

# MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter  
August 2012

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An Index to the Club Lending Library is available online. Please contact Dick Cole about items which you would like to check out.

## 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: Colleen Dixon, 2602 W. Brook Dr., Muncie, IN 47304

## Meeting Minutes, August 5th, 2012

The August club meeting was held at the home of Jerry and Colleen Dixon in Muncie, Indiana. This meeting was our annual club picnic. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 10 members.

A brief business meeting was conducted before everyone began to partake of the wonderful picnic food.

Dave reviewed the list of upcoming bottle shows. He mentioned that there was one in Urbana, Ohio on August 18th.

Dave indicated that he was getting ready to mail dealer and exhibitor contracts for our January Show, and that he is still developing ideas for a new Show Flyer. You will want to make hotel arrangements as soon as possible at The Signature Inn, because the first floor typically sells out for this event. Keep in mind that there is no elevator to the second floor.

The list of future club meeting topics was discussed and approved. We are now listing multiple upcoming meeting details on the back page of each newsletter, so members can plan in advance. The club website is always up-to-date with upcoming meeting details also.

Everyone had an enjoy-

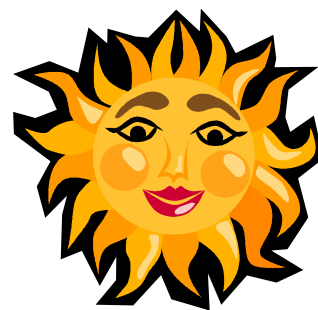
able time at Jerry and Colleen's house during the picnic. There was plenty of good food and good fellowship. Some folks did bring a few items for Show and Tell.

Dick Cole, club Vice President and Librarian, invited everyone over to the Club Library after the delicious feast was over. We only had to walk a couple of blocks to get there. The library resides in a second home owned by Dick Cole. Dick also recently moved his collection of modern Ball Corporation collectibles to this location. For many club members this was their first visit to the new library. It was a real treat, and it is a special new feature for club members to take advantage of. Anyone can visit, but please make sure to contact Dick in advance to make arrangements for him to be there for your visit.

See you all at the next meeting,

Joe Coulson, Secretary

[Editor's note: Believe it or not, this issue marks my seventh year as your newsletter editor. I can't believe how fast time flies, but that amount of time still pales in comparison to Junne Barnett's 25+ years of service in this position. Thanks for your patience when



I get behind publishing and mailing the newsletter due to the heavy workload at my day job. I am trying to work it out so that we have a predictable schedule. I do very much enjoy being able to serve you all with the latest news and information pertaining to our club and hobby. We have over 110 members across the country, and a couple in Canada. I know that most of you cannot attend the monthly club meeting in Muncie, so I try to get pictures from our meetings in each issue. I have heard positive comments from our members about the newsletter, and that certainly puts a smile on my face. Happy Collecting and Best Regards to each of you. —Joe ]



## Show and Tell



Anne Szopa shared this unusual clear horn-shaped glass!



Clear pint Trues Imperial Brand (draped flags and crown in frame).



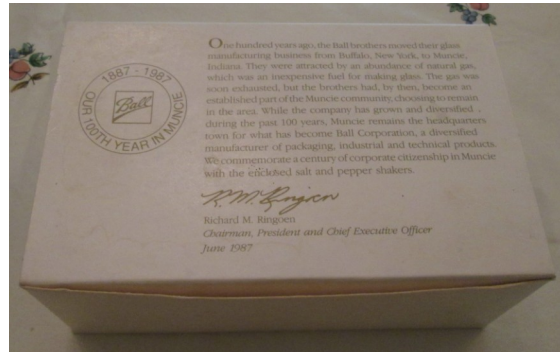
Pair of green salt and pepper shakers made by Glenshaw Glass Co. for an event in Atlantic City 1962.



Aqua half gallon (Sun Moon Star) Mason's Patent Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1858 (reverse: Ball)



Pair of clear salt and pepper shakers "1887-1987 Our 100th year in Muncie (Ball logo)"



Original presentation box for the Ball 100th year salt and pepper shakers.



