

# MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter  
July 2011

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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: Anne Szopa, 11199 U.S. Highway 35, Economy, IN 47339

## Meeting Minutes, July 8th & 9th, 2011

The July Fruit Jar Round-Up meetings were held at The Signature Inn in Muncie, Indiana in the second floor conference room.

### Patent Date Discussion Group

Friday, July 8th, 10:00am



Jeff Harper moderated a discussion group regarding fruit jars having a full patent date (not just the year) on the front, other than the common Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1858 and July 14th 1908 patent dates. The jars could have error variations of the common dates, or it might be any number of other jars. The kicker was to explain what was actually patented on that date, if known. Jeff brought his laptop computer with wireless Internet connection to assist in finding the patent information. (<http://www.uspto.gov/>)

Jeff also brought a copy of the Standard Fruit Jar Refer-

ence (2011 update) to help find the patent information.

Jeff started the discussion with a Ball blue quart Ball (script, dropped a) PERFECTION PAT APR 10. 1900. APR. 26. 1907 (with original milkglass lid, original metal band, and original black rubber ring).



Jeff displayed an aqua quart The Ball PAT APLD FOR; an aqua quart The Ball (script) Mason's Patent 1858; a Ball blue quart Ball (dropped a) IDEAL PATD. JULY 14, 1908 (reversed 9); a Ball blue quart Ball (undropped a) IDEAL PAT D JULY 14 1983 (date error); and a clear pint Ball (undropped a) IDEAL PATD JULY 14 1988 (date error).

Greg Spurgeon displayed an aqua quart F&J BODINE



MANUFACTURERS PHILADELPHIA PA FEB 12 1867 with an original closure that had jappanning on the inside and tinning on the top. This jar was discussed in a previous Fruit Jar Annual. The patent number was 69121.



Joe Coulson displayed a Torrey's Egyptian Fruit Jar Patented March 13<sup>th</sup> 1866. There are no original closures

## Meeting Minutes, cont'd

known for this jar. This jar was documented in detail in the Fruit Jar Newsletter June 2007.

Jeff Klingler displayed an aqua quart ALL RIGHT JAN 25th; an aqua half gallon VICTORY (encircled by dates) (reverse: PACIFIC GLASS-WORK SAN FRANCISCO); an aqua quart NEW VACUUM FRUIT JAR; a clear quart GOLDEN STATE (original two piece metal lid - double groove on jar lip); a clear quart GOLDEN STATE Improved version; and a light aqua quart BELLERJEAU'S / SIMPLICITY / FRUIT JAR / PAT<sub>d</sub> MAR 31<sup>ST</sup> 1868 (repaired mouth; rare form of a scarce jar; only one example known with narrow mouth; Bill Dudley referred him to it at a sale).



Rick Lease displayed a yellow ware quart wax sealer DEC. 2 1856 (E. Bennett's patent). It took him a very long time to find a lid for this jar. The patent number is

16139. The edge is unglazed so wax would adhere to it.



Jim Sears displayed a jar that he grabbed from his boxes of sales table jars. He displayed a clear quart THE VACUUM FRUIT JAR PATENTED NOV. 1 1904 (there was a cardboard sealing disc; this was probably a packer jar).



Gary Moore displayed a clear half pint JUNE 23 1903. The jar was oval shaped with a metal lid. The patent belonged to Landsberger, who was

friends with Alex Kerr and Charles Brady. Landsberger licensed the patent to Kerr to make fruit jars and to Hazel-Atlas to make packer jars.

### Talk on Labeled Product Jars

Friday, July 8th, 12:00pm



Tom Caniff gave a seminar on product jars that had original labels. Tom got started collecting when he saw Bob Villamagna's labeled medicine bottles (lots of details were present on the labels). Most labels do not survive, because they get washed off. Food packing companies put home canning jars into use for their products, because the housewife could reuse the jar for home canning after the contents had been emptied. Tom told us that Elmer Lester had a really big collection of labeled jars, and he was getting out of the hobby when Tom started.

Tom displayed paneled berry bottles (an early type of product jar). Many of these bottles have pontil marks. Some have turned up from mud flats in San Francisco, California. Tom showed an

example in aqua that had a badly deteriorated label for Wm. Davis / Boston / Peaches.

Tom displayed an aqua quart Millville Atmospheric (from mid 1860's) with a label for Githens & Rexasmer / Pickled Oysters / Phila.

Tom displayed an aqua quart unembossed jar with a G.E. Haller glass stopper (from early 1870's) with a label for Githens & Rexasmer / Pickled Oysters / Phila.



Tom displayed an aqua quart Lafayette (script) (circa 1884 - 1885) with a label that had black lettering for the name of the packer (different ink than rest of label) (typically fades out first) and other lettering that indicated Queen Olives.

