

MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter
January 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, January 7th, 2012

Another January Muncie Show is in the history books. 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 Signature Inn on Wednesday evening. Many people arrived throughout the day on Friday.

It is common practice for attendees to leave the door open to their hotel room throughout the weekend (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 almost 5 days.

Our regular January club meeting was replaced by the Muncie Show's Fruit Jar Get-Together on Saturday, January 7th at The Signature Inn in the second floor conference room. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the event and welcomed an overflowing room with at least 75 people in attendance.

Dealer and Exhibitor packets were made available at the Get-Together, so they could be picked up in advance to save time and effort for everyone on Sunday morning.

The next topic at the



meeting was the rules for the auction that followed the Get-Together. If you wanted to put a reserve on an item the fee was: \$1 for a reserve of \$1–\$100; \$2 for a reserve of \$101–500; and \$3 for \$500+. Items could be placed in the auction as we went around the room for introductions and show and tell.

Mike Jordan was our first Show and Tell person. Mike displayed an original aqua three quart RB #1688 Mason's



A picture of the front row of the crowd at the Fruit Jar Get-Together. Junne Barnett and Meredith Robinson were there!

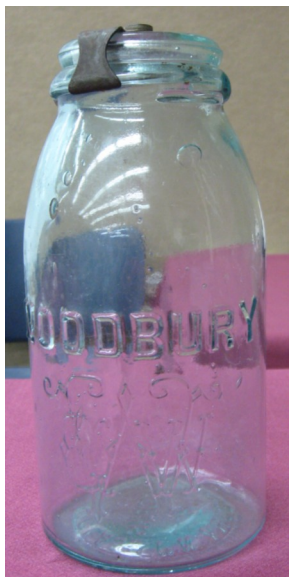


Get-Together Meeting Minutes, cont'd

CFJCo Improved Butter Jar. All three sizes of this butter jar have been reproduced, but it is fairly easy to tell the difference if you have seen an original.

Junne Barnett was next, and she thanked everyone for the warm welcome. Junne has become a "fixture" at our fruit jar event, and we would all be very disappointed if she could not make it there to participate in the fun and fellowship.

Colleen Dixon introduced herself as the new club Treasurer. Please send your club membership dues to Colleen if you have not already. Colleen brought an aqua half gallon RB #3028 Woodbury WGW (monogram) with an original closure.



Wanda Yoder traveled all the way from Virginia along with her husband. Wanda shared a set of four clear half pint Ball ® Mason jars in the original carton. This set was purchased at a Marsh grocery store recently. Sometimes these jars bring high prices

(\$15 each) on eBay, but if you are a careful shopper, you can find the set of four for about \$4. Wanda also showed us that she canned Pumpkin Butter in one of the jars!



Dick Cole told us that "Rare" means there were not many made, and that "Scarce" means that not many are available. He said that there is an important difference between these two terms. Dick then proceeded to tell us a real story about how a modern fruit jar was recently made "Scarce."

A company by the name of Penley ordered a jar to be made by a glass manufacturing company in China. Penley also placed an order for the metal bands and lids to be made by Jarden in Muncie.



Once the jars were made, they were shipped to Muncie

and stored in a warehouse. The jars were produced in clear quarts; regular mouth and wide mouth. Clear pints were also made. These new canning products failed to make it to market. Eventually the warehouse was cleared, and the stock of jars was turned into culter (destroyed).

Dick told us that only a few of the many jars produced survived (and this makes them Scarce, but not Rare). Dick then proceeded to show us a full original carton of each of the jars he had talked about. He also showed an original package of the metal bands and lids!

Jon Vander Schouw mentioned that he had been looking through many antique stores during his recent travels. He has been very lucky in the past and has made good finds. This time around Jon showed a clear quart RB #1986-7 Mason's Patent Nov 30th 1858 C (C in circle). Looking in antique stores can really pay off!



Gary Moore said the he is

a builder by profession, and this makes him want to study jars and how they were made. Gary showed us several midget pint fruit jars. He said that the ones with the patent on the base generally have a rounded heel. He also pointed out that the beehive-shaped midgets have a rounded heel and kicked up base (the jar could take more impact and not break). Gary also said that these small mouth jars would have less room for air (which tied into what little was known at that time period about what caused the contents to spoil).