Two "Jamaica Ginger Root Bitters" bottles. One in milkglass and one peach colored.



Glass chicken waterers, fruit jars and bottles that Colleen Dixon shared for Show and Tell.

## Dick Roller Keeps on Teaching

Dick Roller, author of *The Standard Fruit Jar Reference*, the seminal work on canning jars and their history, was a great researcher. Over the years he worked as a teacher, a biologist, a mechanic, a health inspector and a myriad of the other jobs, all of which used his ability to study a problem in detail, understand the operative mechanisms, and provide a logical solution. He wasn't always right, but, more often than not, he was on the money.

Dick was one of the few fruit jar enthusiasts who actually read patents and studied them, especially the ones for the glass-making machines. He understood why the ragged scar appears on the base of the jars made on the Owens jar, why the neck seam doesn't align with the body seam on a jar made on an F. C. Ball machine but does on one made on a Ball-Bingham machine, why the caterpillar mark appears on a jar made on a Lynch machine, etc. More importantly, he documented and reported his finding. You just have to look for the information.

Dick has been gone for some years now, but his impact continues to linger, and his work still comes back to slap some of us in the face occasionally. As if he is saying "You should have been paying attention!" For example, several years ago a Ball Ideal jar was "discovered" in a display at Minnetrista. It was reported on the Ball Collector's website as "unlisted." It is

indeed was not in Red Book 10, but a listing, along with a photograph, has been happily residing in SFJR since its publication in 1983. Hardly a discovery if one takes the time to read the book.

My own case in point where Dick came back to set me straight also involves the Ball Ideal jar, specifically the evolution of the wire bail. I hope everyone knows that the Ball Ideal took the "lightning" closure, a glass lid held in place with a wire bail and a locking lever. The concept was first used on bottles, and later adapted to fruit jars by Henry Putnam in 1882.

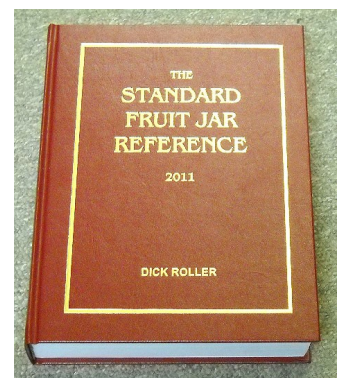
When I was interpreting at Minnetrista, I often told the story to visitors that a full-neck wire originally was used by Putnam to hold bail in place on the jar. A wire wrapped around the jar held two metal tabs with holes in which the bail would snap securely. Later, the full neck wire was eliminated by the invention of a dimple in the neck of the jar., into which the bail would snap. This was patented in 1908 by Anthony McDonnell. My spiel was that the new design gradually replaced the older full neck wire on the Ball Ideals and Eclipse jars. This story worked well for the general public.

However, when the visitors to whom I was expounding happened to be fruit jar collectors, I had a problem to address. Most collectors are aware that some Ball Ideals with a full neck wire can be found that have the non-

underlined Ball logo. This style of logo was first used around 1923, long after Ball had started using the dimple design. If my story was accurate, these jars, using obsolete technology, should not have been made. Their existence needed to be explained. My story was that they must have been made in one of the branch factories like Wichita Falls, Texas, or Okmulgee, Oklahoma, or in one of the plants obtained when Ball bought out Schram in 1925 - Hillsboro, Illinois; Sapulpa, Oklahoma or Huntington, West Virginia.

It was a logical explanation, since the factories had their own existing equipment, which could have still used the old full neck wire, since Ball had the patent rights. The new design would take a while to get distributed to the outlying locations. Everyone bought the story - at least no one disagreed. But Dick Roller knew that I was full of Shitake mushrooms. I hadn't done my homework, and he eventually let me know.

