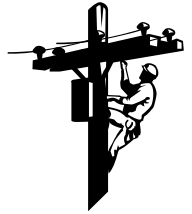


Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.nia.org>

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

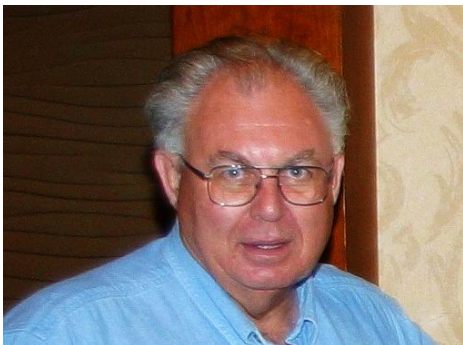
The Summer issue of Drip Points was supposed to be my last issue as Information Director, but I agreed to stay on for one more issue until the position is filled. The above Table of Contents shows that this edition is full of new faces volunteering in new positions. Take some time to get to know the new NIA board and committee members.

Highlights of this issue include the Outstanding Service Award and the NIA Lifetime Membership award. At the end of the issue is a lengthy report by Paul Greaves on Skirt-Embossed EC&M's.

Good collecting,

Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934
Information Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The 41st Annual NIA National Show and Conference held in Boxborough, MA, is now a part of the Association's history. Although the show was a bit smaller than some previous shows, this was a good one. Walk-in attendance was great and the dealers were reporting brisk sales. There were plenty of items available, priced to fit everyone's budget. Everyone I talked with indicated they were having a great time. I heard many accolades about the banquet food. It was wonderful. Once again we need to voice our heat-felt "Thank you for a job well done" to the show co-hosts, Bill and Jill Meier and Dario Dimare.

There are several items to report from the Board of Director's meeting. A number of new committees were approved. It was also approved that the term "standing committee" could be used interchangeably with the term "advisor or advisory panel. That being done, the Board approved the people who have volunteered to head up these committees/advisory panels. Existing committees and their chairs are as follows:

Paul Greaves, Advisor: [Authentication & Classification Advisory Panel](#)
 Gene Hawkins, Chairman: [Awards and Recognition Committee](#)
 David Wiecek, Advisor: [Ethics Advisory Panel](#)
 Miles McLall, Historian: [Historical Committee](#)
 Rick Jones, Advisor: [Philanthropy Advisory Panel](#)
 Carolyn Berry, Product Marketing Manager: [Product Marketing Committee](#)
 Jim White, Advisor: [Promotions Advisory Panel](#)
 Jacque Linscott-Barnes, Advisor, [Research & Education Advisory Panel](#)

New committees and their chairs are as follows:

Bob Berry, Webmaster: [Internet Technology Advisory Panel](#)
 Carolyn Berry, Coordinator: [NIA Commemorative Design & Production](#)
 Steve Blair & Glenn Drummond, Co-Advisors, [NIA National Show & Conference Advisory Panel](#)
 Mike Doyle, Advisor: [Rules & Procedures Advisory Panel](#)
 Carol McDougald, Chairman, [Scholarship Committee](#)

As you can tell, there are some new opportunities in the association. A recent contribution to the NIA, now a 501(c)3, public charity, designated for funding an NIA scholarship has created the need for a Scholarship Committee to administer the fund, receive and process applications, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for the awarding of NIA scholarships. It is our goal to be able to award the first scholarship at the 2011 National Show & Conference in San Jose, CA.

Since the adoption of the Association's new by-laws, there is a need to rewrite the NIA Membership Handbook. The new Rules and Procedures Advisory Panel will be reviewing all the existing material and adding new sections regarding donations and awarding scholarships. The panel will also be monitoring and reviewing the web site to assist the webmaster in bringing the material there current and up to date.

There has been some serious discussion over the past few years regarding the role of the NIA in the production of the National Show & Conference each year. The NIA National Show & Conference Advisory Panel has been formed to research this subject. The Panel will assist potential show hosts as they maneuver through the pre-bid phase to the detailed planning of the final show schedule. The advisory panel will review existing past show reports and make recommendations that will contribute to successful events. These tips and guidelines should become a "Show Hosts Planning Guide." This advisory panel is also charged with investigating alternative methods of producing a National Show & Conference each year.

As you know, a lot of work has already been done to create and grow the NIA. Many hours of volunteer effort have contributed to the growth of the Association and to the insulator collecting hobby. That effort is evidenced by 42 years of Association history. The Association and the hobby will continue to grow only through the continued efforts of all our members. The Association will need your assistance. Each of you, our members, has a particular skill, talent, or gift that can provide benefit to the Association. Please consider volunteering a bit of your time to the hobby. This can be at the local club level, hosting a show, bringing in a new member, or helping on one of the NIA advisory panels and committees.

