

Czechoslovakian Collectors Association



Fall Newsletter
November 2010

Collecting Ditmar Urbach Pottery

by
David Fein



Ditmar Urbach is one of the most popular of the Czechoslovakian potteries to collect, and for the new collector one of the most confusing. One of the problems of collecting Ditmar Urbach pottery has always been the markings, or in very many cases, the lack of. Ditmar Urbach had its factories in Turn-Teplitz (where the collectible decorative-ware was made) and Znaim (where it made the utilitarian ware).

The first thing a Ditmar Urbach collector learns is that other than the clearly marked pieces with one of the numerous Ditmar Urbach marks, the mark "Hand-painted Czechoslovakia" is a hallmark of Ditmar Urbach pottery. The "T" in the center is for Teplitz; a "Z" would be for Znaim.



There are also some very similar earlier marks that just say Ditmar, Wilhelmsberg, or Urbach-Freres. In the typical DU mark, these indicate they were made 1883-1909 and mostly are utilitarian wares.



After these lessons have been learned, the more involved, confusing markings come next.

It was a policy of the Ditmar Urbach company to mark pieces specifically for an extremely good customer. The best example of this was Erphila, or E & R of Philadelphia (Ebeling & Reuss). Most, but not all, of the pieces marked Erphila Czechoslovakia came from the Ditmar Urbach company.



To date I have come across 8 different importing companies that have their hallmark stamped on a Ditmar Urbach piece.

If you thought you understood everything, here is another piece of information. Ditmar Urbach would also mark the pieces with the name of the importing company if requested, even though it was made in Czechoslovakia.

The best key the seasoned collector has is a Ditmar Urbach catalog. Those numbers, names, and letters impressed into the bottom of the mold are the direct link to the company. These mold numbers and names positively identify a piece as a Ditmar Urbach production. Copies of these “salesman’s catalogs” are rare, but they are around. If you don’t have a copy of a catalog, at least have a relationship with a trusted dealer that has one.



Lastly let me leave you with another grain of information. Copies of Ditmar Urbach pieces abound, especially from Japan and England. The dead giveaway, other than the markings impressed into the mold, is the quality of the pottery and the paint. The pottery often is riddled with crazing throughout, the paint chips and fades very easily.

The items that were copied the most were the very popular animal pitchers and the assorted pitchers and jugs. Not only were the molds copied, but the different painting patterns.

So, take your time and be wary of buying online from someone you do not know. Even I have been fooled, with all that I know.

Happy Collecting!!!



The Vase is Ditmar Urbach.
The Jug is not — it is an English copy of both the mold and the pattern.

Hello Members!!!

This is David Fein, your Director of Membership. Firstly, I would like to thank all those that have helped get the word out these past months since convention. We have 11 new members since our last Newsletter!!!

We are having a membership referral competition, ending May 2011. The member who refers the most new members will be awarded a special prize. Membership forms and pamphlets can be emailed to you for printing on your own computer; they are available on the web site; or, on request, they can be mailed out to you. Remember to fill in the “Referred By” line on the form. These can be distributed at antique malls, shows, auctions, exhibits, museums, and local shops.

Just remember what a great gift a CCA membership is to your favorite ABC glass, pottery, jewelry, perfume, textile, or artwork collector.

Also I would ask you to please let us know of any local auction in your area, or of an article printed in your local newspaper or magazines about what we love to collect so we can get the word out to the members.

Again thank you all for your help, and donating your precious time.

If you have any questions, or suggestions, please contact me.

David Fein
Director of Membership

email: dbf57@hotmail.com

address:
810-11th Street #201
Miami Beach, FL
33139-4834

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Debbie Truitt

I apologize that this Newsletter is later than usual—since CCA doesn't have a Secretary or Newsletter Coordinator, I put this Newsletter together myself. After Jorie's exceptional products, I had a standard to achieve. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Throughout this Newsletter, there are references to the second thing we ABC collectors collect: knowledge. While enjoying the beauty of the pieces in our collection, we gain added enjoyment through knowing a story about the piece. David Fein mentions one of the primary sources of information: maker and seller catalogs. The convention article mentions the artists who help us learn how things are made. Patty discusses secondary sources: the books written by authors who have researched the primary sources. Vlasta talks about events that characterize the reasons for adding pieces to our collections. And Jane has compiled an interesting story about one of her Czech ladies.

