

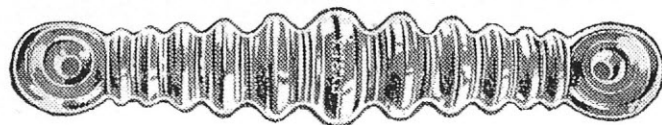
# 2016 PDF edition

## Old Familiar Strains

a newsletter for collectors of radio strain insulators and related items

Volume 5 No. 2

April 1998



### PYREX RADIO INSULATORS

Made By

Corning Glass Works, Corning, N. Y.

*The World's Largest Manufacturer of Technical Glass*

EST.



1868

## Editorial

We passed a couple of milestones with this issue. For the first time, an OFS article was reprinted in another publication. A friend in Seattle writes a newsletter about collecting telegraph keys. In his current issue, Lynn shared the M.M. Fleron article with his readers.

Also for the first time, we have an international subscriber. As noted on page 15, with this issue **Paul Sloopka** from Ontario, Canada, joins us.

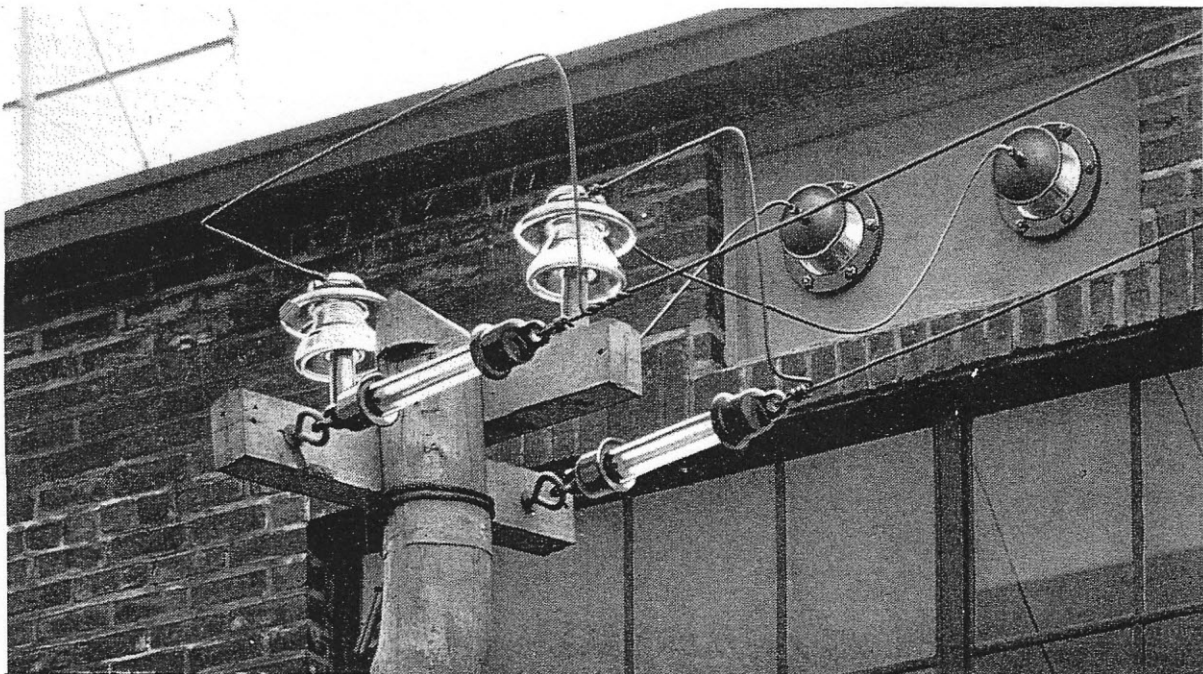
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In the 2/98 editorial I incorrectly noted the dates of the strain meet and the subsequent story. Both events actually took place in 1995.

Have you heard about EBAY.COM? I have now heard several reports about "unreal" pin insulator prices realized on this on-line auction service. At one recent show, a dealer said that he was actually "feeling guilty" about selling pin insulators through EBAY for up to "five times" as much as he would expect to get for them at shows. Wow!

It makes me wonder what kinds of "unreal" prices people are seeing for strains. If you're currently selling on-line and need to replenish your stock of 25 cent strains, please don't hesitate to telephone or write me....

(Sorry, I'm not on-line, yet).



A group of PYREX Power Line, PYREX Antenna and PYREX Navy Type Entering Insulators at Broadcasting Station WLW, Cincinnati.

# Pyrex Radio Insulators: Part II

by Dan Howard

In this installment, we'll follow up with more information on Pyrex strains, again following a loose question-and-answer format. In addition to the strains, some of Corning's other radio insulators are shown. The article concludes with a checklist on page 12.

## When were Pyrex radio strains made? "Ask Woody"

After the February issue went to press, I found Mr. N.R. Woodward's letter in the January, 1996, issue of *Crown Jewels*. I was surprised to see that he had a "1955" price list, when my research showed a 1951 cutoff.

A few days ago, I called Mr. Woodward to verify the date. Imagine my thrill as he read from correspondence with the Corning factory from June, 1955! According to Corning's Electronic Sales Division, production of pin insulators had ceased by 1955 but they were still making a limited line of wall and antenna-type insulators. As has been the case for many years, when you have a tough question, "Ask Woody."<sup>1</sup>

## What are Navy Type insulators?

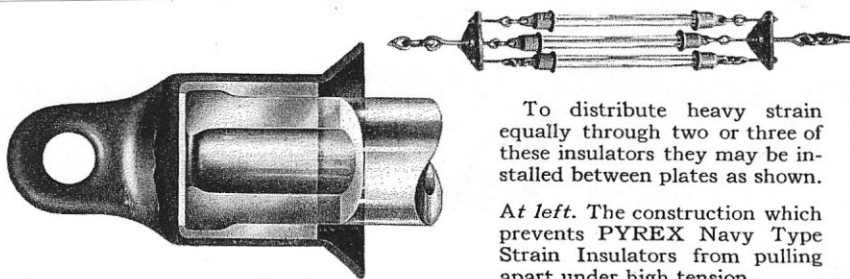
The importance of the U.S. Navy in the development of radio really can't be over-emphasized (and will be more fully explored when we focus on military strains). The Navy was quick to appreciate radio's ability to provide over-the-horizon communication with ships. So,

<sup>1</sup> (For many years, Mr. Woodward has authored the "Ask Woody" column in *Crown Jewels of the Wire*).

from the first, the Navy worked with civilian contractors to develop reliable long range radio communications equipment.