Tom displayed a clear quart THE DANDY (base: Gilberts) (circa 1885) with a label for E.K. Pond Packing Co. / Chicago / Lamb's



## Meeting Minutes, cont'd

Tongues. There were many vertical cuts in the label, so it would wrap around the jar). There was lots of wording on the label.



Tom displayed a clear quart PERFECTION with a label for Globe Pickle Co. / St. Louis / Mustard.

Tom displayed an aqua quart COHANSEY (circa 1888) with a label for Perfect Brand Syrup / Wm. T. Reynolds / Poughkeepsie NY.



Tom displayed an aqua quart SUN (circa 1890) with a label for Palace Brand Mince Meat / H. Levi & Co. S.F.

Tom displayed a clear quart CALCUTT'S with a label for H. G. Derby & Co. N.Y. / Lamb's Tongues.



Tom displayed an aqua quart COLUMBIA with a label for Hammond's / Lambs' Tongues / Hammond, Ind.

Tom displayed an aqua quart DOOLITTLE SELF-SEALER (circa 1900) (made by Gilchrist Glass Co.) with a label for J.T. Pillman / Mass. / Lemon Pie Filling.

Tom displayed a clear quart Schram Automatic Sealer B with a label for Black Raspberries / F. Crowfoot / Madawan MI.

Tom displayed an aqua quart Everlasting Jar (west coast, circa 1894) with a label

for Lewis Packing Co. / Red Rose Brand Mixed Pickles.



Tom displayed a clear quart McCarty Vacuum (with milkglass stopper) with a label for Flaccus Mustard.

Tom displayed an aqua pint MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30th 1858 (machine-made) (circa 1907) with a label for EXWACO / Prepared Mustard. The label showed the ingredients, which dates the label after the time of the 1906 Food Act.



Tom displayed a light aqua quart OSOTITE (circa 1915) with a label for Prairie Brand Pickles / Wm. Henning Co.

Tom displayed a clear quart Eureka (circa 1920) (made by Pennsylvania Glass Co., West Dunbar, West Virginia) with a label for Ontario Brand Pickles / Great Lakes Pickle Co.

### Non-Ball Indiana Jars Discussion Group

Friday, July 8th, 2:00pm



Jean Harbron moderated a discussion group regarding fruit jars made in Indiana but not by the Ball Brothers Company. There were many obscure Indiana glass houses due to the abundant supply of natural gas in the decade just before 1900.

Jean told us that she had done quite a bit of research for Dick Roller with respect to the Pennsylvania Glass Co. of Anderson, Indiana, and the

## Meeting Minutes, cont'd

Sterling Glass Co. of Lapel, Indiana. Jean interviewed Robert Warfield, Jr. in 1999, and this provided many details about the factory history.

Dave Rittenhouse displayed an SCA quart Mason (looped underline) (octagon neck); a deep bluish aqua quart Star Glass Co. New Albany Ind.; an aqua half gallon PORT MASON'S PATENT NOV 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858; a clear quart STAR (same jar style as THE LEADER); a yellow amber quart SAFETY (dug in Richmond, Indiana twenty years ago - Dave said the diggers sold stuff as soon as they got it to buy beer!)



Jim Sears displayed the following jars (all ground lip): a green half gallon The Marion Jar MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858 (star on base - lines crossing); a green quart The Marion Jar MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858 (star on base - outline); a green pint, quart and half gallon The Marion Jar MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858; a green pint MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858 (star on base - outline) (not enough room to put "The Marion Jar"); a deep aqua pint MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858 (triangle on

base - no "Marion", but probably related); an aqua half gallon MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858 (MFJBCo on base); an aqua half gallon (triangle on base, and jar characteristics similar to MFJBCo).



Joe Coulson displayed an aqua half gallon DICTATOR HOLLWEG & REESE.

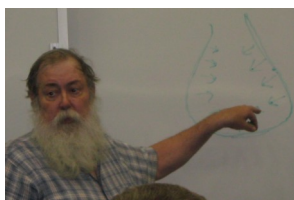
Lois Henderson showed an old picture of a glass factory float for a parade. A friend who does historical research identified the house in the picture as being in Yorktown, Indiana.

Lou Ebert provided a listing of all of the Grant County jar factories. There were over 100 glass factories of all kinds in this area.

(Footnote: ran out of time for individual jar photos).

### Solid Pour Exhibit

Friday, July 8th, 3:00pm



All the known solid pour fruit jars were brought together for the first time ever in an exhibit. Dick Cole gave a talk about why these are such scarce items, and how difficult they are to make.