CCA includes many collectors knowledgeable about some aspect of the ABCs. Whether you collect Czech birds, art glass, figurines, jewelry, engraved glass, "Mary Gregory" decorated glass, baskets, or the glass or ceramics of a particular ABC company, someone in the association has researched it. Our Members command a wealth of information.

Sharing this information is one of the reasons for spending time with fellow collectors. The CCA Board has decided to hold the 2011 convention in Syracuse NY on June 2-5. See the last page for more information.

Now to business...

Three of the Board positions are up for election in the spring of 2011 to serve 2-year terms: President, Treasurer, and Publicity Director. The Secretary's position still needs to be filled; the term expires in June 2012. My personal circumstances will prevent me from serving as your President once I have completed this term. Please consider your personal situation and stand for a position if you are able. The experience is a valuable one and the future of the organization is in your hands.

Best wishes with your collecting.

Debbie

Jean Davis listened to Jiří Hrcuba explain the engraving equipment and how to use it. She then took advantage of the opportunity to put her skills to the test at the Indianapolis Art Center.



CONVENTION FINANCIAL REPORT

[CCA Treasurer, Aggie Elwell provided the following figures concerning the convention. The emphasis and comments are provided by the President, Deborah Truitt.]

The 2010 convention provided a modest contribution to the CCA treasury.

42 Members attended the 2010 convention, paying \$7,135 to register.
These Members paid \$550 additional for guests to attend meals.
Dealers paid \$135 for display tables (1 was provided free by CCA to each dealer).
The Silent Auction provided \$263 from the items donated.
The auction contributed \$313.92 (from the 5% buyer's premium).
Total income from the convention was \$8,396.92.

Expenses for the convention were \$7,483.96.
Expenses paid by CCA for the auction were \$41.08 for the auction listing.
[Expenses for the auction of \$1,446.96 (including the auctioneer's fee, ad, etc.) were paid by the consignors.]
Total expenses paid by CCA for the convention were \$7,525.04.

Contribution to CCA income was \$871.88.

The auction was a disappointment for all except the buyers. Only 10 bidders attended who were not already attending the convention, despite extensive publicity in the local Indy papers and signs in all antique shops in the area. The auctioneer has a large following and a good reputation—his website received over 6800 hits for this auction.

Estimate of the value of the auction items was approximately \$15,000. The amount realized from the auction sales was \$7,344 — less than half of the estimate. All consignors were disappointed with the proceeds they received from selling their items.

* This time in 1989 *
* Nov 17: 200,000 students held a peaceful *
* demonstration in Prague. Broken up by riot *
* police. *
* Nov 20: protestors numbered 1/2 million. *
* Nov 28: Communist Party announced it *
* would give up power. *
* Dec: Barbed wire was removed from the *
* borders with Austria and West Germany. *
* Dec 29: Václav Havel elected President of *
* Czechoslovakia. *

Tom and Jane Rood described their collection of china Czech Deco ladies.



I Missed It !!

Regrettably Written

by

A Czech Bowl

I missed it! The Czechoslovakian Collectors Association convention in Indianapolis. I missed it. My owner wouldn't take me. He said he didn't want to go. He said he wouldn't fit in. He said his collection probably wasn't large enough or important enough. Maybe he didn't understand what the convention was all about. Nonetheless, I missed it.

They say it was a really great event. They say everyone had a great time. There were many returning members who had been to previous conventions along with a good number of first-timers. They say members were there from all parts of the U.S. and Canada. I wasn't there. I missed it.