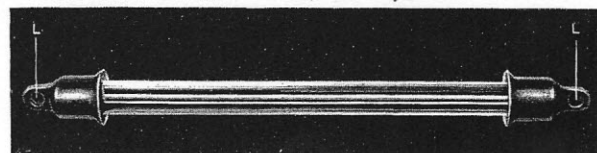
As shown below, Corning developed several sizes of large Navy Type insulators. Ranging in length from 12" to 32," these big brutes were intended for high-powered broadcast stations and large ship antennas. Although they are each very strong, special brackets were made so that several insulators could be run in parallel, making them able to carrying even more weight.

Unlike the smaller sizes, Navy Type strains are made from hollow glass rods. The examples that I have seen are marked the same on both end caps. Two styles of markings have been reported. I have seen a 32" insulator with a faint "CGW" incuse marking. I believe that this stylized logo was used in the Twenties (see trademark section). Two readers report insulators embossed "PYREX MADE IN U.S.A." on one side and "PAT 1700066" on the other.



## PYREX STRAIN INSULATORS—NAVY TYPE SE-2193

Every Type SE-2193 PYREX Radio Insulator is actually tested to 3,200 pounds pull strain.



No.	Average Length (L.toL.)	Outside Diameter of PYREX Part	Weight	Developed Leakage Path	Average Flash-over Value (Kv.)	Price Each
					Wet Dry	
67045	12 in.	1 7/8 in.	8 lb. 10 oz.	3 7/8 in.		\$18.50
67044	16 in.	(same for	9 lb. 6 oz.	7 7/8 in.		18.50
67043	18 in.	all Type	9 lb. 12 oz.	9 7/8 in.		18.75
67052	20 in.	SE-2193	10 lb. 2 oz.	11 7/8 in.		19.00
67053	22 in.	Insulators)	10 lb. 8 oz.	13 7/8 in.		19.50
67046	24 in.		10 lb. 14 oz.	15 7/8 in.		20.25
67054	26 in.		11 lb. 4 oz.	17 7/8 in.		21.00
67055	28 in.		11 lb. 10 oz.	19 7/8 in.		21.75
67008	30 in.		12 lb.	21 7/8 in.	129.5 219	22.50
67048	32 in.		12 lb. 6 oz.	23 7/8 in.		22.50

## Corning Trademarks and Patents

Trademarks styles often change over the years and can be one means of dating a company's production. I have reproduced several styles of Corning logos here. The CGW logo is the earliest, dating from the 1920's.

All but the earliest styles of Pyrex strains carry patent number 1,700,066. As shown below, the patent covered the glass formula rather than any particular insulator design. Thanks to **the Blairs**, I have a complete copy of the patent in my files. If you would like a copy, send me an SASE.



## CORNING GLASS WORKS

CORNING, N. Y.

Glasses of special chemical composition,  
with unusual properties, for  
special purposes



**PYREX  
BRAND**

Laboratory Ware  
Pharmaceutical Ware  
Tubing  
Cylinders  
Battery Jars  
Lantern Globes  
Gauge Glasses  
Fuse Plugs  
Piping  
Thermos Bottle Blanks  
Insulators  
Lenses  
Industrial Glassware  
Filter Glasses  
Ovenware  
Flameware  
Teapots and Teakettles  
Nursing Bottles  
Coffee Making Ware  
Percolators



**CORNING  
BRAND**

Electric Lamp Bulbs & Tubing  
Radio Tubes  
Thermometer Tubing  
Neon Sign Tubing  
Railroad, Marine and Aviation  
Lenses and Glassware  
Light Filters  
X-Ray Ware  
Dental Glassware  
Theater Equipment Glassware  
Tableware  
Tumblers  
Optical Ware  
Christmas Ornaments

**VYCOR  
BRAND**

Industrial Glassware  
Laboratory and  
Pharmaceutical  
Ware  
Filter Glasses



**MACBETH  
BRAND**

Commercial, Residential  
Lighting Glassware  
Street Lighting Globes  
Gasoline & Oil Pump Cylinders  
Safety Lamp Glasses  
Lamp Shades and Parts  
Opal Advertising Globes  
Lamp Chimneys  
Lantern Globes  
Gauge Glasses

**STEBEN  
BRAND**

Artistic Glassware  
Architectural  
Glassware  
Lighting Glassware

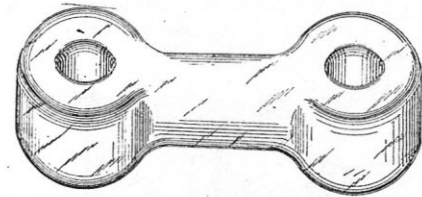
Ser. No. 197,868. (CLASS 21. ELECTRICAL APPARATUS, MACHINES, AND SUPPLIES.) CORNING GLASS WORKS, Corning, N. Y. Filed May 31, 1924.

# PYREX

Particular description of goods.—Electrical Insulators and Electrical Insulating Compound.

Claims use since June 16, 1923.

1,700,066. INSULATOR FOR RADIO FREQUENCY CURRENTS. ALBERT EDWARD MARSHALL, Baltimore, Md., assignor to Corning Glass Works, Corning, N. Y., a Corporation of New York. Filed July 17, 1924. Serial No. 726,507. 2 Claims. (Cl. 173—28.)



1. In a system carrying radio frequency currents, the combination with a part charged with such currents, of an insulator therefor composed of a glass having a high silica content, a low alkali content and containing boric oxide.



