

## 2007 SYMPOSIUM EVALUATION REPORT

### PRE-PROGRAM EVENTS

#### Hot Glass Participation Program at Rodi Rovner's

Score: 6.5 # of responses: 4

-Much fun – we should do something like this every year.

-A patient, kind and highly accomplished glass artist provided a thrilling and successful hot glass making experience. All the drama of glassmaking with personal attention. Thank you.

-Did not attend but would like to.

-Newcomers want this – need more like this – put in brochure for next year!

-Great fun – much more sophisticated glass work than last year.

#### Pizza, Wine and Fellowship Gathering at Hillcrest Manor

Score: 6.7 # of responses: 26

-Dick and Kyle have a beautiful home filled with wonderful objects. It's a great casual atmosphere that makes getting together w/club members a most enjoyable experience.

-Susan's desserts were yummy!

-The casual atmosphere of Hillcrest Manor made for a most welcoming and comfortable experience. The surrounding of beautiful glass in a spectacular home was memorable. Thank you Mr. Dick Bright. The desserts were delicious and beautifully presented. Thanks to Susan Shovers (and all the way from Indiana).

-Always a blast.

-Kyle does a great job! Dick too!

-Always nice.

## **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

### **Registration, Welcome & Opening Comments**

Score: 5.7 # of responses: 28

-Confused

-Registration was slightly confusing as there were no directions as to which door to enter – the auditorium is difficult to find if you've never been in it previously.

-WAY too drawn out.

-I liked the round tables and the refreshments and the promise of what was to come. The symposium was an event I looked forward to because of the Carder and Steuben glass and by participating in the Hot Glass Program and the welcome party I already knew some of the collectors.

-It is overkill to rate opening comments.

-Jane Spillman and David Whitehouse very good!! Both are top notch. We are lucky to have them.

-Opening remarks were too long and unrelated to symposium topics. Have someone sit at registration table to “check in” and greet attendees (especially newcomers), distribute materials and generally organize the start of the day.

### **Research Project on Metal & Glass (Rakow Library Public Services Staff)**

Score: 6.1 # of responses: 28

-Interesting but slightly tedious.

-I love listening to the folks from the Rakow. It's great to absorb the information.

-Super – wonder if Alfred's PVGGC has material to supplement?

-The staff was well prepared and addressed the subject of metal and glass in an informative manner.

-The Rakow is a remarkable resource.

-Top rate.

-Always interesting to learn what the Rakow staff has developed and to give them an opportunity to expand their knowledge of Carder glass.

## **Metal Lamp Fixtures and their Steuben Bodies – Mark Buffa**

Score: 6.5 # of responses: 29

- Would like to have heard about the other metal companies such as Bach.
- Too much detail.
- Mark has a wealth of information, and speaks well.
- Great – made me really look at our lamps!
- Outstanding!
- Excellent research well presented.
- Way too much information to absorb at one sitting.
- More technical details would have been interesting.
- Top rate.
- Excellent presentation. Way too much use of PowerPoint special effects to open pictures – very distracting.

## **Lunch**

Score: 6.0 # of responses: 25

- Pull table more to middle, which will allow people to get their food on both sides, speeding up the process.
- Food is always very good.
- Keep serving tables in main meeting room – it would greatly facilitate serving lunch.

## **Annual Business Meeting**

Score: 4.7 # of responses: 21

- Didn't accomplish much – more talk than action.
- Not very much decided.
- Lacked organization and structure.

-Think the “director” idea needs to be implemented.

-President Alan Shovers diplomatically addressed the concerns of the organization. He is a superb leader in my opinion. His opinions and suggestions count. I thought Susan Shovers suggestion for addition of directors to the Carder Steuben Club was the best suggestion offered. I agree with her.

-Need to at least attempt to follow “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

-OK

-Not focused! Lots of rambling and random ill thought out thoughts.

-Two items were not dealt with: 1) moving symposium from Corning, 2) opening auction to outside interests (neither of which we would support).

-Need a method to limit discussion –i.e., 3 minutes per person per item! Did not cover Agenda completely.

-Disorganized – specific items and recommendations for action should be developed ahead of time. Additional director idea is great but also consider creating committees (like symposium, membership or web site) as a way to involve others.

### **Walking Tour of Mr. Carder’s Corning**

Score: 6.8 # of responses: 5

-I was fatigued from the very full schedule so I missed the walking tour to my regret.

-I live here.