We have two members who have retired from their NIA positions. First, Dudley Ellis has completed his term as 2nd Past President after serving the Association as Nomination Committee Chairman, Treasurer, President and 1st Past President over the last 14 years. Thank you, Dudley, for your dedication, leadership and service to the hobby and the Association. Second, Rick Soller, has served for 11 years as Historian and Museum Committee Chairman. Rick has tirelessly gathered, kept track of, archived and stored the historical records and materials of the Association. Thank you, Rick, for the service you have provided to the hobby and the Association.

I'm looking forward to the next two years as the Association President. I know that with the help and support of fellow Board members, Advisors and Committee members, and the membership at large the NIA will continue to grow and thrive.

It's exciting to be a part of this wonderful hobby. I wish everyone happy and successful insulator collecting.

**Lou Hall, NIA #7185
President**

Wanted: Volunteers

Information Director

This is a position on the NIA Board of Directors, appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. The Information Director is responsible for the publishing of the newsletter "Drip Points" quarterly. The Information Director will create and distribute press releases, newsworthy articles and hobby related stories as they relate to the NIA for publication in hobby oriented publications and other media outlets. The Information Director would work closely with the Newsletter Editor/Publisher and the Promotions Advisory Panel. A background in public relations and marketing would be beneficial.

Newsletter Editor/Publisher

The Newsletter Editor/Publisher is responsible for creating and distributing the NIA newsletter "Drip Points" quarterly. The Editor/Publisher will gather articles from Board members, Advisors and Committee Chairs for inclusion in the publication. Stories, research projects, reports and other information of interest to NIA members by NIA members should be solicited from the membership. The Editor/Publisher will assemble, edit, print and mail the newsletter both in paper copy form and electronically.

Product Marketing Manager

The Product Marketing Manager is responsible for marketing, sales and inventory of NIA endorsed products. A background in retail management and sales would be beneficial. A job description is available upon request. This person would work closely with the current Product Marketing Manager so as to be prepared for the position as of July, 2011.

If any of these positions sound like a fit and appeal to you please contact Lou Hall, NIA President, by phone (559) 435-1740 or email: president@nia.org.

1st Past PRESIDENT

Well, I am now officially an ex-president, now with the title of First Past President of the NIA. No, I don't get any special super powers like the ex-presidents in those Saturday Night Live cartoons either. If I did, I would want power to seek out all those rare and colorful Hemingray pieces out there.

Speaking of Hemingray, during my tenure as NIA President, I undertook a project to submit to the State of Indiana an application for a Historical Marker to be placed at the Hemingray factory site in Muncie, IN. The impetus was that the Ball Bros. glass factory site recently received such a plaque and I figured, if Ball can get it, certainly Hemingray can as well. The applications are due in September of each year and the criteria are that the subject matter must be Nationally or Internationally significant. Additionally, source material needed to be cited and be of the period, not contemporary reports. Having years of research behind me, this was a slam dunk for me. Therefore, I set out to prove how influential Hemingray was in the glass insulator business on a national and international scale.

Having consulted my files, I included several articles claiming Hemingray to be the largest glass insulator manufacturer in the world, exporting insulators to no

less than 26 countries and explaining the use of Hemingray insulators in France during World War I. All told, my report was about 385 pages, possibly the most complete application the State of Indiana has ever received.

The next step was for the State of Indiana Historical Bureau Board of Directors to vote on the submissions from this group of applications that would be approved to move forward. Due to the "high caliber" of the application, the Board approved the Hemingray plaque at their fall of 2009 meeting. The next step is the Indiana Historical Bureau's confirmation of my research and the subsequent drafting of the text to appear on the plaque. Since I included so much information, once the Hemingray application comes up, it should move quickly through the process. The State of Indiana however, is still processing the 2008 applications and is moving slow due to staff cut backs. Applications for 2010 were suspended, so we were also lucky to get in the 2009 rotation. It is likely that the Hemingray plaque will be erected in 2012.

One of the hurdles with the historical plaque program is the funding of the costs to purchase and erect the plaque. Because of the lack of state funding, the majority of the plaques are privately funded. Knowing this before turning in the application, I stated that the plaque would be funded privately. Otherwise we would have risked the application being denied. The cost of the plaque creation and erection is approximately \$2,500.

I have asked and gotten approval from the NIA Board of directors, to create a sub-account in our treasury to receive donations from the NIA membership as well as other

private individuals and corporations to fund this plaque. This plaque will be seen by future generations and may help spur a few new collectors along the way. I ask you, if you feel this is a worthy effort, send your tax deductible donations to the NIA stating this donation is for the Hemingray plaque. If we receive money in excess of the actual costs, those monies may be used for other future plaque projects.

