

Czechoslovakian Collectors Association



Spring Newsletter
May 2014

Bohemian Boudoir



Rosie Bodien recently opened an exhibit of perfume bottles and bedroom accessories at the Tacoma Museum of Glass. It is titled the "Ladd and Lydia Straka Loss Collection" named for Rosie's parents.

The exhibit was open from January 15 through May 1 and featured over 95 items from her collection that were created in the 1920s and 1930s.

The following information was provided on posters at the exhibit.

"Czechoslovakia was historically considered to be one of the centers of glass production in Europe. In the early twentieth century, the country boasted over 600 glass factories and 3 acclaimed schools. This reputation of mastery was destroyed when World War II shattered the country in the 1940s. This selection of perfume bottles from the Ladd and Lydia Straka Loss Memorial Collection features some of the last of the many glass treasures labeled 'Made in Czechoslovakia.'

"These imported perfume bottles were popular in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s. As consumers focused on frugality in the midst of the Great Depression, Czech perfume bottles became an affordable and popular symbol of femininity, artistic refinement and social status.

"Two of the most highly regarded designers of Czech perfume bottles were Heinrich Hoffmann and his son-in-law, Henry G. Schlevogt. Hoffmann is credited as a pioneer of a new method of pressing glass. Hot glass was first pressed into a mold that formed the overall design of the bottle. Then, finishing details were engraved by hand. The result: a product that was both efficient to produce (and therefore less expensive to buy), while still appearing expensive and artistic.

"Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia during World War II marked the beginning of the decline of the creation and purchase of Czech glass perfume bottles. Many of the skilled glassmakers emigrated to escape capture resulting in the dissemination of glass craftsmen to other countries in Europe. Production of Czech glass perfume bottles slowed and the popularity of Czech perfume bottles declines in the United States as a result. These perfume bottles and accessories remain a symbol of femininity and beauty from the Great Depression era, and a relic of Czechoslovakia."



"These are some of the items that were essential parts of the boudoir of any fashionable lady in the 1920s.

Atomizer –A nozzle used to apply perfume as a fine spray. Atomizers could have compact nozzles that connected directly to the perfume bottle or could have long, tassel-embellished balls that converted perfume into mist using a puff of air.



“Cigarette Case—A flat metal box used to store and protect a small number of cigarettes. In the 1920s and 1930s, cigarette cases functioned as fashion accessories, were often composed of precious metals and decorative stones. Cigarettes were purchased in bulk in drug stores. They could be kept in the boudoir in a tasteful box, or carried in a purse in a cigarette case.

Dauber—a thin glass wand for applying the small amount of perfume directly to a lady’s neck, elbow or wrist. [In the center is an example of the extremely popular nude daubers made by Heinrich Hoffmann.]



The INGRID Collection– This collection of perfume bottles and accessories was designed by Henry G. Schlevogt, and went on sale in 1934. Schlevogt and his associates (including Heinrich Hoffmann) worked for years to develop colored glass with a richness and depth of color that mimicked expensive gemstones. The result was an inexpensive perfume bottle that had the richness and aesthetic of a much more expensive material. The blue (lapis) color is meant to resemble lapis lazuli; the green (malachite) is meant to resemble jade.

“Mini Perfume Bottles –In the 1920s and 1930s, it was fashionable for ladies to have many scents of perfume, and to use them for different seasons, occasions, or even times of the day. Purse or mini bottles were purchased empty and then filled with the desired scent.”



Pin Tray –A pin tray offered ladies a beautiful place to store their pins, broaches and rings.

Stopper—Czechoslovakian perfume bottles feature an endless variety of patterns and themes, including: art deco patterns, plants, animals, Roman and Greek mythology or figures from ancient Egypt or South America. The focal point of the bottle was the stopper. Stoppers were often two or three times larger than the bottle and elaborately decorated to draw attention to the perfume brand.”



Kuttrolfe (German). A flask with a neck divided into 2 or more tubes. German glassmakers made them in the Middle Ages.

This one was made in 2014 by a new company near Nový Bor, Czech Republic, named Haidl & Syn Sklárna Svojkov.

Membership Report from David Fein

As of April 23, 2014 we have 62 members:

39—Individual memberships

11—Dual memberships

1—Institutional memberships

4 of these are new members.

Traditionally the final count for membership is not until the end of convention. [So please send in your membership renewal.]

