

# D RIP P O I N T S



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 4 SUMMER 1988

## SUPPORT YOUR NIA

This is an important time of year for the NIA. First, it is renewal time. Much is always said about the need for membership support but it wouldn't be said if it weren't true. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so soon.

Second, it is election time for 1988-90 NIA officers, ballots will be arriving any day. It is important to the survival of any organization for its members to take an active part in the selection and support of its officers. Please take the time to read the candidates' statements on pages 8-9 of this edition of Drip Points. After you vote, remember that those who are elected will need your active support for the next two years, won't you make it a goal to do something to assist the NIA leadership in making the hobby better for everyone ?!

Third, show hosts are constantly needed. The NIA is in the process of developing a "Show Host's Guide" to help you if you have never done this before. Shows, like much else that we enjoy in life, do not happen without work and sacrifice. Please contribute in this area whether it be a backyard barbeque or a Regional or National Show.

Fourth, please share your hobby with others. Spend a little time making a display for your local library or museum, write an article for your local paper, get your non-NIA friends to join the "family", etc., etc., etc. Get involved any way you can and support the NIA, the future of the hobby depends on it.

# POSITION PAPER ON ALTERED, FAKE, AND TREATED INSULATORS

Approved by the 1987-88 Board of Directors and Ethics  
Committee of the National Insulator Association

Much has been communicated to the N.I.A. over the past several years regarding questionable and potentially fake or non-authentic insulators. This includes fraudulent colors (obtained by heating, irradiating, or coating an insulator of another, authentic color), fraudulent variations (obtained by adding or removing embossing, threading, inner skirts, etc.) and altered conditions (undocumented "repairs", "Endust" or "Pledge", lacquer or epoxy applied to the surface of a piece with poor surface luster.)

ALL of these practices are unethical, both by moral standards, and by the accepted Code of Ethics of the N.I.A.

Item one specifically states that:

"NIA members shall not engage in the manufacture of insulators or related items which can generally be termed frauds and which include, but are not limited to, deceptive reproductions or altered physical characteristics in any manner."

Item three states that:

"NIA members shall not engage in the sale, advertisement or exhibition of any insulators or related items deemed by the NIA to be "objectionable" in the best interests of the hobby."

The issue has become very critical and quite a few members of the NIA have provided substantiation on some of these complaints. Regarding "fake or fraudulent" insulators, some of the complaints have included the following pieces:

Yellow Californias: CD 102, 112, 121, 133, 152, 161, 162, 208, 260.

Dark Purple Californias: (violet/royal purple shades)  
CD 152, 160, 161, 162.

Dark Purple Postals: CD 145

Sapphire Blue Postal: CD 145

Carnival Hemingrays: CD 137, 154, 162, 164, 168, 230, 232, 251, 252, 257, and others.

Purple Maydells: CD 106, 115, 122, 154, 160, 162, 164, 252.

Purple McLaughlins: CD 106, 115, 121, 122, 162, 164.

Pale amber Whitall Tatum's and Armstrongs: Many CD #'s.

Burgundy Denver(W.F.G., W.G.M., R. Good) CD 106, 121, 134, 162.

Carnival Pyrex: CD 128

NOTE: There is evidence that some specimens of some of the above mentioned insulators may, in fact, be genuine. Other's, however, cannot be authenticated.

There are undoubtedly other items of concern among the hobby populace. There is evidence to support the fact that nearly all of the yellow California insulators were created by heating SCA's and that the dark purple (violet/royal shades) and "fake" Postals were created by irradiating SCA's (to get purple) and the aquas or sages (to create the Sapphire blue.) There is little doubt that the majority of the information on the Californias and Postals is true, since it has been substantiated that several West Coast collectors created these in the mid to late 1960's before most of us were even collectors ourselves. There is additional strong support that the burgundy Denver's have been made by "heating purples."

The Carnival Hemingrays are a severe problem, as well, since there is documentation that Hemingray did not manufacture spray treated insulators for the same reason or with the same process that Corning Glass Works (Pyrex) did. There is little doubt that genuine carnival Hemingray styles D-510, D-512, 19, 20, and 42 specimens have been found. Unfortunately, there appear to be more "fraudulent" or "re-carnivalized clear" specimens on some of these models than there are genuine articles.

