

Czech Collectors Association

Fall Newsletter
October 2009

You're Invited to the
2010 CCA Convention
Indianapolis, Indiana
June 11 & June 12, 2010

To hear and meet:



Jiří Harcuba was born (in 1929) into a family of glass workers in Harrachov, Czechoslovakia. As a boy, he assisted his father in the small glass engraving workshop in his home. He says he was bored making sure there was enough slurry on the wheel and wished he could be outside playing football with his friends. At 13, he became an apprentice at the glass factory in Harrachov. In 1945, at the age of 16, he attended the Secondary Glass School in Nový Bor, where Stanislav Libensky was Director. Later he studied at the Prague Academy of Art and Design under Josef Kaplický. After graduation, he started creating in his own style and exhibited at EXPO 58 in Brussels and the Triennial in Milan in 1959. In the 1960s, Jiří's work became more abstract. Although he was appointed Libensky's assistant in 1964, he was fired from the school in 1971. Since then, he has been working independently.

In 1979, his engraving of Smetana was accepted for "New Glass: A Worldwide Survey," an exhibit at the Corning Museum of Glass. In 1983 he started to teach in the USA.

Besides glass engraving, Jiří also designs coins and medals. The American Numismatic Society awarded him the J. Sanford Saltus Award for Achievement in Medallion Art in 1988.

Jiří's inspiration has been Dominik Biman, a Bohemian engraver who lived from 1800-1859. In his honor, Jiří founded a school of engraving in 2001 that he calls the Dominik Biman School. Jiří teaches all over the world. Jiří says: "Heritage means all, we are able to understand, to select and pass to the next generation. We are the link between the past and the future."

And to hear:

“True Confessions: There are other ladies in my life!
(Collecting Czech Deco Lady Figurines)”

Tom and Jane Rood will describe their collection of CDL, along with enticing tales of their histories. Although they started collecting bird flower frogs while they followed a former hobby of breeding and exhibiting exotic birds, the CDL have become their favorites. Tom taught 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades in Shelbyville IL and Jane taught math at Eastern Illinois University. Now retired, they spend their time with family, hobbies, and continuing to add to their collection.



Traveling
Socializing
Meeting
Sharing
Learning
Engaging
Building
Networking
Expanding

CCA Mission:
To foster the collection and appreciation
of the art glass, ceramics,
and other decorative arts in
Austria, Bohemia and Czechoslovakia.

ABC Antiques Show
Presentations/Talks
Seminars/Demonstrations
Auction
Annual Meeting
Banquet

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Letter from the CCA President:

Dear Fellow CCA Members:

These past 4 months have flown by – the Board has been very busy working on projects aimed at moving CCA toward its goals. Although I am the only Board member who is retired, the other Board members are setting a pace that is keeping me on my toes. Our 5 Board meetings (via teleconference) each lasted for 1½ hours – who knew there would be so many things to discuss? Yes, we do send out our ideas by e-mail before we hold the meetings.

One exciting development is that we now have a Members Only section on the CCA website. See Brian's write-up for a description of the content and how to access it. The content of the website is a benefit of membership – please tell us what you would value.

Plans for the convention are moving along. Elizabeth has written about that separately. We can expect record public attendance because of Jiri Harcuba's participation, so we will be looking for each Member to help introduce the benefits of collecting the ABCs to those who don't know.

Donna has been responsible for updating our Membership Application brochure. It is very attractive. It's on the website. Please print copies (two-sided) and pass them out at antique shows, malls, and auctions – wherever you go and observe people who are showing interest in the ABCs.

Dave initiated a project to contact other organizations that could be interested in CCA's activities. He started with the organizations that foster Czech and Slovak heritage. We hope to tell you positive results from these efforts in future Newsletters.

Those of you who are interested in writing about your collection, an ABC company, a new find, some research you have done, ... contact Dave and he will help you locate a place to publish your article.

We need our accounting records to be able to serve many purposes and Aggie has been spending many hours ensuring they are organized and accurate. One purpose they might serve is to support CCA's application for non-profit status. I attended an IRS seminar recently (yes, a whole day with IRS agents) to learn about the requirements for 501(c)(3) status that would exempt CCA from income taxes and sales taxes, and would categorize membership dues as a charitable donation for personal income taxes. Currently we are doing a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether it is worth the cost to the organization.

I enjoyed reading the two Newsletters that Jorie compiled last year. With your contributions, the future Newsletters will be just as interesting.

I look forward to getting to know you better over the coming year. I have called some of you to talk about your collecting interests, but (happily) there are more of you than I have time and energy. It would be great to talk face-to-face with you at the convention.

Best wishes with your collecting. I'd enjoy hearing your tales.

Debbie



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2009-2010

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Amy Lagler, Chair
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Welcome new members:

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Wendell & Jonell Osborn
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Julia Ziberquit
575 W. End Ave., Apt. 6A
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Also, welcome back to previous member:

Kathy Ellis
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A special thank you to Silver Sponsors:

Gene & Patti Ferguson, Dieter Forthuber, Mary Gawle, Dwight Gilbert, Barbara Plummer and Deborah Truitt

Donna Leventhal, CCA Membership, PO Box 219, Ashton, MD 20861.

From the Treasurer:

On behalf of all the members I would like to thank Karl Lagler for his years of service as Treasurer of CCA.

The checking account cash balance and all of the financial records have been transferred from Karl.

