



CZECH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

August 2003



President's Message

The annual CCA Convention for 2003 was very successful. I would like to commend the dealers that exhibited at the show on the outstanding merchandise that was offered for sale. After all these years I am still awed by the variety and the scope of the Czech objects that are assembled for this event. The enthusiasm of the CCA members seems to grow each year as they find new treasures to add to their collections. It was especially satisfying to see new collectors attend and start to build their collections.

The Ruth Forsythe Collection auction was a testament to Ruth's unselfish appreciation of the Czechoslovakian decorative arts. I can imagine Ruth over the years as she hunted for Czech pieces and built her collection. I have had the privilege of spending time with Ruth and can say with certainty that she truly loved her Czech collection. The pieces sold have now come full circle. Bidding was spirited and several of the prices set new records. The majority of Ruth's collection found new homes with other collectors who share the same passion. This was Ruth's wish and I am glad that I was able to aide in this process.

The Board of Directors got down to business on Thursday working their way through many issues. Membership and financial stability remain the top priorities. Immediate issues were discussed and resolved as well as continuing to keep an eye on the long term goals. Each member of the Board of Directors is conscious of what needs to be done to fulfill our mission. I am encouraged by their commitment and energized by their enthusiasm.

As I drove home from convention I contemplated about what I wanted to achieve in the coming year aside from the goals that the Board had outlined. Very quickly I knew what that would be. My personal goal for the coming year is to visit as many CCA members as I can. I travel a lot in the course of a year giving me the perfect opportunity to swing by your house. It will be fun for me to see your collections, hear your stories of how you got started collecting Czech, see the first piece you bought and hear your ideas about what you would like to see happening in CCA. You will hear from me if I am going to be anywhere near your town.

I have received many notes and emails since convention. Thanks to those of you who have taken the time to acknowledge the efforts of the members who are responsible for insuring that convention runs smoothly. I am grateful for every year that we are able to come together. For me it is like a family reunion.

Cheryl Goyda

Welcome New Members

The following members joined or re-joined since the printing of the most recent membership list.

Barry Litwack
Indianapolis, IN

Richard & Linda Scott
Sydney, Ohio

Bob Forman
Lenexa, KS.

Tricia & George Breckenridge
Atlanta Antique Gallery
Chamblee, GA.

Kathy Webb
Carmichael, CA.

Nancy Thackaberry
Westerlo, NY.

Bob & Deb Truitt
Carmel, IN

Geraldine Pruet
Mesquite, TX

Julie Bonomo
San Mateo, CA.

Mark & Mary Bushman
Enid, OK

Denise Kennedy
Kevin Kelbe
Yellow Springs, OH

2003 Show and Convention Highlights

Ruth Forsythe
Nancy Smith & David Druse



The Holiday Inn on the east side of Columbus, Ohio was the site of the 2003 annual CCA Convention. The Board of Directors held their annual meeting on Thursday afternoon. Members arrived steadily throughout the day on Thursday spending time catching up with fellow collectors before the start of the Convention events on Friday. Friday was a busy day beginning with two significant seminars. Each year CCA offers seminars that are in keeping with its mission to foster the collecting and aesthetic appreciation of the Austrian, decorative arts. Ron Lemelin began with a seminar on Johann Loetz entitled "Who Was He and What Did He Do". Ron shared his extensive knowledge of Loetz along with a slide presentation of some of the most amazing pieces of Loetz, many of which were pieces not often seen for sale. Richard Scott followed with an equally impressive presentation on Amphora. "The House of Amphora" chronicled Richard's collecting journey and subsequent decision to author a

comprehensive book about Amphora. Attendees were treated to a slide presentation of Richard's collection that wowed everyone. Following a short break for lunch, the doors opened for the auction preview. Members took full advantage of their first opportunity to view the Ruth Forsythe Collection. For years collectors had coveted the items in Ruth's books and now they were going to have a chance to own them. The dealer show opened later in the afternoon completing the sensory overload. The exhibiting dealers displayed all things Czech to fill the room with dizzying patterns and amazing colors. Several of the dealers show their Czech merchandise only once a year at the annual CCA convention. Collectors were quick to purchase knowing that they may go all year long without seeing much Czech merchandise available in the market place.

