine on my grandmother's dresser, and I can remember playing with it many times. It is even possible that I gave that bird figurine to my grandmother as a birthday or Christmas gift (as those were the type of dime store items that kids gave to grandparents).

As the years went by, high school came and went, college was next, along with marriage, family, and moving away from home to accept a teaching job in Shelbyville, Illinois. Throughout all of these steps in life, I still maintained my interest in the bird hobby and was never without birds. After getting settled in Shelbyville and the teaching profession, the fancy show pigeons gave way to exotic cage birds (particularly exotic finches). I was a very serious breeder, exhibitor, and judge of finches. I showed and judged birds all over the country (and my stock and show record was quite good!).

After my grandmother had passed on, my family gave me the bird figurine that I had played with as a young boy. Like many family pieces, it was put on a shelf in our home and that was that.

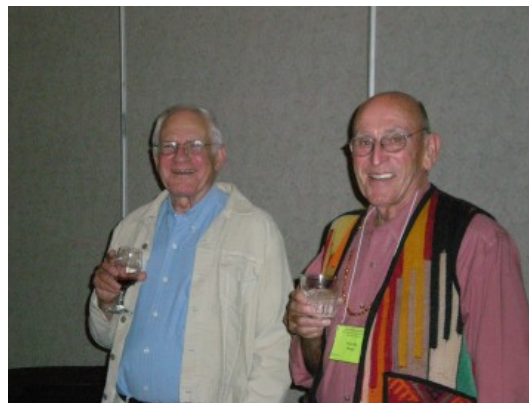
Years later, one of my 3rd grade boys announced that his family was moving from Shelbyville to Chicago. On his last day of class, he presented me with a wrapped gift. When I opened the box, I noticed it was some kind of wall pocket with a bird sitting on a nest. A typical gift from a student since everyone in Shelbyville knew I was a bird fancier. (When you are an elementary teacher in a small town, your life is not afforded much privacy!!). The wall pocket was caked with dirt and I figured the boy's family had cleaned out their basement, found the bird, and decided to give it to me as a parting gift. Upon taking it home and showing it to Jane, she noticed it has the same dime sized "Made in Czecho-Slovakia" mark that my grandmother's bird had. Showing my ignorance about the mark on my grandmother's bird, Jane's comment was, "Of course, you didn't know about the mark, you've never bothered to dust it in all the years it's been on the shelf!" (Another story that we won't go into here!).

Believe it or not, that is actually how we got into collecting Czech items. We have no Czech ancestry in either of our families, we've never been to Europe or Czechoslovakia, etc. It was the two common Czech bird pieces coming together that got us into collecting. Of course, in the beginning, we only looked for and bought other birds. Eventually, a few smaller pottery pieces such as vases, teapots, creamers & sugars, etc. were added to our collection. As with most hobbies, after studying and learning more about what is going on, the collection becomes more and more serious. After the beginning years, we added Czech glass pieces and a few Loetz pieces.

That's our story about getting into the Czech collecting hobby. The boy who moved away would be an adult by now. I'd love to see him just one more time to tell him how that common Czech bird wall pocket has now cost us thousands and thousands of dollars in traveling, collecting, and buying numerous Czech pieces. Funny how people get into hobbies. Thank goodness for 3rd grade boys and "grannies who give you the bird"!



## In Memoriam



### DAVID DRUSE

#### A FRIEND, A PATRON & COLLECTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE

PHIL AND ARLENE LARKE

'Twas the night before Convention when all through the halls,  
Not a sound could be heard not even through walls;

Preparations were made tables laden with care,  
In hopes that David would most certainly be there;

Tired and worn from lugging boxes so deep,  
We settled ourselves for a pleasant night's sleep;

When morning arrived with the alarms loud clatter.  
We sprang from our bed our thoughts all a scatter;

Will David, The Collector, really appear?  
Will he, will he not buy from us this year?

