



[Fig. 6]

directories about the turn of the century. The Cleveland Pottery Company was bought in 1919 by Louis Friedl, having survived National Prohibition, the Great Depression and World War II, events that killed off many American pottery manufacturers. In 1960 the firm advertised itself as among the top three flower pot makers in America. Court records show that the firm was still operating in 1967, but that was its last public record.

How long did the company produce the Stiles jug? My guess is that with the onset of Prohibition the market for such containers became very restricted. Moreover, new manufacturing processes had obviated the need for flat-sided jugs. Thus, production of the Stiles model may well have ended about 1920.

But in the meantime, what an evolution this son of Ohio had created! By innovating a new "spout for cans" that led to "recherche ware" and on to "horseshoe jugs," Henry Stiles is one of only a few 19th Century amateur inventors who saw their ideas actually put into widespread production. Even though it was a lowly ceramic container, made to be used today and likely thrown away tomorrow, the special qualities of Henry Stiles' invention have insured that his name is forever perpetuated on jugs to be found in collections the world over.

[Fig. 7]



MAGICAL MANHATTAN BEACH

Apopka, FL - The Society of Inkwell Collectors (SOIC) Convention Chairman, Gary Bahr, waved his wand in Manhattan Beach, California on February 14, 2003 and produced a magical show for all SOIC members who attended the 11th annual meeting.

Saturday morning, February 15th began with a seminar given by Judge John Kochenburger warning that bad magicians were everywhere changing cigarette lighters and perfume bottles, by adding tops of door knobs and glass balls then selling them as antique inkwells. He had examples of different types of fakes and reproductions, primarily from England and India. His best piece of advice was to "know what you are buying!" The second morning seminar was how to keep track of 50, 500 or 5,000 inkwells, where you bought them, what you paid for them, pictures of each, etc. Richard Dean spoke of "Inventory Programs for the Collector" by telling the basics of database management programs for a computer. Once you set up the program and input the data, it can be managed with a flick of the finger, a great magic feat!

Saturday afternoon was AUCTION TIME!! 158 inkwells were assembled by magic pixies Marie McGraw, Michele McGraw and Sandy Van Tine for members and the public to outbid one another. An exciting afternoon it was, bargains were had and great inkwells were acquired by purchasers who were happy with their newest finds!

Saturday evening started with a Social Hour for more "inkwell" talk and then on to dinner, awards and speaker. The Stained Finger Writer's Award is new, given to a SOIC member who contributes an article to the quarterly "Stained Finger" newsletter. A plaque was given to Aaron Hoffman who submitted two articles that were published last year. Congratulations Aaron!

The annual Vince McGraw Cobalt Award was given to Betty Rivera, author with her brother, Ted, of "Inkstands and Inkwells", one of the foremost reference books of the inkwell collector. Betty was unable to attend the convention but spoke with Buck Van Tine by telephone at some length about writing the book and was sorry that Ted was not still alive to share in this award. The speaker

at the dinner was Jim Marshall of Penrith, Cumbria, England, owner of the Pen & Pencil Gallery. He spoke of "Early Writing Equipment" and as one inkwell collector said, "made me aware of how much I did not know".

Sunday morning, February 16th began with another magical presentation by Franklin and Jean Hunting telling us "How the Book Was Put Together". Frank and Jean are the authors of another of the inkwell collector's great reference books "The Collector's World of Inkwells", the largest reference book published to date with wonderful photography and a comparative price guide. Members learned that Jean took over 4,000 pictures to end with the 1,000 that are in the book, while Frank did the typing. The majority of the collections shown in the book are located in California. The price guide for each inkwell was the most difficult part, completed with the help of many experts in the antique field.

Next, a roundtable was held with Buck Van Tine as the Moderator of the proposed History and Research project, designed to preserve written and visual inkwell materials that members of the SOIC have accumulated over the past thirty plus years. The project needs to be defined, funding generated and many other questions answered before materials can "come out of the basement". During the roundtable discussion members with grant experience, project management experience and museum computer software experience magically voiced opinions and it is possible that this is a beginning in defining the project. To be continued!

The closing seminar was given by Giovanni Cattaneo presenting the Inkwell Bibliography Report he has worked on for so many hours. This report will be most helpful in the research project.

The 11th Annual Convention of the SOIC was magical!! There will be forthcoming news about the 2004 convention. In the meantime, if you want to have more information about the SOIC or just have an inkwell question, E-mail: inkwellsociety@aol.com, or visit the Web site: www.soic.com; or call the Executive Director, Buck Van Tine, at (309) 579-3040.