Don Burkett displayed an aqua quart MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858.



Jeff Klingler displayed an aqua quart MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858 (heel: UGCo). Gene Rice originally bought this jar from an auction at the site of the Union Glass Co. plant. Gene sold it to Mason Bright. Mason sold it to another gentleman who owned it for 18 years. Jeff bought it from this person. Supposedly they were used as door stops in the factory.



Jeff Klingler also displayed an aqua quart Ball MASON'S PATENT (this style of jar

would have been machine-made). Mason Bright bought this jar from Alice Creswick many years ago. Jeff bought the jar from Mason.

Russ Crupe displayed a deep "Atlas blue" quart - ATLAS- MASON PATENT.



Bruce Schank displayed a teal pint Ball (3-L) MASON. Don Burkett had originally bought this jar from an antique shop south of Findlay, Ohio. Supposedly the jar had been there for years. Bruce bought the jar from Don.



Rick Lease displayed a clear "tea cup". It was sold to him as a "paperweight". It might be an Anchor Hocking piece.

Ron Ashby displayed several partial solid pours: a clear Premium Coffeyville; a clear Schram Automatic Sealer B; and an aqua quart -ATLAS-STRONG SHOULDER MASON (his Dad bought this jar in Blackwell, Oklahoma).



## Meeting Minutes, cont'd



Jim Sears displayed an aqua pint Ball (3-L) IMPROVED / MASON'S PATENT / 1858 (base: 4); and an aqua pint MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858. Jim also displayed a part of a solid pour (broken piece) that was dug at the site of the Whitney Glass Works (part of MASON'S PATENT is visible... -NT ... -th)



Dave Rittenhouse displayed a clear quart Model Mason. This jar came from the Phil Robinson Museum.

Dick Cole displayed an acrylic plastic solid pour (or maybe a model piece) which had P4511 Ball (open loop logo) on the base.

Dick Cole then talked about the physics behind the annealing of glass. The outer surface would cool first. Dick brought spiral strands of clear glass with tiny seed bubbles in

them. These were made in a Ball pilot plant in Muncie. Ball did not shut down the furnace in its glass factory. The glass would dribble out into a bucket of cool water. Only 1 of 1,000 strands did not shatter.



Dick told us he had once talked to the guy at Ball who was responsible for making the Ball ® Mason drinking mugs. The mugs were extremely well annealed. He knew that most people during normal usage would run the mugs through dishwashing machines many times, so they had to be sturdy. Dick said that this guy dropped one on the floor as a demonstration to show it would not break.

Dick took one of the spiral glass strands that he brought and told us that he had "hands of steel" and crushed the strand into powder before our very eyes. Actually, he had only snapped it although his hand gestures suggested he was crushing it, and the forces inside the glass (under pressure due to the unusual rapid annealing in the water bucket) caused it to shatter. Tiny pieces could be seen on the floor, and some pieces traveled across the room. If it had been an actual jar, the

explosion would have been very dangerous. A few solid pour jars have been known to explode when set down too hard, etc.

### Jelly Jammers Club Meeting

**Saturday, July 9th, 10:00am**



Anne Szopa (vice president & club secretary) led this event due to Pat Van Dyke (club president) being unavailable.

Margaret asked for input on content to add to the Jelly Jammers Journal. Someone suggested added brief bios of club members (what they collect, etc.).



A Jam Session is planned for Saturday, October 15th, the day before the Findlay, Ohio Bottle Show. There will probably be another Jam Session in April 2012 at Phyllis Pahlmann's house in Chapin, Illinois. A field trip to the Glass Museum in Dunkirk, Indiana is being planned in conjunction with the July 2012 Muncie Show. Margaret showed everyone a new "wand scanner" device. It is small and portable and can be easily taken with you when you travel. Several club members brought jelly glasses for show and tell.

### MAFJBC Fruit Jar Get-Together

**Saturday, July 9th, 1:30pm**

Club Vice President Dick Cole opened the meeting and welcomed a full room of people. Dick mentioned that club president Dave Rittenhouse could not attend the first part of this meeting due to his work schedule.

Dick asked Joe Coulson to read the announcement (email from Doug Leybourne) about Alice Creswick passing away.

A motion was made to have the club donate one hundred dollars towards the expenses of the July Fruit Jar Round Up. The motioned was seconded and passed by all in attendance. A fruit jar was also passed around so that people could donate additional money for this event.

## Meeting Minutes, cont'd

Dick asked everyone if they had seen a Penley fruit jar? Dick said that no Penley jars made it into production. He said that the jars may or may not have embossing. He will see them next week and report back his findings on this recent discovery.

