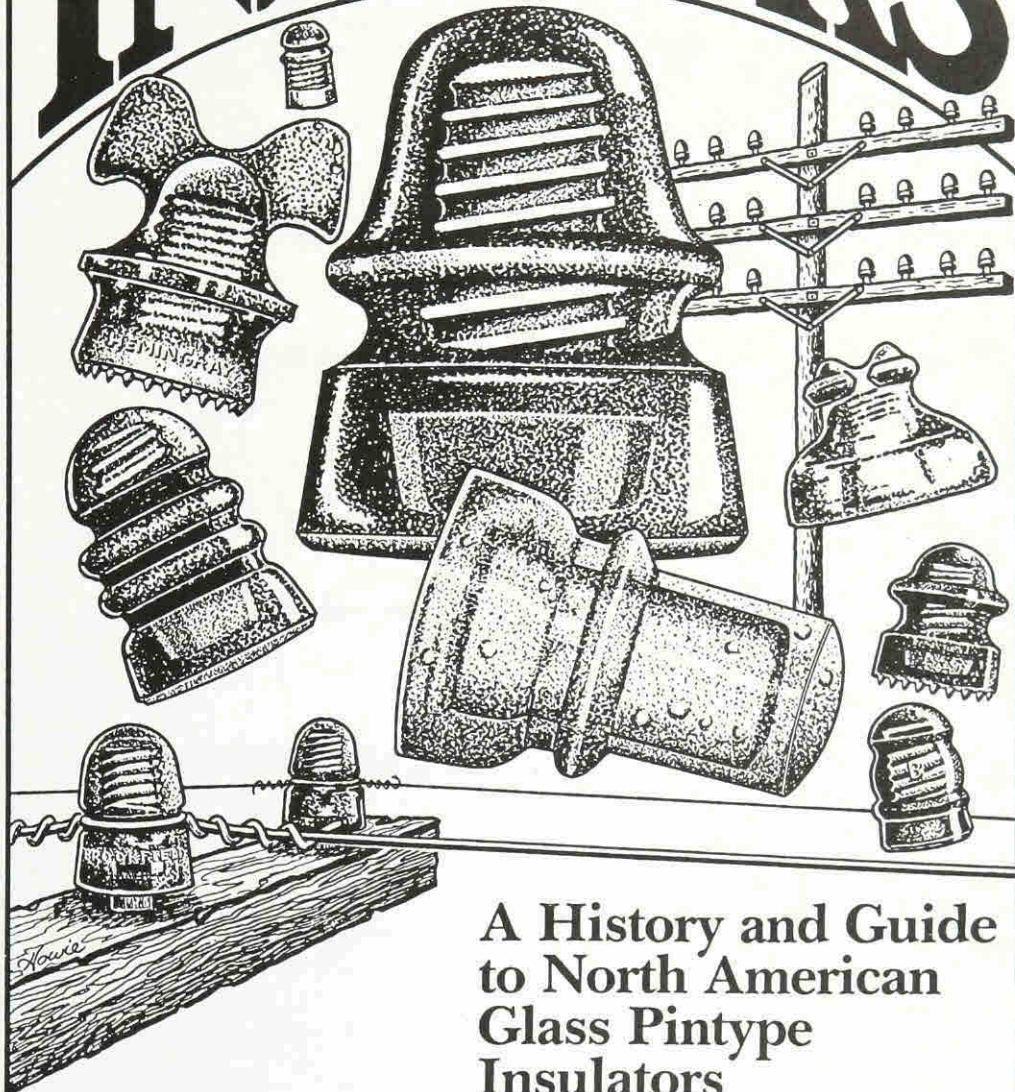


INSULATORS



A History and Guide
to North American
Glass Pintype
Insulators

— John and Carol McDougald —

VOLUME 1

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS . . .

John and Carol McDougald have been actively involved in the insulator hobby for nearly twenty years. It all started when Carol bought a few aqua and clear glass insulators at a garage sale because she thought they would be nice "paperweights" for John who worked for Ohio Bell Telephone Company. The rest, as they say, is history.



(Photograph by Guido Galesloot)

Activities in the hobby since that time include accumulating a 4,500-piece collection (subsequently passed on to many other collectors); participating as dealers, local show hosts, National Show hosts (1976 in Berea, Ohio); serving the National Insulator Association as president (John), treasurer (Carol), ethics chairman (John), historian (Carol), by-laws chairman (John); in 1985 Carol purchased the hobby's monthly publication, *Crown Jewels of the Wire*, and is serving as editor. John and Carol also produce the glass insulator commemorative for the annual National Insulator Association convention. During the past three years, the McDougalds have traveled extensively to visit collectors and attend insulator shows and gatherings. Over 5,000 photographs have been taken and many hours spent verifying the existence of glass pintype insulators of North America during that time.

