

MIDWEST  
**GLASS CHATTER**  
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1971

Midwest Glass Chatter,  
January 2006

### Club Officers

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- *Richard Cole, Treas.*  
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Muncie, IN 47304
- *Joe Coulson, Sec.*  
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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: Junne Barnett, P.O. Box 38, Flat Rock, IN 47234.

### Next Club Show

July 9, 2006

Make your reservations now! The hotel's phone number is 765-741-7777

## Fruit Jar-Get Together, January 7th

The January club meeting was replaced by our annual winter jar show held in Muncie at the Horizon Convention Center on January 7th and 8th. People came from all over the United States as well as Canada to join in the fun and fellowship. Old acquaintances were rekindled, new friendships were made, and a lot of jars were bought and sold. Unseasonably warm and sunny weather brightened the spirits of everyone. The attendees started trickling in to the Hotel Roberts on Thursday evening. Many more attendees arrived throughout the day on Friday. It is common practice for attendees to leave the door open to their hotel room (and a sign outside) to invite others to see what they brought for sale and socialize. This is an important part of the "show" (room-hopping) and unofficially extends the event to 4 days.

Club President Norman Barnett welcomed everyone to the Fruit Jar Get-Together on Saturday at 1:30pm. Norm pointed out that the weather was much nicer than a year ago, when we had the freak ice storm and 95% of Muncie was without electricity for several days. You could tell that Norm was much happier that there were no glitches to deal with in the plan this year! Get

well cards were passed around for everyone to sign for Glenne Burkett (recovering from heart valve surgery) and Alice Moulton (her husband, Tom, recently passed away). A card was also passed around for Carolyn Kerr, wishing her well and letting her know that we are thinking of her.

Jerry McCann started us off with the show and tell portion of the Get-Together. Jerry brought two jars in an unusual color that he described as opaque moonstone. The first jar was an unmarked wax sealer made in a mold style that he had not seen before. The inside lip was much higher than the outside lip. This lip style is similar to the Stevens Tin Top jars made in Newark, OH. The body of the jar was moonstone, and the applied top was totally clear. Jerry believes the moonstone color was intentional, and one which is seen in tableware of that time period.

Jerry's second jar was a moonstone QT Griswold's Patent 1862 (patented August 5th, 1862).

Joe Coulson was next, and he brought two items to share. The first was an aqua QT #195-1 Ball BGMCo (monogram) Fruit Jar. The letters in the monogram stand for Ball Brothers Glass Manufacturing Company. This is

one of the earliest jars made by Ball Brothers.

Joe's second item was an original hand-written letter by B.B. Wilcox (the inventor of the Wilcox jar). The contents of the letter spoke about some molds that Mr. Wilcox was having made for him at the time. The letterhead and envelope both had the Wilcox Jar Company logo.

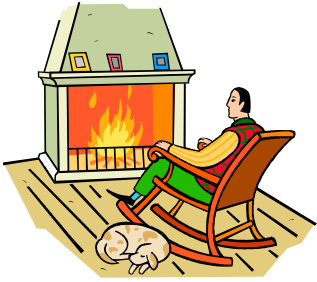
Jean Harbron displayed several interesting clear product jars. Two of the jars were an unusual style of art decore from the 1930s. The other jar was a recent find. It had an OI mark and "Design Patent 86565" on the base. Tom Caniff had previously helped Jean learn how to use the U.S. Patent Office lookup feature on the Internet. The patent was issued March 22, 1932 to Edwin Fuerst and assigned to Owens-Illinois.

Jean also shared a clear PT (shown in Dick Roller's

### Hotel Roberts



## Fruit Jar Get-Together, cont'd



*Joe Merkel  
announced that he  
and Jim Sears are  
working on a new  
Mason jars book*

SFJR Supplement No. 1 as #1099 variation A) Quattro Staggioni. Wanda Yoder (Jean's sister) mailed this jar to her to bring to show and tell, since she could not come this time!

Lou Ebert displayed several jars. The first was an aqua PT #1605 Made By The Meyer Fruit Jar Co. Detroit, Mich. The second was an aqua QT #1974 Mason's SGC Co (monogram) Patent Nov. 30th 1858. Other jars included an aqua QT #2780-1 Swayzee's Improved Mason (made on a Powers machine); a forest green QT #2780-1 Swayzee's Improved Mason (base has round valve mark); and an apple green QT #1898 Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 (Base: TIGNER G. Co. Xenia, Ind.). All of these jars have a Grant County, Indiana connection. Lou brought these jars to illustrate his previous articles in Glass Chatter.