This report will be a summary of the actions I have taken to date:

- (1) Review of the financial records for the past two years,
- (2) Verification and analysis of the dues payments for the membership year 3/1/09 – 2/28/09,
- (3) New checking account setup with TD Bank in Vermont with CCA President as a co-signer.
- (4) Use of a business credit card in the name of CCA with one card assigned to the Treasurer and the other assigned to the President,
- (5) Set up an account with PayPal so that members have the ability to pay their dues through PayPal either with a credit card or a transfer from a bank account. Brian Severn will be updating the CCA website to reflect this payment option.
- (6) Progress toward developing a detailed budget for the current financial year.

A detailed budget report will appear in the next newsletter, as there are still some verification details that are needed. The current cash balance as of September 27, 2009 is \$12,714.25.

Respectfully submitted,
Aggie Elwell

From the Publicity Director -- David Phelps:

In order to increase awareness of CCA, I have drafted a letter that will be sent to as many Czech/Slovak organizations as we can identify. Betty Hanacek volunteered to create the list of Czech/Slovak organizations. We are hoping to establish a dialogue with at least a few of these organizations about CCA's interests and activities and obtain a venue where we can tempt their members to show their interests in the ABCs.

Now that the convention speakers have been finalized, we can also give details and hopefully increase attendance of the public at the Convention. Publicity in the Indianapolis area will start in February.

Now that the membership brochure is available, I would like to encourage you to distribute copies in malls and at shows in the part of the country where you live. There's a place on the brochure where you can put your name and contact information (Referred by...), if you are willing to have interested collectors contact you for information. We have included some copies of the brochure with this Newsletter and you can print more from the master located on the website, www.czechcollectors.org.

If you have recently had an article published please let me know. I would like to add a copy to our "library" of articles. I do have a list of magazines that are interested in articles about the ABCs, if you would like to submit an article. Please remember to mention our club and our Convention. To increase exposure, it would be great to have an article published each quarter. If you have an idea for an article, but need help getting started with writing, let me know and I will put you in touch with someone who can help you put it together.

From the 2010 Convention Coordinator – Elizabeth Meek:

Mark your calendar. The 2010 CCA Convention will be in Indianapolis, Indiana, on June 11 and 12, 2010. Save the dates and plan on attending. The registration package will be ready in February.

The venue we have selected is the Hilton Indianapolis North. You can see pictures of the hotel at their website: www.indianapolisnorth.hilton.com. They will be putting a link on the CCA website where you can make room reservations directly. We have negotiated a room rate of only \$79.

We have asked two CCA members to give the talks they had been scheduled to give at the 2009 Convention. Tom Rood (with help from Jane) who will speak about his "True Confessions: There are other ladies in my life! (Collecting Czech Deco Lady Figurines)". Mary Gawle who will give two mini-sessions on "How to Inventory Your Collection" and "Insuring Your Collection".

Our main speaker will be Jiri Harcuba. He is the world's leading glass engraver and he is Czech. We have some ideas for what he could do (demonstration, maybe?) in addition to a seminar. He is a very energetic person who travels and speaks and teaches extensively. You can learn about him and his work by "googling" or "binging" his name. You can also go to www.gallery.cz and look for his name under "glass". You can also go to www.bullseyeglass.com to find out information about him.

Indianapolis has many attractions: the Speedway, sports teams, the Children's Museum with a Chihuly glass sculpture, and of course, antique shops are around.

We will have optional activities including an informal dinner and social time on Thursday evening. Also, there will be a planning session for the 2011 Convention on Sunday morning.



From the Membership Director – Donna Leventhal:

In September our membership was 121.

We are getting in touch with former members to encourage them to rejoin -- this is mostly being done by a letter sent from both me and Debbie. You can help, if you know a former member, talk with him or her about the reasons for being a member. You can especially highlight the convention and the great opportunity we have to meet and talk with the best glass engraver in the world.

We have just finished creating a new Membership Application Brochure -- a couple of copies are included with this Newsletter. Please take them with you when you go to a show or store. Most stores/malls have a brochure rack where you can leave them. At shows, when you talk with someone who sells or collects the ABCs, pass out some more. If you sell ABCs, give a copy to each buyer. You can print more by going to the Members Only section of the website and clicking on Membership Application Brochure. The ones enclosed are printed on brochure paper, but plain paper will work just as well.

There is a line on the application form (Referred by) where you can write your name. The Member who brings in the most new members AND is present at the convention will be honored.

Why do we need more members? The membership dues from 120 people do not provide the funds we need to do everything we want to do -- such as producing a Journal on an ongoing basis.

From the CCA Nominating Committee:

The Nomination Committee, currently composed of Amy Lagler and Patti Ferguson, is seeking another member to be on the Nominating Committee. The Committee is responsible for fielding nominations for upcoming board elections, putting together a ballot with the nominee's names, receiving and counting the ballots and reporting the results to the CCA Board.

If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact Amy at: amy@antelopeantiques.com.

The Nominating Committee is also currently seeking nominations for the two CCA Board positions that will be open next year, June 2010. The two Board positions open for nominees are the Director of Membership and the Secretary, both of which serve two-year terms. If you are interested in running for either of these positions or would like more information about the responsibilities of these positions, please contact Amy for more information.

From the Webmaster:

First I'd like to acknowledge Amy Lager for her hard work as the previous CCA Webmaster. She's done a great job laying the foundation for the CCA's foray onto the Internet!

There are a lot of benefits for the CCA having a website, www.czechcollectors.org, with one of the main benefits being a venue to bring people with common interests together to share information.

There are a lot of ideas floating around as to what people would be interested in seeing on the website. What I need from you is input! What do you want to see on our website? What would entice you to visit the CCA site more frequently? What can you contribute to the website?