Maybe my owner didn't realize that the convention was open to any CCA member. You don't have to be a seasoned collector with thousands of ABC pieces. You don't have to be an antiques dealer or shop owner. You don't have to specialize in a certain area of Czech collecting and have expertise in that area. Anyone who loves ABC items was welcome. Maybe my owner didn't know that. Gee whiz...I'm a really nice Czech bowl. Some say my color is rare. Some say my size and color make me desirable. I'm in perfect shape. I have no chips, cracks, or flaws of any kind. I even have my own black glass base to sit on. I have nothing to be ashamed of. But he didn't take me to the convention, so I missed it.

They say the convention had exciting activities from Thursday afternoon all the way through Saturday evening. They say there was something for everyone -- speakers, tables FULL of ABC items for sale, a live auction, a fun silent auction, a Czech dinner, sharing of ideas, and a banquet. I missed it all.

They say upon entering the convention room, one's eyes opened wide and mouths dropped. They say some people were even heard making "oohing" and "aahing" sounds. I heard the tables were FULL of every type of ABC item you could think of. They say there were hundreds of Czech pottery pieces including vases, animal figurines, birds, wall pockets, tea sets, canisters, old Austrian pottery pieces, Amphora, Royal Dux pieces, Czech art glass vases, bowls, and baskets. I heard about the many beautiful pieces of Ditmar Urbach pottery and Mrazek pottery. There were also Czech perfume bottles and jewelry items. They say there was a display table full of Czech Art Deco lady figurines. I also know there were many great pieces of Mary Gregory glass. I'd have been proud to sit on any one of those tables. He didn't take me, so I missed it.

They say there were informative speakers at the convention. Something about how to inventory and insure your collection, something about the great factory histories of Bohemia, and something about collecting Czech Art Deco lady figurines. They say the world renowned glass engraver from the Czech Republic — Jiří Hrcuba — gave a talk and demonstrated his skills. I missed all that.

They say there was a huge auction with over 170 items of all kinds. Imagine...I could have been sitting on a table among many beautiful pieces of Amphora. How about sitting right in the middle of some colorful Czech tango vases and bowls? They say I'd have looked great sitting by a large lamp with one of those deco Czech glass shades. Shhh...don't tell, but I'd have loved to sit on the table right next to the deco lady figurine. But I'm still here with my owner, because I missed it.

They say a wonderful Czech style dinner was served by the local Czech-Slovak organization. Besides a typical Czech meal, there was Czech music, Czech customs and traditions, and even a visit from St. Mikulaš to see who was naughty and nice. I know I would have been deemed nice, but I wasn't there. I missed it.

They say many people had a great time selling, buying, trading, bartering, looking at, and even giving away collectable ABC items. I heard there was a lot of laughing, joking, teasing, and just plain fun there. I know for a fact that two Czech glass bowls were traded for a Royal Dux penguin! I also know for a fact that one CCA member didn't wear his glasses when he filled out the silent auction bid papers. When his wife anxiously awaited her new auction prize of a Czech bulldog, she was presented with a Czech cow! Quite possibly I could have been sold or traded and happily end up in a new home (maybe even with the cow!). But here I am in the same old place because I missed it.

They say the banquet was a really nice event to end the festivities of the convention. I know many new friends were made, and many good-byes were said until next year. I know some new ideas were proposed to make next year's convention even better. And once again, I know that anyone can come to the convention from the small hobbyist collector to the Czech dealer to the seasoned veteran collector. I say I know all of this even though I wasn't there. I missed it.

Well, I am going to work hard in the coming months to convince my owner that he should attend the CCA convention. It's open to any member. And, of course, he'll take me with him. And if he does, I promise next year I'll write an article entitled, "I Was There!"

Sincerely,

A Czech Bowl



Thanks to Tom Rood for this unusual convention report.

STARTING POINTS — MY COLLECTING BOOKS

by

Patti Ferguson

Over the years I have heard some discussion about Czechoslovakian collecting books that had misattributions and wrong information. My humble thoughts on this -- I am sharing -- and as the Chinese proverb says:

"When someone shares something of value with you,
and you benefit from it,
you have a moral obligation to share it with others."