**Which Pyrex strains are rarest? (a foray into the arenas of opinion and conjecture)**

As mentioned in the last issue, Corning made top-of-the-line radio insulators, a fact that was lost on no one. Consequently, sales of all sizes were brisk and most assuredly ran into the 10's of thousands (probably 100's of thousands) for the popular sizes. So, realistically, none should be considered rare. However, I would like to offer a couple of observations based on my own experience and from the mail I have gotten.

Of the three all-glass sizes (3-1/2", 7-1/4", 12-1/4"), I would say that the smallest is the least common. The hams and commercial purchasers of the 7-1/4" and 12-1/4" sizes were very particular about quality and durability. And Pyrex was outstanding in both of those areas. Pyrex stacked up well against the alternative materials, porcelain and steatite, and sales were brisk. These sizes turn up quite often today, many times new-in-box. In fact, a local acquaintance swears that he has a case of the 7-1/4" size that he'll get out for me "some day."  
(continued on page 9)

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**photo captions**

**Photo 1:** Pyrex 20" Navy Type insulator, embossed (on the end caps): Pyrex, Made In USA, Pat. 1700066 (photo courtesy of **Rick Soller**).

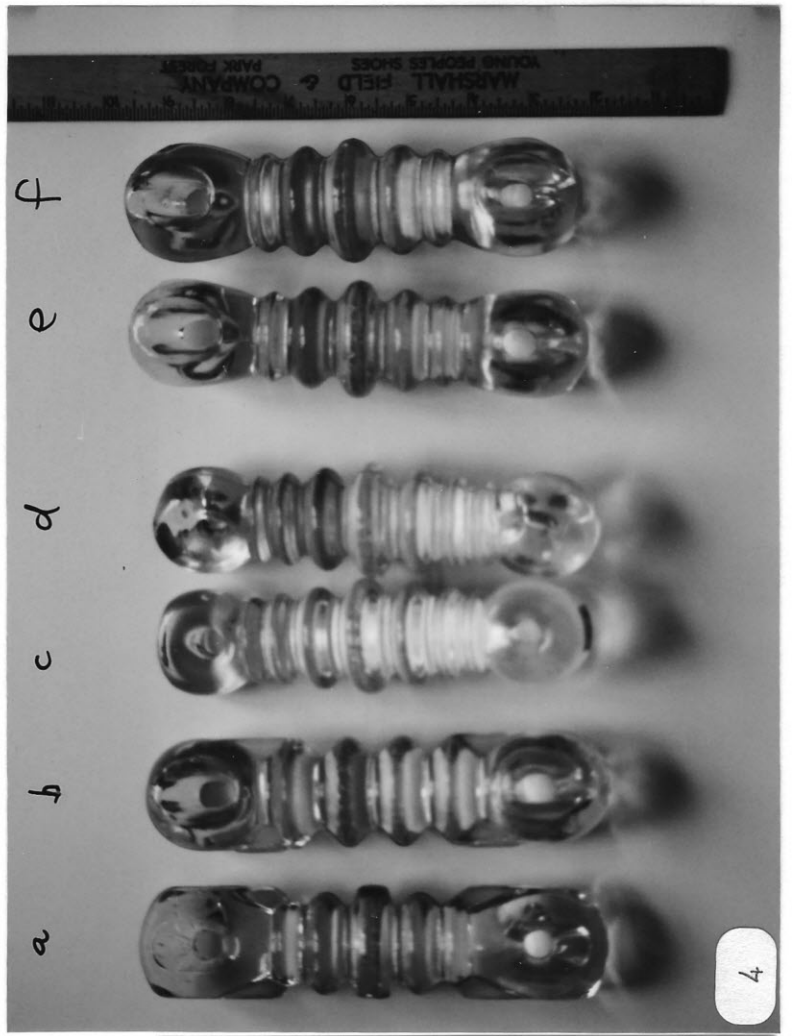
**Photo 2:** Pyrex 3-1/2" broadcast reception insulator, embossed: Pyrex, Made In USA, Pat. 1700066 (photo courtesy of **Don Hutchinson**).

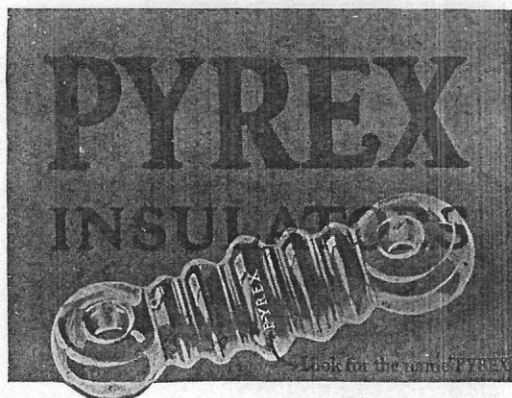
**Photo 3:** Jeff Kaminski's display at the 1995 NIA National Show at Marlborough, MA. Note several sizes of feed thru bowls (right, top shelf) including a bowl that appears to be blue. Note the strain boxes in the background (left, top shelf) and several styles of standoff insulators. A Navy Type insulator sits in the center of the display. (photo courtesy of **Bob Stahr**). (additional views of this display are shown on page 18 of the August, 1995, issue of *Crown Jewels of the Wire*).

**Photo 4:** Pyrex 7-1/2" amateur transmitting insulators. (A) Style 5 embossed: Pyrex. (B) Style 4 embossed: Pyrex, Made in USA, Pat. 1700066, F4 (C) Style 1 embossed: Pyrex, Made in USA, Pat. 1700066 (D) Style 1 embossed: Pyrex (E) Style 2 embossed: Pyrex, Made in USA, Pat. 1700066 (F) Style 3 embossed: Pyrex, Made in USA, Pat. 1700066 (photo courtesy of **Rick Soller**).

**Photo 5:** Pyrex 12-1/4" strain insulators (top) Style 2 embossed Pyrex, Made in USA, Pat. 1700066 (bottom) Style 3 embossed: Pyrex, Made in USA, Pat. 1700066, C4 (photo courtesy of **Rick Soller**).

**Photo 6:** Pyrex amateur transmitting insulator box (insulator inside has reinforced ends) (photo courtesy of Dennis Stewart).





