

Czechoslovakian Collectors Association



Fall Newsletter
October 2015

THE 2015 CCA CONVENTION

by Jerry Buchanan and Bob Stinson

Photos from Dave Phelps

We were late arriving in Cedar Rapids on Thursday, but we did get to set up our booth. We did not make the scheduled tour of the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art as planned. We had been on the road for three days and were tired. We decided to stay in that night and rest. We did hear it was well worth while and was very enjoyable.



The next day we traveled to the Czech Museum. It was very interesting. It depicted scenes and displays of the Czech's involvement in



World War II and artifacts of the Czech immigrants coming to the United States. There were some displays of Czech costumes and glass.



We were pleasantly surprised by the exhibit of perfume bottles presented by our own club member, Rosie Bodien. They were beautiful, Rosie, and we thank you for having them there.

That night we all ate at a local Czech restaurant. The food was good and the owner was very entertaining. We were shuttled back and forth from the hotel in a shuttle bus that did not have a low step. You had to step quite high to board the bus. A few of us heavier folks had a hard time getting to the first step; but with the help of George we all made it. He shouldered us high enough to get on board. He made the statement that his experience in loading cattle into trucks really came in handy. I believe him.



Bonnie Pabian served as the greeter and registrar. Here she holds a Bambus vase.

The Katko's table of Czech glass and ceramics for sale.



The next day Debbie Truitt gave a presentation on Czech glass from the Antonín Rückl firm. It was interesting as most of the glass presented was Czech glass we were already familiar with. I agree with her conclusion that most of the history is still lost. Knowing Debbie she'll find more information.

Judy Myers then gave an interesting presentation on Czech perfume bottles.



That night we held our annual banquet and our new President Dwight Gilbert was introduced. The banquet was a success and we are looking forward to working with our new president.



Lilliputian Bottles for Perfume

by Verna Kockan

Czechoslovakian dram bottles and miniatures are featured in a reproduction of a 1934 advertisement for Marshall Field and Company. The ad, which most likely originally came from a wholesale catalog because it refers to retail pricing and marketing, can be seen on page 104 of Jacqueline Jones-North's Czechoslovakian Perfume Bottles and Boudoir Accessories. (1999, Glass Press, Inc.).



This advertisement features a black and white photo for Aristo, a Czechoslovakian bottle import company, bottles available in quantity. Larger bottles in the top left triangle and in the bottom right triangle of the photo have a suggested retail price of \$1.00 each for the first four shown, and \$2.00 to \$5.00 for each of the remaining larger bottles. The center swath of the photo shows 24 individual miniatures separated in the middle of the page by four groupings or sets.

To quote the text of the ad, “Center panel: These famous Lilliputian bottles for dram sales of perfumes. The 11 numbers on the top four rows and the 13 numbers on the lower rows make up this group and retail for \$.50 without perfume. Centered in this panel are families of bottles- little groups in 3 sizes- and an eye-catching Bridge Quartet on a colored glass plaque. Prices on Request.” An endnote to the ad refers to the company as “Manufacturers, Converters, Importers”.

Marshall Field’s retail business was founded in Chicago in 1852 and has a fascinating history



One of the smallest Lilliputians is just over 1 1/2”.

Purple with a fan top, this measures ~2 1/2”.



This bottle base is correct for the ad, but this has a screw top instead of a flame stopper. The base can be found with many treatments including jeweled metal decoration.





The green and purple bottles have an inner stopper and silver-colored metal stopper covers. 1.75"



The triplet set (in the middle) is shown in 3 sizes—this is the smallest size. Measured on the base—2 1/2"
Right photo: Aristo label on the base.



as reported in Google, certainly worth the read if only for the story of how they coped with and continued after the great Chicago fire, October 8, 1871, and for the photo of the Tiffany Favre ceiling containing 1.6 million pieces of glass in the store that opened in 1907. The Chicago location and shipping opportunities lent itself to a substantial wholesale business which began in the 1870s and flourished until the 1930s, closing finally in 1936. The retail business went through numerous changes and associations, and was finally “defunct” in 2006.



The Bridge Set—probably a prize offered to a winning lady. Unfortunately, the square base is missing. Bottles: 2 1/2”.



Black and pink Lilliputians (2 1/2”) stand next to a commercial bottle: Ciro’s Chevalier de la Nuit and its gray and red box.



Interesting shape with rounded base and pinched-in 3-sided upper, these have etched detail in the triangular stoppers. 1 1/2”.

The term “Lilliputians” is a reference to the tiny people who inhabited the world of Lilliput from Jonathan Swift’s 1726 satire, Gulliver’s Travels. Lilliputian bottles measure from just over an inch and a half to just over 2 and a half inches. They are fine cut crystal. Four of the



Shaped like Ciro’s Surrender, the yellow is plain as in the ad, but the clear bottle has a red top and red jewelling. This bottle can be seen in opaque black as well. 2”

This bottle is representative of a Vantine scent or Forest’s Ming Toy. 2”



styles appear to be opaque black; the others can be found in clear and colors including black, pink, purple, blue, and green with a very few in yellow and red. The bottles are tiny, but exquisite, available in a variety of colors and styles, and at a price that must have been irresistible.