One of the first American researchers and authors of Austrian, Bohemian and Czechoslovakian decorative arts was Ruth Forsythe -- the "Grandma" of all things Czech. Ruth's first book *Made In Czechoslovakia* was written in 1982. In 1993 she wrote a second book, *Made In Czechoslovakia, Book 2*. That was 28 years ago. In Ruth's first book she has a picture of a Blue Papillion Oil Spot listed as simply -- a blue luster vase. So what? Years later, we all came to find out different. Also, in book one -- every Czech item pictured was a marked piece. What eye candy! Ruth says in Book 2 -- "A picture is worth a thousand words."

In both Ruth's books, this wonderful lady drew by hand the marks of the glass and pottery -- and even hand-drew a map of Czechoslovakia -- and the surrounding countries. There was good information in both books which was easy to read and easy to learn. Ruth's welcome logo in her books say ... "Dedicated To All Who Love Beautiful Things." Ruth Forsythe's books were the first books I bought on Czech Decorative Arts -- I am thankful that she wrote them. Everyone who collects Czech should own the Ruth Forsythe books.

In 1992 -- the book *Czechoslovakian Glass & Collectibles* was written by Dale & Diane Barta and Helen M. Rose. Then again in 1997, the three wrote *Czechoslovakian Glass & Collectibles Book 2*. In Book 2 there is a vase described simply as: green with blue/yellow aventurine, applied rim, ball feet. This vase is a Loetz Ausfuhrung 134 - a very valuable vase. (This decor was referred to as Titania, but is now being classified differently.) The description is not what mattered, it was the picture of the vase -- that's what we remember when we are off on an antique hunt. Again, more eye candy! The Barta/Rose books contain the largest array of pictures showing various Czech Decorative Arts, as any books I have ever seen. These books are well worth having.

In 1995, the renowned researchers Robert & Deborah Truitt, wrote *Collectible Bohemian Glass 1880-1940*. In 1998 they wrote "*Collectible Bohemian Glass, Vol. II, 1915 - 1945*." Within these books was excellent research and an abundance of knowledge -- these books could not be more valuable to the collector. Is there some misattributions -- who knows -- who cares? You can look through both books over and over and each time you will see something new,

something that you missed -- be it a picture of a piece of glass or some bit of information that you will learn from. Having these books, your craving to see unique pieces of glass and to learn valuable information will be captivated and you will forever be hooked. These are "must have" books and they will forever be used in your collecting.

Robert & Deborah Truitt also wrote in 1992 the book *Mary Gregory Glassware 1880-1990* and followed up in 2008 with *Mary Gregory Glassware 1880-1990, 2nd Edition, Revised & Updated*. I do not collect Mary Gregory glass (my bad) and do not have these books, but I can say with confidence -- if you are a Mary Gregory glassware collector -- these books need to be yours.

In Spring 1995 came the first series of journals called *Czechoslovakian Collectors Guild International*. These CCGI Journals came in five volumes -- with one journal for each season. These journals contained a lot of information and theory of the Czechoslovakian arts. Some of the information has remained correct -- some of it since -- has been disputed. These journals were given out to the members of the CCGI. There are great pictures of glass and pottery, good information, great eye candy and a lot of learning to be had. After printing twenty journals -- the last CCGI Journal was printed in Winter 2000.

In 1999 came the book *Czechoslovakian Pottery, 'Czeching' Out America* by the sisters, Sharon Bowers, Sue Glosser and Kathy Ellis. This is another "need to have" book if you have a hint of Czech pottery addiction! I believe this entire book is the collections of these sisters. Their humor, their joy and their wit -- and how much fun they had while collecting, researching and writing this book -- is shared with us in reading their humorous introduction. There is an abundance of great pictures and the best pictured index of marks for Czech pottery that I have ever seen.

In Spring 2002 -- the first *Journal of Czech Decorative Arts* was published by the newly-formed CCA. There were six CCA Journals published -- with the last one printed in Fall 2004. These journals contain good information, good pictures, valuable researched articles and highlight fabulous collections of various members. These journals were given to CCA members and they are also sold individually on the CCA web site and at CCA conventions. If you do not have all of these journals -- you should!