Thank you.

**Bob Stahr, NIA #4186
First Past President**

2nd PAST PRESIDENT

Hello everyone.

I am sitting here reminiscing about the Boxborough MA, National as I write my first *Drip Points* article as the Second Past President. At the General membership meeting of the Boxborough National, I became the Second Past President and Bob Stahr became the First Past President. As you know by now, Lou Hall is now the NIA President and will also be one of the Show Hosts for next year's NIA National show at San Jose, California.

Cheryl and I had a great time at the Boxborough National. Bill and Jill Meier and Dario Dimare did a great job with the show. It was well attended, although the number of sales tables sold was significantly below what had been hoped for. Even with the reduced number of sellers, the number of people attending the show seemed very good to me. I will be

interested to hear about the exact numbers later in the show hosts report.

Now that my past task of getting the NIA is classified as a Charitable Organization under the IRS code 501(c)(3) is complete, I will be moving on to a new task of helping our new Scholarship Chairwoman Carol McDougald. I know Carol is looking for some Scholarship Committee members. In case it's news to you, we do have a scholarship committee and perhaps just as important, we actually have a scholarship fund as well!

Thanks to donations to the NIA, at last word we had around \$5000 in that fund and a need for a committee to define the general rules and requirements for application to receive those funds.

Please notify me or Carol if you would like to help us out. I would like to point out to anyone out there that donations to the NIA can now be claimed on your personal income tax return as charitable donations. They have the effect of reducing your taxable income on your federal tax return. This is actually not limited to donations of cash. Insulators and collections of insulators are also deductible. The NIA does not place a value on the collection donated. That task is up to you, the value placed is the fair market

value, not what you necessarily paid for the insulator. If you have a price guide or other source to back up your claim of value, you are good to go. It only matters if the IRS wants you to back up your claim.

Well, I am going to keep this short. I hope you had a great summer. Our summer in Phoenix won't really be over until nearly Halloween, but at least the daytime highs start dropping below 100 degrees by mid September to early October. I will be attending the Dwayne and Dave (Double D) show in Southern California, the Albuquerque show, and Springfield Ohio for sure, so I hope to see you there.

Best of luck collecting,

Kevin

**Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720
Second Past President**

WESTERN REGION VP



Hi fellow collectors,

I didn't quite know what to think when I received a call from Lou Hall back in February of this year, asking me if I'd be willing to complete his term as the Western Region VP should he vacate it to become the new NIA president. Well, those of you who know Lou, know that he can be quite persuasive, and after a few more conversations, I became convinced this was a time of real change within the hobby that I wanted to be a part of (Lou has a way of making you feel needed J). Well, Lou has since become our new NIA President and I'm really feeling honored to serve out his vacated Western Region VP position, and look forward to working with him and others on the board to help keep our hobby the strong and vibrant one it is, while focusing on the wants and concerns of all NIA members. I know one of the main concerns that many collectors have is the need to get more young folks in the hobby. Well, having just sat in on my 1st NIA board meeting (at the Boxborough Convention), I can tell you that it was a hot topic on the minds of all

board members too, and that it's being addressed in several ways, and I'm sure Lou Hall will have more to say on the subject, in this and future Drip point issues. Personally, because of the impact the 2004 Western Regional had on my getting into the hobby (see my Bio), I'm a firm believer that shows, tailgaters & swaps hit home more than any other single thing can, for getting a newbie interested in the hobby. Nothing quite compares with the visual impact of seeing tables full of glistening glass, colorful mud & go-withes, or being able to listen in on a conversation or ask questions of those folks that collect these treasures. So, I'd ask that any collector out there who's heading off to a get-together... please consider convincing a family member, friend or acquaintance to go along for the experience. Having hosted my 1st get-together in May, I can attest to the fact that this works. Not only did we have several newbie walk-ins (who went home with free insulators), but I know of at least 4 closet/part time collectors that made it their 1st show ever & say that it added a bit of unexpected excitement to their collecting and they want more of it. So, (shameless plug ahead) please consider this your personal invitation, to attend & bring a friend to the next TRIPLE RIDGE Insulator Club of Colorado Get-together on May 21st 2011 in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO.

