

MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter
April 2009

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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

Meeting Minutes, April 5th, 2009

The April club meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 20 members.

Dave mentioned that we had 12 of our club members attend the Minnetrista "Can It!" exhibit Opening Party. The exhibit will last through August 23rd, so our July Show attendees will be able to see the exhibit. There are many Ball jars on display including an original amber quart BBGMCo. The exhibit occupies an entire gallery and is well worth the small admission price.

Dave is asking all club members to submit ideas to him on how to enhance our

Summer Show. Give him a call if you have some creative ideas to make the show more interesting or fun!

Anne Szopa presented the Treasurer's report for April. Income included sales of 2 Robinson DVDs and 3 club T-Shirts, and a few more membership renewals were received. The only expenses were for the postage and printing of the newsletter.

Upcoming meetings:

June 14—Minnetrista Cantina at 1:30pm. Show and Tell: Bring jelly jars and related items.

July 11—This will be the Fruit Jar Get-Together at the Signature Inn, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1:30pm. Also,

the Jelly Jammers meet at 10:00am if you would like to join them.

July 12—Summer Show and Sale Day! The location of the show is The Horizon Convention Center. Hours are 9:00am to 2:00pm.

August 2—Annual Club Picnic. Location To Be Determined. Show and Tell: Bring purchases from the July Show.

Sept. 13—Minnetrista Cantina at 1:30pm. Note that this is the 2nd Sunday of the month instead of the 1st. Show and Tell: Bring Product jars.

See you all at the next meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

Want to See Something that Minnetrista Has?

For Minnetrista's current exhibition honoring the 125th Anniversary of the Ball Jar, they pulled out a lot of Ball-related stuff, including a restored Ball-Bingham machine, the Ball Universal jar, the KKK jar, etc. But not everything.

If you know of something that Minnetrista has that you want to see, let Dick Cole

(dcole7343@att.net) know. If it is not out, he will have Minnetrista get it out for a special, limited-time display just for the July show.

The MAFJ&BC is an affiliate of Minnetrista and this is one of the benefits. Take advantage (even if you don't belong to the club). More detail forthcoming on the club's website:

<http://www.fruitjar.org>

Regards, Dick Cole



Show and Tell

Club members were asked to bring metal lids and metal caps to talk about.

Joe Coulson started out the Show and Tell by sharing a set of Copper-Glo metal lids that were made at Ball's El Monte, California plant. The lids are a copper color and have an interesting series of silhouette pictures displayed on them in addition to the Ball logo.



Joe also shared an original Ball Brothers "Buffalo" metal screw band for a regular mouth jar. The band has a distinctive flat area before the threading starts. The bands are scarce and are prized by Ball jar collectors who want original closures on their early Ball jars.

Norm Barnett brought an original R.M. Dalbey jar in a rare half gallon size. There are only two jars known in this size and the other one is broken.



Norm also mentioned that he really enjoyed receiving the Glass Chatter by email because he can print it out at home in Color.

Junne Barnett shared a clear half pint jar with an embossed design of flowers in a vase. This jar was special to her because she had received it as a gift with candy in it.

Junne displayed a clear pint jar that had a metal lid with a crochet design attached on top of it. These kinds of things are great craft ideas.



Junne also shared her wonderful teal colored half pint jar with an original metal lid that had a wire bail.



Dave Rittenhouse shared four boxes FULL of metal lids! There were a wide variety of metal lids from all time

periods, including: reproduction Willoughby stopples, different manufacturer's Mason's Patent 1858 logos on metal screw caps, and different company's logos on modern metal topseal lids.



Lou Ebert told us a great story about old glass battery jars and brought an example—a Samson jar. Look for the story in an article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lou also shared NINETEEN different original Mason metal screw caps from his collection! We don't have enough space to list them all here, but maybe this should be a club project—to compile a photographic collection of metal screw caps from members collections.

One of the rare metal caps in Lou's collection was a "RORCELAIN LINED CAP—FOR MASON FRUIT JARS" (on the metal cap), "BALL BRO'S GLASS MF'G CO. BUFFALO, N.Y.". These caps are very scarce and command a premium price. None of the Ball collectors in attendance were even aware that an error one existed (misspelled "RORCELAIN"). Only the first few letters were visible.

[Pictures shown to the right...]

Dick Cole shared an original cardboard box of Ball #63 dome caps. He also discussed an unusual Ball metal screw cap with ghosting of the Ball logo on the white liner.