We now have a new "**Members Only**" section! It's a modest start, but as it currently stands you can:

- Read the minutes of CCA Board meetings (teleconferences) to find out the decisions being made.
- Read the minutes of the 2009 Annual Member meeting (teleconference).
- Consult the CCA By-laws.

In the near future, I'll be adding:

- A new Membership Application that you can print and distribute to local antique malls and shows.
- Articles about ABC topics.
- PowerPoint presentations from prior conventions.

FYI: To access the Members Only section, enter the User Name: CCA2009. The password is N0VYb0r - these are case-sensitive and the 0s are zeros.

Some ideas currently under consideration are:

o **Discussion Forums** - specific Czech collecting venues such as Czech Pottery, Czech Jewelry, Czech Glass, Czech Related Trip Reports, etc. CCA member volunteers who are specialists in their respective area of expertise would moderate the forums.

o **News** - I can update the site with the latest news on events pertaining to CCA collector interests. For example: museum exhibits, auctions, newly published article sources, new books, events, etc. Members can contact me with updates, and if appropriate we'll include them on the News section.

o **Multimedia content** - Videos of Convention Presentations, and other events can be added to the site. Podcasts anyone?

For the most part the sky's the limit, BUT I need your input. What would you like to see? Please contact me, and let me know what would interest you.

Thank you,
Brian Severn, CCA Webmaster

Dealer Survey:

The CCA Evaluation Committee is conducting a Dealer Survey to determine what factors cause dealers to set-up to sell at the Annual Convention and specifically the effects of a live auction. The Board will use the results to decide how to create the most optimal circumstances for both dealers and consigners.

A questionnaire has been sent out to the dealers who have set-up to sell at past Conventions, giving them an opportunity to think about the questions and answers. This will be followed with a phone call from Bonnie Pabian, Jeanne Berry or me to discuss the questions.

The results of the survey will be examined and used in the planning of the upcoming CCA Convention.

Katerina Zisman
Coordinator, Evaluation Committee

First Person Narrative

"I'm not going to collect Ingrid. I'm not. Even though I am researching the Schlevogt company and collecting catalogs wherever I can find them; and even though I gave a presentation about this glass at the CCA convention in 2008; that doesn't mean that I have to collect it." That's what I told myself. Then I walked into a booth at an antique show and... I now have my 6th piece of Ingrid glass. I guess that's a collection.

Ena Rottenberg (a designer living in Vienna) designed "Nude" for the Curt Schlevogt Company in Jablonec, Czechoslovakia. Schlevogt had it pressed at the Riedel glassworks in Polubny and included the statue in its "Ingrid" series. The Czechoslovakian government included it in its exhibit at the 1937 Paris World's Fair, where it won a Grand Prize.

The statue stands 13" high; it is made of clear glass; some of the surface is polished, some is frosted. It is acid-stamped "Modell: Ena Rottenberg, Wien" on the bottom. Not knowing the sensitivities of Members to a photo of a nude appearing in the Newsletter, I have blocked out the areas of concern.

If I hadn't been studying the Ingrid catalogs, I wouldn't have recognized the statue. I'm happy she now graces my home.

Debbie Truitt



Please Note:

A special thank you to an additional CCA Silver Sponsor: Brian Litwack.

First Person Narrative

WHEN YOU COME TO A FORK IN THE ROAD **...TAKE IT...**

*by Tom Rood
Shelbyville, IL*

I think most people would agree that we now live in a very fast-paced technological world. We want to get to wherever we're going and we want to get there as fast as we can. And...we use whatever technology is available to get us there. For a person that my students used to say "lived in the olden days" I'm still amazed at some (okay, most) of the technology available to us. I'm also skeptical that just by hitting a "send" button this article and photo will be sent to Jorie...and received! I've been known to send a friend an email, only to send a follow-up email just to make sure the first one actually got there. As a fairly recent retiree from teaching elementary school, I will remember when technology came to our building. There were those orange-screened Apple computers with the large square blinking cursor. At a teacher's workshop, I remember asking a fellow "olden days" teacher, "What will we ever need something like this for?" That was about the same time that one of my first grade students had to show me where the tracking button was on our school's new VCR player. On several occasions, people have asked me if I have a G-P-S. My answer is always the same. "Yes, it's called my M-A-P."

So...what does all this technology talk have to do with collecting Czech items? Well, I don't really know, but by the end of this article I'm sure I will have made some kind of connection. And the good news is that if I don't make a connection, then I can just blame all that technology for my now short-term memory and not being able to stay on the subject.

Technology has certainly changed our hobby of antique collecting. No more do we have to travel mile after mile to go antiquing. We can now find whatever we want while sitting at a computer in our own home. We can buy our item from any country in the world, and nowadays, our payment is immediate. Once in awhile, when we do go antiquing in a real shop or mall, we can drive there quickly without getting too far off our interstate highway system. We can peruse the giant mall only to get back on the interstate to speed to the next mall.'

The real fun comes on those rare occasions when we take the path less traveled and find one of the small hidden away antique shops in some tiny little town on some nondescript road. And if you're lucky, there sits a "sleeper" just waiting for you to find it.

This actually happened to us earlier this year and we still talk about our luck in finding the little antique shop. We were spending a couple of days relaxing in a state park in northern Illinois. Of course, we'd already stopped at our usual interstate antique mall sites, and of course, all the good finds we were anticipating must have already been found!