Speaking of get-togethers ... by no means do those of us living in the Western Region have the market cornered on get-togethers, but we sure enjoy having our fair share of them, and want to encourage those planning on being out in this part of the country to include a visit with a fellow collector or attend one of the many get-togethers. You can access a list of

collectors & shows at the ICON's home page:

<http://www.insulators.info/>

Even though most all of us (at some level) are feeling the effects of the down-turned economy this year, folks are still getting out to get-togethers and the camaraderie is as strong as ever. In fact, many folks I speak with say they'll do away with a few other nonessentials just to save up for one collector get-together. And on another positive note, it would appear, from the shows I've been to lately, that there's a lot more of the low to mid range priced pieces on dealers tables & the price tags for the high end pieces are a lot more negotiable, with more dealers and collectors willing and/or wanting to do trades for all or part of something they're interested in. The National in Boxborough was another prime example, where I saw a full spectrum of goodies in everyone's price and collectable range, and found that both dealers and buyers were feeling pretty darn good about the deals being made. I also saw more rare and unusual pieces for sale and walk-in at this show than any I've been to before, and came away from the show realizing once again how fortunate we are to be in a hobby that offers so many opportunities throughout the year to get together with like minded folks and enjoy a day or two or three of shared experiences while basking in the upbeat atmosphere that is our hobby. So, grab a friend, get out, and have some fun while helping support the hobby and those who put on these get-togethers.

Hope everyone has a great year of collecting,

**Dan Gauron, NIA #8176
Western Region VP**

CENTRAL REGION VP



It's hard to believe it's been nearly a month since the Boxborough National. Deepest thanks to our hosts, Dario DiMare and Bill and Jill Meier for all the work they put into making the National happen!

I enjoyed myself thoroughly! I grew up in western New York, so after moving to the Kansas City area in 1998, I haven't been to a northeastern show. This National gave me an opportunity to catch

up with many folks I haven't seen in 10 or 15 years or more. I suspect at least a couple people didn't recognize me without my NIA name tag. I hope it's not another ten years before we get a chance to talk again.

I've been re-united with a few boxes of old Crown Jewels magazines that had been packed away for a long time. I've been re-reading some old articles, rediscovering ones I'd completely forgotten about, and looking at the old show calendars and show reports. For a long time I had been trying to create a list of all the insulator (or bottle) shows I'd been to since my first GVBCA show back in 1981. I wasn't able to recall them from memory (not much of a surprise there... hey, aging happens), and those old CJs have provided a lot of missing dates and information I couldn't recall on my own. But as I built my list and filled in the information my memory had missed, I noticed how many show hosts and local clubs had made those gatherings possible. I probably never expressed

much appreciation at the time, and sadly, my list names many show hosts who are no longer with us. I hope everyone takes an opportunity to express some appreciation to show hosts past and present. They've done a lot for our hobby, as have our local clubs. They all deserve our support.

It won't be long now before the summer will wind down, the vacation season will be over and we'll head back to school or the other activities will begin. Over the past few months, I've heard from quite a few new collectors, or collectors who are just now making contact with the organized hobby. All of them report that they received word through a member who took the time to reach out and explain to them what the hobby's all about. Kudos to those recruiters out there, and I encourage all of you to join in the effort.

**Bill Snell, NIA # 2624
Central Region VP**

National Insulator Association
SHOW & CONFERENCE 2011

DOUBLE TREE HOTEL
San Jose, California | July 8 - 10

TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEGRAPH
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS 1861 | 2011

1861-2011

EASTERN REGION VP



My term of office began at what will certainly be one of the years show highlights, the National in Boxborough, Massachusetts. Bill and Jill Meier and Dario Dimare deserve our sincere thanks for what was a memorable show, here, in the Eastern Region. Though attendance may have been bit off due to economic conditions, there was no lack of enthusiasm by the collectors in attendance as brisk sales were reported by most everyone. There were many outstanding displays, including an excellent presenta-

tion by Steve Jones and Zac Mirecki of the Hartford Faience Company, one of the smaller producers of wet process porcelain insulators. If you have never attended a national, make plans now for next years show in San Jose. I am certain you will not be disappointed!!

It was announced that next year's Eastern Regional will be held in West Virginia in August. It is in a great location right off the interstate. Check Crown Jewels or Drip Points or the various websites for detailed information.

This fall promises to an active show season throughout the East. Shows and swaps are scheduled by all of the regions clubs. Shows are always a great way to add pieces to your collection and nothing beats a hamburger or hot dog washed down with plenty of insulator related talk. My personal goal is to attend a Dixie Jewels show this year, a ways from my home, but I know it will be worth the effort. The season will culminate as it always does - at Steve

Blair's and Glenn Drummond's show in Springfield, Ohio. If I could attend only one show a year, this is the one I would not want to miss. The hotels in the area are inexpensive, it is close to a number of airports, and it will be an unforgettable weekend as it always is.

The NIA, now that it has obtained official non profit status, is engaging in many important new initiatives. In my opinion, The Scholarship Fund, when fully developed, promises to be a great benefit to the membership. A tax deductible contribution, can be made at any time to further this and other worthwhile NIA activities mentioned in the newsletter. As a final thought, consider giving a few insulators to a youngster that has shown interest in collecting. This is a critical time for us to renew the ranks of collectors.