Dick displayed two Ball items made at El Monte: some Ball Copper-Glo lids with a cornucopia design on them, and a white metal topseal lid with a fancy monogram BCo (Ball Brothers Company).



Mike and Gusty Monaghan started an interesting discussion by asking what are



Show and Tell, cont'd

the ways to clean old metal screw caps. There were a wide variety of response from club members. Maybe we should do an article on this in the future. Some folks use discarded toothbrushes and vinegar or rubbing alcohol or acetone. You have to be extremely careful not to leave metal sitting for very long in some of these chemicals or it will eat them away.

Gusty also displayed a neat Ball go-with. It was a Ball-Incon license plate. This was found nailed on the side of a garage!



Mike Mosier shared twelve nice Mason's Patent 1858 lids, including: Marion, Hero, CFJCo, and Tudor. He also share some interesting modern Ball metal lids with Mickey and Minnie Mouse on them.



Mike told us that he only has high speed Internet when he is traveling on the road for his job. He was traveling recently and was able to find two great items on eBay: a Ball (Keystone symbol) Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858, and an early Ball letter opener with gemstones on it.

Mike Keith brought a wide variety of Ball jars to discuss. He indicated that he had missed a few meetings and wanted to make up for it!

Mike displayed several nicely colored Ball 3-L Standard jars. This is a set that he has been working on for some time.



Mike also displayed an aqua half gallon Millville jar with squared shoulders, and an aqua quart Millville that had a reversed 6.

We were very happy to see Jeff Klingler and Marianne Dow make the long trip from Ohio to attend our meeting. They are members of the Findlay Ohio Antique Bottle Club. Jeff brought a rare light green quart Ruby Special Widemouth (with original Ruby metal screw cap).



Jeff also shared a light SCA midget pint Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 58 (with original Ball metal screw cap); an aqua pint Mansfield (with original metal cap); a clear half pint Higgins (with ornate

graphic design on metal cap).



Jeff also displayed a green quart Root Mason (with original Root cap!); and an aqua half gallon semi-Crowleytown (with original SMS lugged cap).



Anne Szopa brought a rare metal lid for Big Top Peanut Butter. The cap indicated "Send 1 cap to us for free prize". Most of these caps were probably sent in! The cap was on a footed pressed glass tumbler, which is widely available—but not with the lid (made circa 1940s–1950s).



Anne displayed another footed pressed glass tumbler with a metal lid for "Creamed Cottage Cheese / Sander's Dairy 10 oz".



Anne displayed yet another interesting heavy pressed glass tumbler with a metal lid for "Cottage Cheese With Cream Added / Averill's 9 oz".



Anne also shared a small glass jar with a metal hinged lid that had an opening for a small spoon (on jar: "Chas Gulden New York") (on base: "Patent Cap Mustard Gulden's No 6").

Sue Wilson brought one of the new Ball jars that Jarden is manufacturing this year. It was a 1 gallon Ball ®

Show and Tell, cont'd

Mason (base: Not for home canning / Made in China) (lid: aluminum Ball ®, fits over plastic ring) (paper tag: Ball collector's edition commemorative jar, authentic zinc lid appearance with push on design).

It was also super great to see Jeff and Mary Harper visiting us from Houston, Texas. They came into town to visit with family and also attend the opening of the "Can It!" exhibit.

Mary Harper shared with us the May 2009 Country Living magazine. This issue mentions Minnetrista, the exhibit and Mason Jar history.



Jeff Harper brought an extensive sampling of metal Ball jar caps and lids. Maybe we can convince him to write an article on this subject in the future! Jeff displayed five different midget size Ball metal screw caps. He displayed thirteen different regular size Ball metal screw caps. Jeff also displayed three different widemouth size Ball metal screw caps.

Notice the difference in shape and size of the Ball logos on the follow caps. These styles represent different time periods.



Jeff also brought the following lid which is being produced by Jarden this year (and maybe only during this year). It says "Preserving America for 125 years" (regular mouth).



Colleen Dixon displayed a White House vinegar small jug that she purchased at the January Show.

Colleen also brought an aqua quart Fruit-Keeper with metal camp (Pat. Mar. 30 '86); a light green Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858; a clear "quart" jar with glass cap (Pat Oct 24 1882); and a light green Mason's CFJCo Patent Nov. 30th 1858 (with original CFJCo lugged lid).



"Atlas Seal-All Arc-Lid" (1950s-1960s); a "Kerr Wide Mouth Mason Pat 8-31-15" (1915-1920); and a "Kerr Mason Pat'd" (1930s).