While having our last cup of coffee at the lodge before heading home, we struck up a conversation with the hotel maintenance man. Of course, antiquing worked it way into the conversation and we were pleasantly surprised to learn that the hotel employee was also an avid

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antique collector. Luckily, he was born and raised in the area, so he knew some of the out-of-the-way antique shops that would get us off the interstate highway. We stopped at the first shop he suggested and were glad we did. Although we didn't find anything we couldn't live without, it was still a pleasant experience. The other shop was about 20 on down the road and farther away from home. I suggested to Jane that we should forget the second shop and head on home. She reminded me that we weren't that far away from the shop and we were in no real hurry to get home, so on down the road we went.

As it turned out, this second antique shop was definitely an off the road unadvertised shop. It even smelled like an antique shop! It was on the small size with several nooks and crannies along with a few attached rooms. It was crowded and unorganized; the perfect place to find a "sleeper."

Part of our collection includes Czech bird flower frogs and figurines. We especially look for those pieces with marks other than the usual "dime" mark (probably because Dave Phelps already has them all!). I will admit that some of our birds were purchased via the Internet where our only travel time was from the kitchen to the front door when the postal delivery truck pulled up. But on this particular day, it was Jane who found it. It was just sitting there on an overcrowded shelf waiting for some collector to get off the beaten path and find it.



The bird that we (OOPS!...I mean Jane) found was a Quetzal flower frog. We had never seen this bird before in any shop, book, or on the Internet. It was marked with the Royal Dux double circle mark and it cost us all of fifteen dollars! And to think we almost skipped this shop because it was a few more miles down the road. We even headed home on some of the Illinois back roads and avoided the interstate for the rest of that day.

Once in awhile, we just need to get away from our fast-paced lives and our technology. From that pleasant unexpected antiquing trip, Jane and I have learned that if you come to a fork in the road, just take it.



“Travels with your CCA Members”
An Antiquing Guide to America
By David Fein of South Beach Antiques

Hi Czech /Bohemian/Austrian Dealers, collectors and enthusiasts,

This is the third installment of antiquing in and around the country by your fellow members.

This edition we have a contribution from Vinnie Giarrusso, one of the leading Czech Glass dealers/members and a collector of Amphora, Eichwald and Ditmar Urbach pottery. Vinnie and his wife Patty have been mainstays of our club since it began.

Hello Fellow Czech Nuts-----

From the land of record snowfalls. The largest antique store in Syracuse, is the Syracuse Antique Exchange with four full floors of antiques and 20,000 sq.ft. of space to explore. This is where you have a couple of glass display cases and many numerous pieces sprinkled around the four floors. There is another 4-6 antique stores in Syracuse proper. There is also five large antique shows held during the year-----most held at the New York State Fairgrounds. The biggest show held in the area is the Bouckville Antiques Show held in Bouckville about an hour ride from Syracuse heading east on Rt 20----It is held in August usually the second week of August and lasts about a week. The show has about 1000 plus dealers selling their wares. Goes from a Monday to Sunday-----very similar to the shows in Brimfield Mass. in context and setups, but smaller. To be very frank---there is not a lot of Czech items for sale in the area (except for mine). If coming to Syracuse for some reason be sure to take the time and visit the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY-----Outstanding. Also give me a call and I'll be happy to give you places to see for more antiques including my own collection of Czech pottery, glass and Amphora.

Best regards, Vinnie
Happy Hunting



Next we have a contribution from Dave Phelps a leading dealer/collector of Mrazek Peasant Pottery. Dave also collects Ditmar Urbach pottery and glass.

Antiquing From Des Moines to Detroit Lakes

Each year when I go to the lake on vacation, of course I antique along the way. I leave from Des Moines, Iowa, which has a couple great malls right on I-80, the *Majestic Lion* and the *Brass Armadillo* (in which I have now opened a showcase).



As you know, the trick is to leave early enough to hit as many malls as possible but not too early to miss the first ones. Since I usually visit the Iowa malls several times a year, my first stop is usually *Antiques Minnesota* on the south edge of Minneapolis. This is a large mall with some of everything. You should look for a copy of Old Times, a free newspaper listing the malls and shops in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Time permitting you should go to downtown St. Paul, although a number of the shops have closed. Further east is Stillwater, Canon Falls, Zumbro Falls, Red Wing and several others. This can be worth the trip, but may finish out the day if you take this side trip. If you are not in a hurry, I would recommend it.

I usually skip downtown Minneapolis for time reasons, so take I-494 west. On the west side of Minneapolis is the suburb of Hopkins. Unfortunately like many towns, they have lost several malls, but there are still about 5-6 good shops. Hopkins is right off I-494 on Hwy 7 which I had a hard time finding for a while. Further west you will come to Rogers (I-494 has now become I-94) which has two malls worth visiting. At this point you have a choice to go up to Elk River at the junction of Highway 10 which parallels I-94 up to Detroit Lakes.



Nearly every town will have a shop or two, so if you want to take your time, this is the way to go. Unfortunately, by now you will most likely have run out of time before reaching St. Cloud and surely before reaching Alexandria, both worth a stop.

There are two short day trips I make once I get to the lake. The first is into Fargo-Moorhead. Moorhead has a nice mall on I-94 which is my first stop. It is the only place to stop in Moorhead, but makes it convenient to go into Fargo. There are several stops to make, none should be missed. Get a map in the first mall. While I have only found a couple pieces of Czech, you never know. One of my best birds came from a mall in Grand Forks, an hour or so to the north. Fortunately the floods did not damage the malls this summer.