Pretty in pink, this bottle is taller than most and has a chunkier top. 2 1/2 “

A commercial Guerlain Shalimar with red and blue Lilliputians. 2 1/2”



Implied in the wording of the Marshall Field ad was that bottles were incidental enhancements to the sale of perfume. Thanks to Helen Farnsworth's 30 Year Perfume Library, Perfume Catalogs, we find the 1908 catalog lists wholesale perfume from Pinaud, Baldwin, Lazell, Dorothy Vernon, Lundborg, Woodworth, Colgate, F Wolff & Sohn, and Reiger, to name a few. By the 1930s, available perfumes would have been the popular scents of the day.

Sweet and dainty, this Lilliputian stands alone. 2 1/4”



If perfume was a luxury, what could have more appeal than purchasing an exotic scent and decanting it to a miniature cut glass bottle? Even better might have been to match the perfume to a tiny replica of the scent's commercial bottle: Guerlain's Shalimar and Vol de Nuit; Ciro's, Chevalier de la Nuit and Surrender; Lucien Lelong's Whisper; and D'Orsay's Le Dandy; Caron's Bellodogia and Corday's L'ardent Nuit. Finding these documented, charming bottles today is fun — the bonus of course, is that the price is still comparatively reasonable.

Hi folks: On my last trip I ran across a beautiful piece of glass, a ball shaped vase in what appears to be pink or cranberry pappillon but had tadpoles. I don't know why I didn't take a picture with my phone, I guess I keep forgetting that I have it. Anyway, I've tried to find in on the glass pages, but don't see any Loetz with tadpoles but looked better than Kralik. Did Loetz make pieces with tadpoles? Of all the things I've passed up, I wish it hadn't been one of them. I haven't stopped thinking about it since. George talked me out of it since sadly it had cracks on the bottom and one side. It was only \$18 but with damage... Any thoughts or guide to a website? Thanks. Dave



Crown of St. Wenceslas.



Bohemian Coat of Arms

SIGNAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Go to www.signalfestival.com/2015 to see how Prague is celebrating with light installations, video mapping, and interactive light installations.

MEET YOUR NEW CCA PRESIDENT

— DWIGHT GILBERT

I would like to begin by thanking Mr. Dave Phelps for his fine service for these many years. He will be missed. My name is Dwight Gilbert and I am your new CCA President. Hello to all.

I was born a North Dakotan (why not Minot?) but moved to Wyoming when I was seven years old to help my folks homestead on the newly developed Heart Mountain Irrigation District. I was taught in the Powell, Wyoming school system and graduated in 1963; joined the US Navy in 1964; trained as a Hospital Corpsman and was assigned to the US Marine Corps for three years. While there I served a year in the tropical climes of the northern portion of South Vietnam, where I flew many med evacs for the Corps. Returning home in 1968 I was married to Dawn Hunder. We have three children: Dustin, Derek and Desirée. After three years in the oilfields of California we returned to Wyoming to begin our own farming operation and we are continuing on with that to this day.

The crazy Czech part of this story is that in 1990 I set out to start collecting marbles when I noticed a blue and orange vase in an antique shop and it was marked: old vase \$15.00. As I am also a Denver Broncos fan I thought it would a great vase to hold my Broncos flag. When the vase and I got home, I inspected the vase and found on the bottom a Made in Czechoslovakia mark. I then did a bit of research and the obsession began. I can still remember in the late nineties waiting for the picture of the possible vase to download on dial-up!!

By the way, I suppose every Czech collector has a copy of my first vase, you know the one: 9” orange top, blue mottling on the bottom! I then collected EVERYTHING Czech for a while: pottery, glass, toys, dolls, and all sorts of stuff. The craziest thing Czech that I collected was a syringe marked Made in Czechoslovakia (medical background I guess)!! I then realized there had to be a limiting factor so I chose only glass and nothing but glass. Hmmmm, is that a limiting factor, not hardly. So the collection grows but I still love the search! Who knew there was so much glass in the ABCs?

My current favorites are “knuckle” pieces, fan vases, Loetz 226 and small three-footed bowls, miniatures. I attended my first convention a few years ago in Cincinnati and really enjoyed the experience and would encourage all to attend at least one. A good one coming up will be in the heartland of the country (Cedar Rapids) this coming June. On that note, we will be looking for some great presenters [and I know you are out there], so feel free to contact me or anyone on the Board if you are willing to share your expertise. We can assist you with your convention plans.

I believe we should emphasize furthering our education. So much to learn. Are you willing to share??

Another goal would of be to expand our membership whenever we can. I believe Jerry has flyers that can be distributed in your area if you are willing. It would be great to see more folks at the conventions, put it on your bucket list to attend at least one. It will be more fun if YOU are there!! If there are any ideas you may have about the CCA, please feel free to let someone on the Board know, we cannot have too much input. It is your organization.

Sincerely,

Dwight

SAVE THE DATE

The 2106 CCA Convention will be held in

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

June 2-4 2016

CCA Officers 2015-2016

President—Dwight Gilbert
Secretary—Verna Kocken
Treasurer—Mary Gawle
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Jerry Vath

The Czechoslovakian Collectors
Association *Newsletter* is printed twice
a year, in the Spring and Fall.

Newsletter Editor—Deborah Truitt

