

# Historical Glass Museum

January 2026 Volume 10 Issue 1



## Museum Location:

1157 Orange Street  
Redlands, California  
909-798-0868

## Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 9195  
Redlands, CA 92375-2395



The Museum has a page on Facebook, for those who like to indulge in social media. Search for REDLANDS HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM

## Keeping in Touch

Things have been moving along at a crisp pace at the Museum during the past few months. We had 111 visitors in November, then jumped to 86 visitors in December.

### GIFT SHOP NEWS

Sales have been brisk in the Gift Shop, with \$1,722 in sales in November, and \$1,155 in December; January numbers not yet available.



**30% Off Jan 31 – Feb 15**

The Gift Shop is having a Valentine Sale, with 30% off through February 15. Our inventory reduction sales are a great way to find personal treasures or gifts throughout the year. Check the web site and this newsletter for announcements.

### LANDSCAPING

During December, when growth is fairly dormant, the Museum grounds were disturbed by a revamp of our irrigation system, which was very much in need of repairs (actually, replacement). We can now expect the grounds to look much better when Spring arrives. This is just one example of the routine expenses that arise when operating a Museum. We are thankful for generous donations that keep us operational.

## WELCOME STUDENTS



On Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, a group of fifteen (15) visited the glass museum. They were from the History Club at San Bernardino Valley College. The history club had visited us previously, and they liked it so much they returned. After the museum introduction, they did a self-guided tour with docents Kathi, Jacque and Connie available to point out important items and answer questions. We encouraged them to write articles for us to use in our newsletter and volunteer when available. The visit was enjoyed by everyone and we sold a number of items in our gift shop. All in all, a great time!

(Picture used with the group's permission.)

# Hughes Corn Flower: An Elegant Canadian Tradition

By Walter Lemiski M.A.

The founder of the W.J. Hughes Corn Flower Company, William John Hughes, was born in Dufferin County, Ontario in the early 1880's. As a young man he was employed by Roden Brothers silversmiths of Toronto in the 1890's. Fortunately for him and for glass collectors, when that firm expanded their lines to include cut lead glass Hughes was asked to learn the art of cutting.

Starting in 1912, he began to experiment at his home with his own original "grey" cut glass patterns (shallower cuts on lighter glass). In 1914, Hughes left Roden Brothers to devote himself full time to producing and selling Corn Flower glass. As can be seen in the closeup below, the Hughes Corn Flower pattern is distinctive with its petalled flower and grid like interior. Care was taken to maintain the integrity of the pattern throughout the three quarters of a century of production life.



The hand-cutting of Corn Flower was done in a five step process:

1. "Spotting" - marking out the positioning of the flowers with dash-like cuts
2. "Six-siding" and "stemming" - the interior grid-like design of authentic Corn Flower forms hexagonal patterns; graceful arching stems also were cut in this stage
3. "Leafing" - distinctive leaves formed with a pair of elongated semi-circles that end in a point
4. "Petalling" - a series of shallow cuts usually forming twelve petals, however this number did vary when space was restricted on smaller surfaces. On items with very little room a Corn Flower bud design was used
5. "Fringing" or "nicking" - the tips of the petals were decorated with a series of small cut lines.

Identification of the glass blanks that the Hughes Corn Flower Company used proves to be no mean feat since their glass was imported from many different firms over the years. Prior to World War II the lion's share of glass was ordered from the United States. The companies included were Cambridge, New Martinsville, Louie, Fostoria, Imperial, Duncan and Miller, Indiana, West Virginia Glass Specialty, and Mid-Atlantic Glass Companies.

With the onset of WWII American glass became more difficult for the Hughes Corn Flower Company to import. Even after the war, in the mid-1940's, glass manufacturers in the States could not keep up with the rebound in domestic demand, let alone supply the Canadian market. The Hughes' were forced to look elsewhere and therefore turned to Europe to take up the slack for mouth-blown glassware. European glass was imported from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, Rumania, and Sweden. Importing from Europe also was not without its challenges. Quality, quantity and timely delivery were all matters of concern for the Hughes Corn Flower Company.



West Virginia Glass Specialty Co.

