



PORTLAND'S *Rain* OF GLASS, INC.

A non-profit organization formed to stimulate interest in collectible glass and to provide educational resources and events for the members and the community at large.

NOVEMBER

WHERE: Friendship Masonic Center
5626 NE Alameda Street
Portland, Oregon 97213
N.E. 57th & Sandy



WHEN: Tuesday,
November 17, 2009,
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
(Library open at 6:00 p.m.)

GREETERS: Gyrid Hyde-Towle and Dick Towle
(Come early to set up—6:00 p.m.)

SPECIAL: **UGLY GLASS NIGHT!!**

Bring your WORST (or best) piece of UGLY GLASS!! Prizes will be given to the two UGLIEST PIECES of glass. Don't miss out. Win your prize. Bring something truly ugly.



MINI-AUCTION



Join in the fun as PROG hosts its second Mini-Auction. More than 20 pieces of wonderful glass will be auctioned off at the November meeting. Auctioneer and PROG Member Al Carder will host the excitement. Don't miss this chance to bid on a great piece of glass and help support Portland's Rain of Glass!! A few of the auction items are pictured: At top is a carnival pitcher--above is a Viking footed bowl--and at left is a Paden City "Mrs. B" comport.

HOSPITALITY: November
Committee listed on page 2

BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, November 10, 2009,
at the Friendship Masonic Center, 7:00 p.m.
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

1 – Portland's Indoor/Outdoor
Flea Market, 5400 N Lombard,
Portland

6-8 – Tigard Flea Market, 14365
SW Pacific Hwy, Tigard

7-8 – Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market,
Eugene

7-8 – Palmer/Wirfs Puyallup Show,
Puyallup, WA

13-14 – Five & Dime Flea Market &
Antiques, Central Point

15 – Medford Giant Flea Market,
Medford

15 – Salem Collectors Market

27 – Aurora Holiday Open House,
Historic Downtown Aurora

JANUARY

30-31 – **NEW DATE!!!** PROG'S
Glass Show date has changed.
Join PROG members Jan. 30-
31 for the annual Show &
Sale at the Washington County
Fairgrounds.

Visit the Portland's Rain of
Glass Website for more
interesting Club news:

www.rainofglass.com

Mailing Address:
Portland's Rain of Glass
C/O Friendship Masonic
Center, 5626 N.E. Alameda
Street, Portland, OR, 97213



Art Deco, 1920's and World's Fair chocolate boxes

❖ **INSIDE** ❖

Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.

- ◆ Calendar of Events
- ◆ Membership Information
- ◆ Chocolate Boxes ◆ Candy Dish
- Night Review
- ◆ Entertainment Book Sale
- ◆ November Mini-Auction



Heide 1920's box with Apollo Art Deco box

Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.

publishes 12 newsletters a year.

If you would like to contribute an article, contact:

Barbara Coleman at 503-281-1823,

colelee@easystreet.net

AND Jewell Gowan at 503-510-9137,

jewellsbks@aol.com

AND Cindy Thomas at 503-481-5401,

cst@wbcable.net

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

The people who signed up for the November 17th meeting are: Trish Reading, Joi Shervey, Suzanne Lemon, Winona Bodine, Janice Ahl and Jewell Gowan. These people will bring refreshments and help set up and clean up.

-Jewell Gowan, 503-510-9137

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

will be available for purchase at Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.

next meeting:

November 17

\$20.00 each

(\$4.00 from each sale goes to PROG, Inc.)

GREAT IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS!

Contact Evelyn Clink,

503-777-6771

MEMBERSHIP:

The Membership Directory for 2009-2010 has been distributed or mailed to each Portland's Rain of Glass Member. Please let Cindy Thomas know if you did not receive a copy or would like an additional copy.

There are still a few members who need to renew dues. Each member's due month is listed after their name in the Directory and also on the newsletter labels. Dues for one year are \$22.00 for individuals and \$8.00 for each additional member at the same address.

You may mail dues to: Cindy Thomas, Membership Chairman at 795 Corby St., Woodburn, OR 97071 or Friendship Masonic Center, 5626 NE Alameda, Portland, OR 97213 or bring payment to the next meeting.

Thank you,

Cindy

503-481-5401

cst.wbcable.net

In case of severe weather, please call Carole White's cell number, 503-901-0505 for updated information.



CANDY DISH NIGHT

Our traditional Candy Dish Night took on an international flavor this year with the two winning dishes from European countries. Richard Cox won Best Covered Candy Dish with his bright orange Italian dish with rigarees. Carole White won Best Open Candy Dish with her pair of iridescent green Czecho-Slovakian baskets. Best Candy was a tie between Barbara Coleman's Pumpkin Praline Fudge and Janet Pendergraft's Pikes Peak Toffee. A sweet time was had by all as we enjoyed the candy and placed our votes!