I take my hat off to all of these terrific people who fell in love with the Austrian, Bohemian and Czechoslovakian Decorative Arts and took the time to write these books -- just trying to enlighten others of "all things Czech."

The CCA Board has voted unanimously to proceed with a small increase in dues for the 2011-2012 membership year, as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Single membership | \$40 |
| Two people (same address) | \$60 |
| Institutional | \$55 |

This increase was discussed with the Members who attended the Annual Membership meeting in June.

A SOUVENIR OF FREEDOM
by
Vlasta Becvarova Barber

In the fall of 1989, the winds of change were again blowing in Czechoslovakia. Not since 1968 had its citizens felt so much hope.

We were on our third trip to this Communist-ravaged nation. Around the middle of October, we started hearing whispers about forthcoming changes.

One change manifested itself with the arrival and subsequent abandonment of dozens of tiny Trabant cars. After their drivers, mainly from East Germany and Poland, left their toy-like vehicles, they tried to enter the US Embassy grounds. How many managed this feat, we didn't learn. But the dilapidated, smoke-belching Trabants that lined the streets of Prague Central, testified to their owners' desperation. But it also affirmed their hope that surely a light would start shining through the ugly fog of Communism.

Not too long after our return home to the good old USA, we saw an ad for the Trabant Gallery in Portland. Absolutely intrigued by the name and wondering why it was chosen, we visited the shop. Czech items of every sort were displayed, most of them of current-day manufacture. The owners had also seen the Trabant incursion into Prague.

Because of the Trabant name, we decided to buy a piece of crystal from the shop. It now resides among our many other Czech souvenirs, and is another reminder of the renewal of democracy in what is now the Czech Republic.

Reading Vlasta's recollection of her visit to Prague in 1989 reminded me of my first visit in 1991. With her permission, I have added my thoughts concerning the changes that I have observed in this wonderful country. Debbie Truitt

My first trip to Czechoslovakia was in June 1991. The Russian soldiers were still there - they left in September. We were warned not to exchange money on the streets. Scaffolding covered many of the beautiful buildings.

My husband and I were searching for information about the "Mary Gregory" decoration. Eva Ransová, the Director of the Glass Museum in Nový Bor

opened her museum to us and provided the proof that it was made there. Why she was so open with 2 Americans, I don't really know — and it still amazes me. Over the years we became good friends with her and her family.

On that first trip we also: watched glass blowing at the Hantich hut in Nový Bor; met the Director of the Glass School in Kamenický Šenov and saw the students working; met Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava Brychtová in their home studio; rode the bus to Karlovy Vary and stayed in the Hotel Pupp (Queen Latifa in "Last Holiday"); stood in line to purchase "salám a sýr" (cold cuts and cheese) and "chléb" (bread); and learned the word "sklo" (glass) at the UPM library in Prague.

Since then, I have been back to Czechoslovakia almost every year and watched as it evolved into the Czech Republic. The stores went from being state-controlled and gray-looking to "entrepreneurial colorful" - colorful awnings and signs. Restaurant menus now offer international fare and are written in several languages. The borders with Germany and Austria are open. Computer technology is the hottest job in the country.

Although it was a difficult transition, democracy is holding.

CELETNÁ CRYSTAL



PRAGUE



**1500m² of shopping area
on three floors**

OPEN DAILY:
10.00 – 19.00 (November-March)
10.00 – 20.00 (April-October)

Worldwide shipping service



1991—Scaffolding on buildings and piled on a residential street.



1999—Retail store with unique name. It is advertising and it also accepts charge cards.

2008—Children are taught English in school and are not afraid to talk with an American stranger.



We would like to welcome our new members to CCA.