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The second trip begins in Detroit Lakes at SuLaines on Highway 10. From here you head east to Frazee and then to Perham. You then will circle south to Ottertail Lake. It will be easy to find since the shops published a flyer with a map. Be sure to get one at your first stop. By then you will circle back to Fergus Falls to visit the new mall on I-94 at exit 55, easy to remember since that is its name. This part of the country has a number of rural shops that you will pass; in fact there are three on the way back to the cabin. It is surprising what you may find; they have some very nice things.

The disappointment of vacation being over is lessened by antiquing on the way home. If I haven't stopped at either Albany or Alexandria, then those will be the first stops. Then I get off the Interstate at Sauk Centre (birthplace of Sinclair Lewis for you history buffs) onto Highway 4, and drive south through Paynesville, Litchfield, and Hutchinson. By now time is limited so I head to New Ulm on Highway 14 and head to Waseca. This bypasses Mankato and unless you are a Vikings fan and want to watch training camp, I have not found a good reason to stop. Waseca has a couple nice malls which I would rather hit instead, then going on to Uncle Tom's on Hwy 14 just to the west of I-35 at Owatonna. The last possible stop for me is *Carousals* right on the Interstate at Story City, north of Ames, Iowa which stays open a little later. It does not open until noon or so making it hard to stop at on the way up.

Finally, I noted that I did not get the link included in the last article. This link will provide you state by state the list of antiques shops and mall in each state. The link is: www.antiqueshoppesusa.com. I have found the shops listed to be out of date. However, not only does it give the addresses, but phone numbers as well. You can call to find out if they are still open before you drive too far.

Davie Phelps

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This month let me tell you about big city malls that always have Czech items.

When in Chicago go visit *Broadway Antiques* you will always find a nice selection of Czech glass and pottery from a number of dealers.

When in Los Angeles visit the *Santa Monica Antiques Mall* on Lincoln in Santa Monica. Every time I visit I always find some Mrazek, Ditmar Urbach, Czech glass and a few other Czech items.

Another good bet is to go to the *Long Beach Antiques Show* at the old airport, which is monthly. There is always a number of dealers that carry a nice assortment of Czech items every month.

As always we welcome articles of blurbs about the antiquing in you home areas of where you visit to share with your fellow Czech members.

You can send me your article to dbf57@hotmail.com or mail it to me: David Fein
810-11th Street #201
Miami Beach, Florida
33139-4834

A final thank you to Jim Londe for the heads up on the Czech Pottery on the cover of the August edition of "Antiques" magazine.

See you next time
Happy finds
David

FINDING THAT “GOLDEN RING”

by Linda Racey

I was fortunate during my career that when I traveled many times my husband was able to go with me. We would take a couple of extra days, rent a car and take off antique hunting. Jack called it looking for that “golden ring”. Of course among other interests, we kept our eagle eyes on the lookout for Czechoslovakian and Austrian art glass and pottery. I already had a respectable collection of Czech figural perfume bottles, but finding these had been difficult, the finds were few and far between.

One business trip In September of 1990, took us to Asheville, North Carolina. We rented a car and on the weekend took off for South Carolina. We were not headed anywhere in particular; and I am sorry, but I can't remember the name of town, just over the border into S. Carolina, where we found one of our greatest treasures. The town was not particularly impressive and only had a few shops. We found this one shop that carried mostly vintage clothing and linens and what today might be called Shabby Chic. Since we primarily looked for glass and pottery, we often didn't waste time in these places. However when we had plenty of time, we tried to check out the least likely spots. We have found the most wonderful items in unlikely places (e.g. Verlys among primitives), and in this primarily clothing and linen shop, there were a few nice jewelry pieces in their window.

We were thoroughly unimpressed as we looked around until we bent down to look in one display case. We saw a perfume bottle with the nude lady dauber, and of course, with wonderful filigree and beaded decorations; we looked at each other and took a huge gasp! We asked to see it; trying to act not too interested so we would be able to negotiate a good price. We had seen the nude lady dauber perfume bottle in the books and at some shows, but never in a shop. Not only was the perfume bottle exquisite, but also it was part of a dresser set consisting of 5 matching pieces, all decorated with the same beads and jewels. Besides the perfume bottle, there was a round powder box, a hand brush, a comb and a mirror. The mirror was beveled with a braided handle that was used to hold the mirror. The only flaw was that one tooth was missing from the comb.



Continued

The owner of the shop told us a number of people had asked her to sell the perfume bottle without the other pieces, but she would not break up the set. How thankful we were, because no doubt the perfume bottle would have been snatched up and this wonderful set would not have been available to us to buy. While we have no written documentation, the owner told us the set originated from a local elderly lady whom the owner bought from regularly. The woman's husband, who was deceased, was prominent in starting the Rose Bowl Parade in California. In 1920, her husband had taken her overseas and gave her this set as a gift when they were in Austria.

Jacquelyne Y. Jones-North, in her book Czechoslovakian Perfume Bottles & Boudoir Accessories attributes the production of this type of perfume bottle to the Heineich Hoffman factory. The metal fittings were likely manufactured in Austria. And the design of the metal mountings was probably a collaboration between Hoffman & Schlevogt.

Needless to say, we bought the set and have enjoyed it for almost 20 years. Not only have we been members of CCA, but also the National Perfume Bottle Association. I'm sure there must be other dresser sets out there, but in all my travels and in all my reference books; I have never seen the 5 piece matching Dresser Set like this. Jack is not with me anymore, but I will always remember the "golden ring" we found together in an obscure town in South Carolina in 1990.