While going through my badly-organized files recently, in the process of stocking my "office" in downtown Muncie, I ran across a document that Dick had given me years ago. Dick had sat down with the Muncie production ledgers kept by Ball that are now in Minnetrista's archives, figured out the abbreviations, and abstracted information about fruit jar production - the days of production by factory, furnace, color, machine and position.





## Dick Roller Keeps on Teaching, cont'd

For example, from April 16 to April 18, 1931, the JP Miller machine in position 1 of Furnace 5 of Factory No. 1 at Muncie made Drey Everseal neck-wire pints. The information that Dick abstracted seems to run from 1927 to 1941 and covers Factories #1, #2, #3 and #4 in Muncie. Dick only listed the fruit jar related production, generally ignoring the packer ware that was also being produced.

I had looked at this document, and had appreciated the work that went into it, but I had not studied it, the way Dick would have, and, as a result, I missed something. On the very first pages, it says that Furnace #5 of Factory #1 in Muncie made Ball Ideal neck-wire square quarts on the Owens machine in Position

#13 from April 5 to April 10, 1928. Starting on April 19, 1928, nine days later, the Owens machine in Position #14 in the same furnace of the same factory made Ball Ideal lug quarts. Note: "lug" is the term used to describe the dimple design.

So it becomes clear that I was talking out of some orifice besides my mouth when I told the story about the branch factories making the jars that should not have existed. Not to say that they could not have been made there, but here was the main factory at the headquarters location making both varieties within 9 days on the Owens machine in the same shop. Obviously, Ball, for some reason, decided to continue to make and market both styles. Dick's list shows

that neck-wire Ideals were made as late as 1937, meaning that non-dropped-a Ball Ideals should also exist.

As is usual, disproving one fact only raises more questions. Why did Ball continue to make both full neck wire and dimple Ideals simultaneously? Was there a demand? No advertising has been found of which I am aware to show that they marketed both styles. Was one cheaper to make than the other? I'm not sure if an answer will ever be known. But stranger things have happened.

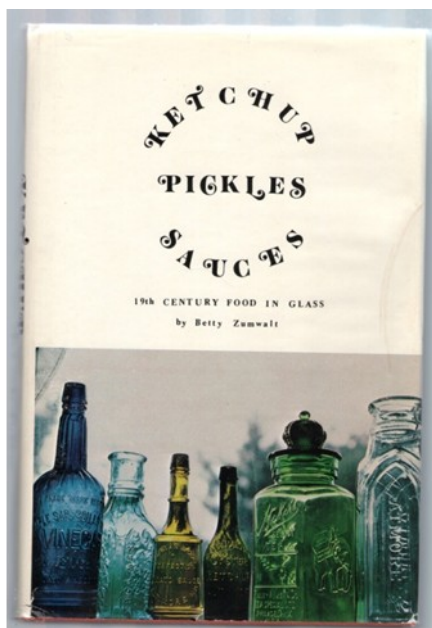
I do know that Dick's research, although old, is not out-dated. And I think that he will continue to slap me up aside the head on occasion, saying "Pay attention! Read, study, and think before you

talk!" Are there other goodies on Dick's list? Oh, yeah! Dates for production of the AGBA, Kinsella, Acme, Climax, Drey Everseal and Drey Mason. Interesting references to aluminum closures in 1930, 61¼ ounce square masons, etc. It also includes jelly and lid production.

I know what you are wondering - "Where can I get a copy of this list?" Well, I have a copy, and there probably is a copy in the Ball State University Special Collections Library with the rest of Dick's research work. And since I cannot sell the information and make a ton of money, because I do not own the copyright, I might put copies of the list up on a website.

