

Czechoslovakian Collectors Association



Fall Newsletter
October 2012

Art Crystalware

Refinery Josef Schmidt from Přebovice

by Rosie Bodien

Josef Schmidt founded the company between 1864 – 1875 (directories give different dates) as a glass-cutting shop for what was then novelty crystalware - small domestic glass imitating the decor of English glass products (square stone “diamond” cut) and chandelier parts. Before the First World War, the refinery already presented its production regularly at prestigious Leipzig trade fairs and sold through continuous business representatives in Berlin, Paris, London, Vienna, Hamburg and Warsaw.

In addition to its glass-cutting shop in Přebovice, Schmidt also drove businesses in Kořenov and Harrachov, where 150 people made chandelier glass, glass trimmings, glass for assembly, ashtrays, office glass, saltcellars and complete sets, flacon stoppers, flower vases or glass eyes for stuffed dolls. Later, the headquarters was transferred to Dolní Polubný.



In the mid-20th years, the company – even then known as a “factory for glass products” – also started to profile itself as a producer of art crystalware in the French style, especially toilet glass with stoppers in the shape of stylized flowers in combination with smoothly cut bodies, or flacons with full relief decoration.





A flacon drawing in Lalique style, dated to 25th March 1924, is still the oldest evidence of production (or attempt at production) of art crystalware in the Jizerské Mountains!

Samplers from the 1930s contain particularly objects with floral motifs (but there is also a toilet-set with a peacock motif, etc.) from pressed clear and colored glass (topaz, lilac, green, etc.) in some cases refined by etching, matting, polishing or spray painting. Pressed

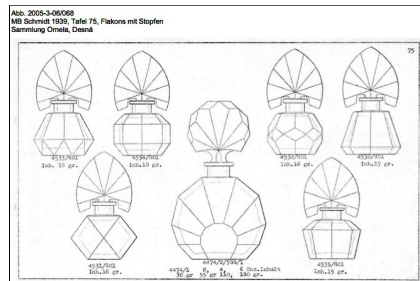
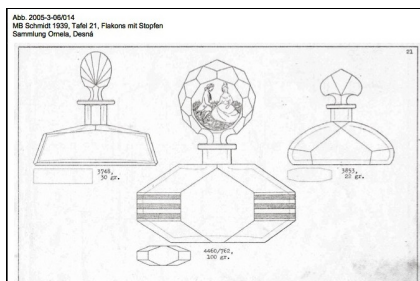


and blown glass semi-products were supplied to Schmidt by the glass complex Josef Riedel, based in Dolní Polubný.

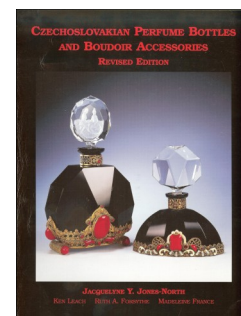
Preserved proposals for glass designs (made mostly by pencil or ink, sometimes colored and in some cases dated) reveal that the company devoted intensively to patterning of square glass of geometric simple and asymmetric shapes in combination with modeled stoppers (floral motifs, gallant scenes) in that decade.



Josef Schmidt was a contemporary of Heinrich Hoffmann and Henry Schlevogt—firms that are more widely recognized and also made perfumes to compete with Lalique. Without catalog evidence, it is easy to confuse the products from these companies. Only recently have the catalogues of the Schmidt company been available to American collectors.



Musterbuch Schmidt 1939. www.pressglaskorrespondenz.de



Note that the perfume shown on the left side of the cover of Jacqueline Jones-North's book, *Czechoslovakian Perfume Bottles and Boudoir Accessories, Revised Edition*, is the same

cutting as that shown in Schmidt's Musterbuch. And what about the jeweled ornate metal work? Petr Nový, Historian and Chief Curator at the Museum of Glass and Jewelry in Jablonec, explained that the exporter buys the bottles from the glass workshop. Then the exporter makes arrangements with other businesses to decorate these bottles. When complete, the bottles are exported out of Czechoslovakia. [This business concept is what makes Bohemian glass items so difficult to attribute to a specific company.

Photos of other Schmidt perfumes show the wide range of styles in the bottles and the stoppers.



Although the global economic crisis of thirties and then World War II severely afflicted the firm Josef Schmidt, it was operating in Jizerské Mountains until the expropriation in 1945, when as a German company it came under the national administration. At 1st January 1947 the brand disappeared from the world, when plants became part of the national enterprise Krystalerie, later incorporated into the national enterprise Gablonz Glassworks.

References:

North, Jacquelyne Y. Jones. *Czechoslovakian Perfume Bottles and Boudoir Accessories*. Antique Publications, Marietta, Ohio, 1990.

Nový, Petr. "Glass, Time, People." *Glassrevue* 1/2002. <http://www.glassrevue.com/news.asp@nid=468.html>.

Nový, Petr. <http://www.prazskagalerie.cz/en/news/from-editorial/luxury-for-everyone-chapters-from-history-and-present-of-art-crystalware-3>.

Stopfer, Edward. *Pressglas Korrespondenz* 2005-3-06. "Musterbuch Josef Schmidt, Unter-Polaun [Dolní Polubný] 1939-1940."