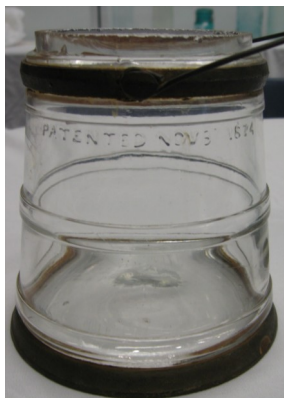
Tom Caniff asked that everyone recognize Jerry McCann and Barry Bernas for their recent efforts in producing an updated Standard Fruit Jar Reference. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for a full book review.

Dick Bere was asked to be in charge of the record-keeping for the auction to be held after the Get-Together show and tell.

Tom Caniff started the show and tell. Tom displayed a clear quart Gilchrist (glass cap: Patented April 12th 1914). This jar is a new find. It has the RAG monogram (base: Patented). A zinc cap will not screw on it. The jar has a ground lip.



Tom shared another new find. The jar was a clear barrel-style jar (like the Adams & Co.). It had a ground mouth, and it was embossed PATENTED NOV 3 1874 just below an upper metal band. The jar had two metal bands (upper and lower). The upper metal band had a bail handle attached to it.



Jeff Harper told the story about how Ball Brothers sold steel scrap from making metal bands for \$25 a ton. C. Carry Cloud made Cracker Jack prizes for thirty years. Mr. Cloud bought scrap metal from Ball Brothers. Jeff displayed a "Daffy Dollar" Cracker Jack prize that was made during World War II. Ball eventually raised the price of their scrap metal, so the Cracker Jack prizes were made of paper or plastic ever since.



Joe Coulson displayed a Ball blue 40 ounce Ball (dropped a) IMPROVED fruit jar with an original paper label for FRUJAR Coffee.



Joe also displayed a clear quart Butterfly Collection jar. This was one of the popular 2010 Christmas gifts. The jar contained an animated butterfly. After tapping the lid on the jar the butterfly would fly around for several seconds, pause, then fly around some more (very realistic looking). This gift item was made by the Gemmy company (based in Germany).



Ron Ashby displayed an aqua quart Excelsior; an aqua quart New Patent National Self Sealing Can; a trade card for The Mason jars of Coffeyville; an 1873 postcard from New York picturing an early 1858 jar with an SMS lid; and two wooden models of coffee jars (showing finish / style / design - base HA - probably Hazel Atlas).

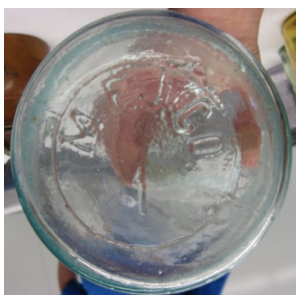


Don Burkett displayed an aqua quart F&A Mason's Jar Patented 1876. This jar was on Don's "10 most wanted" list for years. There are only two known, and the other is in a museum. Don also displayed an amber quart "snowflake" jar (rare color); an SCA pint "Christmas Mason" (rare color); and a green pint MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858 (smooth lip).



## Meeting Minutes, cont'd

Lou Ebert displayed an aqua half gallon wax sealer (base: M.F.J.Co.). This jar is unlisted in the half gallon size.



Greg Spurgeon displayed a wooden patent model for an "Improved Fruit Jar". The paper tag indicated that E.B. Whitmore was the inventor. The model included a rare original closure.



Russ Crupe told us about a recent find. He was shopping at the Heart of Ohio antique mall. Rick Lease showed him two things in one of the showcases. The lady at the mall was fumbling to find the keys for the showcase.

Russ was worried he would have to break in. The prize was a clear wide mouth lid embossed THE HAZEL

(these lids are normally milk-glass).



Rick Lease displayed a clear tiny jar embossed SCHOLLER BROS with an unusual closure.



Bruce Schank talked about the details of his recent "Mission Impossible" story (it appeared in the Glass Chatter). Bruce displayed an amber swirled half gallon Ball (3-L) MASON (darkest half gallon jar of this style known).

Dick Cole displayed a clear pint Ball El Monte (upside down jar) (base: Happy Retirement / Bill Richardson / 33 Yrs. / 1955-1988). This jar

is an unlisted retirement special run.

