

MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1971

Midwest Glass Chatter
January 2008

Club Officers

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Membership

The Midwest Glass Chatter is a monthly publication and is a forum through which collectors can share information.

Membership cost is \$15.00 per year, per family, due each December 31. All jar/bottle related collectors are welcome. Send to MAFJBC, Attn: Joe Coulson, 10515 Collingswood Ln, Fishers, IN 46037

Next Club Show

July 13, 2008

Make your reservation now! The hotel's phone number is 765-284-4200

Fruit Jar Get-Together, January 12, 2008

The January club meeting was replaced by the Fruit Jar Get-Together on Saturday, January 12 at The Signature Inn in Muncie in the second floor Conference Room. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the event and welcomed about 60 people in attendance (the room was full!). Dealer and Exhibitor packets were made available, so they could be picked up in advance to save time and effort for everyone on Sunday morning.

Dave passed around a Get-Well card for Phil Robinson, since he has been having some health issues recently. We all wish Phil a speedy recovery.

Wayne Lowry made a brief announcement about the FOHBC National Expo that will occur August 8–10 in York, PA. The show will take place in the new arena in York, and there will be up to 750 tables available. The Federation "Expo" happens every four years. Wayne handed out contracts for the show. Contact details for Wayne can be found on the last page of this newsletter in the "Announcements" section.

Dave also wanted to give a big "thanks" to Norm and Junne Barnett for all that they have done for the hobby. Everyone applauded.

The next topic was the rules for the auction following the get-together. If you want to put a reserve on an item the fee is: \$1 for a reserve of \$1–\$100; \$2 for a reserve of \$101–500; and \$3 for \$500+. Items could be placed in the auction as we went around the room for introductions and show and tell.

Tom Caniff was our first show and tell person. Tom enjoys collecting and researching product jars. Tom shared three jars with their original paper product labels. Many product jars could be re-used as canning jars and subsequently the original paper labels would be washed off or removed in some way. The product jars with original paper labels are desirable to collectors today and we can often learn interesting fruit jar history facts from the information contained on those labels. Tom's jars were an aqua Everlasting QT; an SCA QT Perfection; and an aqua 8 oz. "sample" Lightning jar (base: Putnam; heel: Reg. U.S. Pat. Office).

Tom also wanted to convey on behalf of Father Pat Wilhelm his regrets in not being able to attend this show. We all miss the interesting jars and details that Fr. Pat has to share.

Don Burkett brought an



aqua HG "Crowleytown" Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 with its original lugged metal screw cap. This jar represents the earliest of the Mason jars. Don also shared a wonderful olive green HG Root Mason jar with a rare original ROOT metal screw cap. For some reason, only a small number of the Root metal screw caps are known today. This is a very desirable Indiana collectible. Don's last jar was an aqua HG Swayzee's Mason (no "Improved" visible). This jar was produced from either a worn or plugged mould causing only part of the embossing to appear. Don mentioned that this jar probably led earlier collector's to believe that a Swayzee's Mason jar existed.

Joe Coulson displayed a large book (17 1/2 inches x 14 inches) titled "The City of Buffalo Comprising It's Commercial and Financial Resources—Souvenir of the Buffalo Evening News 1887". This book was full of interest-

Fruit Jar Get-Together, cont'd

ing facts and advertisements representing Buffalo, New York in 1887. The prize in this book was an advertisement for Ball Brothers Glass Manufacturing Company from their early days.

Joe also brought an aqua QT Ball Mason that had a Ball Perfection style mouth (an inner ledge where a glass lid would rest). This is only the second reported example of this jar and was acquired from Ball jar collector Larry McGarrh (who found the jar in the Oklahoma region). Now, Joe is looking for the matching Perfection lid to complete the jar.

Louis Ebert collects and studies items from Grant County, Indiana. Lou brought a chunk of an original glass melting pot uncovered at the site of the Marion Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. in Marion, Indiana. Ball Brothers bought this company in 1904 and operated the facility through 1908. Lou also showed us an old wooden shipping box for Ball Fruit Jars that would have been in use during this time period.

The next three presenters had something "Special" to share, literally. They all brought Ball Special jars for show and tell.

Jean Harbron displayed a clear QT Ball (undropped a) Special. This jar is unusual because it is a clear color and is currently unlisted in the Red Book.