Lou Ebert shared a story about an Indiana radio station, WLS, that advertised for the "World's Largest Store", Sears (in the 1930s and 1940s). Lou remembered the disc jockey was named Jolly Joe Kelly. One of the promotional items at that time was a clear Lucky Joe Bank. Lou brought one of these jars for display. The jar had originally contained prepared mustard distributed by Nash Underwood, Inc.



Greg Spurgeon displayed a jar which got some "oohs" and "ahhhs". It was an olive

Get-Together Meeting Minutes, cont'd

green quart The Hero. He was able to match it up with an original lid that he had in his inventory. It is rare to see this jar in any color other than aqua!



Chuck Erb brought four jars that contained "Iowa venison". Chuck is from Iowa and does home canning. These jars were placed in the auction.

Chuck also talked about videos that he had taken at the last Indianapolis Show (1998), and the first Muncie Show (1999). He reminisced about some of the wonderful collectors we have lost since then, and these videos showed glimpses of them. Chuck put a set of these videos (DVDs) into the auction.



Ron Ashby shared an aqua quart RB #1467 WB (monogram) Trademark Leader. The jar had the origi-

nal wire bail, but Ron still needs to find an original lid.



Gary Tucker brought a "Show and You Tell Me" jar. It was an aqua pint with "The Perfect Seal" on the base.



Tom Caniff displayed a large brown butter jar (crockery). He told us he saw it on eBay, and it stood out because it looked so ugly. He waited before he made a bid. In fact, he didn't bid until the

very last day. No one else even bid on it, so he was the winner. Tom liked the unusual closure on this jar.



Larry Munson told everyone that he was having a great time at our Muncie Show. He wanted to let everyone know how much he appreciated this event, and the effort that goes on to put it together.

Jeff Harper shared a rare (true to the definition of Rare) clear pint Ball (front) El Monte California (reverse) round jar. The base said "L.A. Olympics 1984" and had a figure of the Olympics mascot that year (Sam the Eagle). This is the first one of these jars to be found. The El Monte plant made several commemorative and retirement jars in limited quantities. Jeff had a wonderful display of these jars on Show Day.



Alan De Maison intro-

duced himself as the Business Manager of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (the National club). Alan brought FOHBC membership forms, and he encouraged everyone to attend the National Show in Reno, Nevada later this year.

Steve Mertz carefully opened a box and revealed an amber shard from the top of a RB #747-1 R.M. Dalbey jar! This item got a lot of "ooohs" and "ahhhs" too. It would be hard to imagine seeing a whole example of this early fruit jar in amber. This color had not previously been known for this jar.



Russ and Heidi Crupe carried in a large and very heavy stone printers block. You could see the imprint of a Ball Brothers canning pamphlet on it. They had purchased the item on the way to Muncie at an antique store! Heidi was the one who found it while they were shopping.



Rick Lease displayed a clear pint RB #2429 Pyramid (in circle). Rick collects Clear Jars and has an extensive col-

Get-Together Meeting Minutes, cont'd

lection of rare and scarce examples of clear jars.

Tom Sproat brought a jar that fits in the "What Were They Thinking!" category. Tom shared two different examples of the J.C. Lefferts cast iron fruit jars. One came from Norm Barnett's collection, and the other came from Phil Robinson's collection. These jars were very heavy and had some kind of enamel lining.



Tom also displayed a wood fruit jar that had been turned on a lathe. It was burned or charred on the inside to help seal the surface of the wood.

Tom told us that he assists a charity that helps kids in high-risk neighborhoods by providing them a science education. Tom brought a set of "Redneck Wine Glasses" (Ball jars with candlestick stems attached!). Tom is from Kentucky, and he thought this item might make a good fund raiser for the charity. He placed the redneck wine glasses in the auction.

The next gentleman (somehow I missed his name) displayed an aqua quart "Shaker's Preserves" bottle. This was from South Union, Kentucky, and not very many are known.



