

NEWS letter

JANUAR

1985

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF GLASS MUSEUMS AND GLASS COLLECTIONS

INTRODUCTION FOR NEWSLETTER

One of the major problems facing any international committee is the exchange of information between members. The regular annual meetings of our Committee have always been very successful. Between meetings however there has been little contact. The best way to overcome this problem is by a regular "Newsletter".

No newsletter can be successful without contributions - we must not leave it alle to the Secretary to invent material. The Committee hope that this Newsletter will fulfill two main functions. It will contain news and information about meetings, exhibitions, museum developments etc and also provide a vehicle for the speedy publication of shorter articles perhaps not suitable for the learned journals (of which there are very few in our field). It will eventually be a record of the activities of the Committee and its members.

Your support in providing material will ensure the success and value of the Newsletter.

Brian J.R. Blench
Chairman.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF GLASS MUSEUMS AND GLASS COLLECTIONS

Report of the meeting of the international Committee of
Glass Museums and Glass Collections held in Finland from
May 21 to 25 1984.

The meeting in Finland was a model of its kind and the excellent preparations made by our Finnish colleagues eased my work as Secretary of the International Committee.

The meeting was divided into two main parts. In the first part, our Finnish hosts presented a very good and thorough introduction to the history of Finnish glass and to contemporary glass production. The second part provided an opportunity for a series of working sessions in which we informed each other of the results of current research work and similar matters and were also able to discuss present and future projects.

Monday May 21. The Annual Meeting was opened at The National Museum of Finland with a speech by the Director of the museum, C.J. Gardberg. There was then plenty of time to discuss the museum's glass collection. The afternoon included a visit to a glass artist of note, Timo Sarpaneva. In the evening we visited the Finnish Museum of Decorative Arts. It was a great and inspiring experience to visit this newly-equipped museum in which the traditional decorative arts have been placed in a broader cultural-historical framework, which provides perspective and significance. The exhibition was arranged chronologically beginning with the turn of the present century and then displayed decade by decade. Behind the objects displayed, one sensed the ideals and political views prevalent in the various periods covered. The exhibition was an excellent test piece created within a comparatively modest framework.

Tuesday May 22. In the morning we were shown round the large new Finnish Glass Museum at Riihimäki by Tapio Wirkkala. The afternoon was spent at the Iittala Glassworks where Marketta Kahme conducted us round the historical collections. On the way back to Helsinki we visited the almost completely restored Castle of Hämeenlinna.

Wednesday May 23. The day was devoted to lectures and the mutual exchange of information at the Finnish Glass Museum at Riihimäki.

The following lectures were given:

Virpi Nurmi:	Finnish Glassblowers.
Kaisa Koivisto:	From Traditional Methods to Machinery.
Gisela Haase:	Entwicklung der sächsischen Glas-industrie am Ende des 17. und am Anfang 18. Jahrhunderts.
Peter Ritsema van Eck:	Johannes Kieseling (C.1690-1735) a Rotterdam Glass-engraver from Gotha.

In addition information was communicated by Mogens Schlüter, Brian Blench, Annaliese Ohm and others. There was also an Executive Meeting.

Minutes of Executive Meeting held on May 23rd 1984.

1. Invitation received to hold the next meeting in Paris in 1985. (Provisional programme enclosed, Jean Luc-Olivie apologises for its lateness).
2. The President, Brian Blench, mentioned that the Committee had now existed for 25 years. In this connection he had had personal badges made which were distributed. A specimen is enclosed for those who were not present.
3. Repertory
Jack Martin, Corning, informed about the Repertory Project. Contact had been made with a new publisher who was willing to publish the books from the project. Holland and East Germany are ready to go to print. The Scandinavian edition is in preparation.

4. Ancient terminology
Nothing has developed in connection with this project. Brian Blench and Peter Ritsema promised to establish contact with one of the participants.
5. A majority of those present were in favour of the 1986 meeting being held in East Germany.

Thursday May 24. Visit to the Hvitträsk Colony of the architects Gesellis, Lindgren and Saarinen. The afternoon was spent at the Nutajärvi Glassworks where the glass designer, Kaj Franck, gave a lecture on glass designing and Marjut Kumala gave a thorough introduction to the glass collection at the glassworks.

Friday May 25. The fortress of Suomenlinna was visited before the closing discussions and lectures at the Finnish Maritime Museum.