President's Report Spring 2014

from
Dave Phleps

After one of the coldest winters I can remember, spring has finally arrived. Hopefully we won't have a blizzard the first week of May as we did last year. I was not able to get to the first big flea market of the season last year, but am planning on going this year unless we have a repeat. In the meantime, I've spent a few hours in my yard cleaning up from the winter and getting ready for the spring blooms.

One thing I like to do is to take copies of our membership forms along on my trips. I would encourage all of you to do the same. Flea markets often have a table of publications and I leave some on the table. Another place to leave copies is in antique malls. Most have displays of brochures and they are more than willing to have you leave some. This is an easy way for everyone to publicize our club and make it easy for people to join. You can download a current copy off our website.

As I write this, like many of you, I am making plans for going to the convention. I am planning my route so I can stop at as many antique malls as possible. Although it has gotten hard to find Czech pottery or glass, I can usually find one or two treasures.

This gets me to thinking about where would be a great city to host our convention next year. If you have any thoughts, please pass them on to the board or better yet, come to the Sunday morning planning meeting where we try to decide on next year's city.

Once again I would like to put a call out for pictures of your collection for our webpage: "Collection of the Month". We have had three collections, but I'm sure you are tired of seeing the last one. If you would like to share your collection and knowledge, please contact the webmaster (currently me). 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. I bet you have added a special piece to your collection that others would like to see.

The terms of both the Treasurer and Membership 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 2015. Without your help the Association cannot continue to survive.

Finally, we are always looking for ways to improve. Suggestions for the Association 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?

Spring is here. Easter is past. But this collection of Easter figures still holds the season. Ditmar Urbach made these special reminders of spring.



GRANOT LOMA



This cute Peasant Art teapot has been in my collection for some time. I have seen this slogan on a couple other pieces, and have often wondered what it meant. I finally decided I should know, so turning to an online translator, I began my attempts. Although I have relied on John [Marvin] or Rosie [Bodien] in the past, I thought this should be easy enough, after all, it's only two words.

After a few choice words for the online translator, I thought I may have to resort to live help after all. Then I thought, why not just try Google; you can find anything there. Sure enough, it came up. I didn't find anything close to what I expected though. In fact, it seems the

only connection to Czechoslovakia is that the Mrazek teapot came from there in the first place.

Granot Loma is a spectacular 5180 acre estate on Lake Superior that was built by Louis Graveraet Kaufman beginning in 1919 as a summer home. The Loma Farms complex, designed to provide income and supply food for the lodge, was constructed in 1927. The lodge is an enormous, L-shaped structure built of logs over a steel frame and with a slate roof. The lodge includes a 60-foot long greatroom and 26 bedrooms. Loma Farms is a planned farming complex which includes thirteen buildings constructed of vitrified clay tile, situated about one-half mile from the lodge complex. One of the activities conducted to help support the complex was the selling of souvenirs. This included putting their name on purchased pottery such as this teapot. Presumably, it would have been a set, but it has long since been reduced to this one piece.

In case you were wondering, the name came from using the first two letters of each of the first five Kaufman children's names: Graveraet, Ann, Otto, Louis, and Marie.

Gerald Ford was going to make this the Western Whitehouse and Mohammed Ali thought about buying it. As recently as 2010, it was for sale only \$40 million. I'll think I'll settle for my piece of their history that only cost a few dollars.

Dave Phelps

John Herold Marvin

(April 24, 1928– January 8, 2014)

John was an enthusiastic member of CCA. He always had a collection to present at the convention or in the Newsletter.

John was the Art Director at the University of Wisconsin—Madison until he retired. He travelled extensively—many times to Czechoslovakia.



John's family will have a celebration of life later in the spring. If you wish to send condolences, you may make them on-line at www.gundersonfh.com.

Those of you who attended the 2012 CCA convention in Houston may remember Mary Cullen who opened her home to us and showed us her collections of Czech arts and crafts.

Mary's husband—Roy Henry Cullen—died on April 4, 2014. He was 84 years old. He served as President of the Cullen Foundation for many years. This Foundation provided the funds to complete the Comenius Library at the Czech Center Museum Houston. Roy's photos of the Prague ballet are displayed in the Pilsen Hall of the Center.