John graduated from the College of Wooster (Ohio) with a degree in mathematics. He has worked for "the telephone company" (now Ameritech in the

Mid-west) for twenty-five years since graduation and is currently the Director-Delivery Services for Ameritech Information Systems, a subsidiary.

Carol, also a Wooster graduate (biology, with a minor in chemistry), taught school for three years, retired to raise the family and do volunteer work for the P.E.O. Sisterhood (an educational sisterhood) until *Crown Jewels*

of the Wire came along which put her back to work nearly full-time.

Both John and Carol have been active in various church and civic responsibilities, as well as the activities of their children as they were growing up. Sons Dave (21) and Bob (20) were regulars on the insulator show circuit for many years with Mom and Dad until school and work demands got in the way.

This book represents an accumulation of data by the authors over the past twenty years. The effort continues; new or previously unconfirmed listings turn up with surprising regularity. If you have or know of any unlisted insulators that should be included in this book, please write:

The McDougalds
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The completion of this book would not have been possible without the help of many friends and fellow collectors. To those who opened their homes to us to visit, catalog, and photograph; those who brought collections and individual pieces to shows and swap meets to be photographed and used in verification; those whose contributed to or wrote the individual chapters of this book based upon their collecting specialties and research; to Joe Maurath, Jr., who spent many months preparing multiple chapters on the history of insulators and their manufacturers; to N.R. Woodward who carefully made new assignments to the Consolidated Design Chart for threaded pintypes to be used in this book and encouraged us with his support and enthusiasm for this project; to Ray Klingensmith who arranged the Consolidated Design numbers to incorporate new and already known threadless pintypes and prepared the extensive threadless historical information; to Elton Gish for the preparation of a tremendous library of patent information for our use; to Marilyn Albers and Jack H. Tod for their encouragement and support; to Carol's dad, John Magill, for his proofing of text and to Carol's mom, Louise Magill, for relinquishing her husband's undivided attention for months; to Clarice Gordon who did multiple proofings of the text and to her husband Wes for doing the household chores while Clarice read and read and read; and to Howie Snyder for the design and preparation of the cover we owe our deepest gratitude.

We have attempted to list all of those participants in this project and we hope that we have not overlooked any one. Our sincere thanks to each and everyone. Good collecting!

Bob Adams
Phoebe Adams
University of Alabama
Marilyn Albers
Charlie Allmon
Jarl Anderson
Charles Angevine
Dwayne Anthony
Bill Ashcraft
John Ayer
Tim Baggett
Rick Baldwin
Dick Bales
Graham Barnes
Grant Barnes
Jeff Barnes
Jack Bateman
Ora Beary
Bill Beckman
Joe Beres
Paul Bergman
Don Berke
Bob Berry
"Pete" Bishop
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Mike Bliss
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Steve Bobb
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Dan Wagner
Dan Wallace
Claude Wambold
Larrin Wancchek
Steve Watkins
Dennis Weber
Don Wentzel
Richard Wentzel
David Wiecek
Tom Wiley
Doug Williams
John Williams
Ken Willick
Bill Willinsky
David Wilson
Tom Wisser
Tim Wood
N.R. (Woody) Woodward
Jim Xiggores
Bruce Young
Glenn Yows
Ron Yuhas

Other Resources:

Beaver County (Pennsylvania) Library
Cincinnati Historical Society
Colorado Historical Society
Denver Public Library - Western History
Haverhill, Massachusetts, Public Library
Kenton County (Indiana) Library
Lyons, Colorado, Museum
Wells Fargo Bank History Room

FOREWORD

Insulator collecting as a hobby is about twenty-five years old --- just getting ready to be called "middle age". The last ten years have seen tremendous changes in the hobby, not much different than should have been expected watching the collectible move from adolescence to maturity.

- Specialty areas such as porcelain and foreign insulators have grown in popularity.
- Research on insulator manufacturers, inventors, patents, and customers has broadened our understanding of the history of our hobby and the contributions insulators made to the industrial development of North America.
- And the PRICE! Ten years ago you could still count on one hand the insulators that had been bought or sold for more than \$1,000. Now, \$10,000 isn't unheard of. WOW!

This seemed like the right time to assemble a comprehensive publication to update hobby enthusiasts on what we have jointly learned in the past ten years. **Volume I** brings together work by many of the most competent and thorough reserachers in this or, for that matter, any field of study. **Volume II** is these authors' best judgment of the insulator styles, embossings and colors that have been found to date. As a result of compiling this list, we have developed a deep appreciation for those who have attempted this work in the past. Even with the aid of a computer, the subtleties of embossing and color almost defy recording.

This two volume work is designed to provide valuable information about North American Pintype Insulators to the novice as well as the advanced collector in an easily accessible format. We could only be sure of one thing --- the day this publication went to the printer it would be out-of-date. That is the dynamic nature of our hobby. And while we knew that we could not put "everything" in this book, we hope that we have in some way contributed to the maturation of the insulator hobby.

Good collecting!

THE MC DOUGALDS