Dear Fellow CCA Members,

Thank you to members who wrote articles for this Fall CCA Newsletter. I am already looking forward to the Spring 2010 issue. Please consider writing an ABC article, or a "First Person Narrative", or a "Heartbreak O'tel", or submitting an interesting item for the "FYI" column.

All contributions are appreciated; and if asked, I will be glad to edit your submission.

Sincerely, Jorie Martinez, Secretary

jorie1@verizon.net

FYI: On June 13, 2008 the Cedar River crested at 31.2 feet, 19.2 feet above flood stage, devastating the **National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library**, the surrounding ethnic neighborhoods and the legendary Czech Village commercial district.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Cedar Rapids, Iowa
(319) 362-8500 • www.NCSML.org



Flooded Czech and Slovak Museum to Rebuild Next Door

By Becky Ogann

Story Created: Sep 9, 2009 at 3:02 PM CDT

Story Updated: Sep 9, 2009 at 3:02 PM CDT

CEDAR RAPIDS - The flood damaged Czech and Slovak Museum and Library now knows where it wants to rebuild.

The museum wants to rebuild in Czech Village, right next to its flood-damaged museum, where the Round House stands. Now, the NCSML is trying to work with the city to develop that land.

They will ask the city to have the Round House moved or demolished and to close A Street SW to through traffic, among other site improvements.

The NCSML says the design process for the new exhibition center and library is expected to begin this fall with construction scheduled for completion in 2012.

“We intend to build the new museum above a level of parking to protect it from future flooding”, said Gail Naughton, president/CEO.

Continued

The NCSML says an effort is underway to raise the funds required before beginning construction. "Preliminary estimates are in the range of \$18 to \$20 million", said Naughton. "It is important that we have reached that goal in cash and pledges before we start the project."

The new exhibition center and library is the largest of four rebuilding projects for the NCSML. The other three projects are to 1) restore the historic Kosek building in Czech Village for a new exhibition, programs and administrative space – set to open early 20010; 2) restore the historic homes under museum ownership, including the 1880s immigrant home; and 3) mount a new, permanent exhibition in the new exhibition center and library.

The NCSML says the decision on rebuilding was informed by a national public input process that gathered opinions and ideas through surveys, public meetings and small-group stakeholder meetings. Over 850 people from all over the U.S., and a few from outside the country, participated. The Board has formed a committee to study the possible role of the flood-damaged museum building. A decision is expected later this fall.

Why do Czechs love their beer?

By **Bruce I. Konviser** - GlobalPost

Published: www.GlobalPost.com, July 30, 2009 21:45 ET

The issue raises a kind of chicken-and-egg question — which came first: Do the Czechs love their beer because it tastes so good, or is it so good because the Czechs cultivated it? The answer is almost certainly a bit of both.

Pavel Maryska, who was out drinking with his wife and friends last week, observed, "The Czech Republic isn't a good region for growing wine ingredients," he said, referring to grapes. "It's good for growing hops."

With all due respect to the Czech Republic's modest wine industry, Maryska makes an important point. But while good beer might begin with good hops, but it doesn't necessarily end there.

Petr Janik, who runs Pivovarsky Dum (The Brewery House) in Prague, said that in addition to the hops, other raw materials, such as yeast and water, the recipe and the equipment all contribute to the end result in your glass.

Janik said, "The American lager is much more deeply fermented compared with Czech lager. That is the first thing. And second is the brewing process, because we use the decoction [system](#), but in America they mainly use the **infusion system**. And the decoction system gives the beer full body and much more caramel aroma."

But he said some smaller breweries in the U.S. are using the decoction method, and getting good results. "In America I drank several Czech-style lagers from pub brewery and some were very close," to genuine Czech lagers.

If you like beer at all — and presumably you do or else you would have stopped reading long ago — there's definitely something to be said for fresh, out of the tap, draft-beer. These full-bodied Czech beers really massage the taste buds.

Inside Janik's brew house I sampled their eclectic collection of in-house brews.



Continued

They only produce about 600 pints of beer (pivo) per day, and the most popular is their regular lager, according to Janik. Like a good Czech beer should be, their standard lager was full-bodied and pleasantly bitter.

The dark lager, made from four types of hops, I'm told, was also quite good. Dark beers tend to be sweet, but this dark beer was less so, and that agreed with my tongue.

The sour cherry beer, predictably, had a very fruity flavor, and relatively sweet. One could almost drink it with a dessert.

The coffee beer, made from coffee extract, tasted much better than the combination might suggest, though it still wouldn't be my beer of choice.

The wheat beer was fine — a typical Bavarian flavor, according to Janik — though wheat beers, in general, hold less appeal for me.

The banana beer didn't taste much like banana until it hit the back of my throat.

The nettle beer was a marvelous light green color, which comes from the nettle extract. It was fine, and Janik said, "It's very healthy, it contains a lot of minerals."

The lemon beer, apparently a Belgian style, was OK but it didn't do much for me.

For me, the standard lager was definitely my favorite but it was interesting, and fun, to taste all of these other flavors.

Finally, the special distinctive quality of Czech beer has also been recognized by the European Union. Last year the EU designated Czech beer a country specialty. This entitles Czech brewers to put a Protected Geographical Indication stamp on bottles and cans. As Vera Honigova explains it, if someone in, say, Poland, adopted all of the ingredients and methods used in making Czech beer, it would still be considered an imitation product.

[The Czech love affair with beer](#)

The "Institute of Beer" is trying to prove that Czech beer is the most "drinkable" in the world.