President's Report from Dave Phelps

Happy Fall everyone! The 2012 Convention has come and gone as well as summer antique shows, flea markets, and vacations. As you will see from the [pictures](#) * on the website, we had a wonderful time in Houston. As usual, there were great seminars and the rare chance to see a wonderful collection at the Czech Museum with many rare examples of Czech pottery and glass.

Planning is now underway for the 2013 Convention in Cincinnati. Keep watching the website for further information. Cincinnati is home to many museums, great restaurants, antique shopping and the Cincinnati Reds who will be playing during the tentative dates of June 6-8.

Something new since the last Newsletter can be found on the webpage: "[Collection of the Month](#)". * Treasures from fellow members collections are featured. Currently Tom and Jane Rood's Ladies are on display, as well as the past two collections. If you would like to share your collection and knowledge, please contact the webmaster. All that is needed is a short introduction, midsize resolution pictures and a brief sentence or two on each picture. Remember fellow collectors enjoy seeing other collections almost as much as their own!

The other fun website feature is the Flea Market Finds. Surely over the summer you have found an interesting piece to share!

It is also time to start thinking about volunteering to take one of the two Board positions that will be vacant next spring. The terms of both the President and Publicity Chair will be vacant. If you would be willing to serve, please contact a Board member or the webmaster. We will also need a Convention Chair for 2014. Without your help the Club cannot continue to survive.

Finally, we are always looking for ways to improve. Suggestions for the Club or the website can be sent to me at dave@czechpottery.com or to any of the Board members. What would you like to see?

* [To see the photos, click on the blue words. Some computers may require you to press Control.]

NAME DAYS

In the Czech Republic, each day has a personal name associated with it. It is a day to recognize the person in a way similar to a birthday, but not so extravagantly. For example, the name Elizabeth is Alžběta in Czech. Alžběta has been associated with November 19. The list originated with associating saints with specific days.

Go to www.myczechrepublic.com/czech_culture/czech_name_days/ to find an English name in Czech for a special person. Then go to the list of names to find the date of that person's Name Day. On this day, you can give this person flowers, candy, or a small gift and say "Happy Name Day."

Czechoslovakian Collectors Association
Treasurer's Report - 03/01/12 through 09/30/12

Total Income to date (including Convention 2012)	\$9,365.00
<u>Total Expenses to date (including Convention 2012)</u>	<u>\$5,909.97</u>
Income less Expenses	\$3,455.03

The excess of income over expenses is the amount remaining in the current budget year that CCA has available to spend from October 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013.

The total cash held by CCA is currently \$19,102.02.

Looking only at the Convention numbers—

Total Convention Income	\$4,763.00
<u>Total Convention Expenses</u>	<u>\$4,045.00</u>
Profit from the Convention	\$ 718.00

Breakdown of the Convention Income is as follows:

Registrations	\$4,360.00
Show and Sale admissions	\$ 30.00
Seminar admissions	\$ 125.00
<u>Silent Auction</u>	<u>\$ 248.00</u>
Total Convention Income	\$4,763.00

To date we have not yet had a response from the IRS regarding the 501(c)(3) application submitted by CCA. It is anticipated there will be additional legal fees to finalize the CCA status if the 501(c)(3) status is granted by the IRS.

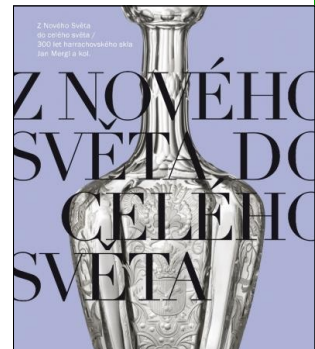
Aggie Elwell, Treasurer

This year the Harrach Glassworks celebrated its 300th anniversary with special glass making events at the glassworks in Harrachov and with an exhibition of Harrach glass at UPM, accompanied by a book.

The title is "From Neuwelt to the Whole World/300 Years of Harrach Glass." We have found 2 sources for purchasing the book in English.

* <http://www.czechartbooks.com> It costs \$101.59. This is the publisher.

* marketing@upm.cz This is the Decorative Arts Museum in Prague (UPM). The cost is 1650 Kč.



THE CONVENTION AS WE SAW IT

by

Bob Stinson and Jerry Buchanan

We left Nashville several days early and met Patti and Gene Ferguson in Houston. Patti has a brother living there. He and his girl friend were kind enough to take us antiquing to the various malls in the Houston area. Thank goodness....we never would have found the malls without him. Houston is huge. The malls we visited were nice and had several Czech pieces. However we found the prices to be on the high side. We did buy a couple of pieces for our collection. Gene and Patti came back empty handed. We had better luck at the "Show and Sell" set up at the convention. We did buy several pieces there as did Patti and Gene.

We went to the Czech Museum the day before the convention started. There we met



Effie Rosene, her husband and some of the staff. She was excited to see us and wanted to know more about the club. We were excited as well.



She gave us a tour of the museum and showed us where the dealers would be setting up and where the club meetings would be held. The tour was very interesting as they had a large collection of Czech glass and pottery in showcases throughout the museum.