### **Dinner at the Knoll**

#### **Food**

Score: 5.7 # of responses: 13

-Heard from two participants it was poor???

-Last year’s food was much better?

## **Facilities**

Score: 6.7 # of responses: 19

-Always enjoy going there – except for the stairs!

-It was a grand experience to dine in the elegant surroundings of the home of an ambassador.

-Excellent facility – nice to see how the other half lived! Food was good too!

-Great setting for a good meal. It is probably time to add some special feature to the dinner (perhaps a guest speaker or a silent auction open only to attendees of a small number of glass pieces) to keep attendance high and avoid the “been there, done that” syndrome.

## **Wine & Dessert Reception at the Carder Gallery**

Score: 6.6 # of responses: 26

-Did Not Attend. However, I did see the special display. It was for the museum’s sake that we have a case of clear glass and metal of recent vintage. Would have liked Carder glass and metal more.

-Tom always has a good talk.

-Fantastic desserts, couldn’t view better art glass, Tom Dimitroff’s speech (wonderful) what could be better for an art glass enthusiast?

-As always I loved Tom’s presentation!

-The Carder Gallery is a beautiful gallery – intimate and I liked meeting Tom and Peetie and hearing his talk.

## **Saturday Morning Group Discussion – Dick Bright Moderator**

Score: 5.4 # of responses: 25

-Don’t think I learned anything.

-Dick is a great guy, with a lot of knowledge, a very good speaker, and a joy to be around.

-I like the variety and informal atmosphere.

-A man of many talents much admired.

-Entertaining, but insufficient content.

-Fun, but I would like much more substance.

### **Roycroft Overview of the Arts & Crafts Movement**

#### **Doug McFarland Presentation**

Score: 6.4 # of responses: 25

#### **David Kornacki Presentation**

Score: 6.6 # of responses: 25

-Informative presentations – thoroughly enjoyed both.

-Always interesting to hear of other companies who utilized Steuben Glass wares, a most interesting talk.

-Made me wish we had a field trip to East Aurora in conjunction with Symposium – How about next year before or after?

-Fantastic job!

-Loved that program.

-Terrific!

-Very good, very interesting.

-Stunningly excellent!

-I enjoyed, but had the impression it would involve more about items the 2 companies made together as glass Steuben supplied to Roycroft.

-Very educational – a great program.

### **Steuben Atomizers & Perfume Lamps – Marsha Crafts**

Score: 6.4 # of responses: 24

-I think she is wrong about some of her Steuben attributions.

-Marsha did a very fine job, again – always enthused to hear about Steuben glass usages.

- She left us longing for more pictures and more comments – a high point!
- Great presentation.
- Terrific!
- A handout of the presentation would have been appreciated.
- Very competent!
- Excellent – learned a lot.
- Good presentation – I learned a great deal. Great use of technology – consider using it for other speakers who could prepare a presentation even though they might not be able to attend.

### **Collector's Choice**

Score: 6.6 # of responses: 25

- Kathy Constable's talk was great!
- Both were very good.
- I liked seeing the many objects of the collectors and hearing their stories. One could tell they considered them treasures and special pieces of glass. I liked the variety. It was fun to see the pretty objects. Promotes the club. Lots of fun. Great concept to feature the various members in the club.
- A symposium highlight and labor of love for the presenters.
- Helpful to many collectors regardless of their own special interests.
- Excellent idea as long as everyone gets a chance not just those with deep pockets and large collections.
- Fun to see what club members want to show others. Next year make one session a group effort with a theme – all attendees could bring one or more items in a category (goblets, perfumes, shades, etc.) and then the items could be discussed (color, shape numbers, etc.) Afterwards, arrange to have everything photographed – it would be a phenomenal way to add hundreds of pictures to the web site. For that matter, everything brought to the symposium for all sessions should be photographed for the web site.

## **Saturday Evening Banquet**

### **Facilities**

Score: 6.8 # of responses: 28

- Best in the area.
- Weather permitting, open the terrace for cocktails.

### **Food**

Score: 6.6 # of responses: 28

- Fantastic food.
- Superb.