Richard J. Slifka
3127 Lamplighter LN
Kokomo, IN 46902-8126
badczechy@comcast.net

Gladys B. Ernst
110 Log Cabin Lane
Natches, MS 39120
gbernst@bellsouth.net

Ted Krajnik
15 Parkview Rd
Glenview, IL
tedkrajnik@yahoo.com

Tom Marino
2655 Powhattan Pkwy
Toledo, OH 43606
tm_marino@earthlink.com

Vicki Miller

Josh and Maryjo Fein

Collum Liska
401 Seventeenth Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98501-2210
360-481-2282 360-357-6144

Martin Raskin
200 East End Avenue
NY, NY 10128
martinraskin@yahoo.com
516-398-6119

Dolores V. Gentes
6201 Loch Raven Blvd #308
Baltimore, MD 21239-2056

Sandra Storm
621 Hagood Street
Birmingham, AL 35213
205-243-5255

If you have changed any of your contact information since the Membership Directory was printed, please send the new information to David Fein, Membership Director.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Recently the Board received a letter from Member Jim Londe proposing that “in order to establish itself nationally, the convention should be held every year in the same city; that city should be very rich in culture and have a thriving collector base for everything—people with money to spend.” His top 3 cities with these characteristics are NYC, LA and Chicago.

Where to hold the convention has been the topic of many discussions. The Members don’t agree. Jim has a vision of CCA as a professional, nationally-recognized organization. There are many advantages to Jim’s proposal, the greatest of which is that people would come to expect CCA in the same place on the same date.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? If you attend conventions, what influence does the location have? If you don’t attend, would this entice you to come? Send your comments to a Board member.



--- *Journey of a Lady* ---

by

Jane Rood

Shelbyville, Illinois

Having spent most of my life in Europe --- probably Prague --- I, Zelda (my given name) ventured to America early in the 21st century. Given my creation in the 1930s Art Deco era, I do believe that I have preserved quite well given my age, thank you.

I have survived all sorts of political turmoil, war, and geographic changes throughout my life, but

I am still intact and now enjoying the freedoms that America affords me.

My history is rather interesting. I am marked **DITURVIT** on my sink as well as underneath my deco tile base. Interestingly, the word **Diturvit** is a combination of important aspects of my past. "Dit" from Ditmar, "ur" from Urbach, and "vit" (meaning vitreous) from the wonderful composition of materials from which I am made. As you know now, I am a work from the famous artistic Teplice factory of Ditmar Urbach. However, I was made as a presentation piece or as an advertising piece (you'll have to forgive me as it was so long ago I cannot remember which it was) for the medical ceramics factory owned by Mr. Urbach. He produced a new line of medical sanitary ceramic sinks, toilets, flushing cisterns, and other items made of the finest blend of binding clays, the precious kaolin, feldspar, quartz sand, and other ingredients known at the time. The exact ingredient proportions of my being is a well kept secret, but my **Diturvit** line is guaranteed to be resistant to stains, gases, and acids.

If not for some dedicated members of CCA, I would probably still be living somewhere in one of the Czech regions of Europe. However, having been in the USA for only a few of my many years, I have been lucky enough to see different parts of my wonderful new country. From the Great Northwest, I ended up in one of America's premier Art Deco meccas -- Miami. How appropriate for me given my age and character. But it seems my newest and final home is now in the Midwest where I am happy and thriving among many other Czech Art Deco ladies.

Thanks, Zelda, for sharing your amazing story with us. We are thrilled that you have chosen to come live with "all the other women" in Tom Rood's life. You are a deco gem.

**CCA Board of Directors
& Coordinators
June 2010-June 2011**

Deborah Truitt

President

13550 Ashbury Drive
Carmel IN 46032
317-844-7212
ccatruitt@sbcglobal.net

Aggie Elwell

Treasurer

177 Homewilde Lane
Northfield VT 05663-9801
802-485-7048
aggiee@aol.com

Vacant

Secretary

David Fein

Director of Membership

810 11th Street #201
Miami Beach FL 33139-4834
305-673-8044
dbf57@hotmail.com

David Phelps

Director of Publicity

5745 NW 92nd Court
Johnston IA 50103-2255
515-270-2472
fishiowa1@netzero.net

Brian Severn

Web Master

1860 Aurora Court
Brentwood CA 94513
925-240-1823
b_severn@yahoo.com

Patti Ferguson

Nominating Committee

Vacant

Convention Coordinator

**Publicity Report
from Dave Phelps**

CCA is on Facebook! A group was started on Facebook where collectors can post pictures, have dialogues and share information on their favorite collectible. If you have trouble finding it, just let me know and I can invite you to be a "friend" and start the fun!