Bill Wherrett told us that he recently purchased a box of metal bands for \$4. The box also included some plastic Tattler lids. Bill also recently acquired a clear half gallon Middleby jar.



Jean Harbron brought several metal lids and caps. The lids included a Canadian "Anchor Flex-lid Standard Mason Size"; two jelly glass 70mm lids; a "Trade Mark Full Measure- For Smalley Fruit Jars" (1895-1910s); an "Atlas Seal-All 63 Arc-Lid" 63mm (1951-1953); a 70mm

Marion Daily Chronicle—Newspaper Clipping

[Editor's note: the following old newspaper clipping was submitted by Lou Ebert]

The Marion Daily Chronicle, page 7, January 28, 1899 - Low Prices for Jars: Hand-Made Jar Manufacturers at a Disadvantage.

The National Glass Budget says that the jobbing house of Hollweg & Reese of Indianapolis are giving quotations on Mason jars complete

with genuine porcelain lined caps as follows: Pints, \$2.90; quarts, \$3.15; half gallons, \$4.35. The above quotations from a jobber who controls the output of the Greenfield factory leads the Budget editor to believe that the hand-made manufacturers are getting anxious to close out their stock at almost any price and that all the non-union factories which did not close down primarily to secure a reduc-

tion in wages which was virtually brought about by reason of the failure of these manufacturers to be able for various reasons to market their product.

Speaking of the quotations of the Indianapolis firm the editor continues: "These prices quoted generally by a leading jobbing house will make it necessary for the hand-made jar factories like Marion, Swayzee, Red Key

and Greenfield to sell their jars to large buyers at least 25 cents per gross below these figures as no jobber or wholesale grocer can afford to or will handle jars with less than 25 cents per gross profit, and this difference would require the hand-makers to sell their jars at the factory, with porcelain-lined cap, at \$2.65 for pints, \$2.90 for quarts and \$4.10 for half gallons."

More Show and Tell Pictures



Jeff and Mary Harper
Visiting from Houston, Texas



Jeff Klingler and Marianne Dow
From the Findlay Ohio Bottle Club



Light SCA Mason's Patent 58
Ball Bros. Midget Pint



Mike Mosier



Junne Barnett



Anne Szopa

Glass Battery Jars

[Editor's note: The following article was submitted by club member Louis E. Ebert.]



Glass battery jars date from around the mid 1800s up to the present time where they are used in emergency lighting systems, that activate in the event of power failure, in commercial establishments, etc.

Electric batteries convert chemical energy directly into electrical energy. There are two types of batteries, the primary batteries which are nonrechargeable, and the secondary or storage batteries which are rechargeable.

Antique glass battery jars were used for wet cell primary (nonrechargeable) batteries. These batteries used zinc for the negative electrode and manganese dioxide and carbon for the positive electrode. The electrolyte was a mixture of water and sal ammoniac (ammonium chloride). These cells produce 1.6 to 1.7 volts initial voltage.

These battery jars were made of both flint and green glass, and were available in both square and round shapes. The square jars were

normally slightly over 4 inches square and somewhat over 6 inches tall. The round jars were normally around 4 1/2 inches in diameter and around 6 1/2 inches tall. The neck of the jars is not threaded. The cover containing the electric terminals was made of a material such as hard rubber. Some of the jars were molded with a "pour out" to facilitate emptying out the electrolyte after it was no longer effective. After the used up electrolyte had been discarded, a new batch could be made up and added to the cell to rejuvenate the cell. This process could be repeated until the electrodes were no longer effective at producing electricity.

These antique primary batteries were used in homes, hotels and in other commercial establishments, where outside commercial electric power was not yet available, to operate door bells, call bells, alarms, signal devices and other such items.

Glass jars for primary batteries were made by several glass companies that made



fruit jars and by companies that made other glass containers. They were also made by companies that made glass insulators. Apparently most battery jars were not marked with the name of the manufacturer of the glass, but some of the jars are marked with the name of the company that produced the batteries.

Secondary or storage (rechargeable) batteries sometimes also used glass containers. The lead-acid battery cells have several plates containing spongy lead, connected together, as the negative electrode. These plates of the negative electrode are alternated with a number (always one less) of plates containing lead peroxide, connected together, forming the positive electrode. The electrolyte is a mixture of distilled water and sulfuric acid. Each individual battery cell produces 2 volts initial voltage.