—Dick Cole

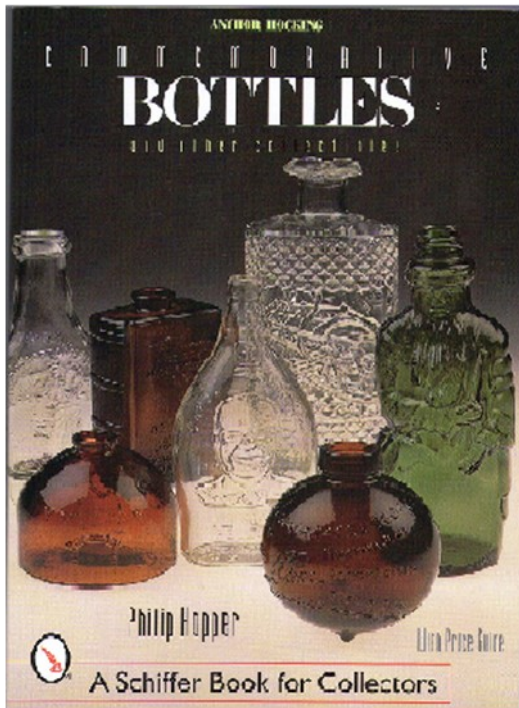
## Club Library Update by Dick Cole



The book Ketchup, Pickles, Sauces has been around since 1980, but remains a standard reference for identifying food containers with an embossed name or with a paper label. Arranged alphabetically by the name that appears on the container or label, the entries provide the complete embossing, a description of the container, a relative value, and any information about by whom and when it was made.

Obviously, author Betty Zumwalt put in a fantastic amount of time to produce this 480-page book which was printed by Mark West Publishers. An important point she makes is that just because a container is called a "pickle" or a "mustard" does not mean that those were the original contents.

## Club Library Update by Dick Cole, cont'd

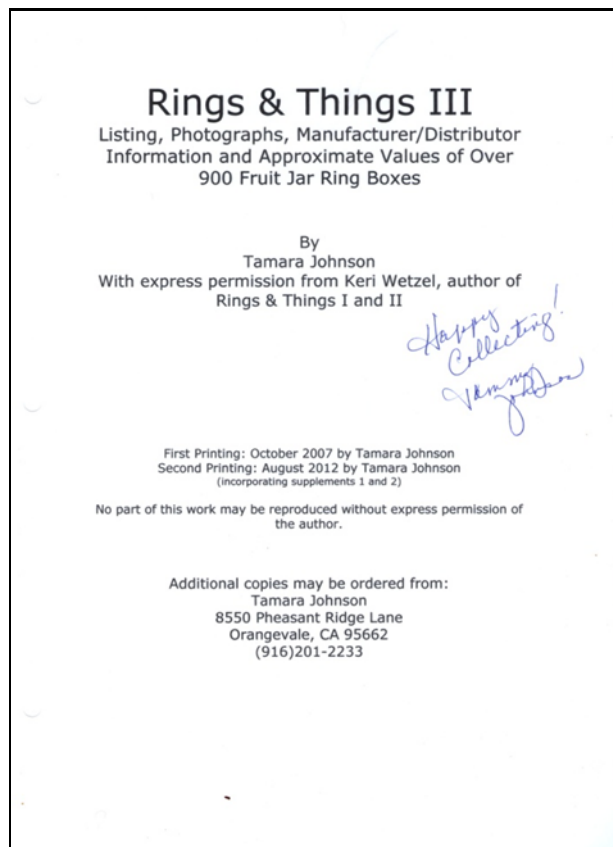


Anchor Hocking produced a number of glass containers for special occasions such as retirements, local events, open houses, etc. Author Philip Hooper has collected a number of these and presents them in this 2000 Schiffer publication and price guide. It is not comprehensive, but covers a wide range of types and styles. It has a brief but useful history of Anchor Hocking, an explanation of the marking system that was used, a description of the changes in the logo, and a section on Royal Ruby glass.

These containers often show up on tables at bottle shows, flea markets and yard sales, so knowledge of their relative value is a useful tool. Copies of the book are still available from Schiffer at [www.schifferbooks.com](http://www.schifferbooks.com).

Tammy Johnson is continuing the effort started by Keri Wetzel, and has produced Rings & Things III. This Second Printing in August 2012 includes the information presented in supplements 1 and 2 to the first printing.