**Matt Grayson, NIA #387
Eastern Region VP**

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



I hope all of you had a chance to talk to someone who attended the 2010 Boxborough National or perhaps an earlier NIA Convention. If you had, you should develop an itch to find out what the National Experience is all about. Well, here

is your chance for 2011. You are cordially invited to attend the best show the NIA has to offer. Mark your calendars and we will see you in San Jose, California, July 8th through the 10th for the 42nd Annual NIA National Convention & Show. Hundreds of like-minded insulator collectors will gather in the DoubleTree Hotel ballroom filled with over 100 dealer tables and 24 displays. Special events are planned as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental telegraph.

Your National Show hosts: Dave Elliott, Lou Hall, Bill Rohde and myself are still working out some of the convention details and events. You can follow our pro-

gress and get the latest news in the coming months through your favorite media: Drip Points, Crown Jewels of the Wire Magazine, ICON and the following websites:

www.nia.org

www.goldenstateinsulatorclub.org/national2011

Find your way to San Jose, California and we will see you real soon. It is going to be a great National!

**Colin Jung, NIA #7055
Executive Secretary**

TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEGRAPH
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS 1861 | 2011
1861-2011

You're Invited to the 2011 NIA National Show & Convention

**Doubletree Hotel, San Jose, California
Friday, July 8 - Sunday, July 10, 2011**

Friday, July 8, is NIA Members Only Day

100+ Sales Tables • 24 Displays
Seminars • Raffles • Spin-n-Win
Walk-in Insulator Auctions • Banquet
Pre-Convention Activities & More!

For more information, contact:

Colin Jung NIA #7055, Phone: (408) 732-8736

www.nia.org

<http://goldenstateinsulatorclub.org/national2011/>

Hotel Reservations: www.dtsj.com (Use NIA code)

See you there!



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Once again, Jeanne and I turned the National show trip into our summer vacation. We had a great time at the show, and then spent 3 days in the Boston area as tourists. Many thanks go to Dario Dimare, and Bill and Jill Meier for a wonderful show. A few nice pieces were added to the collection, a lot of information was gathered for the next Price Guide, and many folks have volunteered to review the next Price Guide values. Most of all, it was great to renew friendships with wonderful people and meet many others for the first time.

Many thanks also go out to Steve Roberts for the Sunday morning devotional that he started a couple of years back. It really sets the tone for the rest of Sunday at the show. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to get announced ahead of time, but there will be one held once again in San Jose and anyone interested is invited to attend.

Jeanne and I are already getting

excited about the next National in San Jose. It looks to be another great National show. We look forward to seeing many of you once again and maybe even finding another treasure or two for the collection.

New authorship of the next Price Guide is now old news (if you missed the announcement, see the article in the July 2010 issue of 'Crown Jewels of the Wire' magazine). I am quite excited about the prospect of it coming into fruition in 2011. Work on the next edition is well under way. Now is the time for submission of any new listings, constructive comments, and any other helpful information. I am also compiling a list of volunteers that are willing to review the values for the next edition. Please send information to:

Don Briel
 P. O. Box 188
 Providence, UT 84332
 Don.Briel@Comcast.net

2008 was a record year for NIA membership with 1719 members in good standing. As of this writing we have 1665 members in good standing for 2010 which now makes this our second best year ever. A few renewals continue to come in and we are still seeing new member applications arrive.

Thanks to Lou Hall and his graphic artist daughter, the NIA now has an attractive new bro-

chure. It features the many benefits of NIA membership and publicizes our newly acquired 501c3 charitable organization status. These brochures are available to any NIA member that would like to pass them along, and particularly to show hosts that expect non-NIA members to attend their show. Just contact me at least a couple of weeks in advance of any need and I will get them sent out to you.

As a reminder, October 1st is when membership renewals are credited to 2011 (or a later year if you are already paid through 2011) unless you request otherwise. The 1st of October is also when reminder notices go out for 2011 membership dues. Paying your dues in advance of October 1st saves the NIA the cost of printing and mailing your reminder notice and helps keep your dues down. Please consider paying your 2011 dues prior to mid September. You may also pay multiple years if that is more convenient.

Thank you for your continued support of the NIA and the insulator collecting hobby!