### **Auction**

Score: 5.1 # of responses: 27

- Too many items with reserves too high.
- Many seemed to lack any interest in the auction and it dragged on way too long. Kitty did a great job.
- Auctioneer could announce \$ of winning bid and bidder #.
- Kitty ran a fun filled auction. I enjoyed it more than last years.
- A 7 on objects offered – my opinion on various collectible prices for all – I’m new to the glass scene. Beautiful objects were offered in a magical setting. It was not easy to identify who had the bid and who won the bid. Number identification would have helped heighten the fun of the auction – I suspect it would have made the job of keeping track of the bidder and amount easier for the clerks. Spotters or jackers would have helped make more money perhaps. A description of the object and some information about each special object might have encouraged bidding.
- This lasted way too long.
- I heard it was awful.
- Kitty was great!
- The auction dragged. We left long before it was over.



- Way too long! Suggest going back to a professional auctioneer?
- Limit number of items with a high reserve.
- I think the auction should be conducted with more seriousness. There were too many comments from club members.
- Very unprofessional and totally disorganized.
- Need a 5% premium for items that do not reach reserve. The seller would pay 5% of reserve to club. This would make reserves lower and more realistic.
- Nice items – dragged way too long and many mistakes were made – we should have a regular auctioneer come in.
- Disappointing – it took too long – you should be able to auction 80 items in an hour; too many items (that didn't sell) with a reserve that appeared to be at or near full retail value. Perhaps a “sale table” could be set up during the symposium for those members who have items they want to sell but don't want to subject them to the uncertainty of an auction. It could be done in conjunction with “mix and match” (a great idea that should have been given more prominence).

## **OVERALL SYMPOSIUM RATING**

Score: 6.2      # of responses: 26

### **Additional Comments on this year's Symposium**

- The theme was wonderful and we looked at the pieces from different perspectives. There was no attention paid to the table of mix and match pieces, or if there was, I didn't hear any results.
- We need to reign in cell phone conversations, noisy comments and walking around during presentations. There was some just rude behavior.
- The talks given by the Staff were a bit dry. Talks would have been better if they were not read from notes.
- Overall it was wonderful! – thank you very much.
- Overall I thought it was well organized, fun to see everyone, and share stories and experiences with people who love and have an appreciation of beautiful glass, greatest place to be in America to see the best of the best.

-Thank you Scott for giving me the opportunity to provide feedback on the symposium. I had a wonderful time and plan to return next year. This was my 1<sup>st</sup> symposium and I purchased my first piece of Steuben Glass. It is a beautiful bowl.

-Great job – keep up good work.

-The auction was tedious. The lectures were interesting and informative.

-I think rating the symposium is a foolish idea. Spend more time planning the symposium and find some more interesting speakers.

-Excellent.

-I missed all of Saturday due to prior commitment. The research program by library staff was at least 2X as long as it should have been. 1<sup>st</sup> speaker very good and then they went downhill after that.

-It was obvious that a great deal of work and effort was put in to make this an excellent symposium. What I thought might be rather boring programming was terrific. Enjoyed every minute.

-“Locals” did a great and demanding job. Bless them each and every. It’s always nice to review the C.V. of speakers and be sure of their accomplishments before introducing them.

-Well organized, some excellent talks.

-Unfortunately we need to have an announcement that cell phones should be muted or vibrate only (duh). Auction consigners names should not be listed.

-I’m not fond of doing this type of form – I usually throw them out.

-Very enjoyable.

-The best so far. Allan is a great President! We need more publicity for next year – a brochure or something, for the Annual Meeting. Scott, thanks for doing this.

-I was only able to attend Sat. but enjoyed it very much.

-One toast at the Saturday dinner would have been sufficient.

-Excellent symposium.

## **Suggestions for next year's Symposium**

-Ask T. P. Dimitroff to talk about his new book – if he's able. Dinnerware collections might be interesting, both the Lenox/Carder collaborations, and the set that Carder made.

-Specialty pieces – why they were made and for whom.

-Cutting and etching of F.C. Steuben glass – A. Who purchased pieces to cut and etch. B. What cuts and etches did Carder have done. C. Names of the cuts and etches.

-Acid cut backs, tyrian, quartz, moss agates, colored and decorated aurenas (high end wares, and their manufacture). More info from Bob Rockwell or George Jamison or Tom Dimitroff or Sandra Rockwell on memories of Carder.

-Make pumpkins or apples at Hands On Glass.

-Let's make sure PVGGC people are invited and aware of Honorary Membership extended when club began – Carole Onda, Sandra Grieff, Dr. Matthew Hall. I missed ID Clinic. Always brings on great discussion. So glad Bob Rockwell attended Sat. dinner.

-Present an overview of the books by Carder Steuben members.