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*Pyrex Insulators are used by the United States Government for the most exacting service. They must not be confused with ordinary glass insulators.*

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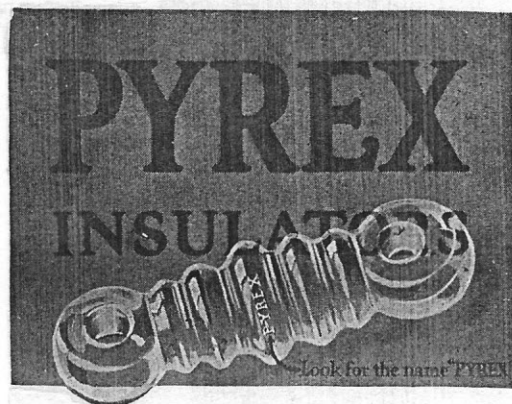
*Industrial and Equipment Division*

**CORNING GLASS WORKS, CORNING, NEW YORK**

*World's Largest Makers of Technical Glassware*

## Make Your Set Weather-Proof!

**B**ECAUSE Pyrex Insulators are diamond hard and crystal smooth, they are not affected by rain or snow. Little drops of moisture cannot gather on them. They remain leakproof in spite of the weather. They continue to conserve every available bit of energy. Put in Pyrex Antenna Insulators and get more pleasure out of stormy nights. That's when you most want to use your set. They cost only 45c each at good dealers.



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*Pyrex Insulators are used by the United States Government for the most exacting service. They must not be confused with ordinary glass insulators.*

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*Industrial and Equipment Division*

**CORNING GLASS WORKS**

**CORNING, NEW YORK**

*World's Largest Makers of Technical Glassware*

## They thought he had bought a better set

**H**E invited his friends to hear his radio. It sounded so much clearer; it brought in the distant stations so much louder that they thought he had bought a better set.

“No,” he said, “It’s the old set—but I’ve put in Pyrex Antenna Insulators. Now I get every bit of energy that’s on the air. These insulators really insulate—they don’t let energy leak away. And they cost only 45c each.”



(continued from page 6)

The 3-1/2" broadcast reception insulator was designed for the home-user. In this market niche, price outweighed quality in the buying decision. Consequently, Corning was competing head-to-head against cheap glass insulators and low-end porcelain strains. In the 1920's Corning repeatedly made a case in its ads for using high quality insulators (see page 8). And although the little Pyrex insulator seems cheap enough (less than 50¢ each), other insulators were selling for 10¢ or less<sup>2</sup>. I believe that price was one reason that Corning may have realized more modest sales in the huge market for broadcast reception insulators.

So today, the 3-1/2" insulator seems to be the least common, followed by the 12-1/4", and the very common 7-1/4". It would be premature to be more specific about scarcity at this time. After we get our cataloging system in place and enjoy more participation in the hobby, it will be interesting to revisit the issue.

### What's New? - additional style and embossing variations

Several readers have sent news of items that were overlooked in the last issue. Here's what's new:

#### 7-1/4" amateur transmitting insulator

Style 1: correction - the insulator has 7 ribs

Style 4: additional mold mark (4b): F5

Style 5: (new!) 5 ribs, reinforced ends.

Unlike Style 4, this insulator has 5 ribs which taper in diameter from the center. Style 4 has only 4 ribs which are all the same diameter. (see photos 4a & 4b on page 7).

<sup>2</sup> In 1945, the Corning insulator sold for \$.20 but others were available for as little as \$.03.

#### 12-1/4" strain insulator

Style 1: version C (6f) PYREX

Style 3: additional mold marks (3b): C1,C4

#### 18" (new size!)

7 ribs (4f) PYREX (4b) Modele Depose (reported by Rick Soller) Can anyone provide a photo or sketch of this item?

### additional sources for Part II

Don Hutchinson

Tim Wood

Jim McCracken

N.R. Woodward

### additional reference information on Pyrex antenna insulators

Howard, Dan "RCA's Radio Central Station" *Old Familiar Strains* 4/97 pp. 8-9

Lewis, John "Pyrex Amateur Transmitting Insulator" *Crown Jewels of the Wire* 12/95 pg. 3

Woodward, N.R. "Pyrex Antenna Insulators" (includes a 1955 Corning price sheet) *Crown Jewels of the Wire* 1/96 pg. 3

### photo credits

front cover: 1933 ARRL National Convention Brochure

pg. 5 trademark listings: *Glass Factory Directory*, 1943 ed. pg. 67

pg. 8 "Weather-Proof" *Radio Broadcasting* 12/25 pg. 150

pg. 8 "Better Set" *Radio Broadcasting* 11/25 pg. 127

Corning ads pg. 3,4,5,10,11,15 Corning 1929 Radio Insulator Catalog: (reprinted by permission)

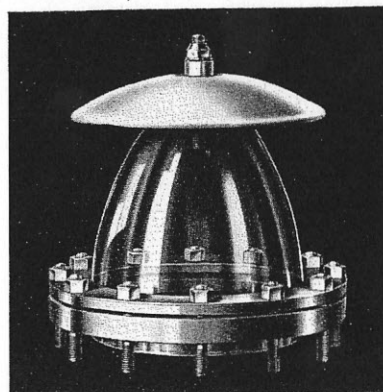


# PYREX RADIO INSULATORS

## PYREX ENTERING INSULATOR—NAVY DECK TYPE

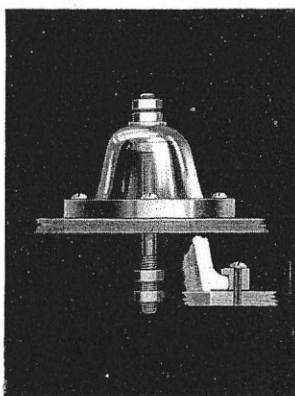
No. 67042 is the bowl only.

The mounting has 15 $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. diam. flanges with twelve equidistantly spaced  $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. studs on 14 $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. bolt circle. Height from top of center pin to bottom of lower flange 15 in., to bottom of bowl 16 in.