Jeff Klingler brought two variations of a rare Ohio jar. Jeff shared an aqua quart RB #1167-1 Pat'd Aug 13th 1867 By Joel Haines West Middleburg O, and an aqua quart RB #1167-2 Joel Haines West Middleburg Ohio.

Jeff also told everyone about an auction that had just taken place in Ohio. The auction contained a home-made display case of 80 Ball Perfect Mason salesman sample jars. The final price was \$3000. The item was believed to have been purchased by family members of the estate that was being sold.

John Patterson told everyone that the last time he had attended the Midwest Antique Fruit Jar & Bottle Club Show was 27 years ago. It was held in Indianapolis at that time.



John brought a "Show and Wonder" item. It was a wooden box end for porcelain

lined screw caps from E.B. Taylor Co. He wondered if many of these were known, and what connection the company had with the fruit jar trade. John also shared two pint pottery fruit jars with screw cap closures.

Bruce Schank told us that he was going to show us a "mistake Red Book listing". The jar was a half gallon cobalt blue repro Mason's CFJCo Patent Nov. 30th 1858 with "Ball Imperfect Mason" on the reverse. Bruce had some help from Chuck Erb (a graphic artist) in painting "Ball Imperfect Mason" on the jar. Everyone got a laugh out of this "mistake" jar.



Bruce wanted everyone to know that he is looking to do more collector stories (Legends of the Jar). Please let Bruce know if you would like to share your hobby story.

Bruce then showed us a very special item. Bruce had written a poem titled "Jar Bling". Bruce read this poem aloud to the audience (Note: look elsewhere in this newsletter for a complete reprint of

the poem). Bruce got a heartfelt round of applause when he finished. The poem was about collecting colored fruit jars. Bruce equated color with the modern day slang term "bling". Bruce placed a nicely framed version of his poem in the auction.

Tom Schumm said that it was good having Bruce Schank at the shows. He said that Bruce gets "picked on" instead of him now. Tom jokingly said that he was the one that got picked on the last 15 years!

Tom shared an aqua pint pontiled corker which had a Willoughby stopple for a closure. Tom also displayed a dark olive "tie-over" jar in two sizes (quart and one gallon). These were early storage jars, possibly made in Sweden in the 1790s. They were most likely used for shipping food. The jars were made using the "turn mold" process, which kept the lip within the boundary of the jar body (this would be safe on a ship where bumping together could occur).

Dave Rittenhouse displayed an aqua quart jar that had a very high pushed up base. He acquired this jar at a local antique mall.

Joe Coulson brought several "Hoosier Poet" items. The Hoosier Poet brand was an Indiana grocery brand that depicted a likeness of the famous hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley. Joe showed a very colorful fruit jar rings box, a tomato juice tin can, a cigar box label, and a coffee can.

More Show and Tell Pictures



An olive green quart "The Hero". A rare color for this jar.



Greg Spurgeon matched this original lid with his newly acquired The Hero jar. This is a rare variation of the lid. "Patented T. G. Otterson 1862 C.G. Imlay 1864".



A closeup of the rare amber shard that Steve Mertz displayed. This is a piece of a "Patented By R.M. Dalbey Nov. 16 1858" fruit jar.



A rare clear pint "Pyramid" (in a circle). This is an old style lightning closure jar.



Tom Sproat shared these heavy cast iron quart "J.C. Lefferts Patented Feb.y 15th 1859 Manufacturer" fruit jars. Even the closure was cast iron!



Jeff Klingler brought these two rare aqua quart "Joel Haines West Middleburg Ohio" fruit jar variations. Jeff lives in Ohio and likes these early jars.

More Show and Tell Pictures



John Patterson displayed this unusual wooden box end for porcelain lined caps made by the E.B. Taylor Co.



Russ and Heidi Crupe lugged in this heavy stone printers block for a Ball canning instructions pamphlet.



Bruce Schank points at and describes a copy of the "Jar Bling" poem that he wrote. This framed print went into the auction.



Tom Schumm shared these two storage jars from approximately the 1790s.