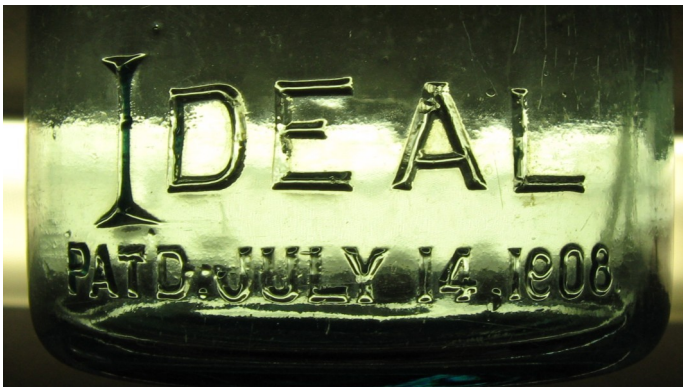


Marianne Dow thanked everyone for donating their time, money and effort for the weekend's events. She also thanked everyone for participating. She said that we will do it again next July. You can reserve your hotel rooms for 2012 now. Marianne also mentioned the Findlay, Ohio Bottle Show on October 16th.





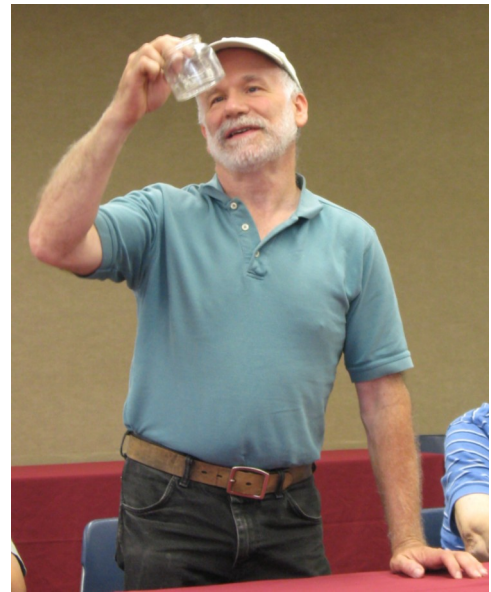
## Pictures from Full Patent Date Discussion Group



Aqua quart All Right



Half gallon Pacific Glass Work



Gary Moore shows an oval Landsberger product jar



Line-up of jars shown during the full patent date group discussion



## Pictures from Talk on Labeled Product Jars



Aqua quart COLUMBIA



Aqua quart SUN



SCA quart PERFECTION



Aqua quart Lafayette



Aqua quart Millville



Berry Bottle



Aqua quart COHANSEY



Clear quart OSOTITE



## Pictures from Solid Pour Exhibit





## Pictures from Show and Tell



Amber quart Tudor Rose



Green pint Mason's Patent



SCA pint "Christmas" Mason



Olive Amber swirled Ball Mason



Hazel Atlas wooden design jar models



Beardsley's Peanut Butter

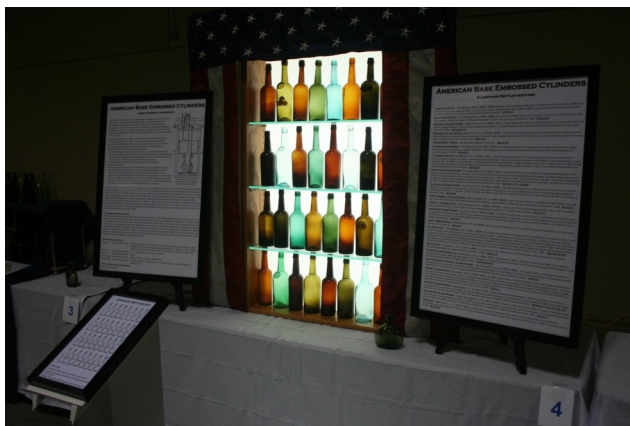


Colorful Canning Jar Poster



## FOHBC Memphis Bottle Show Pictures (June 26th)

Jim Durr shared the following photos he took of exhibits at the recent National Bottle Show in Memphis, Tennessee.





## LEGENDS OF THE JAR!

[Editor's Note: This article is a result of long time collector and author Bruce W. Schank reaching out to long time collector Dick Bere.]

There comes a time in everyone's life when they actually get a chance to meet someone who is really rather special. Actually in my humble opinion, this person is extraordinary to say the least. I haven't known Dick for very long but after spending the entire day with him, seeing his fabulous collection and hearing from others about his life and personal passions, I agree that he is somewhat remarkable. And mind you, it is not because he is a former President of The Kroger Co, the largest food retailer in the country bar none. It is because he unselfishly gives of his money, time and energy to benefit the least of those in Cincinnati, OH.

Incredibly, instead of sitting on his laurels and living the good life, Dick has spent the major portion of the last decade driving to downtown Cincinnati to a place he helped get started; "Crayons to Computers" (C2C), a non-profit organization that benefits poor inner city children and teachers who do



everything within their power to educate those same children. C2C was the original model for a nationwide network of Teacher Free Stores that have one simple Mission: "To serve the educational and imaginative needs of children in The Greater Cincinnati area by providing a unique means to transfer donated, value purchased product, and created product from businesses and individuals free to teachers for use in their classrooms and schools". Since it was founded in 1997, C2C has given away over \$80 million in free school supplies. The only thing asked of the teachers is that they or their students write thank you notes to the donors.