Many members participated, and here is a list of them with their candy if homemade:

Al & Carol Carder, Westmoreland chicken on nest dish
Barbara Coleman, Paden City Mrs. B and Cambridge swan dishes, Pumpkin Praline Fudge and Pumpkin Fudge
Jewell Gowan, McKee Rock Crystal dish, Church Windows
Lillian Hodges, 1920's St. Clare dish, Chocolate with Toasted Pecans
Gyrid Hyde-Towle, L.G. Wright Eyewinker dish, Chocolate Bark
Michele Kemp, Fenton Celeste blue dish, Cocoa Almonds
Sandra Martin, green Depression Deco dish, Oreo Truffles
Mark Moore, Fiesta Halloween bowls
Suzanne Pastori, Verlys Pine Cone pattern dish, Divinity
Janet Pendergraft, Indiana black glass diamond cut dish; Pikes Peak Toffee
Neal Skibinski, Cambridge clear decagon with polished cutting dish
Linda Braden Sprau, Westmoreland custard dish, Peanut Butter Brittle
Kirsten Stensland, Federal ashtrays & egg cup and McCoy kettle soup pot dishes, grape jelly from her Concord grapes with melted peanut butter and chocolate and Potato Coconut Pecan Candy
Janice Wallace, Heisey flamingo Twist dish
Carole White, Czecho-Slovakian green iridescent baskets
Karen Young, Fostoria American dish



written by Carole Bess White

Photos by Neal Skibinski

COLLECTING CHOCOLATE & CANDY BOXES

BY CAROLE BESS WHITE

Photos by Neal Skibinski



**Cadbury “Princess” chocolate box
made starting in 1888**

Chocolate comes from the cacao plant. The word “chocolate” was probably derived from the Aztec word “xocolatl” (pronounced zohocholatel). Evidence of cacao use has been found as early as 2000 BC.

In addition to conquering the Aztecs, Hernando Cortez was the first European to learn about chocolate, which was served as a spiced beverage at the court of the Emperor Montezuma. However, it was Christopher Columbus who brought cocoa beans home to Europe.

At first, chocolate was used only as a beverage in Europe. The earliest known chocolate shop was opened in London in 1657, and many more shops opened throughout Europe thereafter. It became the fashion to meet, greet and drink chocolate at these trendy shops, kind of like Starbucks today. Cocoa powder was introduced in England in 1828, and a form of solid eating chocolate was developed by the 1840’s.

Cadbury was one of the first producers of chocolate in England. Today, they are the largest chocolate manufacturer in the world, and they maintain a theme park called Cadbury World in their home city of Birmingham, England. The first known decorated commercial chocolate box was made by Richard Cadbury in 1868, when he painted a picture of his daughter and put it on the lid of a box. He also was responsible for the first Valentine’s candy box. When I was researching this talk I took a chance and emailed the Cadbury Company about my two velvet boxes, and received a prompt and informative reply. I was most impressed that this huge, international corporation would take the time to answer my little question. It turns out that my square red velvet Cadbury box with the ships picture is the Princess and dates to 1888 and was made with many different pictures. My green oblong velvet Cadbury box is the Louise and dates to 1890.

The chocolate boxes that are available to collectors today mainly date from the early 20th century to the present. The main reason so many boxes survived is that they were often used as containers for buttons, love letters, etc. Because they were used, they sustained damage, so it is rare to find an absolutely perfect vintage box. Even the metal and wooden ones show damage. So it comes down to having a nice collection of boxes in condition 7 to 9 out of 10, or waiting for perfect ones. If I had waited for perfect, I’d still be waiting. As long as it is not too noticeable, some age wear and tear is acceptable but the price should reflect this. Look for boxes with no major edge rubbing or bending, dents, rust, rips, tears, stains, silverfishing, mouse nibbling or other damage.

Collecting chocolate boxes is just like collecting glass. A plain, clear saucer isn’t very desirable and isn’t collected unless it is the one missing piece from a set. It’s the same with chocolate boxes. A plain box with no illustration or adornment isn’t very desirable except to the rare collector who wants everything one company produced, such as my fascination with Societ  Candy (see below).



Early 20th Century boxes. Billie Burke was Glinda the Good Witch in The Wizard of Oz movie.

The earlier boxes are very Edwardian-looking with young women with Gibson Girl hair and a wide variety of dresses from casual such as middie blouses to very formal. The illustrations on this era of boxes are usually very realistic lithographs of paintings of idealized but real women.

We’ve had several programs on Art Deco glass, so let’s apply what we’ve learned to the topic of chocolate and candy boxes. The two main types of Art Deco style are geometric and profuse.

- Geometric is just what it sounds like—severe linear designs in colors from stark black and white to wild rich colors and everything in between.

- Profuse style can be floral or figural or a combination of both, but whatever the illustration it will fill the motif from top to bottom and border to border. The shapes will be angular or highly stylized.



Two Schrafft's boxes (front L & R) with Art Deco boxes (center L & R) and a Gibson Girl (L. rear)

The illustrations on the Art Deco boxes from the 1920's through the 1930's are usually stylized lithographs of paintings or drawings of unrealistic women with high pompadour hair and fancy costumes, sometimes accompanied by male figures as well; fairy-type drawings; or other Art Deco illustrations. The style is usually profuse, with the motif filled completely. That is not to say that the motif always covers the entire box lid—sometimes it does, but usually it is contained in one area of the lid, leaving room for the name, type of candy and other information.



