



News & Views

Farber Brothers-Krome Kraft at the NDGA Convention 2009

A Perfect Combination of Depression Era Glass and Art Deco Era Chrome

By Alex Wolk - aka Bucket Boy



Farber Brothers started out in 1915 as a producer of fine hollow-ware items, but it was not until the early 1930s that their partnership with Cambridge Glass caught the public's attention. The invention of the Clip-On/Clip-Off chrome holders in 1932 was their "claim to fame." A patent was secured for the metal bases that contoured the rays of Cambridge's 3400 Ball Line. One of their more popular items was designed making use of Cambridge's Nude Stem Statuesque Line, out of which Farber Brothers manufactured an all-metal version of this stem with a compote insert made from the blown glass bowl portion that Cambridge used in several different bowl/stem combinations of a few different lines.

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On display, I had one such compote with a crystal bowl insert that was etched Diane. Usually, these compotes are found in a variety of different colors, which is what makes Cambridge glass so special among other competing glass companies of that era. Cambridge produced almost exclusively all of Farber Brothers bar glassware inserts/glasses, decanters, pitchers and glass cocktail shakers. They also produced many items for Farber Brothers utilizing their 3500 Gadroon Edged Line, Caprice, Cambridge Arms, 7966 Line Glassware, Nautilus, Tally-Ho, Pristine, 3126 Line Glassware Bowls and many custom-designed pieces that were manufactured by Cambridge for Farber Brothers exclusively. Other individual items that Cambridge Glass marketed can also be found in Farber Brothers sets such as butter dishes, several different decanter lines and glassware.



One of my goals at the NDGA Convention was to present a comprehensive combination of Krome Kraft items in order to demonstrate the extent of their lines, produced over a period of fifty years during their existence as a company. Even though Cambridge produced the majority of glass inserts marketed by Farber Brothers, almost all major glass companies of the time contributed to Krome Kraft's great variety

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of offerings. Duncan & Miller, Fostoria, Westmoreland, Fenton, Heisey, New Martinsville, Viking, Federal, Morgantown, Indiana and Pyrex by Corning Glass Works all produced inserts for Farber Brothers; as well as many yet unidentified pieces that may have been produced by other glass manufacturers. This is not to speak of all the china companies that also supplied their wares to Farber Brothers to be transformed into little pieces of art with crimped on chrome rings, bases, etc. These include Fraunfelter, Lenox, Harker, Syracuse China and more. Through my interest in Farber Brothers, I have become an avid Cambridge Glass collector. It is not unusual for me to come back from an antiquing expedition with more Cambridge Glass than Farber Brothers. I truly love all of the items that Cambridge Glass created and really enjoy displaying my treasured Farber Brothers pieces along my Cambridge Glass treasures.

It was an honor for me to have two NCC presidents attending my seminar. Both Rick Jones and Ken Filippini came to hear my lecture. Collecting Farber Brothers has been a passion of mine for over a decade, and I have been able to accumulate so many unique items both with glass and also all metal wares. I plan on writing a new book on Farber Brothers, intended as an update to the excellent guide book written by Julie Sferazza in 1988 on the subject. Ebay has been a tremendous tool to uncover items that may never have been found, and I have been able to use it to fill in many of the missing chapters in Krome Kraft's history. Unlike Cambridge Glass, very few original Farber Brothers catalogues have survived, and it is a real challenge to present an accurate picture of how their items were really sold. This has become one of my goals, which with every day passing gets clearer and clearer. I would love to share all of my collection and research with you, and will in the coming years.



As I have mentioned in my seminar, the Depression Glass collecting community is not that large after all. It's really become another family for me. Getting to personally know many of the glass dealers and collectors has

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been a real pleasure, and I look forward to meeting more people and discussing with them our common interest.

The NDGA Convention 2009 at Danbury was my very first opportunity to set up a display of my collection in a public forum. Ken Filippini had approached Rosemary Trietsch, the Show Chair, and told her of my interest to display and also lecture on the topic of Farber Brothers. My heartfelt thanks go out to both Ken and Jane Filippini, and Rosemary, for making it all possible.

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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