In August of 2010, the *Journal of Antiques and Collectibles* published "Collecting Czechoslovakian Birds." Writing an article like this is a great opportunity to advertise the club and get new members. If you need help finding a magazine to publish an article, just let a member of the Board know.

In May of this year, an article was published in *Martha Stewart Living* called "Spritz Appeal." Although the article attributed most of the pottery called Spritzdekor to Germany, it did mention that a lot was also made in Czechoslovakia. For the most accurate information on Spritzdekor, look at the cover article of the Spring 2010 *CCA Newsletter*: "Hand Made by Machine" by Rolf Achilles. It is a very excellent and factual history of the airbrush technique.

Rosie Bodien has two articles in the June 2010 issue of *Naše rodina*. "Made in Czechoslovakia" identifies the characteristics of glass production from the First Republic (1918-1938) through the Sixth Republic (1992-present). "Czechoslovakian Perfumes 101" describes her process of learning about the perfumes made by various companies.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The 117 Members we have to date for the Membership Year March 1, 2010—February 28, 2011 paid \$3,610 in Membership dues. The amount of dues is the amount of money the Board considers to be the maximum available for operating expenses for any particular Membership Year. It does not include the money received in income from other sources: such as Silver Sponsorships or from the sale of Journals published previously.

The Board established a budget for this Membership Year of \$2,925. This covers 2 Newsletters (production and mailing), the Membership Roster (production and mailing), monthly teleconference charges for Board meetings, the host of the website, and miscellaneous administrative costs — we are currently living within that budget.

The Board's stated philosophy about the convention is that it must fund itself. As shown in the Convention Financial Report, we met that expectation for 2010.

The checkbook balance as of September 30, 2010 was \$15,782.06.

Over the past few months, the CCA Board has been discussing the status of CCA as an organization. When CCA was first established in 2000, it was incorporated in the State of Pennsylvania as a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation; however, incorporating at the State level as a tax-exempt non-profit is separate from having Federal tax-exempt status. Also, there are a number of complex legal and IRS requirements for organizations that bring in annual gross receipts in excess of \$5,000.

With all that said, the CCA Board has decided to retain attorney Dick Nuffort, who is with the law firm of Pfannebecker, Nuffort & Albert in Lancaster PA. Mr. Nuffort is the attorney who filed the original incorporation papers with the State of PA. It was the unanimous opinion of the CCA Board that the legal, as well as the IRS compliance, issues needed to be resolved. Based on the numbers provided by Mr. Nuffort, it will take 1-6 months to work through and research all the details with the minimum cost estimated to be \$2000.

Aggie Elwell, CCA Treasurer, has had discussions with Mr. Nuffort regarding these issues and will continue to be the contact person, reporting all findings and advice to the CCA Board. The Board has agreed that when Mr. Nuffort approaches the \$2000 in expenditures that the Board will consider how much more should be spent.

CONVENTION 2011

SYRACUSE NY

June 2-5, 2011

Vinnie Giarrusso has identified a couple of hotels convenient to the airport in Syracuse NY and the Board is currently reviewing contracts from them.

The tentative program includes a bus trip to Corning NY for a day at the Corning Museum of Glass with talks by the museum curators. Our business meeting would be held on the bus during our trip to Corning.

We are also talking with Robert Mrazek about speaking on Saturday about the Mrazek company and its pottery. At the writing of this Newsletter, he cannot confirm the date.

We will provide more information in the Spring Newsletter and in the Convention Registration Package.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Mikulaš arrived and gave out presents during the Czech dinner at the CCA convention. Thanks go to the Czech & Slovak Society of Indiana for hosting the dinner and entertainment.