By **Bruce I. Konviser** - GlobalPost

Published: www.GlobalPost.com, July 30, 2009 15:47 ET

Updated: July 31, 2009 09:17 ET

PRAGUE — It's almost a ritual for Czechs to walk to the corner pub or nearby restaurant — whose tables mushroom out onto the sidewalks — on hot summer days to drink beer.

Czechs and the millions of tourists who flock to Prague every year seemingly agree that there is something special about the local brews. The Czechs are the largest per capita beer consumers in the world, downing 1.58 billion liters last year. (That's 320 16-oz glasses of beer for every man, woman and child.)

"It's fresh, it's sparkling, it's refreshing," said Lenka Fialova, while nursing a Pilsner Urquell, the most popular of all Czech lagers.

Given that it isn't just Czechs who like guzzling the national treasure, but visitors too, analysts at the Research Institute of Brewing and Malting are engaged in a comprehensive project to try to prove, once and for all, that Czech beer is the best — or at least the most "drinkable," according to Vera Honigova, the manager of R&D at the institute.

Continued

“We want to be the first who will set up a methodology to assess drinkability — how to recognize if one beer is more drinkable than the other,” she said.

Owned by the breweries but with additional financing from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Institute of Beer — as it is light-heartedly referred to sometimes — is pouring \$780,000 into the research over the next five years.

“We believe that this phenomena, called drinkability, is a special phenomena for Czech beer,” she continued. “For instance, foreigners visiting the Czech Republic recognize this feature of Czech beer; that having one beer, they want to drink another one.”

They'll have “to be sure that applying this methodology we will be able to prove Czech beer is more drinkable than Euro beers,” she said.

Indeed, if the methodology proved that, say, Heineken or Stella Artois was more drinkable than the Czech brews, that wouldn't boost Czech beer exports. Despite the huge consumption at home — which outpaces other beer quaffing countries like Germany and Ireland, and is about two times the European Union average — Czech brewers hold just a sliver of the EU beer market.

The country's 47 industrialized breweries produced 4.1 billion pints of beer last year, according to Honigova. About 20 percent of that was exported to the free trade-zone of the EU, with its 500 million consumers, and beyond.

Clearly there is room for export growth. And while liquid amber consumption has declined in other prominent beer-drinking countries, Honigova says it has held steady here. But she worries that the country has reached a saturation point.

“We are the biggest drinkers, still,” she said. “We don't see any tendency towards decline. Beer consumption in the Czech Republic is stagnating because we cannot drink more, I guess.” While she says their exports are growing there is a desire to accelerate that growth.

Beer is one thing, but beer culture is something else. And in considering why Czechs love their beer, it can't be overlooked.

In addition to running an engineering and consulting firm for breweries, Petr Janik is co-owner of a microbrewery/restaurant called Pivovarsky Dum. One of only a handful of microbreweries in and around Prague, Janik's brewery doesn't export abroad. It doesn't even bottle the beer for domestic consumption.

One has to walk into the restaurant to get a fresh taste of one of the 600 pints per day that come out of the tap. That's just 211,000 pints per year, a fraction of the 422 million pints produced annually by Staropramen, one of the country's largest breweries.

For Czechs a local brewery is kind of like a local sports team — the community identifies itself with the proverbial home team.

“If I sell this beer in other pubs it has no contact with this brewery,” Janik said. “And they can buy beer from other breweries, so I think it's necessary to sell it here.”

Plus, bottling and transportation costs quickly become onerous for a microbrewery, especially in a country where most of the drinking is done in public.

“The historic culture is that we drink a lot of beer in pubs, not from bottles, and cans,” Janik said. “We drink a lot of draft beer with our friends. If I bring beer home in a bottle I drink one. If I'm out in a pub with friends I drink five or six.”

To the Czechs, she's "Clintonova"

The traditional female name ending comes under fire in the Czech Republic.

By **Bruce I. Konviser** - GlobalPost
Published: www.GlobalPost.com,
March 19, 2009 19:24 ET



Then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (R) chats with then-Czech First Lady Dagmar Havlova in Prague Oct. 12. The distinctive female name ending in some Slavic languages — "ova" — has become the topic of debate. (Sean Gallup/Reuters)

PRAGUE — To Czechs, it's not Hillary Clinton who is U.S. Secretary of State — it's Hillary Clintonova, or "wife of Clinton."

But that distinctive female name ending in some Slavic languages — "ova" — has come under increased scrutiny since the fall of communism here. The issue bubbled over last month during a world championship skiing competition.

Zuzana Kocumova was providing color commentary for viewers of the country's leading TV station, Czech Television. A 29-year-old city council member and school teacher, Kocumova was a competitive cross-country skier and has been a TV commentator for about seven years. But this time, she did not add "ova" to the names of foreign competitors.

"One day I came to work but my boss said it was finished — our cooperation," Kocumova said. She was told that some viewers were upset that she referred to the female skiers by their official names. They were their names, she said, and "it's not normal to use our form with them."

Otto Cerny, the Czech Television official who fired Kocumova, refused to comment about the incident, not responding to calls and a text message.

Independent experts and observers agree there a clash of rules and values are at play here. Jiri Kraus, a professor of language at Charles University, attributes the dispute to globalization and the country's ever-growing integration with the outside world.

"Now there is a strong feminist movement and a stronger influence of foreign languages and foreign traditions," he said. "So it is sometimes very difficult to solve this problem."

But the rules of Czech language are clear, he said: A woman's name should end in "ova."

"It's not a language problem but a legal and administrative problem," Kraus said.