Bruce Schank came all the way from New Jersey to share in the fun and excitement of our Show & Sale. His last trip here was 20 years

ago when our shows were being held in Indianapolis. Bruce was glad to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. Bruce displayed a clear QT Ball (3-L, dropped a) Special with a beaded neck seal. It is rare to find a 3-L logo Ball jar with a beaded neck seal (almost all are found in the shoulder seal style). This jar was made on an F.C. Ball machine.

Jeff Harper built on Bruce's Show and Tell by displaying the matching clear PT Ball (3-L, dropped a) Special with a beaded neck seal. Ball jar collectors can truly appreciate how hard it is to find these jars. Jeff also shared a Ball Brothers Glass Mfg. Co. midget milkglass lid that, as he put it, "didn't milk properly." It looked like a donut of milkglass (clear in the center), since the milkglass was not distributed evenly throughout the lid.

Anne Szopa continued the Ball jar extravaganza by bringing a very scarce Ball blue QT Ball (dropped a, no underline) Ideal. The combination of a "dropped a" and no underline in the logo is what makes this jar special (pardon the pun). You will look a very long time to find one of these.

Jerry McCann built up suspense over his Show and Tell jar. He billed it as a "one of a kind, cobalt blue pint, older age." With fruit jar collectors this conjures up images of cobalt blue Millvilles, etc.

The jar that Jerry brought was a cobalt blue PT that had a "C" on the base. The jar

had a matching cobalt blue lid that was embossed with an eagle over globe design. The jar lived up to the facts stated in Jerry's billing, but he said that it was most likely a packer jar rather than a fruit jar. The design on the lid originated with the Canton Glass Co. of Cambridge, Ohio and has been seen in that company's 1903 catalog.

Mike Jordan brought two wax seal pottery jars. The first one he had purchased from Velma Scott, and the jar was a nice black HG painted with attractive folk art. Mike's second pottery jar was a HG with an appealing textured brown glaze. Pottery jars are a collecting specialty all by themselves. Mike also did a display of pottery jars on Show day.

Wayne Lowry told us the story of how he and June were going to do a display on Show day, but Wayne accidentally left all of the jars at home! Wayne did bring a picture book of the "45 pint jars with less than 6 examples known" that he was going to show, so it was not a completely lost effort.

Wayne and June love to collect pint jars. Wayne shared two pictures of jars that he intended to bring for Show and Tell. The first picture was of a clear PT The Standard (figure of scales) Improved Fruit Jar. The jar was dug in New Zealand and is the first reported example in the pint size. The jar has a midget improved style mouth. It was stained and does have a crack. Wayne's second picture showed an aqua PT Excelsior (reverse: embossed basket

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



*The Signature Inn
in Muncie, Indiana
was the
headquarters for our
Show this year*



Fruit Jar Get-Together, cont'd

of fruits). Another rare jar in the pint size.

Wayne also told us about a new form of glass repair. It is an ultraviolet light method rather than the more commonly practiced epoxy method. You cannot detect this type of repair under a black light. The material is a blend of eurothayne and epoxy and afterwards a coat of epoxy is applied. It might be possible that he could add something to the process that will show under a black light. Wayne is still perfecting the process. Contact him (jardocor@aol.com) for more details.

Phil Smith did not bring any jars for Show and Tell, but he did express his disappointment that the Fruit Jar News ceased with the December 2007 issue. Phil suggested that it would be nice if someone could pick it up and keep it going.

Mike Keith brought a variety of jars for Show and Tell. Mike likes to collect Millville jars because the name on the jar matches the name of the town he lives in (Millville, IN). Mike shared an aqua PT Millville Atmospheric Fruit Jar.

Mike also displayed several Ball Standard jars in a variety of colors. All of the jars came from the same mold and had the exact same crude embossing. The letters in the word Standard were of varying sizes! Mike would like to find more colors of this same jar.

Mike also shared a clear QT R.G. Simpson Ball retirement jar (embossed with train box car). Mike brought an N-

scale model train car of the "Muncie & Western Ball Line". In addition, Mike brought a picture postcard addressed to someone in Millville, IN in 1891.

Mike's last item was a Hygeia nursing bottle that was made by Ball. It still had the original rubber nipple although the rubber had hardened with age.

Deanna Cundiff brought more T-shirts for sale. She is becoming known as "the T-shirt lady." The shirts had a picture of a Ball jar and said "I had a Ball in Muncie." Deanna also displayed a clear PT Pathfinder mustard jar from St. Louis.

Doug Leybourne shared an aqua QT Star & Crescent. This jar was even more unusual because it had a zinc band with a carrying bail and an immerser style glass insert.