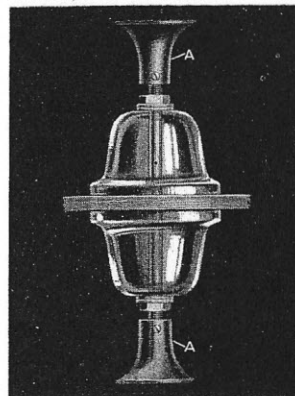


No.	Navy Type	Weight	Height Overall	Outside Diameter at Base	Average Flashover Value Wet	Average Flashover Value Dry	Price Each
67042	SE-2459	16 lb.	13 in.	13 in.	48.5	113	\$ 30.00
67077	SE-2459	Complete with brass fittings and aluminum shield as shown					157.50
67087	SE-2459	Complete with brass fittings and aluminum shield and 12 additional locknuts					161.25

## PYREX ENTERING INSULATORS—AIRPLANE TYPES



57080



67079

	67056	67080	67079	67075
Number	67056	67080	67079	67075
Navy Type	SE-2555	SE-2556	SE-2558	SE-2557
Description	(PYREX shell only)	(67056 shell with brass fittings)	(Two 67056 shells with brass fittings)	(Same as 67079 but without guides A)
Outside diameter	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Overall length	1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.	4 in.	6 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.
Weight	3 oz.	12 oz.	9 oz.	14 oz.
Price, each	\$0.90	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$2.80
Hollow center rod on No. 67079; solid rod with jamb nuts on No. 67075.				

Made in Corning, New York, U.S.A.  
by Corning Glass Works

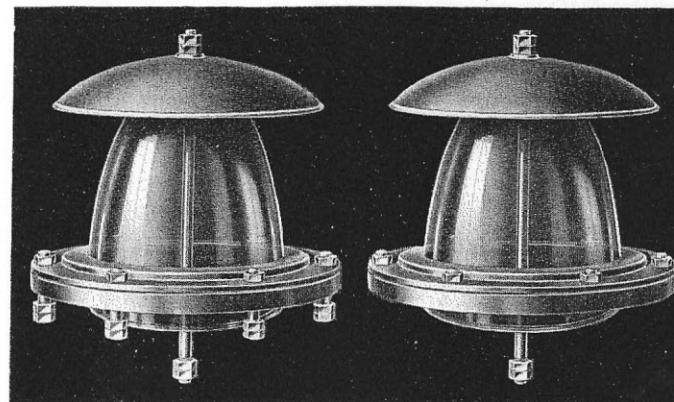
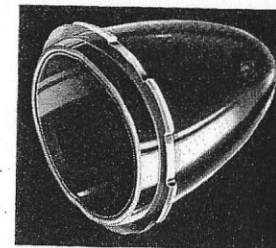


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# PYREX RADIO INSULATORS

## 2 KW. PYREX ENTERING INSULATOR

Bowl only	No. 67091
Weight	9 lb.
Height over all	9 $\frac{3}{8}$ -in.
Outside diam. of bowl at base	8 in.
Diam. of flange	9 in.
Thickness of flange	$\frac{9}{16}$ -in.
Price each	\$4.50



Type A  
No. 67092  
\$67.50

Type B  
No. 67093  
\$67.50

Type A mounting is known also as U. S. Coast Guard Type CGR-37, Drawing R-1030.

All types have 11 in. shield and 14-in. x  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. brass pin with four nuts, 13 U.S.S. threads per in. Top of pin to bottom of bowl, 11 in.

Types A and B have 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. flanges with six equidistantly spaced holes on 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. circle.

Type B has also six equidistantly spaced  $\frac{3}{32}$ -in. countersunk fastening holes on 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. circle in bottom flange.

Type C has 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. flange with six equidistantly spaced  $\frac{9}{16}$ -in. counterbored holes on 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. circle in flange. Diam. of shoulder at bottom of flange, 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ -in.



Type C No. 67094  
\$45.00

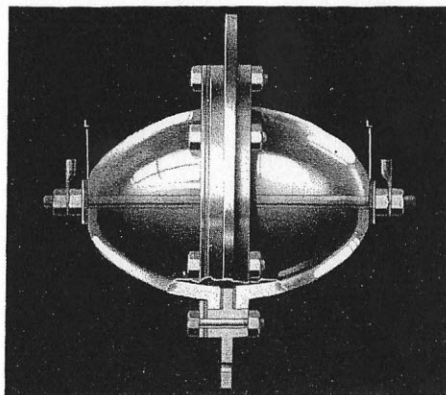
Made in Corning, New York, U.S.A.  
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# PYREX RADIO INSULATORS

## PYREX ENTERING INSULATOR—DOUBLE LEAD-IN

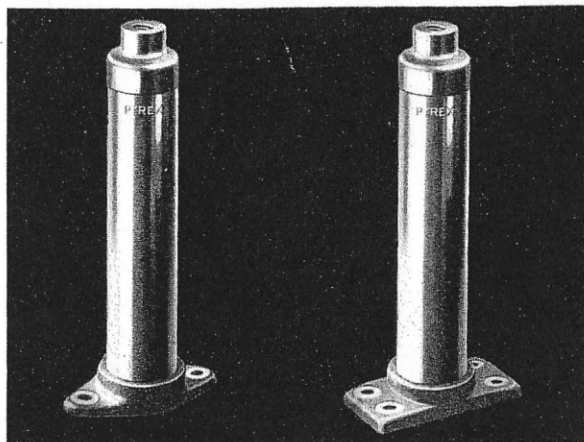


This insulator is made up of two Type SE-2202 (No. 67037) Insulators (see Page 13) and brass fittings as shown.

†6 holes  $\frac{7}{16}$ -inch on  $10\frac{3}{4}$ -inch bolt circle.

No.	Weight	Length		Outside Diameter		Price
		L. to L.	Overall	Flange†	PYREX Bowl	
67085	20 lb.	$9\frac{3}{16}$ -in.	$11\frac{3}{4}$ -in.	12 in.	$6\frac{15}{16}$ -in.	\$40.50

## PYREX STAND-OFF INSULATORS—TYPE SE-2190



Oval base—two  $\frac{9}{32}$ -in. holes  $2\frac{5}{16}$ -in. centers; Rectangular base—four  $\frac{9}{32}$ -in. holes 1-inch and  $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch centers.