The most constant source of glass blanks for Corn Flower over the years was the Imperial Glass Company, established in 1901, in Bellaire, Ohio. Imperial's Line #400, best known as Candlewick, was a favourite medium for the Hughes Corn Flower cut. Introduced in 1936, this line flourished until the closure of the Imperial Glass Company in 1986. Three main reasons exist for the long working relationship that Corn Flower enjoyed with Imperial. First of all, the quality of Candlewick in its consistency and clarity made it excellent for cutting. Secondly, the number of items in this huge line of blanks, numbering some three hundred in all over the years, gave a fine selection of pieces with ample smooth surface area for working. Lastly the Candlewick line was in production for an astoundingly long period of time, fifty years. Ed Kleiner, the Imperial Glass Company's sales representative for Canada through to the mid-1950's, stated that only once in his career did he receive an order for an entire boxcar-load of Candlewick - that order was shipped to Hughes Corn Flower Limited.

(continued on page 4)



Valentine's Day is coming.

The Historical Glass Museum  
is having a 30% off sale  
in our Gift Shop  
January 31 through February 15



Come see us at: 1157 Orange Street  
Redlands, CA 92374  
Phone: 909-798-0868

Open Hours: Saturday/Sunday Noon – 4PM  
Clearance sale of collectible glass donated for our Gift Shop  
Entrance in rear. Parking in back or on Western Ave

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS ...

The following people donated glass and/or other items since the last newsletter.

### CASH DONATIONS:

#### November 2025

\$500 Wendy Steelhammer

#### December 2025

\$220 David & Linda Adams

#### January 2026

\$65 Tom and Linda Keenan

\$300 Lucretia Irving

### NON-CASH DONATIONS

#### November

Karla Trospen

Bill Summers

David & Linda Adams

#### December

Amy Siegfried

#### January

Teresa Peterson

Bill Summers

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of these donors for their generosity.



Motorists speeding through the Midtown Hudson Tunnel (Ed note: Lincoln Tunnel) will travel under the *largest glass ceiling in the world*, it became known yesterday. **Eight hundred thousand glass tiles**, each six inches square, will go into the ceiling. They will be of cream color and stippled to eliminate glare and improve lighting, according to officials of the Port of New York Authority.

Installation of the tile under a process recently patented by the Sealed Joint Products Company is expected by tunnel engineers to save the Authority large sums in cleaning and painting costs. In the past such large-scale installation of overhead glass has been considered impracticable because of the danger that the constant rumbling of traffic would shake the glass loose from its concrete base.

The new process, which involves the use of metal frames, from which the glass can be extracted at will, was subjected to exhaustive tests by Port Authority technicians and pronounced "eminently satisfactory." When a call for bids on contracts was issued, glass was found to be cheaper than ceramic tile and the **Macbeth-Evans Company of Charleroi, Pa.**, was authorized to provide the stippled glass tile and the grippers to hold it at a cost of 86 cents per square foot. Officials estimated that the contract would total about \$160,000. A payment of \$15,000 was made to the Sealed Joint Company, of which George J. Atwell is president, for use of the patent.

Placement of the glass is expected to begin in February or March. The tunnel, which will link Manhattan and Weehawken, is slated for completion by Jan. 1, 1938.

**(Cornflower – continued from page 2)**

The business had started on a rather small scale. Indeed for most of the first thirty-some years the production of Corn Flower was done from the basement of the family's home. W.J. Hughes would receive barrel shipment of glass, cut the glass, and then go on the road to sell and deliver the product to various outlets. The retailers of Corn Flower included china and gift shops, jewellers and major department stores such as Eatons and Simpsons. Customers could also visit the showroom at the house to purchase available items. Through the thirties and most of the forties Hughes Corn Flower kept a handful of cutters busy producing their trademark glassware. In 1945, Phillip "Pete" Kayser, W.J. Hughes' son-in-law, started to work part-time for the firm [he had married W.J.'s daughter Lois]. By 1951, it was Pete who was running the business. The company's growth from that time on was astounding. By the early fifties, sixteen cutters were on staff at the Kenwood Avenue factory. At the height of the Hughes Corn Flower Company's production there were no fewer than thirty cutters, and in all some eighty staff, employed at the company's Tycos Drive plant.