First, there is no evidence to support the fact that ANY of the carnival Hemingray-60 (Mickey Mouse) or carnivalized corrugated base styles were ever placed into use. These specimens should be considered as fakes absent authentication. Second, there is also strong evidence to support the fact that Hemingray sprayed its carnival insulators from the bottom (into the pin hole) and that the genuine carnival Hemingray will tend to be unevenly sprayed, with more spray on the outer and inner skirt than in the wire groove and on the dome, with poor to mediocre color (compared to Pyrex specimens) similar to that found in the TS-2 and TS-3 styles, which are genuine.

Regarding treated surfaces on glass insulators (there appears to be little "treating" of porcelain insulators), the N.I.A. cannot condone such practices. Regardless of whether such treatment "improves the finish" or not, it does, in fact, alter the insulator's physical characteristics and the use of ANY treatment of an insulator, whether epoxy, lacquer, commercial or proprietary surface treatment shall be considered as objectionable by the N.I.A. without SPECIFIC identification as such. All surface treated insulators for sale should, therefore, be clearly so identified.

This position paper is not meant to restrict or ban the trade of the above mentioned items, and it would not be realistic to assume that the trade of these items will end. It is to restate the N.I.A.'s position on fraudulent and potentially fraudulent insulators. ABOVE ALL, it is a

warning to NIA members and non-members alike to be cautious when buying suspected specimens. Although it is unfortunate to have to be reminded of it, the statement "Let the buyer beware" is often good advice.

Specific questions, comments, complaints or documentation may be addressed to the Ethics Committee or any member of the NIA Board of Directors.

## "MESSAGES"

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Fellow NIA Members,

It doesn't quite seem possible, but this really is my last Drip Points as NIA President! It has been an exciting time for me, the hobby and the NIA, and I have mixed emotions about my last couple of months "at the helm". On the one hand, I feel confident that my successor, whoever that may be, will be taking over a fiscally sound and organizationally stable association. I think that I was fortunate to have able volunteers (namely Eric Halpin, Mike Guthrie, Rod Krupka, John deSousa, Jackie Linscott, Bob Nobbe, Charlie Allmon, Chris Hedges, Russ Hughes and John McDougald) who were cooperative and progressive in continuing and improving on the policies of my predecessors. I also know that there were a minimal number of crises to act upon over the last two years. I certainly hope the NIA's next administration has such good fortune.

The flip side of my departure is the knowledge that I really didn't accomplish all that I wanted to do. There is still much work for the NIA to do in streamlining itself and in soliciting and KEEPING its members. There is, of course, no single element that is ALL IMPORTANT to the hobby of insulator collecting (Crown Jewels, National Shows, the NIA, local clubs, dealers, and collectors all play integral parts), but without any one of those links, the hobby would suffer seriously. I know it must look like repetitious selling to see month after month of pleading for renewals of memberships, but YOU ARE the lifeblood of the hobby and the NIA. It is individual collectors (and clubs) who host the shows, buy and sell merchandise, advertise in Crown Jewels, and support the NIA financially and with their volunteer work. The NIA Board of Directors is not the NIA- the NIA consists of its members. The Board simply attempts to administer the wishes of the majority of the membership.

I thank my fellow Board and committee members for their outstanding help and cooperation. I also thank the membership of the NIA for its continued support and suggestions for improvements to the hobby. I will not, of course, be leaving the NIA Board as I will have four more years as Past President to serve and my role will not be diminished. I have no intention of sitting back while the new President takes on new challenges. There are a number of concerns requiring attention including the apparent increase in the amount of counterfeit and fake merchandise appearing for sale. This practice is particularly troublesome to me, since it appears that there are fakes being made now. I would urge everyone to READ the "Position Paper Regarding Fake and Treated Insulators" in this issue, PLEASE!!

I won't end my final letter on a negative note. There are too many positive things to say for our hobby and for the many collectors in it! Thanks for a great two years and I'll see you in Houston! Until next time,

Good Collecting !



## FROM THE SECOND PAST PRESIDENT:

It won't be long now until the 19th NIA Convention here in Houston and we're excited! There are so many reasons why this year's National is going to be one of the very best ever and here's why:

Our show headquarters:, the Adam's Mark Hotel, is a splendid facility. You'll love it! Since the Exhibit Hall is actually part of the hotel complex, all our activities are in-house: the show itself, the Friday evening General Membership Meeting, and the Saturday Awards Banquet. Extra curricular activities are available too-two restaurants, two "clubs", two swimming pools, a sauna and an exercise room.