Number . . . . .	67018	67019	67068	67069
Height overall . . . . .	3 in.	7 in.	3 in.	7 in.
Oval base, brass overall . . . . .	$3\frac{1}{16}$ -in. x $1\frac{5}{8}$ -in.	$3\frac{1}{16}$ -in. x $1\frac{5}{8}$ -in.		
Rectangular base, brass, overall			$2\frac{7}{8}$ -in. x $1\frac{5}{8}$ -in.	$2\frac{7}{8}$ -in. x $1\frac{5}{8}$ -in.
Tapped hole in brass cap . . . . .	$\frac{3}{8}$ -in.—16 th.	$\frac{3}{8}$ -in.—16 th.	$\frac{3}{8}$ -in.—16 th.	$\frac{3}{8}$ -in.—16 th.
Diameter (PY-REX Part) . . . . .	$1\frac{1}{4}$ -in.	$1\frac{1}{4}$ -in.	$1\frac{1}{4}$ -in.	$1\frac{1}{4}$ -in.
Weight . . . . .	10 oz.	17 oz.	14 oz.	20 oz.
Average flashover value (Kv.), wet	7	32.5	7	32.5
Average flashover value (Kv.), dry	21.5	56	21.5	56
Packing . . . . .	12 in case	12 in case	12 in case	12 in case
Price, each . . . . .	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$3.00

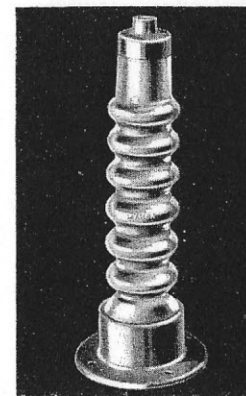
Made in Corning, New York, U.S.A.  
by Corning Glass Works



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# PYREX RADIO INSULATORS

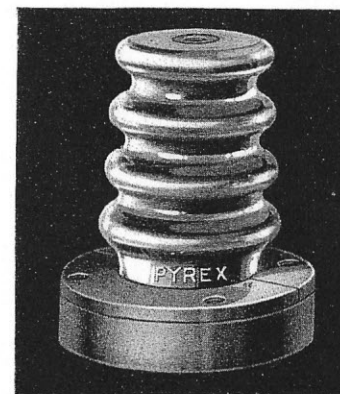
## PYREX STAND-OFF INSULATOR—CORRUGATED



No.	Base*	Outside Diameter of PYREX Part	Height in Cap	Overall Wgt.	Average Devel-Flashover Value (Kv.)		Leakg. Path	Price Each
					Wet	Dry		
67027	$4\frac{3}{4}$ in.	$1\frac{5}{8}$ in. to $2\frac{1}{8}$ in.	$\frac{3}{8}$ in.—16th	$12\frac{1}{4}$ in.	$5\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	57	97.5	$10\frac{1}{2}$ in. \$8.00

\*Four holes  $\frac{9}{32}$ -inch on  $3\frac{7}{8}$ -inch bolt circle. Base and cap are brass.

## PYREX BUS BAR INSULATOR—NAVY TYPE SE-2196



No.	Weight	Height Overall	Base	Outside Diameter of PYREX Part	Average Flashover Value (Kv.)		Tapped Hole in Cap	Price Each
					Wet	Dry		
67024	3 lb. 12 oz.	$4\frac{1}{2}$ in.	4 in.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $2\frac{61}{64}$ in.	29.5	46.5	$\frac{3}{8}$ in.—16th	\$6.00

Base and cap are brass.

Made in Corning, New York, U.S.A.  
by Corning Glass Works



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of Technical Glassware

# Summary of Corning Pyrex Radio Insulators by Part Number

Part #	Description	Military #	Page #
66000	2-1/8" johnny ball		
67007	3-7/8" broadcast reception insulator		7
67017	7-1/4" amateur transmitting insulator		7
67021	12-1/4" strain insulator	SE-2188	7
67045	12" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67044	16" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67043	18" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67052	20" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67053	22" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67046	24" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67054	26" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67055	28" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67008	30" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67048	32" Navy Type	SE-2193	4
67056	2-1/2" dia. entering insulator (glass shell only)	SE-2555	10
67080	67056 w/ brass fittings	SE-2556	10
67079	two 67056 w/ hollow rod and guides	SE-2558	10
67075	two 67056 w/ 5-1/4" solid brass rod	SE-2557	10
67104	two 67056 w/ 15" solid brass rod		10
67105	two 67056 w/ 20" solid brass rod		10
67009	6-1/16" dia. entering insulator (glass shell only)	SE-1846	
67037	6-15/16" dia. entering insulator (glass shell only)	SE-2202	
67085	two 67037 w/ brass fittings		11
67070	67037 w/ fittings and shield	SE-2202	15
67071	67037 w/ fittings and shield	SE-2202	15
67076	67070 w/ additional hardware	SE-2202	15
67091	8" dia. 2 KW entering insulator		10
67092	67091 w/ mounting hardware		10
67093	67091 w/ mounting hardware		10
67094	67091 w/ mounting hardware		10
67042	13" dia. Navy deck type entering insulator	SE-2459	10
67077	67042 w/ brass fittings and aluminum shield	SE-2459	10
67087	67077 w/ additional hardware	SE-2459	10
67110	13-1/6" dia. opaque entering insulator	SE-2954C	
67086	13-1/6" dia. opaque entering insulator	CBI-2954B	
67111	15-7/8" dia. entering insulator (clear or opaque)	SE-1694	
67112	67111 w/ additional hardware	SE-1694	
67113	15-7/8" dia. entering insulator (clear or opaque)	SE-1694B	
67114	67113 w/ additional hardware	SE-1694B	
67018	3" standoff insulator (oval base) AKA 67106	SE-2190	11
67019	7" standoff insulator (oval base) AKA 67107	SE-2190	11
67068	3" standoff insulator (rectangular base) AKA 67108	SE-2190	11
67069	7" standoff insulator (rectangular base) AKA 67109	SE-2190	11
67027	12-1/4" corrugated standoff (round base)		11
67059	2" pillar	SE-2550	
67060	3" pillar	SE-2549	
67061	4" pillar	SE-2546	
67065	6" pillar	SE-2545	
67062	7" pillar	SE-2545	
67024	4-1/2" corrugated bus bar insulator	SE-2196	11