Donald Briel, NIA #7218
Membership Director



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156, Treasurer

**NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
2009-2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2010**

Beginning Balance – General Funds	\$15,964
Museum Exploratory Committee	972
Authentication/Ethics Account	2,297

Revenues

Donations	\$2,500	
Membership Dues	10,871	
Miscellaneous Income	900	
Product Sales	4,263	
Commemorative Sales	6,015	
Howard & Turner Donations	160	
Total Revenues		24,709

General Fund Expenses

Advertising		
Taxes and Fees and Insurance	850	
Marketing Product	3,386	
Postage	1,293	
Printing	443	
Supplies	621	
Educational Expense	289	
Crown Jewels Rebate	1,327	
Drip Points	4,288	
Show Advertising Rebate	620	
National Show Awards	913	
Jerry Turner Memorial	160	
Commemorative Insulators	4,396	
Legal Expense	2,500	
Total Expenses		21,086

Closing Balance – General Fund	\$19,462
Museum Exploratory Committee	972
Authentication/Ethics Account	2,297
Howard Fund	125

Total Balance on Hand June 30, 2010	\$22,856
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Authentication & Classification



The National show is still fresh in my mind as I write this ... and as always, there were many interesting things to see there. I even found an unlisted variation of a CD275 at the show, and added it to my collection! Since Don Briel was at the show, I was able to show it to him and so it will be in the next edition of the price guide. Probably the most interesting things from the perspective of my authentication duties were seen at the home of a local collector that was gracious enough to invite anyone that was interested to come visit and see his collection. Don't pass up the opportunity to visit a prominent collector if you get the chance, it is always interesting! In this case, I was able to spot two more unlisted variations in the power glass category (sort of a specialty of mine). Also seeing the only known CD263 base embossed General Electric was a real treat! After examining this piece in person, I have no doubts about its authenticity.

I was also able to examine several CD788 "slash top" threadless specimens that were found a year or two ago... they are aqua, and a slightly different variation than has been historically seen in the hobby. It was great to finally examine them in person, and from

what I can tell they look authentic to me. I don't have enough data to make a certain pronouncement or anything, but everything about the glass looks right to me, and the story of their discovery does sound consistent and reasonable. Perhaps more will turn up someday.

In some ways, the most interesting item that I saw was a CD731 threadless. It was identical in almost every way to the "narrow dome" Tillotsons, but this one had no embossing! (I believe these narrow dome Tillotsons, sometimes called "small O" Tillotsons due to the smaller than normal second "O" on the embossing, were written about in a previous edition of Drip Points, but it was from before my time in this authentication role.) I took the opportunity to examine it very closely, and noticed something odd ... the surface of the glass in the area where the embossing would be was slightly uneven. At first I thought it might be a blot-out, but realized that instead, someone had expertly ground off the embossing and polished the glass to a high sheen. It was a pretty good job, if I hadn't been experienced in lapidary work I might not have noticed it as quickly. The biggest give-away was that the grinding had extended beyond the embossing on the left and right, and had obliterated a small section of the mold line on each side. I showed it to several other collectors (one also skilled in lapidary work) and we all agreed... it had been ground and polished.

Now as far as I know, no conclusive proof of the narrow dome Tillotsons being either bogus or authentic has been found. A number of things about them do raise questions (for example, lack of documented source of discovery,

generally excellent condition, lack of aging or wear on the surface (a few do have superficial rust or unrealistic wear in wire groove), and most being in highly desirable colors). Now one shows up that has been altered to remove its embossing. I have to ask myself, why would someone polish off the embossing on a threadless insulator? It would seem that it would only de-value it. Perhaps it might be an attempt to lend legitimacy to them by creating a second variation with the same mold profile? It is a mystery to me, but it leaves me feeling more doubtful about these pieces than ever. In any case, I thought the collecting community should be made aware of its existence. I talked to one dealer at the show that remembered seeing another one as well, so there may be more in circulation.

The final thing I want to mention in this issue is the completion of the report on the "Skirt Embossed group" of CD123 EC&Ms. It is pretty lengthy, so it will be included at the end of this issue as a supplement. It will also be available on the NIA web site by the time you read this. Hopefully the collecting community will find this information useful in evaluating these insulators, and if anyone has any more information, observations, or just opinions I'd love to hear them! Until next time ...

Paul Greaves, NIA #2685
Authentication & Classification

PHILANTHROPY



Happy fall, finally, to our insulator family out there! Wow, it was a hot and dry summer here in southwest Ohio. No rain for a month now and that's unusual for us. I don't have a lot to report from the philanthropic front this issue. Just a couple of reminders. Since the NIA is now officially a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, please

think about including a year-end gift to the NIA in your giving plans this year. Cash gifts are fully tax deductible and will help the NIA in its educational pursuits, such as scholarships. Noncash gifts are also tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law, but in those cases, your tax advisor and you (not the NIA) must decide fair market value of such gifts for tax purposes. The NIA will provide a receipt in either case for your taxes.