Thousands upon thousands of households right across Canada have cherished Corn Flower for generations. Many are the stories of Canadians who remember saving to buy pieces of this lovely glassware, being given Corn Flower as a present on special occasions, or having had it handed down to them as a family heirloom. The longevity of this beautiful glassware, in production for three quarters of a century from 1912 to 1988, in itself serves as a tribute to the Hughes Corn Flower Company. W.J. Hughes Corn Flower is indeed a truly amazing Canadian success story.

*Editor's Note: The late Walter Lemiski was the president of the Canadian Depression Glass Association.*



**Imperial "Candlewick"**



**US Glass Co.**



**Lancaster Glass Co.**



**New Martinsville "Radiance"**



**Central Glass Co.**



**Cambridge Glass Co.**

## Group Tours of the Museum



Weekday group tours for groups of 8 or more visitors are available by appointment. The charge is \$5.00 per person, with a minimum charge of \$40.00.

Use the "Contact Us" link on our web site to make inquiries regarding group tours.

## RESTORATION FUND

The Board of Directors established a Restoration Fund designated to set aside funds for restoration and maintenance of our century-old building.

The current balance in the fund is: **\$2,483.67.**

The Board welcomes cash donations designated for the Restoration Fund. You may also designate "in Memory of" or "in Honor of" with your donation.

Checks should be made out to the Museum, with a note designating the Restoration Fund. Send to:

Historical Glass Museum  
P. O. Box 9195  
Redlands, CA 92375-2395

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members,

As always, it has been busy at the Museum. It takes time, attention and money to maintain a house that is well over 100 years old. Recently we made some simple upgrades to plumbing, added a new tankless instant hot water system, trimmed trees, and installed an upgraded irrigation system.

The hot climate takes a toll on plants, and we are looking at replanting the front and side yards with native and drought-tolerant plants, so that the Museum can look as good as possible. While lush lawns and rose bushes would look lovely, we have to be realistic!

Thank you to our Board members who have overseen and facilitated these projects, and to members who have donated to our Restoration Fund, which pays for the larger projects.

We recently received an offer to completely revamp the Museum's website (which, admittedly, boasts a 1990s-era look and structure) to bring it current and improve its ability to function well on mobile telephones. I hope to have more to share with you on this topic next time.

Come visit us!

*Michael*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Michael Krumme  
**Vice President:** (open)  
**Secretary:** Michael Krumme  
**Treasurer:** Marco Lopez Valderrama(\*)  
**Member:** David Adams  
**Member:** Andy Hoder  
**Member:** Doreen Ward  
**Member:** Barbara Jenks  
**Member:** Kathi Jablonsky  
**Member:** Monica Barragan  
**Member:** William Brakemeyer

(\*) Paid consultant performing some duties of Treasurer

## DOCENTS

Monica Barragan  
Jacque Rocha  
Connie Wheeler  
Bob Crha  
Barbara Jenks  
Koral Ahmet  
Renee Barrette

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We welcome the following new members:

### November:

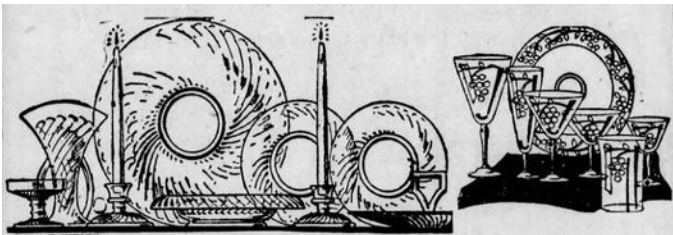
Lori Fuller

### December:

Cynthia Hager  
Mark Gebert  
Jenna Surdzial  
Cheree Aitken

### January:

Sean Torres  
Tom and Linda Keenan  
Jill Spear  
Amy Siegfried



# Half Price Sale Finest Colored Glassware 1/2

Famous Brands, Heisey, Fostoria, Liberty, United States

A great sale of colored glassware—offering amazing values. Such well-known makes as Heisey, Fostoria, Liberty and U. S. Glass Co. are represented in the assortment. Many desirable pieces and in the lowestest colors. All 1/2 price in the stirring B. & M. Sale.