Dealers, exhibitors, and collectors will enjoy the food concession right on the premises, carpet under their feet, excellent lighting, easy access into the hall for unloading, and the ample free parking directly adjacent. The Hotel will accept and hold boxes mailed ahead. Mail to: Dealer's name, c/o Adam's Mark Hotel, 2900 Briarpark @ Westheimer, Houston, TX 77024.

Don't forget our special collector privilege on NIA Day, Friday, July 22. You may have a turn at the microphone to identify yourself and make known to the dealers just which insulators you are most looking for. We want to send you home happy! Chief-in-charge of this effort is Charlie Allmon.

During show hours both Saturday and Sunday there will be hourly drawings for some neat door prizes. But the BIG NEWS is that we are having a raffle and your name may be drawn on Sunday, July 24, to win one of our fabulous prizes: two handmade queen size quilts, two prized insulators, and other items.

Two educational insulator films are scheduled for viewing at the show. One is "Porcelain Insulators and How They Grew" put together and donated to the NIA by Bob Reyburn and the other was taken at Mosser Glass in Cambridge, Ohio, showing the actual production of this year's 1988 NIA commemorative in Texas Bluebonnet Blue—guaranteed to make you appreciate your purchase of one of these even more.

Our NIA Marketing Director, Jackie Linscott, tells me that the new NIA T-shirts will be for sale at the National. Or, if you attend EXPO '88 in Las Vegas, July 7-10, you can purchase yours ahead of time and wear it to Houston! These are very attractive and we'll all want one! (See visual ad in this issue of CROWN JEWELS.)

SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST! Once in Houston, you won't be able to escape the warm and friendly atmosphere all around you. We call it TEXAS HOSPITALITY. Anyone who has ever been here has taken a big chunk of it home. See you in July!

*Marilyn Albers*



#### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

I will start this off by thanking Cordell and Sally Smith, plus Andy and Vi Brown and Jeanne Bridges for hosting the Eastern and Western Regional shows for 1988. As expected, both were unqualified successes and a tribute to the dedication and energy of the hosts and hostesses. The Houston National is just around the corner and I can hardly wait. It has become tradition at the NIA's general meeting to announce the National and Regional show sites and hosts for the upcoming year. I certainly hope that I can carry on this practice at Houston.

I was awfully proud to see a Canadian insulator show advertised in CJ again as it has been years since that occurred. Gary and Doreen Reed in Penticton, B.C. would like to see you at their show.

Earlier this year, while in Minneapolis, MN, I took the opportunity to visit collectors Dennis Ward and Roscoe Ewalt. Dennis likes embossing errors of any description and Roscoe likes shape and super colors. Both have unique and attractive collections. Over the years I have found these prearranged visits to be most enjoyable and informative. I am sure insulator collectors everywhere would enjoy hearing from other collectors and with greater contact amongst us, the hobby could be even more enjoyable. So, if you can't visit, how about writing a nearby collector or two?

Hope to see many of you at the St. Charles show.

Eric Halpin NIA# 2768



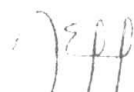
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### FROM THE EASTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT:

This past February, the Plunkett family from Boonton, New Jersey hosted an insulator "gabfest." On order for the day was lots of food and great conversation on glass and porcelain. There was a good turnout for the event and Ginny Plunkett says that they'll do it again. Sounds like fun!

There was also a good turnout at the annual Marlborough, Connecticut spring show. I have heard some rumours lately of the better glass colors becoming scarce. I was able to purchase a beautiful mint dated Hemi-19 in cobalt blue. There were also plenty of SCA's, carnivals, and ambers around the show. I would really hate to have people panic and not bother to go to shows. Yes...prices are going up. What else is new? In my model auto hobby I've seen prices go up 50-75% on some collection models in only two years, so let's keep the insulator prices in perspective with other hobbies.

Plan to be in Sussex, New Jersey August 13th for what promises to be a great show hosted by Doug Williams and Mike Issler. There is free admission, food all day, and of course INSULATORS. Speaking of plans, they are shaping up for September 17th in Millbrook, N.Y. Have you marked your calendar yet? As a show host...I would like to see more displays at shows so please, share your collections!



## THE JUNIOR'S CORNER:

The following Junior NIA Members would like to correspond with other Junior members. Please send your name to the NIA Information Director if you would like your name included. Be sure to include your age and NIA # !