-I suggest the auction objects be placed so that viewers could view glass from both sides of the tables. The easier circulation of the guests would allow viewers to see the objects from various angles. I realize security is a concern. A professional auctioneer who knows glass and fine art might be hired or secured for the auction. Alan Shovers and wife Susan on the program with a subject related to their collection and where they buy glass. A little time allowed to see the exhibits in the museum would be welcome. Max Erlacher could present a program on glass engravings, script types and information about him and his work.

-I think some items for auction should be sold through a silent auction with the better pieces sold using an auctioneer. I think owners of consigned pieces should remain anonymous. How about getting speakers with knowledge of Tiffany, Quezal, Durand, etc. to give lectures.

-Have Tom Dimitroff or Dick Bright conduct the auction. Kitty was a bad idea! I hope that you can come up with something that can keep me at more than half of the Symposium. Ask Tom Dimitroff to give a lecture. At least we might actually learn something.

-Steuben glass and the Arts and Crafts Movement. Thanks for doing this Scott!

-Include at least one speaker on Carder Steuben contemporary glass makers – L.C.T, Quezal, etc.

-Insight into what current Steuben is doing and their marketing techniques. Current blowers and engravers. Influence of Tiffany, Quezal on Carder and vice versa.

-The Reifschlagers and their glass bequests. Carder glass in the Wichita museum.

-Items often mistaken for Steuben – not by intent as with Fry, et. al.

-Explore the L.C. Tiffany – Fred Carder/Steuben relationship – Design concepts; strengths and weaknesses; public perception of price differentiations. Possible afternoon field trip to Auburn, NY to tour the Willard Chapel – total interior by L.C. T.

-We attended the Carder Symposium and had a thoroughly good time. Although the symposium was great for collectors of Carder glass with some experience and familiarity with the Club, we believe that future symposia could be made friendlier and more beneficial to potential new collectors, particularly those on a modest budget. We assume that a constant flow of new collectors into the club would be enjoyed by the long time members, because this keeps interest and prices high for Carder glass. It provides a convenient secondary glass market for entry level collectors and allows experienced collectors to sell off the lower end of their collections. We suggest the following:

1. Have the symposium on Saturday (Day 1) and Sunday (Day 2) rather than the Friday/Saturday format to allow working people to attend without missing too much work.
2. Split the symposium fee into Day 1 and Day 2 (including banquet and auction) or a fee for the whole event. It allows new folks to try out some of the symposium without too much expense.
3. Day 1 should be a core education day while Day 2 can be devoted each year to a specific theme for advanced collectors.
4. Day 1 – education day should always include tabletop displays, which are not necessarily the topic of presentations (although they could be): for example:
  - 4.1 Items for identification soliciting comments from experts and members.
  - 4.2 Lonely hearts and parts items looking for mates.
  - 4.3 Carder Steuben look alike and fakes (Mark Buffa did a great job with this in a previous symposium as a table top and a presentation).
  - 4.4 Using resources like the line drawings in Gardner and on the website.

Experienced collectors should be encouraged to attend Day 1 and provide mentoring to new collectors. Perhaps the fee schedule can be structured in the following fashion: Day 1 - \$100; Both days - \$200 (no option to pay for Day 2 only). If you think this is too harsh, perhaps another incentive to attend Day 1 can be imagined.

5. The presentations on the education day (Day 1) can simply be presentations based on each chapter in Tom Dimitroff's book, illustrated by anecdotes, new information and real examples of Carder glass that can be touched, felt and discussed by both new and experienced collectors.

-Find a way to get Tom Dimitroff back presenting. His lectures were always well researched and enthusiastically presented. Expand art glass speakers to include Quezal, Durand, Tiffany, Lalique etc. (they should be contemporary with Carder Steuben era). Find somebody (if possible) to speak on fakes, expert repairs – how to fix “sick” glass, etc.

-Steuben-Sinclair relationship including mixed pieces, i.e. part of each! Metal shop in Corning that was used by Steuben and (Sinclair?).

-Possible topics for next year: 1) shades; 2) technical information about Carder glass; 3) color identification clinic held in the Carder Gallery; 4) review of the books related to Carder Glass (especially helpful to new collectors). Possible speakers: 1) Stephen Koob – Chief Conservator of glass at CMOG – on the care and conservation of glass. He gives an excellent talk with much practical advice for collectors; or 2) the manager of the vintage program at the Steuben store on Madison Avenue.