The work containing information, color photographs and approximate values of over 900 fruit jar ring boxes. Note that the work covers only canning rings, and does not include canning lids or their boxes.



## Field Trip to Dunkirk Glass Museum



The jelly club President, Pat VanDyke, had made arrangements for a group tour of the Dunkirk Glass Museum in Dunkirk, Indiana on Sunday, July 15, 2012. This was conveniently the same weekend as our Summer Muncie Jar-B-Q event.

The glass museum is normally not open on Sunday, but the museum Director was very willing to accommodate our group of about 10 people. The museum folks try very hard to promote their museum, and they really have very little funding. Members in attendance: Pat and John VanDyke, Colleen and Jerry Dixon, Marilyn and Carl Miller, Phyllis and Bob Pahlmann, and Joe Coulson.

We all met at The Signature Inn hotel in Muncie at 9:30am, and then a convoy of 4 vehicles headed north towards Dunkirk, led by navigator Jerry Dixon. It was only about 20 minutes away at the

most. We were happily greeted by the museum Director, Ailesia Franklin, when we arrived. I have to admit I expected the museum to be much smaller than it was. It took us about an hour to get the whirlwind tour of the display cases on both floors.

They have over 8,000 glass items although some items remain in boxes due to limited display space. Ailesia is also the Head Librarian of the Dunkirk Public Library, which is the building next door. She is such a nice person and had many interesting stories to tell us about the items on display. She showed us her favorite item, which was a slag glass (leftover glass) bowl with a swirled mix of red and white glass.

Although heavily focused on the products of Indiana Glass (a factory that existed for a very long time in Dunkirk), the museum is truly a general glass museum. There are all

kinds of glassware represented, including a small section on fruit jars and bottles of various kinds. It is truly worth the trip if you are in the area.

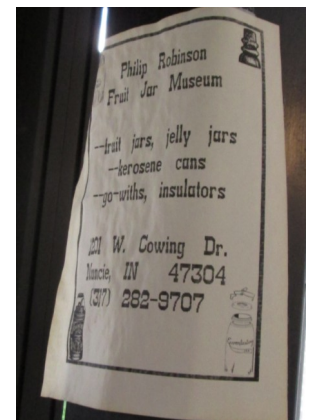
The fruit jar selection is pretty limited although there are some Indiana pieces. This might be an area where the fruit jar club could help the glass museum if they needed some assistance in identifying jars. I am sure that donations by individual collectors would be welcome if you choose to do something like that.

I did see an original mold for the Kerr "Self Sealing" Mason in one of the display cases. That was pretty cool. There were quite a few commemorative glass house bottles in the collection. I have a large collection of these bottles myself, and I know of a couple of other members that hunt for them.

At the front entrance was a display rack with books you

could purchase, as well as flyers on other clubs and attractions in the area. This would be a good place for us to put a stack of flyers advertising our jar club membership.

On a post by this rack was a paper sign advertising the Philip Robinson Fruit Jar Museum. The museum Director said that she didn't have the heart to take it down. That kind of pulled on my heart strings a little bit – we all loved and miss Phil and his wonderful public jar museum.



I recommend that you support the Dunkirk museum by visiting sometime. The admission price is only \$2. I don't think you will be disappointed. They have a small website now, but a bigger and improved one is in the works:

<http://www.dunkirkpubliclibrary.com/index.php?page=GlassMuseum>

—Joe Coulson



## Dunkirk Glass Museum Pictures



Bob Pahlman examines an old glass pressing machine.



An original mold for the modern Kerr Self-Sealing Mason fruit jar (base plate is on the left).



Alesia Franklin shows her favorite piece—a red slag glass bowl.



The main floor of the glass museum. You can see that there is a balcony level.



The mail floor has one display case after another full of glass items—no empty space.



In the center of the main floor is a beautiful full table setting of peach-colored glassware.