Gene and Jerry just had to spend some money in the gift shop on two Andy Warhol bags. Gene bought a Marilyn Monroe bag for Patti and Jerry bought a Jackie Kennedy Onassis bag for his daughter. Andy Warhol is of Czech descent.



The next day was very exciting as well. The members began registering and the dealer set ups were completed. It was fun seeing the old members and meeting the new ones. We were disappointed some of the older members who



attended the CCA conventions in the past were absent. We are looking forward to seeing them next year. The dealers offered a large variety of Czech items to sell. This included glass, pottery, jewelry and perfume bottles.

That night we had dinner at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts and a tour afterward. The tour consisted mostly of old paintings and other art forms. The paintings were extraordinary and something to behold. We covered only a portion of the museum and would like to return at another time and take a more leisurely tour.

The seminars on Friday and Saturday were both interesting and informative. Deb Truitt's presentation on Harrach glassware was interesting and enlightening to us. We have some of the pieces in our collection.



Rosie Bodien spoke on the Brychta glass figurines and gave a wonderful slide show on perfume bottles. She was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the perfume bottles. There were a lot of "oohs" and "ahs" as the bottles were shown on the screen.

Jericho Mora gave an interesting presentation regarding Loetz tango glass from the 1920s and 30s. He also went through the Czech items belonging to the museum in the cases in the room and identified the various pieces as to their classification and marks. He displayed a considerable knowledge of Czech glass and everyone learned a lot from his presentation.

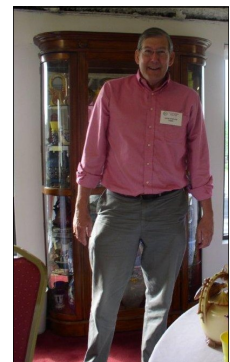


We all had fun at the Saturday night closing banquet at the museum. The food was very good and the presentation by Jean Davis as to how she started collecting Czech items and how she got into Czech genealogy was both entertaining and informative.



The next morning after the business breakfast we said our goodbyes and headed to Oklahoma for a visit with Patti and Gene. Therein lies another story.

We would like to thank David Phelps and his committee for making this a great convention. They did a marvelous job. We would also like to thank the people at the Czech Museum for their wonderful hospitality and for making us feel welcome. It would be a nice place to return to again for a future convention.



The Other Pottery Company by David Fein

When I began to collect Czechoslovakian pottery, the rule of thumb was to buy what caught my eye. So, many times I would go for weeks without finding any Czech pottery and I ended up buying whatever I finally found that was attractive.

Now as a seasoned collector I buy only what I know, and very, very rarely buy what I do not know. The companies we know are Ditmar Urbach, Mrazek, and Eichwald, with published company records; Dime Mark, with still unknown company records.

I am happy to report finally (due to the serious research by collectors) that we now have information about one of the major Czechoslovakian pottery companies that produced items that are in every pottery collector's collection and that (up till now) were unattributed.

Every collector has had this form in their collection.



Every collector has had a variation of this pattern in their collection.

The company is BIHL.

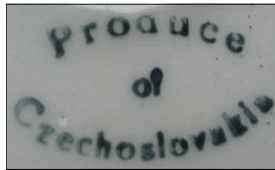
The BIHL factory was located in Ledvice in the North West part of today's Czech Republic just Southwest of Teplice, from 1896-1939.

As with most of the Czech pottery, the bottom markings varied with the different importers. Examples of the primary BIHL back stamps are below.



Other marks are the Erphila marks, Celebrate, Coronet.

More basic marks shown below.



Like other pottery with these marks, one must know either the factory molds or the factory patterns to correctly identify the company.

The quality pieces from the BHIL factory rival the best of the best in Czech pottery.



Up till now the major collectors of BHIL pottery were from Europe. Empowered with this new information I believe it is time for collectors on this side of the Atlantic to begin the quest.

For more information go to:

<http://www.bihl.nl/>

CONVENTION 2013

...will be June 6-8. President David Phelps has finalized the contract with the Garfield Hotel, Cincinnati. Rooms (including suites) are \$99 per night, if you make your reservations before **May 1**. [There is also a Reds ball game in town.]

For every sleeping room night used by CCA members, CCA receives a discount on the meeting rooms.

Rosie Bodien, Publicity Director

Our group has been introduced to museums, Czech & Slovak ethnic groups with newsletters, collection groups, antique stores, glass periodicals, and newspapers all over Texas & the USA for the 2012 convention!!! That is how I advertised our convention in Texas.

But Father Paul Chovanec from Texas and I think the best PR is done by word of mouth within our membership. So let's gear up for the 2013 Czech Collectors Association Convention by TALKING IT UP with our family and friends. Have them save the second weekend in June on their calendars. Encourage participation among your clubs or groups or businesses.

GET MOVING!!!!

David Fein, Membership Director

As of the convention there were:

51—SINGLE MEMBERSHIPS
16--- DUAL MEMBERSHIPS (x2)
2—INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS
11---NEW MEMBERSHIPS
Total of ---96 members

After the convention, we added:

7 more memberships
(2 renewals and 5 new memberships)
The total is now 103 members