- \$3 LUNCHEON TRAY**—This beautiful tray is of that cool shade of green glass. 16-inch size which makes it ideal for serving. **\$1.50.**
- \$1.50 RELISH DISHES**—Of clear, gleaming crystal glass; combining three compartments; for B. & M. Sale, **75c.**
- \$15 SERVICE PLATES**—Regular dinner plates in special designs and Hawthorne colors. Size 11 inches. Specially priced for B. & M. Sale, **dozen \$7.50.**
- UP TO \$1 ODD PIECES**—Handled bon bon, jelly and lemon dishes, candlesticks, sugar and cream services. Choice, **25c.**
- \$1 ICE TUBS**—Of sparkling green glass in dainty patterns. These are very essential and most attractive; 6-inch size, **40c.**
- \$2.50 CRYSTAL TANKARD**—A tall tankard pitcher of optic crystal. Gracefully shaped and very beautiful; **\$1.25.**
- \$12 GLASS PLATES**—In beautiful Hawthorne colors, size 9-inch. Special, **dozen, \$6.00.**
- \$6 GLASS PLATES**—8-inch size, in Hawthorne colors. Extra special value, **dozen, \$4.00.**
- \$5 GLASS PLATES**—7-inch size, in diamond optic. Special Buyers and Managers Sale, **dozen, \$2.50.**
- \$4 GLASS PLATES**—6-inch flamingo plates, beautiful and distinctive. Extra special, **dozen, \$2.00.**

—Goldsmith's, Fourth Floor

1929 Ad - Memphis, Tennessee

It is always interesting to look at old advertisements, and here are some more, for glass and other amusing topics from the past.



THE ELECTRO-PORTABLE

This latest addition to Heisey's Glassware marks a new and wonderful epoch in the evolution of the Old Colonial Candle Stick. It combines the lighting efficiency of the 20th Century with the charming atmosphere of Great Grandmother Days. Makes an admirable addition to desk, table or dresser. Two sizes—19 inches and 21 inches over all. If your dealer cannot supply this Electro-Portable, we will deliver, prepaid, East of the Mississippi River, the smaller size for \$3.75, the larger size for \$4.75, without shade or bulb; West of the Mississippi River—add 50c. Insist on having this trademark on the glassware you buy—then you have high quality without high price. Our free book contains helpful hints for the Housewife. Write for a copy.

**A. H. HEISEY & CO.**  
DEPT. 67 NEWARK, OHIO

*A Gift Mother will appreciate 365 days of the year!*

See Mother's eyes gleam at this labour-saving gift. She'll thank you every day of the year.

The K. & A. is BETTER because it CAN'T SCRATCH, CAN'T TIP OVER, or leave HEAT MARKS. And it's built to LAST A LIFETIME. Add years to Mother's life—give her the WORLD'S BEST mop bucket—the

**K & A MOP BUCKET**

5 YEARS' GUARANTEE

Obtainable from all good Hardware & Department Stores!

BUTLER BROTHERS, Wholesalers of General Merchandise NEW YORK 45

# Gift Goods

The year-round Gift Goods Section that offers a varied selection of the unusual, attractive inexpensive wares shown on this and the following pages will find business good as long as we have birthdays, weddings anniversaries, etc., to provide year-round occasions for gift giving.

## Beautifully Colored Art Glass

An unusual selection of artistic pieces to retail for \$4.50 to \$6.00 each

Twenty-Five Hand Painted Pieces—Every One Different

1C1477—Hand made, hand decorated pieces, many set off with lines and bands of burnished coin gold, new shapes, new decorative effects. 25 pieces carefully packed in barrel, about 85 lbs. **\$2.50**

(Total for assortment (25 pcs) \$62.50) EACH PIECE

CHAIN STORE AGE MAY, 1928

# HOUEZ X

Glass Products Made to Retail at from 5 cts. to 50 cts.

**HouzeX SNOWITE Bathroom Fixtures**

- Toilet Brush Holder
- Tooth Brush Holder
- Soap Dish
- Towel Rack
- Tumbler Holder

**Forbes Pipe Tray**

**Candlesticks**

**MarbleX Onyx Gear Shift Balls**

**Auto Vases**

**Flat Style Adapters**

**Peanut Trays**

**HouzeX Extension**

**Onyxglax Radiator Balls**

**Tail Light Jewel**

Write for Samples and Prices

**L. J. Houze Convex Glass Co.**

Factory and Main Office, Point Marion, Pa.

New York Office: 110 W. 40th St.

Chicago Office: 536 So. Clark St.

1933 Tiffin Glass Co.