The museum also has a fair number of bottles on display on the main level. I spotted several Indiana pieces, as well as some glass-house special run pieces. There were a few milk bottles on the balcony level. Something for everyone.



The museum has a modest selection of fruit jars. Most were common jars, but many were Indiana pieces. I am sure they could use more donations and would like your help with descriptions of the items they currently have.



## Memory Lane by Junne Barnett

It was Saturday, July 12, 2012, the last day of the MAFJBC Summer Get-Together. I had just been treated to a great Bar-B-Q lunch provided by jar collector Bob Rhineberger along with added treats supplied by host and hostess Marianne Dow and Jerry McCann. As I looked around the room I noticed two familiar faces but couldn't supply names. He smiled, and I smiled back and then said "I know your face but can't think of your name." His wife spoke up and said, "It is Ed and Jessie Cobb." I could have gone through the floor, because they were part of the founding MAFJBC members, and I hadn't seen them for years.

We had lots to talk about: their grandchildren and my great grandchildren, and how the years we hadn't seen each other had been taken up with school, sports, etc. As I started to go to the other room for the auction that was about to take place, I happened to notice some old 1980s Antique Bottle World magazines on a table. When I looked on the back of one of them, I saw the address was for Ed Cobb. Glancing through them, a light bulb went off in my head – that's some thirty years ago, and there are things in those books about our bottle club and the hobby that some people may not have seen. It seems that Ed was going to put them in the auction, but after my sad

tale of how much they would mean to members if some of it was reprinted in the club newsletter, he agreed to let me take them home with the promise that after I had gleaned our club information I would mail them back to him, and he could put them in the MAFJBC January auction.

Most of the information comes from the column "Calling All Jar Collectors" by Alice Creswick. She not only did research, but she also added information she received from collectors. Jar drawings by her husband Howard added much to the column. This column was a great help for beginning collectors.

This article includes ex-

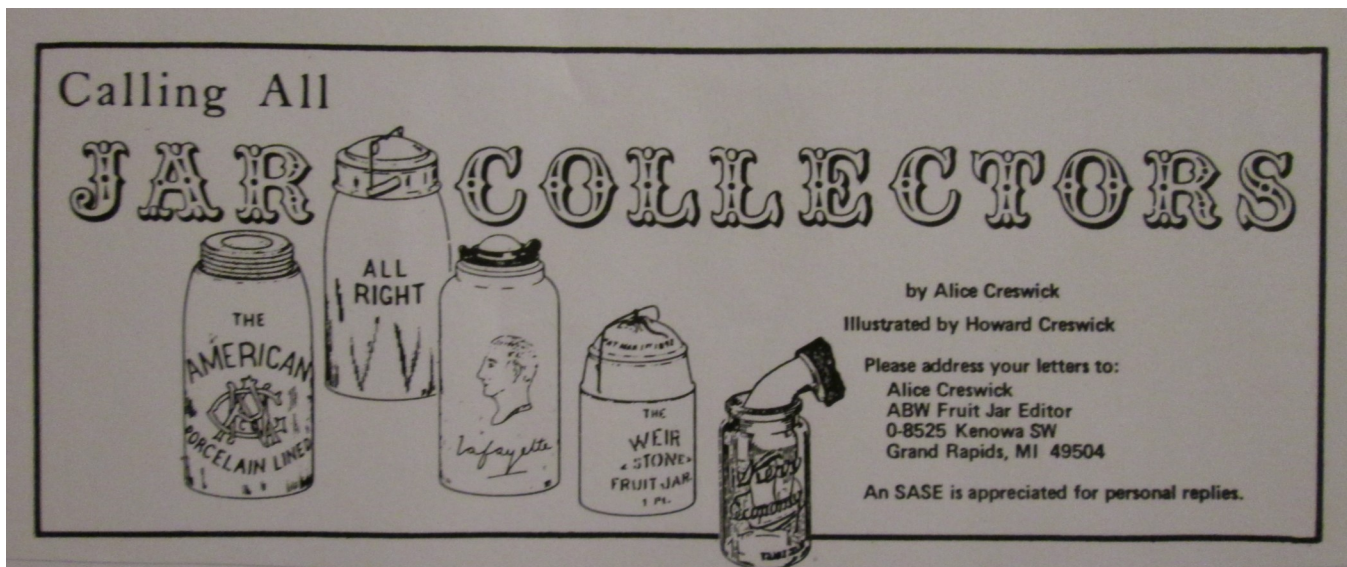
cerpts from 1982, 1983 and 1984 Antique Bottle World magazines, published by jar collector Jerry McCann. I think you will enjoy reading this and comparing the information from the 1980s with what we have in 2012. I know I certainly enjoyed it, and I read names that I had forgotten. Yes, I had a great time going down Memory Lane.