Rick Lease shared an 1890's Miller tin preserving can that he had not seen before. Rick also brought a clear half pint jar which was embossed Pat. Apr 10 1900. The interesting thing about this jar is that the patent date would lead you to believe the jar would take a Lyons closure, however the jar seemed to require a Haller type closure.

Paul Haas brought a half pint tin preserving can (unembossed) which had a screw top. Paul pointed out that the lead soldering on these cans often affected the normal life expectancy of their users. People didn't realize in those days that it was possible to get lead poisoning.

Father Patrick Wilhelm shared a new type of drinking jar (handled mug, threadless sipper finish) that had not previously been listed. Father Pat bought this jar for 79 cents at a store local to him, and the markings indicated Toronto, Canada and an 'L' on the base and a sticker that said 'Libbey'.

Father Pat then surprised us by displaying his collection of 5 different "upside down" embossed jars made by Ball. The jars were an aqua PT #615 Trademark Climax Registered (in circle); a Ball Blue QT #2773-1 Sure Seal (note: Red Book says PT but he has not seen one); a Ball Blue QT #2858 Universal (in frame) L.F.&C. ; a clear PT #235 Ball Mason; and a Ball Blue PT #235 Ball Mason.

Father Pat also brought a very scarce Mason jar to show. It was an aqua QT #1032 F.H. Franke & Co. The North Side Fair Chicago.

Tom Caniff brought a sun-colored amethyst (SCA / Purple) #2330 Perfection jar with a product label that read "California Mustard, Globe Pickle Co.". Tom also showed us a clear #1028-1 Fowler's No. 27 Fowler's Ltd. with a product label that read "Selected Australian Fruit & Syrup". The line of Fowler's jars are common in Australia and would be the equivalent of our Ball Perfect Mason in the United States.

Tom also reminded us of the importance of supporting our hobby publications. Tom is editor of the Fruit Jar News. Subscriptions are only \$14 a year: FJN Publishers Inc., 364

Gregory Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052-3743.

Stan Gamble showed us 4 different Ball Perfect Mason's with varying positions of the word Perfect in relation to the word Mason. There are 7 different variations listed in the Red Book (numbers 272 and 272-5). Dick Roller's SFJR Supplement No. 1 contains a copy of an article by Dick Thompsen which illustrates even more variations. Stan also read to us an interesting story titled "Take My Son."

Mike Jordan displayed an HO scale Ball model railroad car. Father Pat mentioned that there are 4 different sizes of the Ball model railroad car (N, HO, O, G). Mike also showed a postcard of a Ball steamship and two tin preserving cans. The first can was #578 Pat'd March 30 58 Ext'd Mar 30 72 CFJCO (on screw lid of tin can), and the second can was a #1161 Hacker Pat'd June 28 '59 Reisd April 19 '64 Philada (on lid of tin can).

Bob Garlinger shared with us an aqua QT #17 Adams & Co. Manufacturers Pittsburgh Pa.

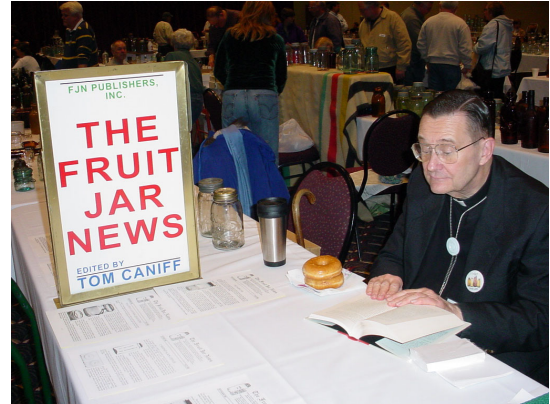
Joe Merkel and Jim Sears displayed several of the early "Crowleytown" jars in different sizes. These jars are believed to be the first of the Masons Patent 1858 jars. The screw cap closure was a very important innovation in jar closures. The jars displayed were a 44 oz, 40 oz, 30 oz, and a 24 oz. Jim's jar was emerald green, which is a rare color. Joe told us that there are several different mold styles and cap styles for the Crowleytown

## Pictures from Show Day, January 8th

*Bob Dulong shows some jars to customers*



*Father Pat is selling subscriptions to The Fruit Jar News*



*Wayne and June Lowry chat with a customer*



*Jelly Jammers Club Display*



*A couple of happy customers after a day of jar shopping*



*Mike Jordan's Display "Crocus Vases"*





## Pictures from Show Day, cont'd

*Sally Bernas' Display "Capstan Glass Company"*



*Norman Barnett's Display "Original Closures"*



*Mike Jordan's Display "Atlas Strong Shoulder"*



*Dick Coles' Display "A Ball Christmas"*



*Mike Mosier's Display "Unlisted Jars"*



*Ron Hands' Display "Wax Sealers"*



*Joe Coulson's Display "Ball Pressure Cookers"*



*Dave Rittenhouse's Display "Tudor Rose Jars"*



## Fruit Jar Get-Together, cont'd

jars. There are lots of interesting details to study.