Saturday's events were dominated by the Ruth Forsythe Collection auction. Ruth pushed Czech collecting to the foreground with the publication in 1982 of her first book "Made in Czechoslovakia" Until recently, Ruth remained an active collector of Czech scent bottles, glass and pottery never straying from her convictions about the importance of the Czech decorative arts. Jim Wroda and Mike Baker of Midwest Auctions, Greenville, Ohio conducted the auction. Jim and Mike have handled the annual auction for several years and do a great job for CCA. Jim kept things moving along and bidding was spirited. There were several pieces in the pottery category that set new price records. The "fish" also made its annual appearance. Cheryl Goyda tried to take it home again only to be out bid by Patty Giarrusso. All proceeds from the sale of the fish are donated to CCA.

Midway through the sale, Jim offered a special item, a painting done by Ruth that at the last minute she had agreed to sell. Cheryl Goyda was the successful bidder noting that she had always wanted to have one of Ruth's paintings. Ruth was in attendance during the auction and enjoyed seeing her collection received with such excitement. The collecting of Czechoslovakian decorative arts is a relatively young field. Most collectors are still assembling their collections with no thoughts of selling. It will be many years before another collection of this magnitude and significance will be offered for sale. The auction was followed by the annual awards dinner. Mike Baker presented Cheryl Goyda with a check made out to CCA in the amount of \$2775.00. This amount included the proceeds from the "fish" and a substantial donation made by Ruth Forsythe to CCA.

Sunday morning members gathered for the annual breakfast business meeting. Cheryl Goyda reported on the areas covered by the Board of Directors in their annual meeting. The by-laws were presented to the membership for their consideration and were unanimously accepted. The 2004 Convention committee updated the group on the plans that are underway for next year. Sherry Stevenson outlined the new initiative of sponsorship that the Board of Directors adopted at their meeting. The floor was then opened for any new business and suggestions from the membership. Following the business meeting, the dealer show reopened for last minute purchases. In June of 2004 CCA will journey to Fort Worth, Texas for the annual show and convention.



David Druse
Gillian Hine

I would like to thank all of the CCA members who volunteered their time at Convention. Your contribution is appreciated and is instrumental in insuring a successful Convention.



Cheryl

Nancy & John Smith

Scenes From The 2003 Convention



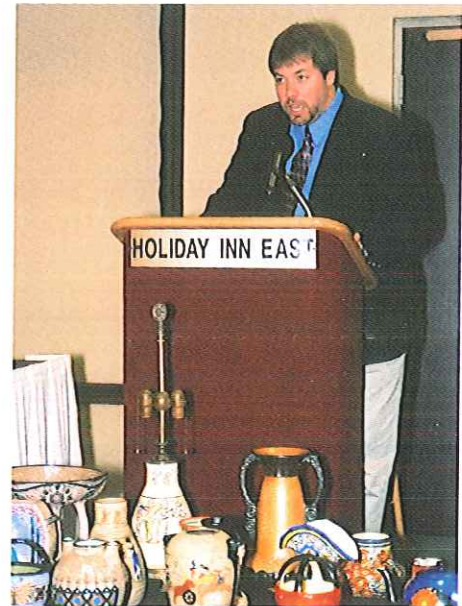
Duane Humlicek & Cheryl Goyda



Cheryl Goyda, Mike Baker & Jim Wroda



Joe Mattis, Ronn Perrin,
Amy & Karl Lagler, Jean Humlicek



Jim Wroda

CCA 2003 Awards

Three Czechee awards and one special appreciation award were presented at the annual awards dinner. The Czechee award is given in recognition of certain CCA members who have performed exceptional services during the past year that have contributed to the ongoing success of the Association.

Patti Ferguson received a membership Czechee award for bringing in the most new members since the 2002 Convention. Amy Lagler posthumously accepted Patti's award. Due to a last minute emergency Patti had been unable to attend Convention. Jim Wroda and Jean Humlicek also received Czechee awards reflecting their contribution to CCA this past year.