Take my word for it when I tell you that Dick has a tremendous fruit jar collection among other fabulous collectibles that, simply put, would turn any collectors head. Just looking at all of the wonderful jars as well as the other collectibles he has amassed and how he has displayed everything, you can immediately tell he has an incredible passion for many different hobbies, notably fruit jars. Yet, he also has a deep burning inner passion to help poor inner city children have the opportunity to get properly educated, and thus have every chance to be as successful as humanly possible. Let's face it, a daunting challenge to say the least, but a very noble one indeed. I will also freely admit right here and now, my sheer inadequacy in terms of what this man has done for others and my lack thereof.



Another look at the inside of the Store.

Crayons to Computers is fortunate to have several hundred "family" volunteers who come in at least once a week to stock the store, sort product, help teachers shop in the afternoons and do whatever other tasks that may be needed. C2C has a small staff and relies on volunteers to do most of the work. It gets no government funding. For more complete information on C2C, visit the website at [Crayons2Computers.org](http://Crayons2Computers.org)

Dick has managed to use his former business and professional contacts to get companies to donate product, equipment, and financial help to this worthy cause. He states that he

Phil Smith, notable jar collector and recent donator in the store.



has become good at begging. He also has worked very hard in the warehouse and store setting up racking, shelving, unloading trucks, stocking the store and cataloging what has been donated by various donors. For some reason, you might think you are in a Kroger store without perishables. His guidelines to the many volunteers are that when they get done restocking the store, it should be in grand opening condition.

When I arrived at Dick's home, the first thing I saw at the front entrance was a very nice hand painted sign with fruit jars on it given to him by a friend. This time I brought my better half with me so she could get a bird's eye view of what I see and do when getting these stories. To say she was impressed with Dick and his collections is an understatement to say the least. Dick took a real liking to my wife, Glenna Mae (who wouldn't?) At one point, while she was looking at a coffee table book, Dick decided to give it to her as a gift. Dick's generosity knows no bounds.



Adjacent warehouse full of donated articles.



Dick was born north of Dayton Ohio in a little town with a population of just over 300 people at the time of his birth. He's not at all sure whether he was born in a hospital or in the farm house. His mother was a school teacher and didn't get hired until the war broke out because a married teacher couldn't be hired back then. He went to Olive Branch H.S. and graduated from Ohio State University. While working on his doctorate, Dick was approached about an opportunity at Kroger by his advisor who had spent six weeks with a summer fellowship. Dick wanting to change from the academic field to the business field, and having already done some research work for Kroger, asked his advisor to call some of his Kroger people and tell them he knew of a bright young fellow in Columbus who they should hire.

So he interviewed believing he did fairly well on the test. He was called back numerous times and finally someone from the general office in Cincinnati interviewed him. Then he interviewed with the top people from the general office and they finally offered him a job. After starting work he asked the assistant personnel manager what took them so long to hire him and he said, "We didn't know what to do with a guy with a PhD degree and wondered why he would want to work for Kroger."



It was while Dick was working already at Kroger that he received his degree. Incredibly he started out as a carry out boy in a store in Columbus with a PhD. While working one day in the produce department a fellow he graduated with came by while Dick was standing by a food rack with his dirty apron on. All that guy could do while turning his head numerous times in Dick's direction was shake it as he moved on. Dick had a great career with Kroger and doesn't regret one moment spent with them.

Dick's meteoric rise in Kroger to the top spot as President was not overnight by any means. He was transferred a lot to different locations and each transfer was to a better position. He also claims he had some guardian angels in the front office looking out for him. Dick told me besides the lack of candidates at the time, and the fact he was qualified for the position while running a southern division for Kroger,

that he really wanted to retire. He was called into the front office in Cincinnati and met with the CEO at the time and asked not to retire yet. A few weeks later he received an offer to come to Cincinnati as a regional VP and then a few years later he was promoted to President.



Fabulous wax sealer wall display.



Dick first became interested in fruit jars while on a sales trip. He went into an antique store in which there was a Hoosier cabinet. On top of it was a queen jar and he bought it. Dick claims he paid way too much for it, but that was the trigger that got him started on the endless merry-go-round we call fruit jar collecting. So in the beginning Dick collected everything and anything as most new collectors do. He eventually limited it to quarts and now buys only good quarts that he finds and that he doesn't already have and is a good example. He has sold off all of his cheaper jars, although he does not like to use the term "cheaper" because all jars have value and are basically important to the hobby. He stills has many full sets of half gallons, quarts, and pints that he really likes and decided they should stay put.