Wanda Yoder displayed a set of four of the Ball ® Mason Elite Collection half pints. She preserved Pumpkin butter in one of them!



Joe Coulson shared several Hoosier Poet branded items, including a nice jar rings box.

And a Few More Pictures



There were people waiting to get in to the Show when the doors opened Sunday morning at 9:00 am.



Shoppers and collectors alike flooded the show floor.



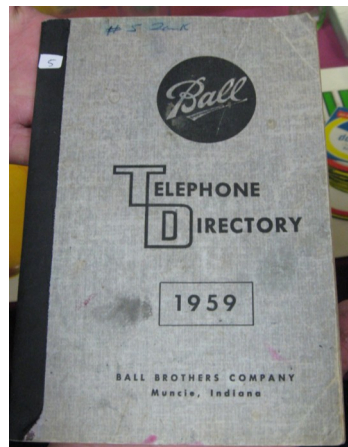
Jeff Harper and Tom Sproat enjoying shopping on Show day.



Sisters, Mary Harper and Anne Szopa are also enjoying shopping on Show day.



Greg Spurgeon, Dick Bere and Phil Smith were running the Auction on Saturday.



A 1959 Ball Brothers telephone directory was in the auction.



A light green bud vase with the Ball logo was in the auction (base: Henderson).

Display Pictures



Dick Cole showed many items from the defunct Penley Product Line that never reached market.



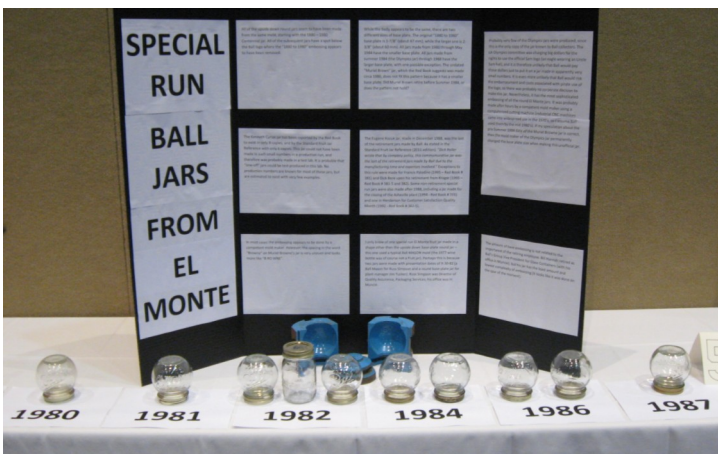
Wanda Yoder and Jean Harbron showed the ultimate purpose of fruit jars with their display "WE CAN".



Gary Moore's display showed many kinds of Small Mouth Pint Jars.



Mike Jordan showed many Atlas Jars.



Jeff Harper had a fine display of Special Run Ball Jars from El Monte.



Joe Coulson gave a short history on Kerosene Oil Cans.

Bruce Schank won the People's Choice and Dealer's Choice awards with his display of colorful Ball Jars



Tom Sproat won the Most Educational Award by showing many interesting Tools of the Trade used in early glass making

"Tools of the Trade: Jar Making Tools of the 19th Century"

Before the invention of jar making machines, glass jars & bottles were made by humans & hand tools.
Tools were not glamorous but were designed to function under demanding conditions of heat, cold, and wetness.
The tools on display were all used in 19th Century glass manufacturing. Similar tools are still used by today's glass artists

Blow Pipe
Blow Pipe: A hollow pipe used to form a bubble of glass.



Ends of blowpipe
Left: mouth end
Right: glass end

Pontil (or Punty) Rod
Pontil (or Punty) Rod: Holds the glass while it is being worked.



Below: Pontil rod with glass pontiled jar.
Pontil Rod

Snap Case: A Tool for Holding Hot Glass Containers
Snap Case: Holds the container while the mouth is finished.



Snap Case Tool, CLOSED HOLDING FINISHED BOTTLE.
Snap Case Tool, IN OPEN POSITION WITHOUT BOTTLE.
Some shops used snap cases in addition to pontil rods.

Lipping Tool: Used to Finish the Lip of a Jar or
Lipping Tool: Picture & patent illustration.