The glass containers for lead-acid storage battery cells are large, thick-walled, one piece rectangular units, without any joints. The cover, with the electric terminals, was usually made of hard rubber, although other material, such as wood or glass, could be used.

The glass-cased storage batteries were used as backup power supplies for telegraph, telephone and other communication and signal systems, including fire alarm systems. They were also used for electric power supply in rural farm and small rural residential settlements, at individual

homes, when connected to wind charges (generators) or used with Delco Lighting Systems, gasoline engine driven 32 volt D.C. generator sets, before the onset of rural electrification in the 1930s, 1940s and the 1950s. Storage batteries were also used in early radios.

There are old glass storage battery cells embossed with the Delco name and also cells embossed with the Exide name. I have seen these glass containers for sale at flea markets and antiques shows advertised as ideal for use as fish aquariums.

Samson Battery Jar



SAMSON paper label on front. DIRECTIONS paper label on side. Side embossed, THE SAMSON BATTERY N^o2. Side embossed, SAMSON ELEC. CO. CANTON, MASS. Side embossed, WATERLINE (line) WITHOUT ELEMENTS.

Cover embossed, SAMSON N^o2 BATTERY THE E.G.M. C^o BOSTON, MASS. PAT. JULY 8 '90 PAT. SEPT. 22 '96. Jar is 4 3/8" x 6 3/8".

Battery Jars in Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. Catalog

HAZEL-ATLAS GLASS COMPANY

BATTERY JARS

BATTERY JAR. SQUARE

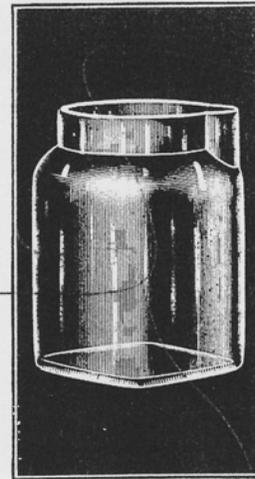
Flint or Green

	Inches
To top of jar	6 1/4
To shoulder	5 1/4
Diameter of body	4 3/8
Outside diameter of mouth	3 3/8

Top Paraffined.



Square



Square with Pour Out

BATTERY JAR. SQUARE WITH POUR OUT

Flint or Green

	Inches
To top of jar	6 1/2
To shoulder	5 3/8
Diameter of body	4 1/8
Outside diameter of mouth	3 3/8

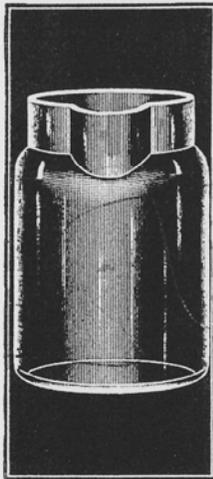
Top Paraffined.

BATTERY JAR. ROUND WITH POUR OUT

Flint or Green

	Inches
To top of jar	6 1/2
To shoulder	5
Diameter of body	4 1/2
Outside diameter of mouth	3 3/8

Paraffined Tops.



Round with Pour Out



Lithia Water Bottle

LITHIA WATER BOTTLE

Private Moulds

2009 FOHBC National Bottle Show

Hosted by the Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club

California or Bust

Banquet: Friday, July 31 6:00 pm
Sheraton Fairplex Hotel

Early Admission:
Saturday, August 1 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Sunday, August 2 8:00 am to 9:00 am

General Admission: \$5
Sunday, August 2 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Pomona Fairplex
1104 W McKinley Ave, Pomona, CA 91768**

Show Chairman:
Pam Selenak
156 S Pepper St
Orange, CA 92868
(714) 633-5775
pselenak@yahoo.com

FOHBC Convention Director
R. Wayne Lowry
401 Johnston Ct
Raymore, MO 64083
(816) 318-0161
JarDoctor@aol.com



Minnetrista celebrates 125 years of the Ball jar

April 4 - August 23

Minnetrista introduces its latest exhibit *Can It!*, April 4 through August 23. This highly interactive original exhibit not only looks at the historical production of the Ball jar and its influence on Muncie and surrounding communities, it engages visitors in exploring their personal connections with Ball.

"This is an important and exciting exhibit for this area," said Rebecca Holmquist, vice president of Visitor Experience at Minnetrista. "*Can It!* tells an engaging and interactive story of the influence of the Ball jar." Presented by **Jarden Corporation**, the exhibit includes historical photos, 125 years of Ball jars, actual machinery used in early manufacturing, video, hands-on activities, live performances by Minnetrista Theatre Preserves, and an opportunity for visitors to add their own personal experiences to the exhibit.