Dick claims no favorite jar per-say but he says he does especially enjoy both of his

cobalt Canton jars, the domestic and the electric. As I walked around Dick's home, I was astonished at not only how many jars he had but the overall quality in his collection. I found it quite fascinating how he displayed many of his jars using different nooks and crannies around the home and how efficiently and ingeniously he used all available wall space that could be had.

Although a Ball collector, I was unaware that Dick had been honored by The Kroger Co. who commissioned Ball Corporation to make two clear quart jars depicting his history with Kroger plus Dazell/Viking to make an amber pint with his caricature and name on it. Dick's image also graces both Ball jars. I was astonished to see he had the two moulds used by Ball Corporations on display. According to Dick, two jars were made because they couldn't fit everything about him on one jar alone. Dick had some famous expressions he used (such as dumb S#%\*) for some of his associates when they did something dumb. So, on one quart is DS which is short for that terminology which Dick said was used on him as much as he used it.

Also, while at Kroger, Dick was against double



Unusual wall display of really nice fruit jars.



Rare one-of-a-kind Ball Corporation moulds of two Dick Bere Commemorative jars.



coupons although they were spread out across the company. On one of the jars is a coupon with an X through it representing Dick's displeasure with them. At least half of Dick's thirty eight years with Kroger were spent in the fruit and vegetable area.

For some reason I had thought that Ball Corporation only made these commemorative jars for their employees, but there were these two jars with the moulds for everyone to see and a testimony to Dick's character as a very special person indeed. This also tells me that he is without a doubt an uncommon person for sure. My personal take is that Dick is a very humble, low key, incredibly intelligent man whose very presence has made a huge difference wherever he has been. I'm grateful I was able to get his story

and see his wonderful collection of jars and other fantastic memorabilia.

Dick has enjoyed collecting fruit jars for over 40 years continually upgrading his way to what his collection is today. He claims he knows he pays too much

for the rarer jars but figures he is just a caretaker for these jars until he dies. Dick considers some people in the hobby as



Two Ball made Commemorative jars RB #s 381.5 & 382.

his best friends and never has gone to a show where he has not learned more about different jars and the hobby. Every jar is different and that is what makes it fun, he told me. He especially misses Norm Barnett and Jim Chamberlin who he bought many jars from over the years.



Bed Room cabinet full of rare, scarce and fabulous colored fruit jars.





Rare colored Balll Mason & rare So. Jersey Pogue jar.



Fantastic colored and rare fruit jars.



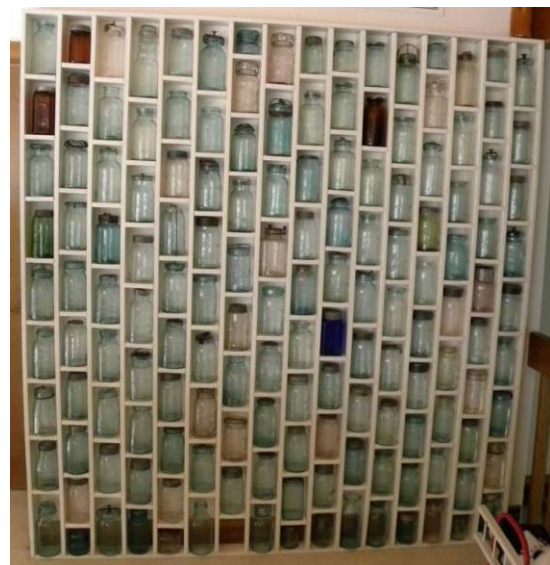
Fabulous antique desk with angels Dick's wife collected.



Nice Jar Sets of HG, Qt & Pts.



Very nice Lightning fruit jars.



Another wall of very nice fruit jars.



## Review: Standard Fruit Jar Reference 2011

In 1983, fruit jar columnist and researcher Dick Roller finally was able to offer his 394-page STANDARD FRUIT JAR REFERENCE to the collectors who had waited patiently for its publication. The S.F.J.R. was the largest, most-up-to-date fruit jar information source available, and its abundance of jar information had been painstakingly accumulated through years of research. It was the Holy Grail to information-hungry fruit jar collectors.

A couple years before his death in 1998, Dick Roller arranged with Jerry McCann, of Chicago, for an update of the STANDARD FRUIT JAR REFERENCE, setting guidelines as to what could be added or reformatted.

Jerry, with the help of glass researcher and writer Barry Bernas, of Gettysburg, Pa., spent immeasurable hours compiling jar data new since the 1983 publishing, finding some replacement photos, and generally rearranging the S.F.J.R. into a tome of 854 attractive, easy-to-read pages, over twice as long as the original, a veritable encyclopedia of fruit jars and their history.