Minutes of Executive Meeting held on May 25th 1984

In addition to a continue discussion of some points from the meeting on May 23rd, the following matters arose:

6. Trade Catalogues.
There was broad agreement that it was important to obtain information about existing catalogue material and that this should be a new Committee project. A proposal for a project from Jack Martin is enclosed.
7. Hugh Tait proposed that another new project should consist of a registering of dated glass. He promised to communicate a proposal, which will be sent out with the next mailing.
8. Hugh Tait and others urged that efforts should be made to recruit new Committee members. It is regrettable that Czechoslovakia, for instance, is not represented.

9. As it was apparent that there were discrepancies between the membership list received from Paris and that which the Committee itself maintains, it was agreed that an attempt should be made to clarify the relationships between the individual members and the Committee.
To this end, the enclosed form should be completed and returned to the Secretary.
10. Michel Thiry wished to get in touch with an ICOM group that was working with the preservation of prehistoric glass. Brian Blench promised to investigate the matter.
11. It was agreed to accept with thanks the offer of the Finnish Glass Museum to print the various lectures.
The Secretary will see to the necessary coordination of this matter.

The Executive Meeting took place at the Finnish Maritime Museum, to whom we extend the warmest thanks for the accommodation and the excellent refreshments provided.

Aalborg, Denmark. January 3rd 1985.

Jan Kock
Secretary

Summary

Johannes Kieseling (c. 1690-1735), a Rotterdam glass-engraver from Gotha.

Up till now there was nothing known about Johannes Kieseling, except for his name and one glass, a goblet in the collection of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. This glass could be attributed to Kieseling on documentary evidence.

The goblet is described extensively by a contemporary and was already published in the nineteenth century. A society of regents founded in 1727 ordered the goblet from Kieseling in 1733.

The engraving was done after a drawing by the Leiden artist Frans van Mieris de Jongere.

By chance it was possible to trace eight more glasses engraved by him and some research in the Rotterdam archives brought to light that he was born in Gotha in Saxony, Germany, around 1690, moved to Rotterdam in 1717, married a Dutch woman in 1718 and had a flourishing glassshop at Visserdijk, where one could buy plain drinking glasses as well as order engraved glasses. He died on October 19, 1735.

His commissions for several public institutions in Rotterdam and the fact that he owned a house show that he got on well. Glasses engraved by Kieseling are mentioned in the auction catalogue of the famous art-collection of Jan Bisschop on July 15, 1771, in Rotterdam.

The integral article will be published in one of the next volumes of 'Oud-Holland'.

P.C. Ritsema van Eck

TRADE CATALOGS

Among the richest resources for collectors and scholars of glass who wish information on glass objects are the trade catalogs issued by glasshouses. Illustrations, drawings, sizes, prices, and other raw materials for research are contained within the pages of these ephemeral publications.

Thus the Glass Committee at its meeting in Helsinki in 1984 agreed to make the recording of trade catalogs from glass factories one of its major joint projects. Members of the Committee are being asked to search out such catalogs in their country (from museums, libraries, factories, private collectors) so these can be microfilmed for the sake of preservation and dissemination. A listing of these trade catalogs is also being compiled, and this listing is available on microfiche.

The Corning Museum of Glass is providing the microfilming services, and its Library has offered to pay the cost of the shipping of catalogs to its microfilm department and for the return shipping as well. When the original documents are returned, copies of the documents on microfiche will also be returned without charge.

The list of such trade catalogs is being maintained by Corning in a computer, and the printout is microfilmed and is available in microfiche. To date Corning has filmed 2,400 trade catalogs and the listing of these catalogs runs to 345 pages - which is why the listing is being made available in fiche format so as to keep the cost of reproduction of the list to \$12.50 instead of \$34.50 in hard (paper) copy.

Dr. John H. Martin
Deputy Director
The Corning Museum of Glass.

BASIC PROGRAMME FOR THE MEETING IN PARIS 1985.

Dates: June 9th - 14th 1985.

Location: Paris and district.

Sunday June 9

Arrive and settle in.

From Monday June 10 to Friday June 14 the programme will include the following:

Musée des Arts Décoratifs (The new galleries for the permanent collections and Centre du Verre).

Musée et Palais du Louvre (Archeological excavations - Projects du Grand Louvre - Collections Objets d'Art).

Musée des Antiquités Nationales (St-Germain-en-Laye).

(Musée National de la Céramique in Sévres - Musée National des Techniques au Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers - Museum and archeological excavations in the city of Saint-Denis).

One morning for working session and mutual exchange of information.

One afternoon for optional visits to galleries and specialist antiquaries.

Several private receptions including one at the Musée Baccarat.

The Final programme and registration form will be distributed by the secretary in April/May.