For more than 125 years, the Ball jar has been preserving the food in American pantries across the country. The Ball name itself is ubiquitous in East Central Indiana. "What is less well-known is the influence of the Ball jar on growing and preserving local communities," said Holmquist. "We designed this exhibit with Jarden to help visitors celebrate this shared history."

"We are honored to sponsor and partner with Minnetrista for the *Can It!* exhibit. The connection between our companies is natural and rich with history – definitely something to be cherished for many more years to come," said Lauren Devine, Fresh Preserving Community Manager at Jarden.

Can It! visitors will experience live demonstrations of canning machines and have the opportunity to can their own preserves. Two interactive model kitchens will provide hands-on understanding of the influence of the Ball jar. Antique jar collectors and modern-day canners will enjoy the comparisons of historical and modern canning recipes. Minnetrista Theater Preserves will perform two interpretive dramas for visitors. "This exhibit will help visitors relate the history of the Ball jar to our everyday lives," said Holmquist.

Daily Can It! activities (included with paid admission):

Kids Can It! Discover All Day - April - August. Your kids can put on an apron and roll up their sleeves in a play kitchen built just for them. Assist your child as they pretend to cook, fill canning jars, and prepare produce. Your child is the chef, and imagination is on the menu at Kids Can It!

Glass Machine Demonstrations Daily. In 1898 F. C. Ball patented a semi-automatic machine to manufacture Ball canning jars. Join in a demonstration to learn how man and machine worked together to build a company name recognized across the country.

Tales from the Mouth of a Ball Jar Weekends, 1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. How has the Ball jar intersected your life? Minnetrista Theatre Preserves answers this question with performances by two characters sharing their stories of the KKK jar and the Southern Methodist Orphans jar. Performances held in the Can It! Exhibit.

Freezer Jam Demonstrations Weekends. Bring the Can It! exhibit to life as you help us turn fresh fruit into quick and easy freezer jam.

Presented by:
www.jarden.com





MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:

Joe Coulson, Editor

10515 Collingswood Ln.

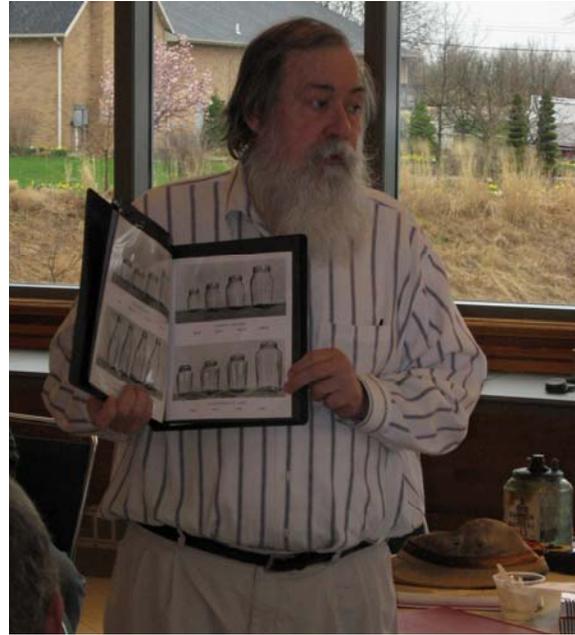
Fishers, IN 46037-9598

Email: JCoulson@LeaderJar.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



Dick Cole shows us original photos of Ball product jars from a catalog. Dick has an expansive knowledge of Ball company history and loves to share the details.

Announcements

- Mason Bright's wife Nancy passed away Tuesday June 2, 2009 of complications from a stroke. Our sympathy goes to Mason and family. You may reach Mason at: 734-241-0113.
- The inventory of the Lending Library is viewable on the club's website. Get in touch with Dick Cole (contact details on first page) if you would like to borrow an item. Dick is also seeking book donations from our club members. Please consider donating your old bottle and jar or glass books.
- Full details on the Minnetrista "Can It!" Exhibit can be found here:
<http://www.minnetrista.net/Visit/Calendar/Exhibitions/CanIt.html>
- A report on our club's participation in the opening night of Minnetrista's "Can It!" exhibit will be in the next newsletter. Mary Harper had a lot of fun at the April club meeting taking pictures of club members "inside a Ball jar" - a display that was left over from the opening night festivities.