## Show Reports

**Ninth Annual Emerald City Insulator Collectors Get Together and Potluck**  
February 6, 1998 Seattle, WA (reported by Dan Howard)

I have to assume that today's break from the rain was arranged to coincide with Win Trueblood's get together. At lunch time I took my plate out on Win's deck and spent a good hour chatting and taking in the sunny panoramic view. The house sits atop one of the steepest streets I've ever seen. One collector's car was definitely dragging its tail when he left. I'll bet that he was glad that the trip home was downhill!

The show was well-attended by collectors from all over Washington and a couple of us up from Oregon. The "auction" in the back bedroom was a highlight for me. At times the kibitzing outpaced the bidding as boxes full of insulators crossed the block at \$5.00 to \$15.00.

Although we expected to run into **Tim Wood**, we must have missed him. He didn't miss the strains at the Centralia bottle show, however. When we hit that show on our way up to Seattle, it was picked clean as a whistle. I figured to help him unload some duplicates at Win's, but alas, we didn't cross paths.

I did see **Gil Hedges-Blanquez**, however. He was a little late for the show due to basketball coaching responsibilities. I think buying all the cobalt porcelain in sight helped salve his wounds after a disappointing loss on the hardwood earlier in the day.

Since I didn't bring home any new ones, I guess I'll just chalk-it-up to saving my money

for the next show. What a great way to start the 1998 show season!

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**Greater Boston Antique Radio Collectors - Radio XXIX** February 21, 1998 Westford, MA (reported by **Bob Puttre**)

Last weekend I went up to Westford, MA for their annual radio meet. This time I pretty much struck out. Didn't even find any lightning arresters that I already had. I did find a Birnbach aerial kit #502 (see classifieds).

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**1998 Salem Hamfair** February 21, 1998 Rickreall, OR (reported by Dan Howard)

It's a girl! At least that's what I felt like shouting when a beautiful rose pink porcelain standoff insulator came my way at this year's Rickreall ham fest. I was by myself this time with a whole truck load of stuff to get rid of so I went down Friday evening to allow extra time to set up. I was thoroughly soaked by the driving rain by the time I had the truck unloaded. But I forgot all about it when an old friend greeted me with those words that we all love to hear, "I brought along those insulators that I told you about."

A few minutes later I was digging through a mountain of porcelain standoff and feed through insulators. Bill wasn't around when I spotted the pink and cobalt blue glazed standoffs. So I carefully set them back on his table (and kind of buried the pink one behind some white ones) and went off looking for him. Later, when he was done



shopping, I followed him back to the table and we struck a deal.

The pink insulator is beehive-shaped like the insulator shown on page 16. It is unmarked but is very similar to insulators made by Porcelain Products and Star Porcelain. The porcelain is buff-colored. The glaze is a beautiful rosey pink wash that covers the outside of the insulator and the inside of the center hole. The bottom of the base is left unglazed which is typical for this style of insulator. My buddy said that this time he just brought the "junk porcelain." He promised to throw in the "good" strain insulators for me when he comes up to the Puyallup, WA swap meet in two weeks. I just can't wait....

Well, the rest of the show was relatively anticlimactic. I did develop a few leads but am waiting to see what pans out.

Leaving the show in the early afternoon, I kept an appointment at **Tim Wood's** house to see his collection. Tim and Joanne will be moving shortly and the insulators will be placed in storage. Tim had just finished dusting in anticipation of my visit, and dusting a collection of his size must be a huge job! Tim has a nice general collection of glass and porcelain strains with a good assortment of colored glass pieces. We looked over his Pyrex strains for more new mold markings and I gazed longingly at several porcelain and glass items that were new to me. I'm always the first to admit that I know next to nothing about pin insulators. However, even a novice can't help but be impressed by Tim's glass and porcelain pin insulator displays. Perhaps he'll send some pictures when his insulators are back on display in his new house.

### **1998 Mike and Key Electronic Flea Market** Puyallup, WA, March 6-7 (reported by Dan Howard)

An unusual porcelain strain came my way at this year's show - a 3" ribbed brown strain. What's odd is where the glaze is chipped away on one end, the porcelain appears to be dark brown. How strange!

I also found a huge RCA lightning arrester from the 1930's. Some Pyrex items found me. And, from "a-box-under-a-table," a fellow brought out several NOS Budwig strains (OFS 12/94) in a solid dark brown - that brings us up to 4 known colors.

Oh, and my buddy from Rickreall, *didn't* bring the strains this time. I guess that I'll just have to go back next year.

Please write and let me know how your collections have grown this fine Spring.

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### **More about the German Insulator**

On page 14 of the February OFS, we presented information on a strain made in Germany. Here's an update on the glaze color. My insulators were coppery brown as described in the article. However, I've now seen **Tim Wood's** insulator and it is a true brown. My apology for the confusion.

The Deutschmann ad noted the glaze color as white. **Gil Hedges-Blanquez** gave me a sketch of the insulator reprinted from an *Old Bottle Magazine* that also specified a white glaze. Does anyone have a white one?

## Classifieds

**For Sale/Trade:** Birnbach #502 antenna kit. Includes 2 composition strains, Brach Vis-o-Glo lightning arrester. Best offer. Bob Puttre. (516) 223-9667.

**Wanted:** Radio insulators especially Pyrex. Looking for large Pyrex strain insulators. Alan Hohnhorst (513) 948-9141.

## Upcoming Events

Alan Hohnhorst wants to encourage everyone to support insulator shows and swaps through active participation. Allan enjoys his local (Cincinnati-area) get-togethers very much.