Wooden Blocks or Half-Molds
Handled Wooden Blocks: Blocks, soaked in water, were used to help shape jars and food containers.



Types of Pontils: Glass (top row) & Bare Iron (bottom row)



Clear tipped pontil formation
From various locations (left & right)
Dark iron pointed formation
Two views (below left & right)

Snap Case: Tool & Jar (note: offset dimples on jar)



Lipping Tool: Jar (note continuous roll on lip)



Shears
Shears: scissor-like tool to cut glass from the blow pipe.



Condition to right: as they rotate, sliding downward to divide the blowpipe. Shears are used to cut the glass from the blow pipe and to separate the jar from the pontil rod.

Tweezers
Tweezers were used to shape the hot glass by grabbing, twisting, combing, and poking. Tweezers could also guide other tools (blow pipes and pontil rods) or pick up and apply additional pieces of hot glass.



A large wooden mallet and a wooden bowl are displayed on a table.

A collection of glass jars and bottles are displayed on a table, along with various tools.

Tom Sproat, the winner of the Most Educational Award, is shown holding a glass jar and a tool.

Joe Coulson's Muncie Show Report

The Muncie Winter 2012 Show has come and gone. It lived up to its reputation of being the biggest and best show for fruit jars once again. More collectors came to the hotel early this year, possibly because of the favorable "warm" weather. I didn't make it to the hotel on Wednesday with the true early birds, but I did arrive on Thursday afternoon. My friend Bruce Schank kept bugging me to come early to enjoy as much of the hotel festivities (room hopping) as possible. Well, I was actually able to do that, but with a bit of a sacrifice. Obtaining time off from work was not an issue. The real issue is that I normally use Thursday and Friday for show preparation time, which includes putting together an educational display and selecting and boxing sales jars. My sacrifice to get to the hotel early was to leave behind all the sales jars (except for two great ones that I carefully boxed along with some pre-boxed duplicate old bottle magazines), and I quickly boxed up my educational display items, but had no time to develop and put the text on the posterboard. I gathered up enough clothes for the long weekend, and I headed to Muncie on Thursday afternoon. As soon as I arrived at the hotel I was immersed in hugs and handshakes and conversation. I also noticed the nice big banners in the hotel lobby announcing our fruit jar event. The banners were new this year and a really big plus in advertising. I felt like the Signature Inn was really welcoming our group. It wasn't



until later in the evening that I finally had a long enough break to unload the big blue truck and take my belongings into the hotel room. At some point I was involved in a wonderful hallway conversation (with great collectors like Ken Dippold, Phil Smith and Dick Bere) when Don Burkett wandered by, and he gave me a tip that there was a hotel room that I should go look at, because it had Ball company items in it. That immediately got my attention, and off I went. It turned out to be a jackpot for me. I'm one of the few people crazy enough to collect Ball acrylic Christmas ornaments and related acrylic items (made in the mid to late 1970s by their plastics division), and this room had a bunch of them that I had not seen before. My wallet was over \$400 lighter after I left that hotel room, but I was truly very happy to score such a treasure trove, and add so many items to my collection. I have collected these acrylic items for a long time, and believe me it was getting tough to find ones that I did not already

have. Adding so many at once was a thrill. I went to dinner with Russ & Heidi Crupe, Rick Lease, and Michael Rutledge. We walked from the hotel and went across the street to IHOP and had a good meal and lots of conversation. Russ is "Mr. Atlas", Rick is "Mr. Clear Jar", and Michael is "Mr. Sure Seal". These guys are very knowledgeable collectors and are widely recognized for their specialties. Rick is also an advanced Ball jar collector with many years of experience. We made our way back to the hotel, and I was lost in room-hopping for several hours. I spent some time in Jon Raver's room too. He brought some jars that he was really motivated to sell. Quite a few Ball jar collectors were hanging out there and talking Ball jar talk (a language all its own). All of Jon's sales jars found new owners before he left the hotel. He wasn't kidding when he said he was motivated to sell them. I'm not sure what time I went to sleep that evening, but I am sure it was past midnight. Bruce and I crossed paths several times

that evening, each time updating the other on what had been found or some news item. We split the cost of the hotel room to save money. Bruce did a nice job of making a new sign to sit outside our hotel room - it said Bruce Schank "Ball Jarz" and Joe Coulson "Leader Jar" (our eBay names in fancy lettering).