Doug also showed us an aqua HG FAVORITE jar with an original closure. The closure was in working condition, Doug offered to demonstrate it to those who might be interested after Show and Tell.

Joe Merkel told us that he purchased three collections last year. He also said that he is tentatively planning a display of Mason jars at the Expo in August. Joe and fellow Mason jar collector Jim Sears are working on a book about Mason jars (limited to ground lip jars).

Joe displayed a black olive (very dark) QT Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 (base: mould number 4, Hemingray style); a cobalt blue QT Ma-

son's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 (base: mould number 3, Hemingray style); and a cobalt blue QT Mason's 5 Patent Nov. 30th 1858.

Joe mentioned that there is a huge number of variations that make collecting Mason jars very interesting. There are many different sizes, colors and mould numbers. If you just look at Mason jars with the CFJCo monogram you will find 21 different minor variations in the monogram style. Joe says that he has noticed 9 different apostrophe styles too (in "Mason's").

Greg Spurgeon brought a "whatzit" item. Greg displayed a clear glass lid from the early 1900s that he would like to find out more about.

Ron Ashby brought the smallest jar in his collection for Show and Tell. The jar was an American Club House Cheese on the lid. It would be considered a sample size jelly glass.

Russ Crupe shared some items that were digger's finds. In fact, these items came from the same hole. The items were: a not completely formed Atlas Strong Shoulder Mason; a parison Atlas Strong Shoulder Mason; and a wonderful solid pour Atlas Strong Shoulder Mason. Russ specializes in Hazel-Atlas items and these were one of a kind.

Leon Shores brought an amber lid for The Magic (star) Fruit Jar. It was cracked and Leon gave it to Wayne Lowry to repair using the new hard-to-detect glass repair process that Wayne discussed earlier. The intent would be to show

the end result at a future get-together. Leon said he would sell the lid and matching jar at a "discounted" price.

Bob Dulong reminded us that his presence at the Show made our Show an "International" one. Bob is from Canada and has been attending for many years.

Bob brought a large picture of his Show and Tell jar, and he told us the story behind it. A friend called him and asked him if he would be interested in buying a jar. He flew to London, Ontario, Canada and brought the jar with him. The jar is a combination of Canadian and American. The jar is an amber HG ACME (L.G. Co surrounding a star) Trademark 1893 (reverse: Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858). It was manufactured by the Lamont Glass Co. The jar was found in a house six miles from Toronto. The jar had a beautiful whitened effect.

Dave Rittenhouse was our last presenter, and he brought a couple of scarce go-withs. The first item was a complete wooden shipping box for the Redkey Glass Co. He purchased it the previous Saturday at a flea market in Muncie! Dave's other item was a wooden shipping box end for the Standard wax sealer from the Greenfield Fruit Jar Co.

The February 3rd club meeting will be at Minnetrista—bring something that you purchased at the Show.

See you all at the February meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

Pictures from our January Show



Margaret Bradshaw (left) discusses early jelly glasses at the Jelly Jammers meeting on Saturday morning at 10am. Pat Van Dyke (right) is the jelly club President.



Russ Crupe brought these scarce Hazel Atlas jelly glasses to the Jelly Jammers meeting. Several still had their original embossed lids.



The Fruit Jar Get-Together was well attended on Saturday at 1:30pm. About 60 people filled the 2nd floor conference room at The Signature Inn.



Jerry McCann shares the details behind the cobalt blue packer jar that he brought for Show and Tell. The lid is embossed with an eagle over globe design (from the early 1900s).



Joe Merkel holds up two rare colored Mason's Patent Nov. 30TH 1858 jars against the white background for our camera to see.



Bob Dulong shared a picture of, and the story behind, his very rare amber HG ACME (star) Trademark 1893 Canadian jar.

Pictures from our January Show



Lou Ebert brought this chunk of a glass melting pot from the site of the Marion Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. The Ball wooden shipping box was also displayed by Lou.



Joe Coulson shared this rare Ball Mason with a Perfection style mouth (inner ledge). This is only the second example that has been reported.



Ron Ashby purchased this rare amber Mason Patent Nov. 30th 1880 from Greg Spurgeon during the room hopping activities.