Joe also announced that he and Jim are working on a new book dedicated just to the subject of early ground lip Mason jars. Work is already under way. The target publication date will be the 150th anniversary of the famous patent date (Nov. 30th 2008). Joe says there will be lots of good pictures and detailed information on all the varieties.

Deanna Cundiff shared a sun-colored amethyst tall QT (unlisted size) #1138 Golden Tree Brand Syrup (reverse: New England Syrup Co Boston).

Norm Barnett showed us a teal blue PT #3067 "Petal" jar (a scarce color and size for this jar—this one had a small crack in the glass). Norm also showed an aqua QT #2875 The Valve Jar Co. Philadelphia Patent March 10th 1868 W. L. Imlay; a medium cobalt blue QT unmarked jar with a Willoughby stopple closure and iron pontil on the base; an amber QT #1606 Magic (star) Fruit Jar with original closure.

Norm also brought along some cute little Christmas tree lights that looked like miniature Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 jars.

Greg Spurgeon was our

last presenter, and he led a wonderful and very educational discussion on color enhanced jars based upon a recent buying experience. Greg showed us a Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 jar that had started out as aqua (an inexpensive jar and common color) but was made to look cobalt blue (a multi-thousand dollar jar if it were real). The jars have been "colored" on the inside and outside. Greg noted that sometimes the coloring can be uneven (darker in places), particularly the mouth area because of the process used. The resulting colors can be very convincing, especially if you are buying based only

upon a photo (such as on the eBay Internet auction site).

Other people joined the discussed and mentioned some of the following: 1) these color enhanced jars have been seen in antique malls, 2) some start out with a star sticker on the base to indicate they have been enhanced, but this sticker falls off or is easily removed, 3) some have seen this process referred to as "heat staining" and have seen sellers of these jars from Canada, 4) one person said they had seen fake amber jars with 469 on the base showing up on eBay recently. This topic generated a lot of interest!

## Fruit Jar Auction

The following is a summary of items that attendees placed in the auction which was held immediately after the get-together. For some items the proceeds were donated to the club.

Agee (Australian) jars (block and script lettering) \$7.50 choice

Box of over 100 lids (some good ones) \$82

Plain dark blue jar (no cap) \$12

Ball Jar Apron "Yes, I Can" \$17.50

Clear QT Trade Mark Lightning Registered U.S. Patent Office (unusual jar with indentation where released bail would rest) \$33

Ball Hannah amber commemorative jar (with

blowover) \$305

Olive Green QT Ball Perfect Mason \$45

Old Glass Blowers blow-pipe \$80

Box 24 misc. jars \$21

Box 12+ misc. jars \$6

Box 12 Jelly Jars \$3

Jumbo 2 lb. Peanut But-

ter Jar \$33

PT Ball Sure Seal (Dropped a, light SCA) and PT Ball Ideal (patent date, light green) \$12

Aqua HG "Petal" jar with whittling \$57

Statue of Liberty Mug \$5

Aqua QT C.F. Spencer's Patent Rochester NY \$32.50

## Comments From the Show Floor

Rick Lease: "room slow; slow, but got better"

Tom Caniff: "Muncie is a nice place; bought nice stuff"

Leon Shores: "nice show"

Mike Jordan: "good, very

good"

Mike James: "not too bad"

Four Pennsylvania guys: "good—sold and bought for jar collection"

Joe Merkel: "great"

Dan Corker: "very nice"

Phil Smith: "had fun, bought"

Ron Ashby: "bought good, sold good"





MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT  
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

*A jarrific place to share and learn*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Next club meeting will be held  
February 5th at Minnetrista in  
the Cantina room at 1:30pm !!**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG](http://WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG)

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## Announcements

- The next club meeting will be held February 5th at Minnetrista in the Cantina room at 1:30pm. The theme for Show and Tell will be items beginning with the letters 'U' and 'V'. Also bring any items that you purchased at the January show and want to talk about.
- The Superbowl of Jar Shows has come and gone. Did you make a nice find or have a show story to tell? Kick off or pass a note to your editor with the details, so we can share it with everyone.
- Many thanks to Tom and Jean Harbron for the show pictures in this issue of the club newsletter. These pictures are also available for viewing on the club website.

