

Glass Collectors: Something New is Coming in 2011!!

By Jay Rogers, Mega-Glass Convention 2011 Coordinator

There are those who think that the antiques industry is suffering a malaise that portends an uncertain future, particularly for the glass collector. As members of various glass clubs and organizations, we are all seeing a trend that gives us pause, but rather than sit back and fret over what to do to alter the course, let's get busy doing something new. One of the things we can't change is an aging population of collectors of fine Victorian glass ranging from EAPG (Early American Pattern Glass) to American Art Glass....nor can we drag the next generation of collectors to the trough and expect them to drink if we don't lead the way.

Sitting with friends and avid collectors who see the same trends I see, we started a dialogue that has led to what I believe will be a step necessary to help turn the tide of losses to gains. A centerpiece of this discussion was education and shared knowledge that focuses on our similarities rather than what separates us. In the name of clarity, here is an example: Mt. Washington Glass collectors are avid toothpick holder collectors and many toothpick holder collectors are avid EAPG collectors...in other words, there are many members of one club that actively collect the focus of another club. I have coined the term "cross-pollinators" for these collectors. So, from this seed of thought comes an idea that in my estimation is long overdue. Why not gather several different glass clubs in one place for a single event that focuses on education, motivation and expanding memberships in each club by capitalizing on those who already have the interests. Light a fire that excites a sense of something old and making it new.

July 7-9, 2011 will see a gathering of 7 powerful glass collecting clubs in Kansas City (Overland Park), KS for a Mega-Convention...yep, 7 in one place for one purpose – the love of glass and the preservation of the rich history of this great industry in America from the 19th century and beyond. Here is a list of the confirmed participants:

NTHCS – National Toothpick Holder Collectors Society

AGSSSC – Antique Glass Salt and Sugar Shaker Club

MWPGS – Mt. Washington/Pairpoint Glass Society

EAPGS – Early American Pattern Glass Society

WCCC – Wave Crest Collectors Club

VGCI – Vaseline Glass Collectors, Inc

NAGC – National American Glass Club

This gathering represents the "stage setters" for what has the potential to be an important gathering of glass collecting enthusiasts for years to come. Within these clubs/organizations, imagine the wealth of information that can be freely exchanged among very willing listeners...hungry sponges willing to learn and ask questions about the history of our collective obsession. The agenda will encompass speakers, auctions, a visit to an antique show, interactive seminars and individual annual business meetings. Currently the speakers include Jeffrey S. Evans (Jeffrey S. Evans Auctions), a representative from the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City and Alina Adams of the Wave Crest Collectors Club...others to be announced.

The hope is to bring more and more clubs/organizations into the fold for an exciting exchange of information, history and the pure love of glass. There is no end to the possibilities...the power of 7 can become a synergy felt throughout the antique world.

Can't you just feel it?!!

Information can be found at: www.2011mega-glassconvention.info