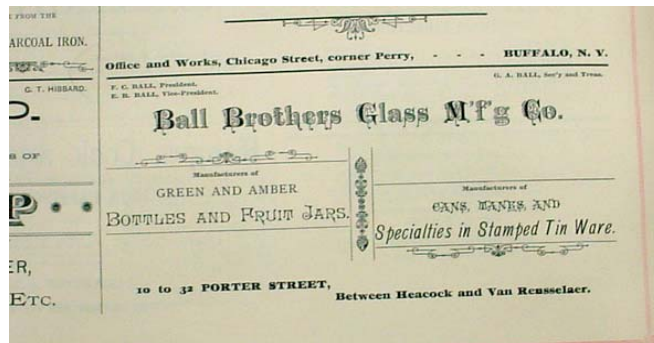
Mike Keith brought these Ball-made items as well as the Millville jars.



The olive green Root Mason and aqua Crowleytown Mason were shown by Don Burkett. The pottery jars were displayed by Mike Jordan.



Dave Rittenhouse brought this wooden shipping box for the Redkey Glass Co. Very nice graphics.



Joe Coulson shared this original Ball Brothers Glass Mfg. Co. advertisement from an 1887 book published in Buffalo, N.Y.

Pictures from our January Show



Bruce Schank (left) and Jeff Harper (far right) displayed two of the rarest Ball Special jars. The jars were a clear QT and PT having the 3-L logo and a beaded neck seal.



The doors opened at 9am on Show day and the crowd poured in. Admission was \$2 this year and Show hours were 9am–2pm on Sunday.



Doug and Lori Leybourne had copies of Red Book 10 available for sale at their table on Show day.



Junne Barnett displayed these posters from both World War I and World War II.



Sue Wilson won all three display awards: Most Educational, People's Choice, and Dealers' Choice with "Fruit Jars in the Barnyard".



Jean Harbron showed this display of "Arched-Plate Pints" made from the early 1900s–1920s. A handout showed the embossing on each jar.

Pictures from our January Show



Mike Jordan showed a large number of canning crocks. What a wonderful variety of jars.



Dave Rittenhouse showed jars and an original wooden shipping box from the Marion Fruit Jar & Bottle Co.



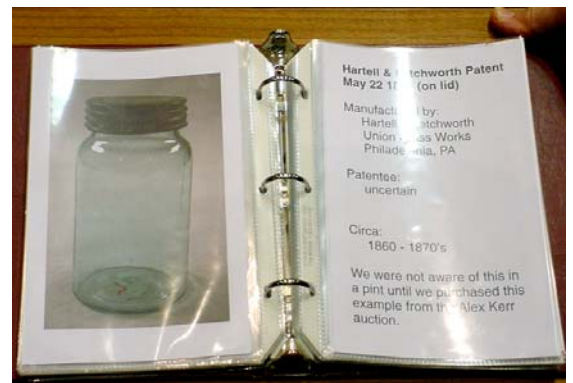
Mike Mosier showed beautiful Indiana jars and glass company advertising plates. "Oh! The Joys of the Hobby."



Mike Keith, who lives in Millville, Indiana, displays his favorite Ball and Millville jars along with family photos.



Joe Coulson displayed a set of the known "Embossed Drinking Jar Mugs" from various manufacturers.



Wayne Lowry has pints that are so rare that he could not find them when it came to set up the display! For consolation, he showed his notebook with pictures.

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



Tom Schumm proudly wears this new tattoo of a yellow olive colored Van Vliet jar. You may have noticed that this rare jar recently sold in Greg Spurgeon's North American Glass auction for \$23,500.

Announcements

- The February 3rd club meeting will be at Minnetrista at 1:30pm in the Cantina. Bring something that you purchased at the January Show. For directions or information, contact Dave Rittenhouse at 765-468-8091.
- Red Book 10 went on sale for the first time at our Muncie Winter Show. Copies are available for \$40 postpaid from: Doug Leybourne, P.O. Box 5417, North Muskegon, MI 49447.
- Fruit Jar Annual 2008 also became available at the show. Copies are available for \$35 postpaid from: Jerry McCann, 5003 West Berwyn Ave., Chicago, IL 60630-1501.
- The Ball Jar Collector's Community Center website can be located at: <http://balljarcollectorscommunitycenter.yuku.com/>
- It's not too early to start planning for the FOHBC 2008 Expo to be held August 8–10 at the Toyota Arena, York Fairgrounds, York, Pennsylvania. For more information contact: R. Wayne Lowry, 401 Johnston Ct., Raymore, MO 64083; phone 816-318-0161; email: JarDoctor@aol.com
- For those of you planning ahead, the program for the March 2nd club meeting will be jars with a company monogram in the embossing (for example, CFJCo).
- Send in your membership dues if you have not already!