## New Readers

**Roy Parker** (NIA #6375) 1060 S. Oakwood Ave. Geneseo, OH, 61254-1938 (309) 944-0171

**Paul Sloopka** 43 Audrey Ave. Guezph, ON, Canada, N1E 5Y1 (519) 824-1305

**Alan Statsny** (NIA #4989) 6332 Clark Rd. West Manchester, OH, 45382-9606 (937) 678-4745.

### Roster Corrections:

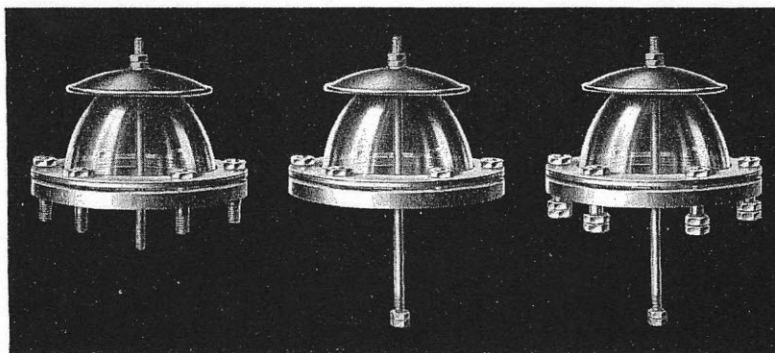
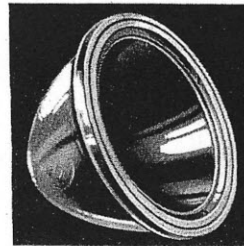
**Keith Roloson:** zip code is 30040-9111

**Tim Wood:** phone number is (503) 394-2258

### PYREX ENTERING INSULATORS— NAVY TYPES

No. ....	67009	67037
Navy Type .....	SE-1846	SE-2202
Weight .....	1 lb. 11 oz.	2 lb.
Height overall .....	4 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.	4 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.
Outside diam. at base .....	6 $\frac{1}{16}$ in.	6 $\frac{1}{16}$ in.
Price, each .....	\$1.50	\$1.50

Type SE-2202 can be furnished with three types of brass fittings and aluminum shield as shown herewith.



Type A—No. 67070  
\$15.00

Type B—No. 67071  
\$16.50

Type C—No. 67076  
\$16.50

Average flashover value—Type A—(Kv.), Wet, 27.5; Dry, 43.

All types have flanges 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. diam. with six  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. studs equidistantly spaced on 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. bolt circle, and are approximately 6 in. high from bottom of lower flange to top of center pin. Center pin is  $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. diam., with 16 threads per in. at the ends.

Type A has studs 2 $\frac{7}{16}$ -in. long and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. center pin.

Type B has studs 1 $\frac{7}{16}$ -in. long, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. center pin and in the bottom flange three equidistantly spaced countersunk  $\frac{11}{32}$ -in. holes on 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. center circle.

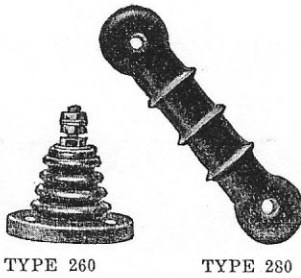
Type C is like Type A except that two  $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. jamb nuts for the center pin and two  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. nuts for each stud are furnished and the center pin is 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. long.

## GENERAL RADIO PORCELAIN INSULATORS

### ANTENNA INSULATOR

For antenna insulation, correctly designed porcelain strain insulators are to be preferred to other commercial types. The Type 280 Strain Insulator, illustrated above, will be found particularly satisfactory. It is made of carefully glazed brown porcelain and will withstand severe weather conditions.

Type 280—Strain Insulator.....\$0.15  
Dimensions  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " x 1". Weight 4 oz.



TYPE 260

TYPE 280

### WALL INSULATOR

Another convenient insulator is the Type 260, illustrated above. It may be used inside to support wiring or instruments, or may be used outside for supporting lead-ins or ground wires. Two of these insulators with a threaded rod connecting them make an excellent lead-in combination. As they are also constructed of glazed brown porcelain they may be used either indoors or out.

Each insulator is equipped with nuts and washers assembled, as shown above.

Three polished nickel mounting screws are also provided.  
Type 260—Insulator .....\$0.25  
Dimensions  $2\frac{1}{8}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{8}$ " x 2". Weight 4 oz.

## Tying it All Together by Dan Howard

As I research strains, sometimes I am overwhelmed by the number of seemingly trivial little details that come along. Then, once in a while something comes my way that "ties together" a bunch of these facts, causing them all to suddenly "fit." This ad is one of those things that "ties it all together."

Here's a recap of the "facts":

- In the December, 1996 issue, we discussed the Star Porcelain insulators. You may remember the picture of Dick Mackiewicz's unusual dog bone insulator. Although it bears the Star trademark, we new little else about it.
- The 12/96 article also mentioned a small brown standoff insulator from my own collection (pg. 5) which was made by Star.
- And I reprinted an ad for some larger brown standoff insulators that Star Porcelain had manufactured for General Radio (pg.6).

Here's the connection: We know that Star produced "private label" insulators for radio parts dealers. But since so few strains carry brand names and fewer still come in the original packages, it is not always possible to link them to a particular distributor. Well, this ad shows that Dick's dog bone insulator and my small standoff were also from General Radio's line of radio accessories.

Comparing the dog bone in my collection and the little standoff to the Star/General Radio standoff, I find that the chocolate brown glaze matches exactly. The dog bone and the small standoff are made from white porcelain but the large standoff is made from Star's gray NU-BLAC porcelain.

Sometimes I feel that collecting strains is an uphill battle because so many of them are unmarked. It's really nice to nail down some answers for a change.

### Sources:

Fort Worth Radio Supply Company 1927-1928 catalog pg. 17 (Courtesy of Lynn Burlingame)

Howard, Dan "Who Made M.M. Fleron's Porcelain Insulators? A Fleron Follow-Up" *Old Familiar Strains* Vol. 3 No. 6 December, 1996.