



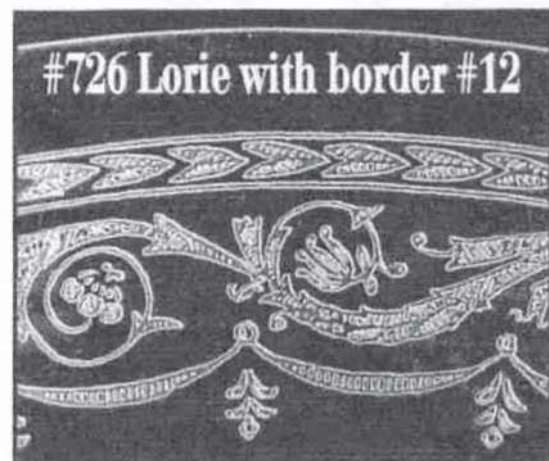
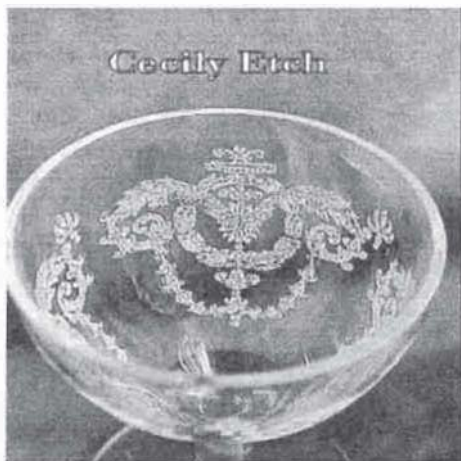
News & Views

What is a Glass Collection?

By Bert Kennedy

Glass Collecting is much more than a cabinet full of glass showing each piece made in a line or even a group of seeming unrelated pieces. For me, glass collecting is looking deep into the cabinet stuffed full of glass and remembering each piece. I remember the friends that gave me items, the trips across the country wandering the back roads looking for that out of the way shop full of unsearched treasures, and the fun of going down the glass highway searching the glass forest for that most elusive piece. As my collection grew, most of the collection seems to relate to friends. It's funny how close the glass and friends are connected. Some of the friends have passed on, but the gift they gave of glass and friendship still remains with me. I hope I can pass it on to my granddaughters.

As I was looking at my Morgantown etching collection, I began to realize that my friends had found more of the collection than I had. Each piece has a special story behind it that gives the glass a special sparkle of its own. For the non glass person, I think they might call that sparkle dust. As your collection grows, it will become as much about the friends as the glass. As my friend Don Tinney said, "I just love to spend your money on glass." Although most of the time he just gave it to me. Here are some of the friends/glass stories - sorry there's not room to include them all!

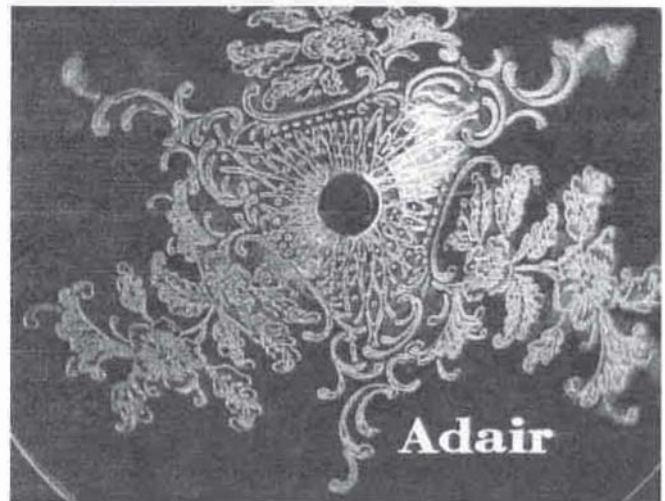


Larry Baker seems to find the most difficult and unusual glass for me. He has more finds in the cabinet than anyone else. So there are lots of Larry memories. Larry has found me one etching I thought I might never see. It is named for my daughter, Cecily. It is an early etch found on the 7516 Carola line that was produced for about 50 years starting in 1916. Knowing this, I knew it would be a tough find. If that was not hard enough for Larry, he found it on a cordial - ten of them! Larry also found Lone Oak, Hotel Muehlebach, Lorie and some others. What a treasure Larry-Glass has been for my cabinet full of memories.

