Fruit Jar Get-Together, July 8, 2006

The July club meeting was replaced by the Fruit Jar Get-Together on Saturday, July 8 at the Hotel Roberts in the Georgia Room. Club President Norman Barnett opened the event and welcomed about 50 people in attendance. Dealer and exhibitor packets were made available, so they could be picked up in advance to save time and effort for everyone on Sunday morning.

A "Thinking of You" card was passed around for Ted Penix. He is still having trouble with neuropathy. Ted and his wife Pam are well-known Ball jar collectors. Ted worked for Ball Corporation for many years.

The next topic was the rules for the auction following the get-together. If you want to put a reserve on an item the fee is: $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.

Phil Robinson was our first show and tell person. Phil didn't bring any items to talk about, but he did put a few in the auction. Phil announced that his Jar Museum is for sale. The asking price is "$300,000 for the whole thing, or $9,000 your pick of any jar!" Phil said that David Rittenhouse would be taking over the jar closure parts business at some point in the future.

Joe Coulson was next, and he displayed a set of Ball Widemouth pitchers (like you would put ice tea or lemonade in for pouring). Obtaining the whole set of 3 variations was a little challenging. The first design was short-lived due to breakage problems. The second design was the most common and was mass produced for a long while. The third variation was very short-lived. Someone at the factory was playing around (unofficially) and changed the mold so that the spout was pouring back towards the handle!!

Stan Gamble also brought a Ball pitcher for show and tell.

Ron Ashby brought a clear HG Atmore & Son Mincemeat Philadelphia (on base) with original paper label. Ron also showed us a striking blue Russian tea jar.

Mike Jordan displayed an interesting jar holder and tightenner.

Deanna Cundiff showed us some bargain finds that she made during the year. The first was a clear midget PT Crystal Jar (price $3). The second was a honey colored QT Ball Perfect Mason (undropped 'a', gripper ribs—a $2 flea market find).

Doug Leybourne displayed a green aqua HG (52 oz) The Best Fruit-Keeper (this was an unusual variation that had no quotes around The Best). Doug also showed an unmarked blue aqua HG (64 oz) jar; an aqua HG Favorite Trademark; and an aqua HG Economy Sealer Patd Sept 15TH 1885 (unusual because the wording was not ghosted).

Don Burkett was next, and he displayed a set of Ball Widemouth pitchers (like you would put iced tea or lemonade in for pouring). Obtaining the whole set of 3 variations was a little challenging. The first design was short-lived due to breakage problems. The second design was the most common and was mass produced for a long while. The third variation was very short-lived. Someone at the factory was playing around (unofficially) and changed the mold so that the spout was pouring back towards the handle!!
after dialysis treatments. We were all so glad to see Don and Glennie make it to the show.

Don displayed a light aqua HG Boyd (flag) Mason (with ghosted Genuine); an aqua QT Mason’s (this variation had the apostrophe which is unusual to find). Don said he got this jar at the Grand Rapids show, and said that he almost didn’t buy it because of a tiny scratch. He was just joking of course. Don also brought a PT un-marked jar which was the second jar he owned when he started collecting. It was given to him by someone and it means a whole lot to him, even though it has no monetary value.

Tom Caniff was up next. He showed us a clear HP Bernardin Mason (debossed) which was marketed by Bernardin Ltd in Canada. Tom was interested in this jar because he is currently doing research on the company, and he had not seen this jar before. For some reason the clear modern jar went for a whopping $89 on eBay. It’s was a good thing he lost the bid because he found out they are currently readily available in PT, QT and HG sizes today.

Tom is always trying to warn collectors of potential deception by unscrupulous sellers. Tom’s second jar was a clear PT The Barn Mason Jar (barn figure). It is a modern candle jar with a steel screw cap that has a rolled edge and is unlined. It is important to be aware that this type of cap exists, because it is possible someone could try to make it “look old” and pass it off as a new discovery of an early jar cap.

Tom brought a variety of Perfect Seal jars to show us. This included a clear QT Perfect Seal with original closure (metal disc enclosed in rubber gasket material—when you got the rubber wet it would hold the lid closed—the problem with this design is that too much heat would often melt the rubber); an amber squat QT Perfect Seal (with clear glass lid embossed Perfect Seal and black gasket embossed Perfect Seal); and a yellow amber squat QT Perfect Seal with remnants of the first kind of closure.

Father Patrick Wilhelm told us that he started collecting in 1975. He brought several wonderful jars to show us: a gold tinted (not flashed) QT Liberty Bell design; a clear QT crooked bell version (only two such jars ever seen by him); a clear PT crooked bell version (only one seen); a Ball blue PT Amazon Swift Seal (unusual because of the block lettering in slug plate); a Ball blue PT Swift Seal (rare because of the script style lettering).

Father Patrick also showed us a clear tall QT Pyrex Reg. U.S. Pat Off. (clear lid marked Pyrex, twin toggle clamp). This is the first example of this jar he has seen in his 31 years of collecting!

Dan Corker told us that he collects patent closures, midgets and salesman sample jars. He brought a clear QT The Alston with an original closure (tin lid); a green QT Newman’s Patent Dec. 20TH 1859 with original closure; and a nice blue HG F. A&Co with open pontil and very whittled.

Mike Jones displayed a pale blue milkglass PT mustard jar. He also told about an early jar advertisement he saw on eBay for a Globe jar which said “faster than lightning!”