Samuel Graff, age 17, # 4066  
Daniel Graff, age 14, # 4067  
Matthew Graff, age 11, #4068  
38258 E. Kings Canyon Rd.  
Dunlap, Ca 93621

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Nicholas Rodricki Jr. #3954  
6319 Bayonne  
Spring, TX 77389

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Nathan Holmes # 4002  
600 S. Downey St. Box 405  
Walcott, IA 52773

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## CANDIDATES STATEMENTS-1988-90 NIA OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT:

Dear NIA Members,

About six years ago I became an insulator collector because I thought they were beautiful things to collect. Since that time I have learned much about shows, books, magazines, and many other facets of the hobby which contribute to this fascination.

Despite all of these attractions, however, my greatest love is for the people of the hobby and the many wonderful friendships which have grown as a result of collecting. I feel that one of the best ways I can return to the hobby the great joy it has given me is to serve as NIA president and work towards the continued success of the hobby so that many others can share in the same fascinations which mean so much to me.

In my six years in the hobby I have attended four National, two Regional, and dozens of local shows. I have co-hosted one regional and two local shows and was the host of the 18th NIA National Show in Fresno in 1987. In addition to serving as NIA Information Director (1986-88) I have written a number of stories and articles for Crown Jewels and never miss an opportunity to share the hobby with anyone who will listen! More about my collecting history is found in July '87 C.J. p.20. I tell you these things to give you a sense of my dedication to the hobby which hopefully demonstrates the type of commitment I would apply to the NIA presidency.

I would appreciate your support and vote, Thank You!





## CENTRAL REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT:

Dear NIA Members,

Let me start by introducing myself...my name is Richard Perkins, 31 years old, married, and have 3 children. I have been a full fledged collector and NIA member for about 4 years. I collect a little of everything including lightning rod balls and related items, fruit jars, bottles and anything else that strikes my fancy. But, my first love is insulators. My personal collection contains over 200 pieces ranging from beginner items to intermediate items. I am also organizing an insulator club in my area. I have decided to run for Central Region Vice President for several reasons, first and foremost is to promote our hobby in any way I can. Second, I would like to see more of the backyard get togethers and swaps, I have read about in the back issues of Crown Jewels. I believe this type of activity is what made our hobby what it is today. Last but not least is the people. The people in this hobby are among the finest in the world. I have chosen to serve these people in this capacity to the best of my ability. I hope you will support me in my endeavor. I will attend and support as many activities as I possibly can. Once again, I need your support so we can keep on collecting and enjoying our Crown Jewels of the Wire.

Thank You, 

Richard Perkins

NIA # 3589

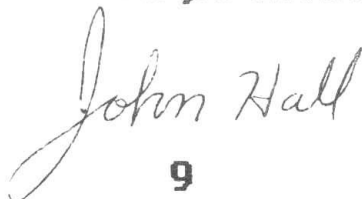
My Fellow NIA Members,

Hello, my name is John Hall of Pearland, Texas a candidate for the position of Central Regional Vice-President.

I have been an active collector for 12 years and a dealer for 5 years. For two years I served as President of the Lone Star Insulator Club; member of the Gulf Coast Bottle and Jar Club and one of three hosts for the 19th NIA National Convention to be held in Houston, Texas July 22-24, 1988.

I support the idea of educating new collectors and the public, to appreciate the history of insulators. We members of the NIA can use our energy and enthusiastic participation to promote the hobby. The number of interested hobbyists is growing. Nearly everyone has an urge to collect something. Why not insulators?

If I become your representative, I will promote the hobby to the best of my ability. Please vote for me as your Central Regional Vice-President.



## BYLAW CHANGES PROPOSED

According to NIA bylaws, any change to the bylaws (refer to your membership handbook) may be voted upon at the NIA business meeting but they must first be presented to the membership for consideration prior to the meeting. The following changes have been approved by the Board of Directors for consideration and voting by the membership at the Houston National business meeting. Please review the changes and forward any objections you may have to any member of the Board of Directors. The purpose for each change is explained below:

### PROPOSED REVISION TO ARTICLE II, page 3

Purpose: There is nothing in the current bylaws to limit and/or protect the use of the NIA logo. As a result, several members have created and marketed items with the NIA logo for personal profit. Except for dues, the NIA has only one other significant source of revenue which consists of marketing the NIA logo in the form of t-shirts, decals, patches, caps, etc., etc. To permit the uncontrolled use of the logo in commercial products for individual gain undermines this significant source of revenue. While the NIA cannot and perhaps should not be directly involved in the production and marketing of any conceivable item containing the NIA logo, it should at least be reasonably compensated for its use by those who would profit from such use.