At the discretion of President Cheryl Goyda, a special recognition award was presented to Ronn Perrin. The award was bestowed upon Ronn Perrin in recognition of his leadership, inspiration and commitment to the future of the Czech Collectors Association. His vision and guidance have been instrumental in bringing us this far. We honor and thank him.

What Is Sponsorship

The CCA Board of Directors has made the financial well being of CCA a top priority. They recognize that the stability of the Association and its longevity are in large part dependent on fiscal responsibility. Sherry Stevenson introduced the concept of sponsorship as a way to increase revenue. Sponsorship allows for the payment of a fee to sponsor an event in exchange for recognition. The Board unanimously agreed to set up a sponsorship program. By the end of the meeting a list of sponsorships and their costs was compiled.

Sponsors will be recognized on a placard that will be placed at the event they are sponsoring as well as being included in a complete listing of the sponsors to appear in the Convention program. Sponsors for the newsletters may have their picture included in the newsletter along with their names should they desire.

Sherry announced the list at the annual breakfast business meeting. Before she was done reading the list, Jim Wroda committed to the Cocktail hour in the amount of \$250.00. In the few remaining hours of Convention every one of the sponsorships were sold. As a result, some new sponsorships have been created to allow for more participation. The following is a list of the sponsorships that were offered at Convention, their cost and the names of those who have committed to each unless they have asked to remain anonymous.

2004 CONVENTION SPONSORSHIPS

REGISTRATION: one sponsorship for \$150.00

Sponsor: David Fein

GLASS SEMINAR: one sponsorship for \$100.00.

Sponsor: Cy & Karen Beeman

POTTERY SEMINAR: one sponsorship for \$100.00

Sponsor: Anonymous

COCKTAIL HOUR: one sponsorship for \$250.00

Sponsor: Jim Wroda & Mike Baker, Midwest Auctions

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER: three sponsorships for \$150.00 each

Sponsor #1: Jeff Weller **Sponsor #2:** Mary Gawle **Sponsor #3:** Karl & Amy Lagler

ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING: two sponsorships for \$75.00 each

Sponsor #1: Ron Lemelin **Sponsor #2:** Jim & Marge Henderson

NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

FIRST NEWSLETTER: two sponsorships for \$200.00 each.

Sponsor #1: Music City
Bob Stinson
Jerry Buchanan

Sponsor #2: Anonymous

SECOND NEWSLETTER: two sponsorships for \$200.00 each.

Sponsor #1: Charles & Barbara Plummer **Sponsor #2:** Anonymous



Arlene Larke, Ronn Perrin & Phil Larke



Joe Mattis

I was taken by surprise when Sherry let me know that all of the sponsorships had been spoken for. I am very moved by the response. This has been a wonderful affirmation for me as well as for the Board of Directors. Thank you.

Cheryl

The following is a list of additional sponsorships that have been made available:

2004 CONVENTION: THIRD SEMINAR: one sponsor for \$100.00

THIRD NEWSLETTER: two sponsorships for \$200.00 each

ADVERTISING SPONSORSHIPS: limit of 20 sponsorships for \$50.00 each.

If you would like to sign up for any of these additional sponsorships, please contact Cheryl Goyda.

Dear Members,

Once again, I was returning home from the annual convention, thinking about the great weekend that I just had, and was overwhelmed with appreciation of what the experience means to me. As tired as I was, I was still excited and smiling to myself. Little did I know, when I picked up that first Czech vase and took it home 10 years ago, that I was changing my life. I know I am not the only one with those kinds of feelings. I think everyone at the convention can share in them, and expects to be able to continue expanding on their passion. But don't take it for granted. We need every member's help.

You will on occasion have the opportunity to meet new people who share your interest in Czech decorative objects. Perhaps at an antique mall or at an antiques show, a conversation starts over a particularly striking object of Czech origin and before you know it, you are both excited. Or perhaps you see a dealer's table with several Czech objects and you know they probably have a lot more at home.

Be sure to tell them about the club! Write down the club web site for them. Offer to pass their phone number on to someone on the Membership Committee. By doing so, you help ensure that the club can keep providing the benefits that you love. It is only by continuing to increase membership, one new member at a time, that we all can count on receiving the journal, and looking forward to seeing our friends at the next convention.