Greg Spurgeon showed a nicely colored midget PT Mason’s Patent Nov. 30TH 1858 (cross emblem on back, base 64 mold number, very heavy glass and full of seed bubbles—probably an end of day piece); a regular amber midget PT Mason’s Patent Nov. 30TH 1858 (cross on back, purchased for $30 instead of $45 asking price because of missing lid!); and a light green QT jar that takes a Willoughby stopple (maker unknown, but might be Southern Jersey glass?).

Mike Rutledge displayed a light amethyst PT Ball 3-L Special. Mike is very knowledgeable about this series of Ball jars and is always hunting for a new variation that he does not have!

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Unusual Ball Jar Surfaces at July Show

Father Patrick Wilhelm stated that he tries to make every effort to avoid missing the twice-yearly Muncie (MAF)&BC show because of the opportunities this show regularly affords for acquiring really good fruit jars—sometimes expected and sometimes real surprises. Just such a surprise was the BALL PERFECT MASON “FIERY CROSS” jar that Father Patrick took home to New Jersey from the July show.

“To be able to add the FIERY CROSS jar to his Ball collection is an unexpected pleasure,” Father Patrick said, “not in terms of acquiring a KKK jar (for the KKK victimized Roman Catholics and Catholic priests with just as much enthusiasm as they went after African-Americans or anybody else they decided they didn’t like, murdering at least one priest outright), but rather in terms of acquiring a most unusual and very hard-to-find Ball jar for his Ball division.”

The Ball/Minnetrista fruit jar museum has had the broken base of a FIERY CROSS jar in its exhibits for over 30 years, but until now it appears that no complete jar has ever been found. Father Patrick is wondering what will turn up at the next Muncie show in January.
Pictures from our July Show

Father Patrick won the "Most Educational Award" with this display of Ball Perfection jars with original closures. These jars have several rare variations of the original glass topseal lid, including a blue Muncie lid and a milkglass lid.

Norman Barnett received both the "Dealers Choice Award" and the "Peoples Choice Award" for his display of unusual ways for sealing jars. These are all early jars with original closures. Norm’s specialty is collecting early closures.

Father Patrick Wilhelm tells us about his rare Pyrex jar during the show and tell session. This jar was made sometime between 1924 and the late 1930s by Corning Glass Works, Corning, N.Y., for Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank, Boston, Mass. jar jobbers.

Tom Caniff (editor of The Fruit Jar News) gave us a dissertation on the history of the Perfect Seal jars and their cousins (Instant Seal and Fresherator). These jars were sold in department stores in the 1940s. Tom does a fantastic job researching fruit jar history and making it available to the current and future generations of fruit jar collectors.
Pictures from our July Show

Angela is a craftsperson who had a sales table at the show. She takes common old fruit jars and cuts them in half to make very nice display pieces. Some of her items are for sale in the Minnetrista gift shop.

Doug Leybourne has a lot to smile about. He and Lori announced they are getting married later this year! Doug is the author of The Collector’s Guide to Old Fruit Jars, Red Book 9.

There are three Mike’s in this picture—can you spot them all?! And guess what, they are all serious Ball jar collectors. Mike Rutledge, Mike James, and Mike Mosier.

Greg Spurgeon in action—helping us sell items during the Saturday auction. You might also know Greg as “hoosierjar” on the eBay auction site. Greg sells many nice jars.

A few of the items that were sold during the auction.

Junne Barnett’s nice display of old canning posters.
Pictures from our July Show

Mike Mosier made a nice display of many interesting items related to the fruit jar hobby.

Colleen Dixon’s display of bottles and accessories that were used to sell the famous “Pluto Water” from around French Lick, IN.

Adam Koch lets someone examine a rare metal cap.

Many bottles of all kinds were for sale on show day.

Rows and rows of wonderful jars for sale on show day.

Jean Harbron’s display of Bicentennial jars and bottles from four different manufacturers. It has been 30 years since the U.S. Bicentennial.
Announcements

- Our next club meeting will be August 6th at 1:30 pm at Rev. Phil Robinson’s Museum, 1201 W. Cowing Dr., Muncie, Indiana. The program is “Error” jars and your great finds from the last show and Ice Cream. Bring a dessert and invite some friends, ice cream will be provided. Give Phil a call if you need directions. Note: the club website listed the date as August 13th, but this is incorrect.

- June Lowry tells us there are two awesome fruit jars in the auction at the FOHBC 2006 Show in Reno, NV. One is a Dalbey and the other is an amber Mason’s Patent Nov. 30TH 1858. Here is the link for the auction (the items can be bid on ahead of time):
  http://www.bottleauction.com/jul05/Auction/APViewInCat.asp?ID=28

- Rev. Phil Robinson wants everyone to know that his Jar Museum is up for sale again. The asking price is $300,000 (there are over 4,000 jars). The price is negotiable, primarily if the buyer intends to keep the museum intact and continue to display it to the public. You can contact Phil at 765-282-9707. Phil’s health hasn’t been too great lately, so please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

- Did you notice that your Glass Chatter is now arriving in an envelope every month? We’re always looking for ways to improve. No more tape, and more importantly, you should not find your newsletter shredded by the U.S. Post Office’s hungry machines (hopefully!). Don’t forget there is an electronic version too—just send Joe Coulson your email address.