



The SUNDAY LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

SUNDAY | JUNE 22 | 2003

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF STEUBEN GLASS | HONORING THE PAST

BY THOMAS P. DIMITROFF

Special to The Leader

EDITOR'S NOTE | *In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Steuben Glass, The Leader is featuring a look at discontinued pieces of Steuben from both eras of the world-renowned art glass business. The Frederick Carder era lasted from 1903-1932, while the Arthur Houghton era began in 1932 and continues to this day. Local historian and Steuben Glass expert Thomas P. Dimitroff provides a look at common themes that tie the two eras together.*

Frederick Carder married Annie Walker in 1887. They had three children, Gladys, Stanley and Cyril, with Gladys being the oldest and Cyril being the youngest. Stanley died at a young age—before the family moved to America in 1903 and before Carder co-founded the Steuben Glass Works with Thomas G. Hawkes.

World War I brought enormous trauma to Carder. Facing the closing of Steuben in 1918 due to wartime limits on raw materials, Steuben's board of directors chose to sell the company to Corning Glass Works, which could keep the plant open and the employees working.

Although Carder would continue as managing director of Steuben, it was no longer "his" company. For some years, Carder had been expecting and looking forward to his son, Cyril, joining him at Steuben and eventually succeeding him as its co-owner and manager. But these plans were crushed when Cyril Frederick Carder was killed while fighting in



**'World War I Memorial Window' | Designed in 1930
by Frederick Carder**

France in 1918. Frederick Carder was devastated.

In 1930, the people of Corning dedicated a World War Memorial Library at the corner of Pine and First streets to honor all those who had served in World War I. The building was the renovated old City Club, of which Frederick Carder was an active member. About a year after the library's dedication, a memorial window designed by Frederick Carder and made at Steuben was installed over the entrance door of the library.

Corning's own Alice Keeler had been Frederick Carder's model for the classic female figure dominating the cast Bristol Yellow glass central panel. The names of the 30 Corning residents who lost their lives in the war are on her shield. Cyril Carder's is one of them.

After the library was moved to a new building in 1975, concerns arose as to the future and safety of the window. It was moved to the Rockwell Museum in 1985.

**'THE VALOR CUP' |
DESIGNED IN 1941 BY
JOHN MONTEITH GATES**

Arthur Houghton successfully persuaded his friend, accomplished architect John Monteith Gates, to join him at Steuben and, in 1933, Gates became Steuben's first managing director and director of design.

One of his most famous creations was The Valor Cup, designed in 1940. This piece is an excellent example of Steuben's ability to create commemorative pieces of outstanding quality and importance.

The Valor Cup was presented to the British War Relief Society as a commemoration of the Battle of Britain and a symbol of the United States' support of the British.

The cup, or covered urn, is of blown Steuben crystal. It rests upon a round pedestal and foot. A spectacular copper wheel engraving of the royal arms of Great Britain executed by Joseph Libisch adorns the side of the urn. Elaborate curving handles further decorate it. The cover is surmounted by an exquisite crown finial. Gaffer John Jansson made this masterpiece.



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Gates retired in 1969 and was presented a copy of his famous Valor Cup. Houghton told his friend Gates, "You have guided Steuben Glass from its unformed infancy to its magnificent maturity...you have written a noble chapter in the history of glassmaking."