If by chance you have any old magazines with fruit jar news, and you would like to have them reprinted then let me know... it would give this old lady something else to do.

—Junné Barnett

9840 S. 375 W.

Edinburgh, IN 46124



1983 Creswick Report on Repro Jars. In the 1970s when the Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 Repro jars were produced there was much information published in Alice's monthly report. Collectors were aware of what to look for. Later she realized that the jar

collecting hobby had grown and perhaps there were new collectors that were not aware of the Mason Repro. Therefore, she published the list of repro jars known at the time.

—Junné

Fruit jar reproductions—revisited by Alice Creswick

From time to time, during the years I've been writing about fruit jars, I've mentioned the Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 jars which were reproduced in the early 1970s. Because I know that long time jar

collectors are well aware of the existence of these jars, I tend probably, not to mention them in this column often enough, and thus new collectors or new readers might not be aware of these jars. In recent months I have heard from several collectors who have been fooled into



## Memory Lane by Junne Barnett, cont'd

paying large sums of money for what they believed were authentic 1858 jars in rare colors.

Here is a list of the jars that were reproduced in the early 1970s. Every effort was made to make them look old, complete with a ground lip and whittle marks. They can

be easily spotted however, by a knowledgeable collector. Originally they were advertised as being new jars. Advertised price of the half gallons were from \$8 to \$15, and the midget pints were \$7 each. The problem is that as time goes by, these jars are mistak-

enly passed as authentic antique jars with the price tag one would expect to find on a genuine old jar.

*[Editor's note: Jerry McCann granted permission to reprint these excerpts from Antique Bottle World. Also note that more reproductions have been identified and*

*manufactured since the time of this early article. The topic of reproduction fruit jars would be excellent for someone to do a series of articles on, including pictures. More excerpts selected by Junne from ABW will be published in the next Glass Chatter.]*

### MASON JAR REPRODUCTIONS - HALF GALLONS

Color	Embossing	Base
Milkglass	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	851
Emerald green	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	Unmarked
Black (dark purple)	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	Unmarked
Amber	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	Unmarked
Amber	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	851
Black	Mason's CFJCo Patent Nov. 30th 1858	Unmarked
Emerald green	Mason's CFJCo Patent Nov. 30th 1858	Unmarked
Amber	Mason's CFJCo Patent Nov. 30th 1858	Unmarked
Cobalt blue	Mason's CFJCo Patent Nov. 30th 1858	Unmarked
Amber	Mason's (Cross) Patent Nov. 30th 1858	Unmarked
Amber	Mason's (Cross) Patent Nov. 30th 1858	1171
Amber	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 (rev: Cross)	1171
Cobalt blue	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 (rev: Cross)	1171
Black (dark purple)	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 (rev: Cross)	1171

### MASON JAR REPRODUCTIONS - MIDGETS

Color	Embossing	Base
Cobalt blue	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	971
Dark amber	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	971
Amber	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	971
Amber	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 (reversed S)	Unmarked
Emerald green	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	971
Carnival (light amber)	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	971
Milkglass	Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858	971