We all need to support the NIA (and ICON and Crown Jewels as well). We are a nation of caring folks demonstrated by our response to national tragedies and human needs, but also to many charities and organizations that make life worth living. The NIA should be no exception.

In my search for 731s, I hope to

meet many of you in the future at shows. For now, my job keeps me from attending as many as I would like. In the meantime, good luck in your search and remember there's plenty of good stuff still hiding out there.

**Rick Jones, NIA #201
Philanthropic Advisor**

RULES & PROCEDURES



Hello again from the Left Coast. My name is Mike Doyle and I am both honored and excited to have been appointed advisor to the NIA board for rules and procedures. I

will be working closely with Lou Hall your new NIA president and Gus Stafford whom I am absolutely thrilled to have on our advisory panel.

Thanks to Kevin Jacobson's awesome and selfless effort (and the efforts of many who supported him) to redefine the legal status of the NIA, now have an organizational structure that is perfectly poised to represent our hobby to both its members and the general public alike.

There are exciting times ahead as we follow through with the task of forging and polishing the rules and procedures that will make this organization more functional and beneficial to insulator collecting hobbyists, and members of the

educational and historical communities touched by our members.

I look forward to hearing from any of you that have ideas and suggestions. I am very good about answering my email so please don't hesitate to reach out using procedures@nia.org

**Mike Doyle, NIA #5932
Rules & Procedures**

NIA National Show & Conference Advisory Panel

This committee was established in response to concerns raised by the membership about the escalating costs of attendance and participation in Regional and National shows. In response, your President has selected four individuals with extensive experience in planning and management of large and exciting shows to serve on this committee (Steve Blair, Glenn Drummond, Dwayne Anthony, and Bob Stahr).

A primary goal of the committee is to begin the planning process well in advance of the scheduled show date in order to identify individuals, clubs, or loosely connected groups of individuals who may have an interest in hosting Regional or National shows. Another goal is to survey all possible venues accessible to the potential host to obtain the best possible site for the needs of our hobby – and at the same time will satisfy the budgetary limitations of the general membership.

The committee needs input from the membership to accomplish its mission. You can call, or e-mail, Steve Blair or Glenn Drummond, or both, at any reasonable time of day or evening to discuss your concerns. We would really appreciate hearing from you if you have any thoughts about hosting a Region or National show. We would like to hear from you if you have constructive ideas pertaining to show locations and potential show hosts. In the meantime we are reaching out to touch those we know to seek input. However, the clock is ticking so call us if you have ideas. Please don't wait for our call.

If you have given some thought to hosting a Region or National show in the past and backed off because you found the required planning efforts and paperwork to be overwhelming; fear not, we will walk through the process with you and hopefully make your experience as painless as possible. We really are here to make life better rather than increase the burden of bureaucracy. If only the IRS could say the same!!



Steve Blair, NIA 247



Glenn Drummond, NIA 537

RESEARCH & EDUCATION



The mission statement for the Research and Education Advisory Panel is as follows:

The Advisory Panel will actively identify new areas of research, such as the Smithsonian Project,

catalog member research projects, and publish that information to generally educate NIA members and the public about the insulator collecting hobby through various means. This panel should develop educational programs that utilize insulators and related items as classroom teaching aids in history, science and other related subjects. The chairperson of this panel shall be known as the Research and Education advisor. The Advisor will establish a panel of experts to consult with in order to fulfill the duties of the panel.

Jacquie Linscott Barnes,
 NIA #1380
Research & Education

Elton Gish Receives NIA “Outstanding Service Award”



The “Outstanding Service Award” is presented to an NIA member who has performed outstanding service for the NIA and contributed substantially to the insulator hobby. The recipient is nominated by another member of the Association. The award is not necessarily presented every year.

This year an “Outstanding Service Award” was presented to Elton Gish, NIA #41, at the 2010 NIA National Show and Conference in Boxborough, MA. The person nominating Elton for this award made the following statement.

“Elton has gone way above the norm in his efforts to contribute to the insulator collecting hobby. He gives and gives of his time and his wealth of knowledge without expecting anything in return. He is always pleasant and tolerant of neophyte questions of which I have presented many with regard to porcelain insulators. He has always made me feel worthy of his attention whenever I have made contact. He appreciates one’s efforts to add to the information base.”

Additionally, Elton has consistently produced high quality, in-depth research through PIN and his books. With the computerization of his insulator research, the depth of his past research is now easily accessible to thousands of collectors.

This is the second time Elton has been honored with this award. He first received this award in 1989. He and his wife, Kathryn, were honored by the NIA with Lifetime Membership in 1995.

Howard & Linda Banks Receive NIA Lifetime Membership



The "NIA Lifetime Membership", the highest award given by the NIA, is presented to any NIA member for cumulative meritorious service to the NIA or the insulator collecting hobby. The recipient is nominated by another member of the Association. The award is not necessarily presented every year.