Aside from chapters on Canning History, Patents & Trademarks, Fruit Jar Pioneers, Company Histories, a Comprehensive Fruit Jar History, and a comprehensive jar listing, as included in the original, volume new Appendices have been added on Atlas Mini-Banks, Go-Withs, Oversize Jars,

Solid Pour Jars, Fruit Tin Cans, Cohansey Packer and or Proprietor Jars, and much more. There are also many more photos and graphics than in the original S.F.J.R.

The well-bound, hard-cover STANDARD FRUIT JAR REFERENCE 2011 is considerably more expensive than the original, at \$275, but this doesn't seem unreasonable, considering the volume of photos, graphic, and text. In proportion, the price of the new fruit jar bible has probably risen less than the price of gasoline. In November 2006, five bidders on eBay, kicked a 1983 copy of the S.F.J.R. up to an impressive \$575 winning bid, showing the value that some collectors placed even on the then 23-year-old S.F.J.R.

There are admittedly some typographical and other errors that the gremlins managed to squeeze into the book, but with a work of this size this is almost inevitable, especially considering that only two people, however dedicated, did almost all of the work. Updates done on computer copies are a relative breeze any more, but the original S.F.J.R. wasn't compiled on a computer, and transcribing the original to computer, just to begin the update, was a Herculean task in itself.

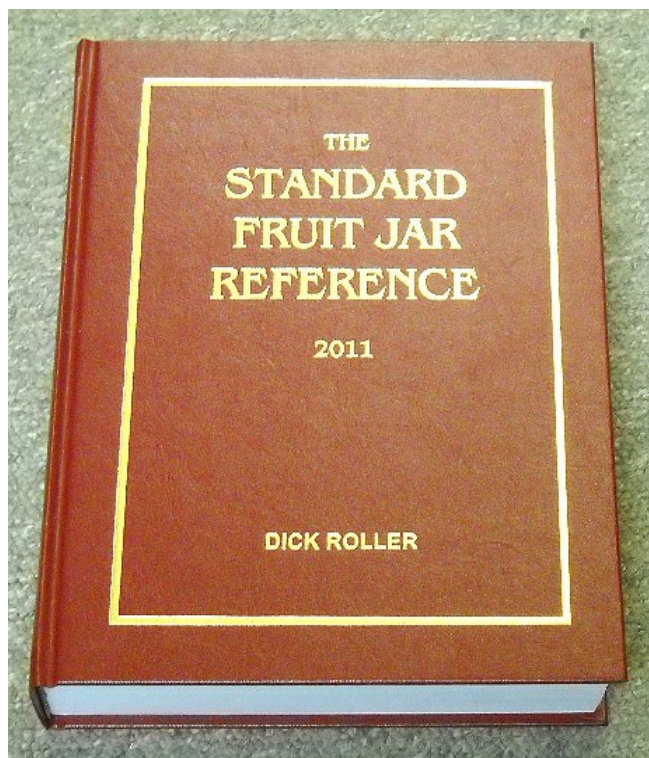
Whether your budget restricts you to jars in the five-to-ten-dollar range or you are able to pursue the more expensive rarities, if you seriously enjoy fruit jar collecting, this book is a must. Maybe it could be your Christmas pre-

sent to yourself; aren't you worth it? Knowledge is power, whether in making an informed decision on buying a coveted jar, figuring out if your newly found jar variation is known and recorded, or just in discussing jars -- from Ball Perfect Masons to cobalt-blue 1858s -- with other collectors.

I think collectors owe a debt of gratitude to Dick Roller, Jerry McCann, and Barry Bernas for making this stupendous fruit jar work available to collectors.

Published by the Fruit Jar Annual/Phoenix Press, the STANDARD FRUIT JAR REFERENCE 2011 may be ordered from Jerry McCann, 5003 West Berwyn Ave., Chicago, IL 60630. Email: [fjar@aol.com](mailto:fjar@aol.com). Phone: 1-773-777-0443. Price is \$275, plus \$10 shipping.

--Tom Caniff



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Lois Henderson shared this piece of local history. It is an old photo of a glass factory float. The photo is believed to have been taken in Yorktown, Indiana. It is not yet known which glass company is represented here.

## Announcements

- The next club meeting will take place at Minnetrista in the Cantina room at 1:30pm on Sunday, October 2nd. The theme for Show and Tell will be Colored Half Gallon jars.
- Future club meeting Show and Tell themes: November 6th, Shipping Containers and Box Ends; and December 4th, Our Annual Christmas Party. An up-to-date list is always available on the club website.