Off to the Show Room we scampered with glee,  
What a wonderful welcoming sight we did see;

David was there, waiting patiently with Jack at the door,  
With a smile on his face and money galore;

He entered the room and called out the names:  
Oh, air-brushed vases, figural pitchers, animal whimsies and table ware,  
Imaginative hand-painted clocks and lamp bases,  
canister sets, art deco form, glass and Amphora;

Then with chocolate covered hazelnuts in our booth he did appear,  
We knew from his eyes we had nothing to fear;

As he made his rounds he was totally in awe,  
He managed to buy something from each booth he saw;

Then in a twinkling the Convention was done,  
David and Jack said good bye to another year of fun;

**With a great big smile and a See You Next Year,**  
**Off they went with nary a tear!**

**We loved this David not just for his buying,  
His persona was charming,  
his manner consistently happy and pleasant.  
He was fun loving yet dignified, eager yet quiet.  
He loved surprises - "Send me pictures."  
At an auction he was an aggressive bidder,  
he KNEW what he wanted and went for it.  
He became the care taker of thousands of Czech pieces,  
lovingly displayed in his home, in Portland,  
a home worthy of antiquity.  
He was proud of his collection and encouraged people to visit.  
For us it was an experience we will always cherish.**

**Now David is gone and will be missed by all.  
May his legacy live on as**

**A FRIEND & THE COLLECTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE**

*John and Sandy Thomas met both David Druse and Jack Hilyard at one of the early Czech Collectors Guild conventions held in Kansas.*

We became close friends as we shared a bond as one of the few West Coast members of the re-organized Czech Collectors Association.

It was always fun to see what David was bidding on during the many eBay auctions in which he participated over the years. Of course, if he was successful that meant more work for Jack in categorizing and inventorying the items.

In 2000, when John ran the Portland Marathon, David and Jack invited us to their absolutely stunning home in the Portland Heights area. We were totally overwhelmed by the spread and depth of their Czech pottery collection as well as many other objects of art that they had displayed. When we got home, we wanted to trash our collection because theirs was so superb and ours was so unworthy. I arranged for a Schiffer Publishing representative to meet with David and Jack in hopes of Schiffer agreeing to publish the last best word in Czech

Pottery collecting. But the logistics never worked out, the declining economy intervened, and this, what would have been a seminal book on the subject, never materialized.

We last made David's and Jack's acquaintance at the recent Czech Collectors Association Convention in Nashville, TN and had the chance to share a meal with them again. And we even made some early suggestions to the ruling CCA body to consider staging the convention in Portland, OR in 2010 just so the membership could view the most important collection of Czech pottery extant. We are crestfallen at not only the loss of a venerable collector but also a great friend to all whose energies towards collecting Czech pottery was paramount. Our heartfelt condolences go out both to Jack Hilyard as well as to David's family.

John and Sandy Thomas

I remember my first experience with Dave Druse, like most everyone, it was on ebay many years ago. I said, my gosh, who is this 'Czechman 2' and why must he have everything Czech? after I lost another auction.

Actually what Dave did for me is he made me a better online detective, finding new ways to find Czech treasures no one else could find. That's how I started selling to Dave.

Dave and Jack did not attend my first convention so I finally met Dave in the flesh at the Indianapolis convention. We have been great friends ever since.

David and Jack have been to my home twice at, what I call, the Winter CCA gathering. Each and every winter a group of members meet in Miami for the antiques shows.

If ever there is a unique piece on ebay there was always a call, "is this Czech, what do you think?"

Thank goodness for Jack, he was the one who kept all the records of what was purchased, when and for how much, as well as the photo diary of the collection.

My favorite line I would hear from Jack was, "I don't know where we are going to put it." as David was bidding on another collection of pieces at the CCA auction.

David supported all the CCA dealers, and was one of the main forces that kept the Club alive.

We all will miss him, but I am sure he will be there at every convention, looking to see what new items we have brought that has never been seen before.

We will miss you David, your bright smile and the twinkle in your eye when you see that special piece.

David Fein

Texas Czech Heritage Center, Inc.  
250 W. Fairgrounds Road  
La Grange, TX 78945  
979/968-8373  
[www.czechtexas.org](http://www.czechtexas.org)

The Texas Czech Heritage Center, Inc. (TCHCC), is located right next to the Fayette County Fairgrounds in La Grange, Texas. The TCHCC mission is to provide a central facility for the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture, and heritage of individuals of Czech ethnicity who can trace their ancestry to the Czechs who immigrated from the present-day Czech Republic or former Austria-Hungary (including Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, and Silesia), to honor those immigrants, and to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary, and educational purposes.

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center is in the process of building a Library, Museum and Archives on its 70-acre site. Groundbreaking took place Saturday, June 14, 2008, at 10 A.M., construction began mid-June.

The Library, Museum and Archives building was designed by Austin Architect Roger H. Kolar of Negrete and Kolar Architects. The complex will contain an entry lobby, exhibit areas, genealogy research library, catering kitchen connected to a multi-purpose hall, meeting room, gift shop and office.