At first glance, the "ova" ending seems useful as a way of distinguishing whether someone is a man or a woman, particularly if they have a gender neutral name like Pat or Robin. For instance, Pat Jones would be readily recognized as a man while Pat Jonesova would easily be identified as a woman in the Czech language.

Clinton is expected to accompany U.S. President Barack Obama on his first state visit to Europe in two weeks, which includes a stop in the Czech capital. Rest assured that in print and broadcast media she will be referred to as "Clintonova."

Continued

Not only does that look pretty weird to just about everyone outside of the Slavic-speaking world, but it carries with it a possessive connotation.

Women's rights advocate Milus Kotisova admits the male ownership connotation of the "ova" ending has been lost in the modern language. Still, she thinks women should be called by their native surnames and that the Czechs should loosen up.

"It just shows that Czech society is a very rigid society," she said. Plus, the "Czech language is a language of many exceptions."

When a name becomes iconic enough, it is left alone. Kotisova pointed to Agatha Christie and Greta Garbo as two examples. These women rarely, if ever, are referred to as "Christiova" or "Garbova."

She also noted that Czechs aren't alone when it comes to family names and rigid rules. She said that when a Czech friend of hers moved to Germany and had a baby, hospital officials there insisted on naming her newborn boy with her last name, "ova" ending and all.

Complaints about Kocumova's dropped "ova" ending were quickly drowned out by the backlash against her firing. Czech Television quickly re-hired her.

"I was surprised so many people were interested in this," Kocumova said, explaining that there were hundreds, if not thousands, of emails and messages supporting her posted on the Internet.

She said she would stick to her egalitarian approach.

"It's not just for celebrities," Kocumova said. "There's no reason to use the 'ova' ending on foreign names."

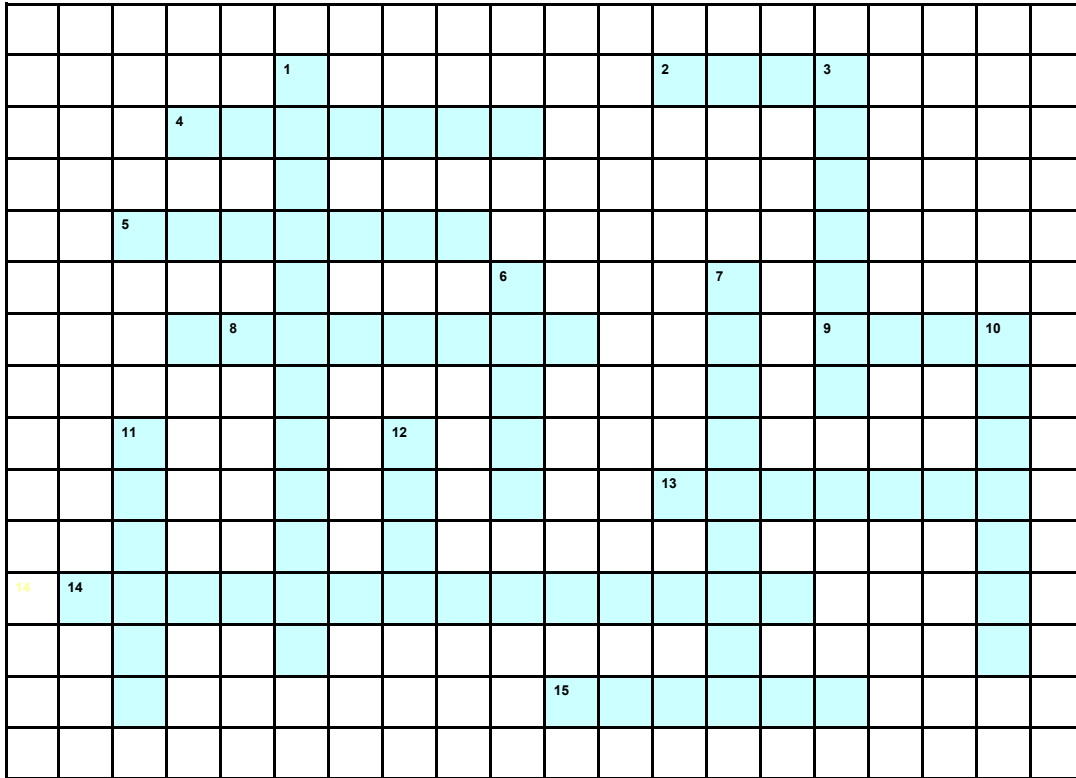
CONDOLENCES

The members of CCA extend their sympathies to family and friends for the loss of CCA member Ruth A. Forsythe.



ABC Crossword Puzzle

by Arlene Larke



ACROSS

- 2** Some people collect Czechoslovakian items with this mark
- 4** The “Butterfly Lady Nude” is this kind of accessory
- 5** Founded by Alfred Stellmacher in a small country village in Turn, Bohemia
- 8** Know as the glass painting capital of the world
- 9** A glass beaded basket
- 13** Geometric shapes, bold colors, and stylized images
- 14** Won 59 medals & prizes at the 1925 PARIS EXPO
- 15** A ground mark on the bottom of a glass vase

DOWN

- 1** In 1982 she published her first book, “Made in Czechoslovakia”
- 3** The essence of whimsical animal pitchers
- 6** In 1899 recognized as one of the most innovative glass firms in the world
- 7** Authority on Bohemian Glass
- 10** Attributions to the glass designer reached an absurd level
- 11** Peasant Art Industries
- 12** 2002, Aggie Elwell had 1200 of these in her collection



www.czechcollectors.org