I believe we had sold out the first floor of the hotel with just collectors. The breakfast bar at the hotel on Friday morning was busy. It was another busy day of room hopping and talking jars with anyone and everyone. More collectors were arriving at the hotel throughout the day. Friday turned out to be unlucky for me. Somewhere around 4:00pm a cold virus got a firm grip on me. I went to bed early and had a fever that didn't break until about 12 hours later. I couldn't get warm enough and turned the room heater to max. Poor Bruce didn't say anything about the tropical heat wave, and he knew I must be out of it, because I didn't get out of bed until the next day. I didn't feel nauseous or have a runny nose, but I did have a real fever and ached from head to toe, and I just didn't feel like moving the whole time. In fact, I slept almost all of that time. The good news is that I survived, and felt mostly okay at about 6:00am the next morning. I was a little wiped out and weak, but I didn't feel bad any more. That was a miracle, because Saturday was a Big day, and I was afraid I would miss it.

At some point Saturday

Joe's Muncie Show Report, cont'd

morning I found about the "guessing game" on the home-made display case of 80 Ball salesman sample jars that were going to be sold in an auction in Ohio later that same day. Jeff Klingler and Marianne Dow had been asking everyone for their input on what the final selling price would be. I guessed \$400. We later learned that the final price was \$3,000 (which is \$37.50 per jar).

I went to the Jelly Jammers meeting at 10:00am and had a lot of fun. I volunteered along with Colleen Dixon to help their club by doing "member profiles" to appear in their future newsletters. We took a break for lunch and went over to Mancino's Italian restaurant, which was within walking distance. It has almost become a tradition for me and my buddies Jean Harbron and Colleen Dixon to do lunch there. This time around we were lucky to have Wanda Yoder (Jean's sister from Virginia) and Jim Durr join us. After a quick lunch we made it back in time for the Fruit Jar Get-Together that started at 1:30pm. The hotel's second floor conference room was packed, and there was an overflow area of chairs just outside the door that was full too. I sat in the overflow area, which turned out to be a good vantage point to take pictures from. Everyone enjoyed the Show and Tell items. Bruce read his "Jar Bling" poem and got a room full of heart-felt applause. There were many items in the auction that followed the meeting. Some original Ball canning posters meant for display in supermar-

kets brought good money ("Now is the time to can vegetables", etc).

Later in the day I spent some time in the "Bargain Cave". This is another room on the second floor that was filled with sales tables and some refreshments. Greg Spurgeon, Tom Caniff, Jerry McCann, and Bruce Schank had jars for sale in there. Greg always has great "bargain deals" (jars starting at \$12 each and then dropping with deep discounts if you buy multiple jars at once). Jerry also had the updated Standard Fruit Jar Reference 2011 for sale. He indicated that he would be publishing a Fruit Jar Annual 2012/2013 edition which will be available in July this year.

Part of the fun of hanging out in the Bargain Cave is that it is another place for collectors to congregate and converse. I had a good long chat with Tom Caniff. Angela Spurgeon was teaching Deena Caniff the secrets of how to do Sudoku puzzles. Tom and I would occasionally chime in with a possible puzzle answer. Tom got one of the sci-fi questions right with the answer "Flash Gordon". It was amazing to me the number of times after that where Tom suggested "Flash Gordon" was the answer to a puzzle question (ha ha!).

As always, things wound down pretty early on Saturday evening. People were emptying their hotel rooms and packing their vehicles in anticipation of leaving early Sunday morning. Guess what? This is where I paid the price of not having my educational display

completed yet. I was using my laptop at a table in the hotel lobby, because for some reason the wireless Internet signal was very weak in the room. I was busy doing some last minute research on the history of kerosene oil for my display of kerosene oil cans. I was able to use the printer in the hotel lobby, and then I went back to my room to paste the sheets of paper on my posterboard. I felt like I was cramming at the last minute for a school exam. It was 11:00pm or so before I turned in for the night.