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

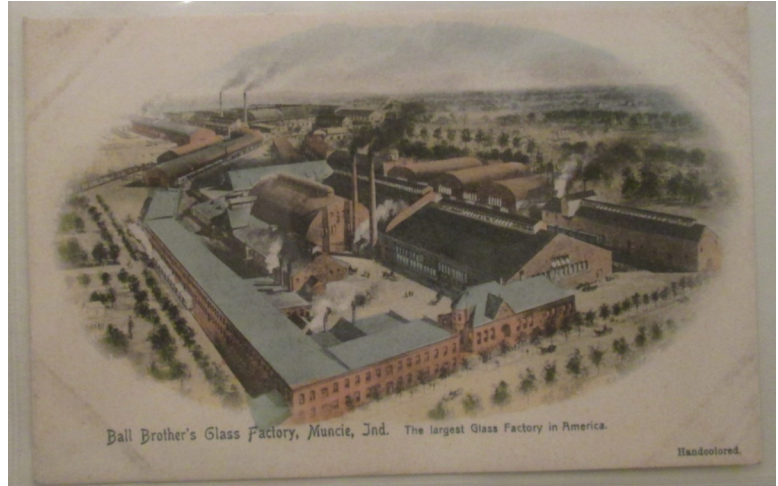
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG

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This handcolored postcard from the turn of the 20th century depicts the Ball Brother's Glass Factory at Muncie, Indiana—billed as “The largest glass factory in America”. Joe Coulson purchased this while room hopping at the July Fruit Jar Get-Together. It is the first time he had seen the handcolored variation.

## Announcements

- One of our newer club members, Eli Tribbett, is 14 years old and is having fun collecting fruit jars. Eli is looking for a quart Van Vliet, side wire variation (not the front wire variation), with an original closure. He is hoping to spend somewhere in the \$750–\$825 range to acquire a nice example. If you can help him find one, please contact him by cell phone at: 574-870-2743, or by email at: [vanvlietof1881@gmail.com](mailto:vanvlietof1881@gmail.com)
- Upcoming Club meetings:
  - ◇ November 4th, 1:30pm, Cantina at Minnetrista in Muncie  
Theme: Mystery Jars—Bring a Jar You Want More Info About (and you can always bring recent purchases, etc. too)
  - ◇ December 2nd, 1:30pm, Cantina at Minnetrista in Muncie  
Annual Christmas Party; Bring a gift for “Dirty Bingo”
- Upcoming Midwest Bottle & Jar Shows:
  - ◇ 21 October 2012 (Sunday) Findlay, Ohio - 36th Annual Findlay Antique Bottle Show (9:00 am – 2:00 pm, early buyers 7:00 am) at the Old Barn Auction House, 10040 St. Rt. 224 West, Findlay, Ohio. Directions: Go West on SR-224 from I-75 (exit 159). Admission: \$2.00, Early-Bird Admission: \$10.00 (“Dealer-only” set-up & dinner on Saturday, 20 October) Info: Show-chairman is Fred Curtis 419.424.0486 or Marianne Dow [finbotclub@gmail.com](mailto:finbotclub@gmail.com), 419.455.1112  
Club website: [finbotclub.blogspot.com](http://finbotclub.blogspot.com)
  - ◇ 28 October 2012 (Sunday) Glendale Heights, Illinois – 1st Chicago Bottle Club's 43rd Annual Show & Sale of antique bottles, fruit jars, pottery, advertising, postcards and collectibles at the Ramada Inn & Suites Convention Center, 780 E. North Avenue (1/2 block west of I-355), Glendale Heights, Illinois, Sunday, 28 October, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, (dealer set-up 7:00 am). \$3.00 admission. NO EARLY ADMISSION. Hotel reservations: 630.942.9500. Info: John & Claudia Panek, P.O. Box 287, Deerfield, Illinois 60015. Tele: 847.945.5493. E-mail: [paperbottle1@aol.com](mailto:paperbottle1@aol.com)
- The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors website is a great resource. Our club is a proud member of the FOHBC. One of the useful tools on the Federation website is the bottle show listing: <http://www.fohbc.org/shows>