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John, a Morgantown collector from West Virginia, filled my cabinet with one very special memory. While searching the net in the early days, I ran across a small individual site with a listing for an unknown group of stems. They had goblets, wines, champagnes and cocktails all in this lovely line. For me, it was a wonderful find as I knew it was Morgantown. Unfortunately, it was priced as a set and was way more than I could afford. Knowing John to be an aggressive Morgantown collector, I advised him of the site and he immediately bought the set. If I could not have the great glass, at least it went to a fine Morgantown collection.



That Christmas, John sent me a gift: it was one of the champagnes from the set. At the time we did not know the name of this etch. But now with the Morgantown etching book we can identify this very intricate etching as Adair. This line with gold stem is still rather elusive. But thanks to John, one will live with me forever.

Many of you remember Pam Ochs. She was a delight to be around and was always ready to help others along in their glass journey. Pam was a real searcher. She dug deep in the glass forest to find rare and unusual items. For me, she found an example of Morgantown's Thistle which we named for her. Pam's love of glass is all over my cabinet.



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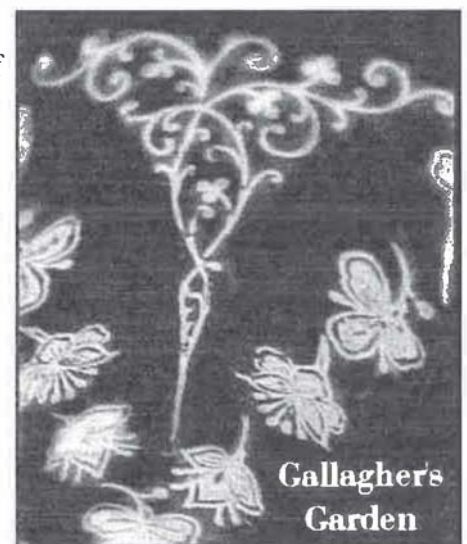
Some of my cabinet has been filled with the friends I have found on Ebay. One in particular lives in Atlanta where she goes to every auction in the area to find all the Morgantown etchings that she has sold to me over the years. Her love of glass shows every time I unpack the glass. It is always packed to perfection. One of the latest finds from Liz is #786 Gabriel's trumpet. This is the first example of this etching to join the cabinet. Keep up the great finds, Liz!



Over the years, Liz has provided my cabinet of memories with the most Morgantown institutional etchings. I think she knows I am one of the crazy collector for these rare but not highly sought after etchings. My pictures are not great, but the memories are.

It is hard to include all the glass/friends to this article would be hundreds of pages. So if your contribution did not make it in this article, forgive me. One last great glass/friend to finish.

This last story should perhaps be the first as it was the beginning of the Morgantown etching collection. It was a story that began in Texas with me trying to identify a pink stem. I was told to check with a local Fostoria expert, Milbra Long. She told me it was not Fostoria and that I should check with Jerry Gallagher as she thought it might be Morgantown. I did not know Jerry at that time, but I did know Kelly O'Kane and he was a very good friend to Jerry.



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Kelly convinced me to fly to Minnesota and drove me to Jerry's home. I spent the next week with Jerry (that's a whole different article). On leaving, Jerry gave me an example of Wingfield on an Empress stem. He said, "Here, find me more." I am still looking for others.



By now you can see that a cabinet full of glass is way more than just a lost of stuff that needs dusting. Do you have a story to tell? We all want to listen.

Glass Articles Needed

Why not share your knowledge about glass with others?

This extra section depends upon you. If you want more glass education articles, you must submit them.

The only thing glass collectors love more than buying glass, is talking about it.

We'd love to have you teach us about the glass you collect.

Please send your articles to me at editor@ndga.net. Remember, I can't print what I don't have.

Rosemary