The Good Soldier Švejk — a kind-hearted batman in the Austrian army. He couldn't do anything right, but things came out ok in the end. Written by humorist Jaroslav Hašek in the 1920s, *The Good Soldier Švejk* became a popular story and a popular character among Czechs.

These glass figures of Švejk were made at the Železnobroské Sklo (ZBS) glassworks in the 1990s.



WORD SEARCH by Barry Litwack

E W F H J E S M N L C P A N H A N L E E A S T E R N
 R R A L I H P R E O C F O U G H T N A I M E H O B A
 P A P Y G O O U R A A F O R T H A N E W N E W I I T
 H K I L A R K F A T M H E E R S N A T I O N Z I R I
 Z S O L Y N Y C O N E S G Z T E O L E R V A R T I O
 S I O N A B L F R O O U E G H T O O C Y O I N C D N
 R C A M E E I O V E C O R O N E T E D E D I N Q I A
 A A R F O R T R S I U D M I N E L O V L Y I N R Z L
 E M C O T H E S Z Z T Y A M E A A R H K X B T R E E
 Y E O R Y T H Y E R S R N F O U I R E C S C O M D S
 N O R E O A A T N D S A N E V E Q R N I A Y E A A T
 E C R S A W L H G O O V U R F O R I T T E B F A T R
 V U H E R S N E P L E Y G E D A L L L S E G R I A A
 E T N E T O T H E F V L A G O F T H E A U U N U Y R
 I T E R C Z E C H O S L O V A K I A N G L A S S N C
 S D E E A M E R L I C A T N K B T H E Y W E R E A H
 D O U H N E E R E R G H D N A A G E N A N C E C F B
 N F A C B L A U C K R P O W O L N Y N E N L D A F M
 A A E A Q K U A R T O E U L B D D E R A M A N R I W
 E Y S M O P A Y R T R I T T T A D P F T H O I O T C
 R R S L R A T U T R O T E N I N E O O Z I P N L W O
 O T U L A F T E R I C A R T O D C S L E S H C A D N
 C E O E N H R E U T E E O T N M O T O I O O E N H S
 S U R T A Y S A L T D H E G R E O S H W V R L E O P
 R Q G S B O R S R T I E T A R B E L E C I E T N R T
 U R E O M O S E R M P L Z M E A S C E A A D S O A R
 O A U V H I M A E S M E P E L N R O H S C R N R B Y
 F M T P A S P L E I K R A S N O E R H T H T R E N U
 T A M L I E N S P A C E I N V A D S T E I N W A L D
 T A U R T H A R T R A T N A S A E P E D N O I T H C

Words can go in any direction: backwards, backwards on an angle. But they do go in a straight line.

Watch out for the teasers and word break-ups—they'll fool you.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GLASS AND POTTERY

AMPHORA
 AUSTRIAN
 BOHEMIAN
 CAMEO CUT
 CELEBRATE
 CORONET
 DACHSEL
 DITMAR URBACH

EGERMANN
 ERPHILA
 FORSYTHE
 HARRACH
 ICART
 IRIDIZED
 KARLOVY VARY
 KRALIK

KRASNO
 LALIQUE
 LOETZ
 MARQUETRY
 MOSER
 MRAZEK
 PEASANT ART
 PHANOMEN

POWOLNY
 ROUSSEAU
 ROYAL CROWN
 STEINWALD
 STELLMACHER
 STICKLEY
 TIFFANY
 ZSOLNAY

2014 CCA CONVENTION

If you haven't done so already, there is still time to register for the annual CCA convention. This year it is being held in Cincinnati, Ohio on June 5-8.

Jericho Mora will be speaking about "Tango Glass" and Jerry Vath will present "Czech the Halls: Czechoslovakian Christmas Ornaments." There will also be a Riverboat Cruise with dinner, the annual CCA reception, banquet and entertainment, and the annual membership meeting.

On Sunday, May 8, we begin planning the 2015 convention. Suggestions for a location are welcome.

If you need more information about the convention, contact Dave Phelps, CCA President, at dave@czechpottery.com.

Are you the next CCA Treasurer or Director of Membership?

If you are willing to serve in one of the positions, or if you would like to nominate someone, please contact Dave Phelps, CCA President, at dave@czechpottery.com.

CCA Officers 2013-2014

President—David Phelps
Secretary—Verna Kocken
Treasurer—Aggie Elwell
Director of Membership—
David Fein
Director of Publicity—
Jerry Vath

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