

More News on "Connecticut Glass"

The first in a series of exclusive articles for *Bottles and Extras*
by Rick Ciralli c/o RCGLASS

Back in May of 2002, the announcement was official, we were starting a book project on Connecticut glass from five (5) of the known glasshouses being Pitkin, Coventry, Willington, Westford and the New London, Conn. areas. The forward to this massive project will be authored by the one and only Norman Heckler Sr. with numerous contributions by other established collectors, dealers and enthusiasts in our great hobby. Announcements made in many bottle-club newsletters as well as other hobby related publications led to many inquiries and tons of correspondence.

Let's update our FOHBC members with a few of the highlights thus far starting with the Pitkin Glassworks site and period ruins located in Manchester, Conn.

Professional excavations at the site [Figures 2-4] have continued with many important and exciting shards being discovered on May 9th, 2003. They included a rare sunburst GVIII-6, a GII-58 eagle/cornucopia ½ pint, a GII-57 J.P.F. pint as well as pieces of a J.P.F. inkwell and of all things...A Lafayette flask with the embossed C-T. Later that next week, on May 14th, 2003, Connecticut glass history was made when a tiny 1.8" miniature flattened chestnut was excavated in mint condition. It was perched under two (2) bricks arched above it. It was like the glass gods were waiting for us! It can be seen on display at the Old Manchester Museum in Manchester, CT as well as on our website www.pitkinglassworks.org. I was also elected President of the Pitkin Glass Works Inc., and am very excited about the future of our mission there. This is a very special unique place here in Connecticut as well as New England. You have got to see it!

Moving onto some Coventry Glass, I have seen and handled many examples of the utilitarian wares, numerous flask molds & inkwells. Many new pieces have surfaced and been photographed that include some extreme rarities. Here is a special whimsy, a GII-18D blown three mold inkwell with ringed base

expanded into an open salt with (3) applied feet. The piece has (2) pontil scars, inside and outside! It was excavated near the site years ago by a local resident and museum member. It's unique and one-of-a-kind! [Figures 5-6]

Also pictured is a rare Globular decanter with an applied pourspout and threaded neck. [Figure 7]

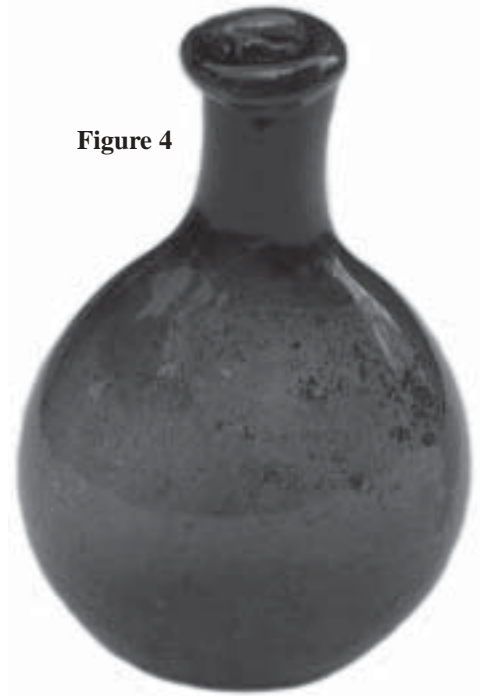
The Coventry, Connecticut historic glass district there is alive with our group of extremely dedicated members of the Museum of Connecticut Glass, a non-profit organization. We meet in the old brick John Turner House on Rt. 44 for monthly meetings. John Turner was the chief glassblower of the Coventry glassworks. We also have the barn across the road where we have had numerous activities that include shard displays, appraisal days, lectures, speakers and presentations.

We are having our First! Annual Inaugural Bottle and Tailgate show on the museum's grounds there on May 21st, 2005 with over 100 dealers expected and all proceeds planned to benefit the Museums restoration fund. This is an important event for the museums mission and also our hobby.

For more information, please contact the show chairman, Jan Rutushny at phone: (860) 428-4585 or by E-mail: janrutushny@aol.com.

The Museum is seeking new members from all over the country. For more info, please visit our website at www.museumofctglass.org or www.glassmuseum.org.

Figure 4



There's lots of great information and pictures of early glass and bottles.

It's a great web-site!!

So as you can see, there are some great things happening with the *CONNECTICUT GLASS* book project as well as other matters and ventures taking place. Up next will be another article on what's happening in Willington and Westford with information also coming from the New London area.

I welcome all correspondence so please contact me when you can.

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Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 1: A fine grouping of some Connecticut glass that includes inkwells, snuffs, utilities, off-hand pieces and various flasks.



Figure 2



Figure 7



Figure 3