The Membership Committee is in the process of putting together informational brochures that any member can request copies of. This will help make it that much easier to get the word out to those who have not yet heard of us. Think how much they will appreciate it when they get their first Journal, or walk into that dealers showroom at the next convention and their eyes pop-out of their heads

Don't leave it all up to the Membership Committee. "Word of mouth" is very powerful, and it needs your mouth!

Mary Gawle

CCA Member News



Burt Smith
December 4, 1934
July 17, 2003

CCA expresses its condolences to the family and friends of Burt Smith, who passed away on July 16, 2003 in Boynton Beach, Florida. A charter member of CCA and CCGI, Burt was an avid collector of Czech porcelain and pottery with the words "Made in Czechoslovakia" shown in the dime-sized circle. He had hundreds of pieces with the "dime-mark," and made many friends along the way to amassing his collection. His favorite collection was the birds that he enjoyed and also gave many of them away as gifts to friends. Burt did much research on the "dime-mark" and traveled to the Czech Republic, across the United States and spent long hours in libraries and even conferred with bird experts at the Audubon Society in Boston. Over the years, he wrote several articles on the "dime-mark," sharing his knowledge. Burt will be missed but his enthusiasm for making friends, searching for and enjoying his collection will always be remembered by those who knew him.

Gary Yates of Dallas, Texas passed away on April 8th, 2003. CCA extends deepest sympathies to Melanie Schonier as she deals with her loss.

Convention 2004 Up-Date

Next year's CCA Convention will take members on a new and surely memorable adventure. CCA has chosen Fort Worth, Texas as the site for 2004. The official Convention dates are June 18th-20th, but plan to arrive several days early and stay afterwards to experience the flavor of Fort Worth. The Convention committee is working on a schedule of events for those who plan to come early.

Fort Worth is home to many fine Museums. The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame celebrates not only cowgirls, but also writers, artists and women from other walks of life that have exhibited "spirit, courage and leadership". The Modern Art Museum " maintains one of the foremost collections of postwar art in the central United States", the Kimbell Art Museum's collections encompass" objects in period form antiquity to the 20th century", and the Amon Carter Museum" houses the finest examples of American art".

Other attractions include the Water Gardens, the Fort Worth Zoo, the Botanical Gardens, and of course the Stockyards where you can witness a longhorn cattle drive. Along with the annual Convention events there will be plenty to keep CCA members busy in Texas.

Reservations may be made by calling the Green Oaks Hotel at 1-800-433-2174. The room rate is \$69.00 for single through quadruple occupancy. When calling, identify yourself as attending the Czech collectors Association Convention. Oh, and you will want to practice your bull riding skills!!

Book Releases

Monsters and Maidens

Amphora Pottery of the Art Nouveau Era

Author: Byron Veeland, an American Collector

Publisher: Fledermaus Press

Price: \$150.00

Can be ordered from the following sources:

John Cobabe
(310) 544-8790
johncobabe@aol.com

Jason Jacques, Inc.
(646) 321-3999
info@ceramic1900.com

Byron Veeland
duffner@flash.net
amphorapottery.net

House of Amphora

Author: Richard L. Scott
Co-Authors: Dr. Jan Mergl
Lenka Pankova

Price: \$85.95

Order From:

Richard Scott
P.O. Box 43
Sydney, OH 45365
rscott1@woh.rr.com

On The Road Again....

Due to my involvement in the antique business I spend a great deal of time "on the road", or perhaps it is more directly related to my "flighty" nature. Either way, I love to travel and the antique business has given me the opportunity to do just that. My trips often take me near other CCA members. It is my goal this year to visit as many of you who are in my path. Albeit, my budding real estate career may curtail the frequency of my jaunts, the restless can never be completely home bound.