### Proposal:

Add paragraph 5 to Article II, pages 3,4:

5. Members of the NIA may utilize the NIA name and logo for any non-profit purpose including but not limited to stationery, clothing, decorative items, advertising of NIA sanctioned activities, etc. Any use of the NIA name and logo in any form for personal commercial purposes (including endorsements) of any type must be approved in advance by the NIA Board of Directors. This restriction includes marketing, selling, or trading of any such commercial item which may be produced by a non-member of the NIA. Approval for commercial use of the NIA name and/or logo may include an appropriate agreement for compensation to the NIA for such use.

### PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ARTICLE VIII, page 8 & ARTICLE II, page 3

Purpose: The provisions of all but paragraph 6 of Article VIII are obsolete. This means we are reprinting an entire page of meaningless information when we issue handbooks. To streamline the bylaws and printing costs the following is proposed:

- 1) Delete the entire Article.
- 2) Move paragraph 6 to Article II (Membership) and number as paragraph 6.
- 3) Modify text to remove the first five words: "To provide for initial organization..."

PROPOSED REVISION TO ARTICLE III, page 5.

Purpose: While it has been done for many years, there does not appear to be any formal authority in the bylaws for the creation of committees other than a blanket clause of the President "...taking such actions as will promote the purposes of the NIA" (para.4). The following proposal will establish this authority and place terms of office on the committee function.

Add paragraph 12 to Article III:

"The President, with approval of the Board of Directors, may establish committees to perform necessary functions of the NIA. The chairperson(s) of the committee(s) will be appointed by the President and will serve until the committee is dissolved or the Chairperson is released by the President or until the end of the appointing President's term of office, whichever occurs first."



## 1987-88 NIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Kevin Lawless, President</b>	<b>(518) 355-5688</b>
41 Crestwood Drive, Schenectady N.Y. 12306	
<b>Eric Halpin, Executive Director</b>	<b>(807) 622-7583</b>
1411 Murray Ave., Thunder Bay, Ont., Canada, P7E 5A7	
<b>Michael Guthrie, Information Director</b>	<b>(209) 645-0120</b>
35816 Bonadelle Ave. Madera, Ca 93638	
<b>Rod Krupka, Treasurer</b>	<b>(313) 627-6351</b>
2615 Echo Lane, Ortonville, MI 48462	
<b>Dennis Weber, Central Region Vice President</b>	<b>(816) 364-1312</b>
3609 Jackson, St. Joseph, Mo 64507	
<b>Jeffrey McCurdy, Eastern Region Vice President</b>	<b>(914) 677-9917</b>
P.O. Box 808, Millbrook, NY 12545	
<b>Shirley Patoeka, Western Region Vice President</b>	<b>(916) 663-3681</b>
P.O. Box 326, Penryn, Ca 95663	
<b>Michael Bruner, First Past President</b>	<b>(313) 661-2359</b>
6980 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, Mi 48033	
<b>Marilyn Albers, Second Past President</b>	<b>(713) 497-4146</b>
14715 Oak Bend Dr., Houston, Tx 77079	



**N.I.A. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

The fiscal year for membership dues starts Apr. 1 and ends Mar.31.  
The current dues amounts for various membership classes are:

- \$8.00 Adult (Regular individual membership)
- \$8.00 Family (This type of membership is for one voting adult and other family members at the same address. Enclose an additional \$1.00 for each family member who wishes voting privileges.)
- \$4.00 Junior (Under 18 years of age)

Make checks payable to "National Insulator Association" and send to: N.I.A. c/o 5 Brownstone Rd., E. Granby, CT 06026.

Each member who is not a subscriber to the magazine "Crown Jewels of the Wire" will receive a copy of the October issue which is the subscriber directory of the names and addresses of all NIA members. Each member household will receive, as part of their membership, a coupon good for \$2.00 off the regular subscription price of "Crown Jewels" magazine.

New members, upon payment of dues, are immediately entitled to all membership privileges. Members receive all NIA mailings including the quarterly newsletter, membership directory, and membership handbook. Family members do not receive duplicates of these items at the same address but will receive individual membership cards.

Current membership entitles the member to display and/or purchase a sales table at NIA National Conventions and permits admittance to the show on the first day of the National, which is limited to NIA members.

I (we) apply for ( ) New ( ) Renewal Memberships in the National Insulator Association.

NAME			NIA #
STREET			PHONE
CITY	STATE	ZIP	DATE

Include names and NIA #'s of all family members.