Ada Beil's 1920's Van Duyn's chocolate box

Besides my two early Cadburys, my most prized box is a very early Van Duyn's chocolate box. It is the only early one I have from that company, so I can't say I collect Van Duyn! Thanks to our guest Ada Beil for bringing her 1920's Art Deco Van Duyn box, especially since I could not locate mine. However, it is possible to focus on a certain manufacturer, some of which include:

- ◆ Johnston's
- ◆ Fanny Farmer
- ◆ Schrafft's
- ◆ See's—not very collectible because they have remained basically the same over the years.
- ◆ Louis Sherry
- ◆ Societé—a brand that is very hot but dear to my heart as my Grandma always had a jar of Societé mints on her radio console. I've never seen a Societé chocolate box or any sort of their candy in a cardboard box, just glass jars, paper tubs and tins, but I'll keep looking. They were made in Seattle, so you'd think they'd be easier to find, but they are elusive. Plus, many of them aren't particularly attractive except to me!
- ◆ Sugar Bowls
- ◆ Whitman's (Salmagundi, their most famous box, means a potpourri or mixture)



Classic Art Deco box with stylized dancing ladies and "fried egg" flowers

Or you can focus on a certain type of box: Black Americana; Children's; Countries; Famous Artists; Holidays—Christmas/Santa, Easter, Valentine's Hearts; Pretty Ladies; Scenic; Shaped--Fans, Easter Bonnets, Hearts; Transportation—Train, Boat, Plane, Car; Type—Saltwater Taffy, Chocolate Covered Cherries, etc.; Worlds Fair (older ones such as 1930's are the most collectible but usually moderately priced. Newer ones such as Seattle are desirable but aren't old enough yet to fetch a big price or have that much collector interest).

You may see decorated boxes way overpriced, even up to \$300 or \$400. Unless they are really specific, such as from Imperial Russia, they should be priced at about \$20--\$30, although in the bad old days before this rotten recession they did go much higher than that.



Box with semi-nude lady and Art Deco flowers

Boxes with nude or semi-nude ladies always go higher. Prettily decorated Valentine's hearts aren't that collectible unless they have a strong illustration on them. The ones with ruffles and/or flowers usually aren't priced very high but they don't appreciate much. The tins from Tindoco or Canco appeal to tin litho collectors as well as candy box collectors, so sometimes they go for a lot more than \$20--\$30.



Paris Chocolates box with charming, young 1920's girl

If you are saving current chocolate boxes as a future investment, keep in mind that with today's mass production, anything you save won't acquire much value until your great or even great great grandchildren's time.

A BIG THANK YOU

Sometimes it takes a village to do a talk, and I'd like to thank Barbara Coleman and Neal Skibinski for coming early to help set up the chocolate boxes, and Neal for running the boxes to the glass cam and staying late and helping to pack them up, and Jeff Motsinger for setting up and running the glass cam.



Art Deco lady with pompadour hair and fancy dress and a gentleman caller

There are repro boxes, usually Victorian-looking die cut figurals or hanging cones, Halloween, Christmas and Valentines, but these are usually marked with the country of origin or are easy to spot because they are so crisp and new. A lot of shiny, new but vintage-looking metal boxes have been sold in the past 20 years or so. If they have no manufacturer's name on them, there's no way to tell if they were sold with candy, cookies, tea, fruitcake or empty, so they are less desirable to collectors.

You don't have room for the boxes? Collect the labels. Often there are unused candy box labels or illustrations for box covers on eBay. And you can save them in guess what—a chocolate box!!



Cadbury "Louise" chocolate box made starting in 1890

SHOW DATE CHANGE!!

The Fairplex has changed our show dates
to:

JANUARY 30 & 31, 2010

SETUP FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

**Washington County Fairplex
Hillsboro, Oregon**

**Please be thinking about
when you'd like to help,
and the signup sheet
will be available at our
November 17th PROG meeting**



*2008 PROG Show and Sale
photos courtesy of Diana Jones*



Hello everyone! It's that time of the year again!

NOW AVAILABLE CLUB SALE TABLES!

*January 30th & 31st Club Show & Sale at the
Washington County Fairgrounds!*

We have some tables left, folks! It is only \$62 per full table and \$31 for half a table. We can also put things on the floor! Twice the space for one price.

The table dimensions are: 8' long and 30" wide. Not only glass, but, antiques, furniture & collectibles are items sold. At the last Show & Sale, those of us who brought antiques & collectibles to sell did quite well. I even sold some old books and other old items along with the glass & ceramics.

I arrived with 7 boxes of stuff and took home only 2 boxes of things, already marked & tagged for the next show & sale which is coming up soon!

Get together with a friend for a table and get rid of some stuff and have a great time with other PROG members.

Please make checks out to Portland's Rain Of Glass and mail them to:

Diana Jones
PO Box 1916
Sandy, OR 97055

Thank you all for your help and participation in this really fun club event.

Please respond with a reservation by 12/01/09. This will help with planning our space. There may be room for more tables, if I've got enough notice. So, make your reservations now

Best regards,
Diana Jones
503-703-3441, Cell
dianaljones@msn.com