May was a busy month for traveling. In the early part of May I stopped in to visit Charles and Barbara Plummer in Wheaton, MD. It was difficult to carry on a conversation while trying to look at the endless array of Czech pieces, and I was only in the kitchen! Barbara decided perhaps I should look at everything first, then we could sit down and talk. From room to room right down to the basement I devoured the Plummer's collection. I've had the good fortune over the years to see a lot of great Czech pottery and glass but I am still thrilled each time I see a collection. There was a surprise in every room. If it wasn't something I'd never seen before it was a piece in a color I had never seen. Charles and



Charles and Barbara Plummer

(continued on page 7)



Cheryl Goyda
Barbara Plummer

Barbara have touched on all areas of Czech collecting. Their collection ranges from glass, to amphora, to animals, to Barbara's lovely ladies and everything in between! Then we took time to sit and talk while enjoying some incredible pastries. Beyond our common appreciation of Czech items, we found many other common areas of interest. Charles graciously presented me with a Mother's Day gift and then I had to get to my next stop, Bob and Deb Truitt, who mercifully lived close by. The Washington, DC suburbs traffic is not for the faint of heart.

Bob and Deb Truitt were in the middle of preparing for a move to Indiana. Much of their collection was already packed. There were several beautiful glass pieces still to be seen, along with to my amazement, exquisite Royal Dux figures. I was always of the impression that Bob and Deb were strictly glass collectors. But what really caught my eye was a shelf full of some of the most beautiful wooden bowls. The bowls had been created by Bob, who unbeknownst to me is an accomplished craftsman. Some of the furnishings in the house were also created and executed by Bob. It started to dawn on me that maybe my visits to fellow CCA members would enrich me in ways I hadn't envisioned. Bob, Deb and I then spent a great deal of time brainstorming on ways to enhance and expand the CCA web site. As we visited we were also waiting for the new issue of Antique Week to arrive. Deb had just written an article covering the auction of Ruth Forsythe's collection at the CCA convention. The paper didn't arrive while I was there, but I have since



Bob and Deb Truitt



Bruce and Peggy Sebek

seen the article and Deb did a great job covering the auction as well as promoting CCA. The Truitt's are committed to the success of CCA and their suggestions and ideas are greatly appreciated. Then, out came the cheesecake. Boy was it delicious! I think that visiting members may be hazardous to my waistline.

Two weeks later I made a run through Ohio. Headed for Midwest Auctions to work at Jim Wroda and Mike Baker's Memorial Day auction, I went via Cleveland to visit with Bruce and Peggy Sebek. Unfortunately, Bruce was unable to join Peggy and me due to his demanding work schedule. After, Peggy showed me around their charming home, we settled in the "study" and talked and then talked some more. We discussed the new Czech glass and Peggy shared with me some of the new pieces she and Bruce had bought the last time they visited Prague. We then firmed up plans for

Peggy's lecture at the 2004 CCA Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. Peggy is a licensed appraiser and will be sharing her knowledge with the membership next June. We talked about everything under the sun which served to deepen my appreciation for the members of CCA and my good fortune to be a part of this family.

On my way back to PA after the Midwest Auction, I stopped in to see Casey and Chris McGowan in Granville, OH. I have had the pleasure of knowing Casey and Chris for a number of years. They are super people. We share two passions, cars and Czech. Chris and Casey still have the first piece of Czech pottery that they bought. It was a striped iridized pitcher that they bought at auction for \$90.00 or \$95.00. One thing led to another



Casey and Chris McGowan

and they found themselves pouring over Ruth Forsythe's books determined to own everything pictured. As they acquired a piece they checked it off in the book. The culmination was attending the auction of Ruth's collection and acquiring several choice pieces. The pineapple wall pocket, along with many other pieces, have a good home and the McGowan's books have many more check marks. Casey and Chris also shared many suggestions for enhancing CCA. Then we talked about our second love, cars!

When I'm headed your way, I'll let you know. I'm anxious to visit with you and see your collections. I'm already thinking of subtitled this column, how I went from a size 4 to a size 10!! See ya on the road.

Cheryl

Thanks To The Newsletter Sponsors

Sponsors #1 are **Bob Stinson** and **Jerry Buchanan** of Music City. They like to travel the eastern part of the states adding to their Czech collection but are anxious to head to Texas in 2004. Selling on E-bay under the name of "musiccityusa." Bob and Jerry sell a variety of glass, pottery and porcelain.

Sponsor #2 has chosen to remain **Anonymous**.



McGowan's
Amphora

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