Sunday morning always comes too early, but there was excitement in the air because it was Show Day at the Horizon Convention Center in downtown Muncie. Displayers set up starting at 6:30am. Dealers set up starting at 7:00am. Everyone was busy during this time and there was some opportunity to see what was for sale as it got put on the tables. The doors opened to the public at 9:00am. I rarely get any shopping done on Show Day. I always have a sales table, and I am busy talking the whole day. It is so much fun. I brought my box of acrylic items just to share with Jeff Harper. We had a good time chatting. Jeff discovered that one of the original packages had a sticker that said something like "Warning - do not put this item in direct sunlight". We knew that Ball didn't sell acrylic items for very long, and we had some fun with that concept. The warning statement conjured up images of customers burning holes in their furniture and other such wild and crazy unintended side effects when the

sun showed through acrylic like a magnifier. It's unlikely that ever happened in real life, but we let our imagination run rampant for a bit of humor. I also brought my binder that has a complete set of the Ball Collectors' Club newsletter (sponsored by Mason Bright in the late 1980s) in it for Michael Rutledge to look at. I didn't get a chance to ask him if he found any valuable nuggets to share from that.

All of the displays at the Show were fabulous. Of course, Bruce Schank knocked our socks off with his great colored Ball jars and two solid pour Ball jars. His motto is "Color is King". Jeff Harper's display of El Monte commemorative jars was very well done. I am a big fan of the El Monte special run jars, and seeing one of the molds was an added bonus. I also got to see the newly discovered El Monte 1984 L.A. Olympics jar in person again (Jeff brought it to Show and Tell the day before). We had the maximum number of displays this year and there was something for everyone. All of the displays were very detailed and well done.

Show Day went so fast. I don't think there were any unusual Ball jars that showed up for sale, but maybe someone else got something that I didn't see or hear about. I am pretty sure everyone added jars to their collection though. The end of the Show is always bittersweet, because it is time to part ways until the next event. Bottle Shows are a great way to get more fun out of your collecting hobby.

—Joe Coulson

Jar Bling...



I want what's dark.
And I want what's light.
Plus I want what's in the middle too.
So there's nothing else to do or say,
But chase all of the colors if I may.

And the colors will be extraordinaire!
Yes, they'll sparkle and glimmer and people will stare.
Teal, aqua, blue, yellow and green
Olive and amber plus every shade in-between.

Swirls, striations, imperfections and more,
Whittled and crude with bubbles galore.
Large, medium or small in size,
It doesn't really matter since color's the prize.

I'll assemble them all slowly one by one.
Until my ultimate goal is finally done.
A rainbow worth its weight in gold,
Candy to the eyes, a sight to behold.

But alas I'm afraid I'll never be able to pass,
By these beautiful colored vessels of glass.
I will chase to the end this form of *Bling*
Because in the world of jars, simply put, *Color is King*.

Bruce W. Schank



Bill Burgess put this Ball advertising poster (from the 1940s) into the auction. What a wonderful display piece!

Announcements

- Our next club meeting is April 1st at 1:30pm at Minnetrista in the Cantina room. Bring an item for Show and Tell with your "Town" on it (where you were born, where you have lived, etc.). A list of all future meetings is maintained on the club website, in case you need to know dates and themes in advance.
<http://www.fruitjar.org>
- North American Glass holds fine quality fruit jar auctions. The next auction starts Monday, March 26th and contains over 230 items.
<http://www.gregspurgeon.com/auction/>
- The Circle City Antique Bottle Club has well-attended monthly meetings on the west side of Indianapolis. You might consider stopping in sometime and saying "hello." Contact Martin Van Zant for more details: mdvanzant@yahoo.com
- The Jelly Jammers have put a lot of effort into their new website, the "Jelly Jammers Cupboard". The site has once again been significantly updated.
<http://www.jellyjammers.org/>
- The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors website is a great resource. Our club is a proud member of the FOHBC.
<http://www.fohbc.org>