#### First Person Narrative by Arlene Larke

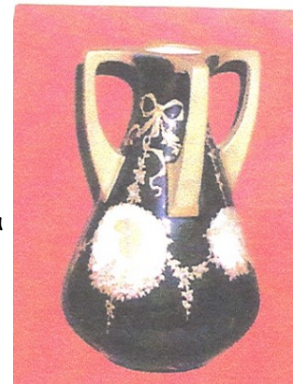
At a recent antiques show, two ladies were in our booth discussing a vase.

One of the ladies turned to me and asked if I thought she could find a cork to fit the top. I said I thought it may be possible, but why would you want to put a cork in the top?

She explained her sister had recently passed and she wanted a pretty piece to set on her piano that could hold some of her sister's ashes.

After my exclaiming that I thought it was a lovely idea, we agreed she could just put some ashes in a zip-lock bag and place it in the vase. She could take her time looking for a large marble or something appropriate for the top.

She purchased the vase.



## FYI:

*Following are excerpts taken from a New York Times article entitled: "Cold War Legacy: Peaceful Hiking in Bohemia" by David Farley, published July 6, 2008:*

"During the Cold War, this slice of Central Europe was verboten to anyone but residents of a few ancient villages and the guards patrolling the frontier. The Czechoslovak government cleared the buffer zone of locals and populated it with card-carrying members of the Communist Party. That might explain why, two decades after the Berlin Wall fell, a haunted stillness hung over this coniferous landscape of low-rolling hills.

It is also the reason the network of hiking and biking trails in those hills of southern Bohemia remain among the Continent's most pristine and untrammelled."

"The Czechs are also a nation of prolific hikers. Etched throughout this Central European country are nearly 24,000 miles of color-coded hiking trails, stretching from Karlovy Vary in the northwest to Ostrava in the east. Much of it is maintained by the Czech Hiking Club, a private organization, dating back to 1889, that splashes painted trail markers across trees and installs signposts."

There is "a network of old trading routes that were recently restored by the Friends of Czech Greenways, a nonprofit group based in Brooklyn.

The network, also called the Prague-Vienna Greenways, is the brainchild of Lubomir Chmelar, a retired architect who splits his time between New York City and Mikulov, a small southeastern town near the Austrian border."

"Mr. Chmelar assembled a team of landscape architects and Harvard M.B.A.'s and set off on foot to find the most scenic route between Prague and Vienna. The result is a 250-mile-long network of trails, zigzagging between the two European capitals past ruined castles, cute villages, dense forests and the once-forbidden Cold War border."

*"Hiking and biking maps can be downloaded through the Brooklyn-based Friends of Czech Greenways ([www.pragueviennagreenways.org](http://www.pragueviennagreenways.org)). Others are sold at bookstores in Prague, including the Kiwi Travel Bookshop (Jungmannova 23; 420-224-948-455)."*

## CONDOLENCES

***The members of CCA extend their sympathies to Aggie Elwell and family and friends for the loss of CCA member Paula Klucinec.***

***The members of CCA extend their sympathies to Gene and Patti Ferguson for their loss of Gene's mother, JoAnn Steffey.***

***The members of CCA extend their sympathies to family and friends for the loss of CCA member Mary Inglis.***

***The members of CCA extend their sympathies to Jack Hilyard and family and friends for the loss of CCA member David Druse.***





Dear Fellow CCA Members,

Thank you to the members who wrote articles for this Fall issue of the CCA Newsletter. Looking forward to the Spring 2009 issue I ask each CCA member to consider writing an article, or a "First Person Narrative", or submitting an interesting item for the "FYI" column. All contributions will be appreciated; and if asked, I will be glad to edit your submission.

Sincerely,

Jorie Martinez, [jorie1@verizon.net](mailto:jorie1@verizon.net)

Newsletter Ideas, Notes and Thoughts



**2009 CCA Convention**  
**Nashville, TN**

**June 4 – 7, 2009**  
**at the**

**Radisson Hotel at Opryland**

615-889-0800 and fax 615-889-6328

[www.radisson.com/nashvilletn](http://www.radisson.com/nashvilletn)

For more information:

[www.czechcollectors.org](http://www.czechcollectors.org)

or contact

Sandra Macmillan, Convention Chair and CCA President

[smacmillan2@hotmail.com](mailto:smacmillan2@hotmail.com)