This year "Lifetime Memberships" were presented to Howard and Linda Banks, NIA #900 and 6740, at the 2010 NIA National Show and Conference in Boxborough, MA.

Howard has been in the insulator collecting hobby for more than 40 years. He has been an active member of the NIA for the past 36 years. During his years of membership he has served the NIA as Executive Director (1974-1975) and as Western Region Vice President (2002-2005). Howard received the NIA "Outstanding Service Award" in 2002.

Howard and Linda have hosted several backyard shows at their home as well as actively planning and participating in activities for the Jefferson State Insulator Club. Howard is also a member of the Golden State Insulator Club. Most members will remember their co-hosting the 2008 National in Portland, OR. It was at this show that Howard arranged for the CD Collection Display. Not many people may know that in order for that display to be as complete as possible Howard personally drove over 2000 miles twice to get and return one-of-a-kind insulators from the Bolack collection.

Howard has been writing about insulator collecting since he first became a collector. He has written many articles for Crown Jewels of the Wire over the years. He and Linda now own and publish the Crown Jewels of the Wire magazine. Howard serves as Editor and Linda is the Layout Designer. Howard also wrote and published a pamphlet about EC&M's.

Howard created and personally administers the program "Insulators for Youth." He communicates with kids, answers their questions and ships insulators to kids all over the U.S. Howard and Linda also own and manage the Eagle Cap Collectibles Insulator Auction.

Howard and Linda are truly ambassadors of the National Insulator Association. The nominating member summed it up best stating "I don't know many who have done so much, for so many years, as Howard and Linda Banks."

2009 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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Glenn Drummond, NIA #537
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Notasulga, AL 36866
show@nia.org

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Submit (Payable to the NIA in U.S. funds) To:

**Donald R. Briel
NIA Membership Director
P. O. Box 188
Providence, UT 84332
don.briel@comcast.net**

Dues Schedule:

Regular Membership \$ 12.00
Family Membership \$ 12.00
Junior Membership (under 18) \$ 5.00
Club or Organization \$ 12.00

Check appropriate class: Regular _____ Family _____ Junior _____ Club/Org. _____

Check years of payment: Single year _____ Multi-year _____

Please Print Legibly

Name _____

NIA # (if renewal) _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ **(+4)** _____

Country (if non U.S.) _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Please include my Telephone Number **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Please include my E-Mail Address **Yes** _____ **No** _____

I would like to receive Drip Points in the following format **Paper** _____ **Electronic** _____
(Check only one choice) (An E-Mail address is required for electronic)

Additional Family Members Residing in the Same Household

Name _____ **NIA # (if renewal)** _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**Many thanks to
Bill, Jill and Dario
for hosting the
41st NIA National!**



Are you attending an upcoming local swap or show?

Do you need a name **BADGE?**

An engraved NIA badge & club bar is a great resource to identify yourself as a NIA member / club member to others - \$13.85 ppd



All club bars are available for purchase..... \$4.45 ppd
(ex. Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club – CBIC)

****NEW Bar Available!!**

41st NIA National – 2010
Boxborough, MA

(**previous nationals also available)

If you see someone wearing a sweatshirt, polo, t-shirt, cap or holding a mug you would like to have, just give me a call or send me an email....we will work out the details.

Our NIA website, www.nia.org/product.htm, depicts products currently available by NIA Product Marketing and a **printable order form!**

Fall is coming! Enjoy the local swaps/shows and the great community of collectors in this hobby!

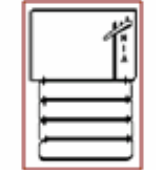
Carolyn Berry
Product Marketing Manager – NIA # 4336
Email me @: products@nia.org





Fall 2010

www.nia.org/products



NOTE:
All sizes, styles & colors of shirts are available by special order



MEN'S GOLF / POLO SHIRTS

Price Quantity Total

Color Choice: _____

Please call or email me for available colors! All with embroidered logo; some with pockets

(Size chart on back) (*note: pockets, 2X, 3X-\$3.00 extra) \$38.00

LADIES GOLF / POLO SHIRTS

Please call or email me for available colors! All with embroidered logo (no pockets)

(Size chart on back) Color choice: _____ \$38.00

BUTTON FRONT SPORT SHIRT - S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$32

DENIM SHIRTS - (*ladies order comparable men's size, see chart)

Nicely weighted denim, pre-shrunk cotton -- stonewash blue or natural; left-side pocket

Embroidered logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$35.00

*S/Sleeve ___ *L/Sleeve ___ 2X ___ 3X ___ \$38.00

T-SHIRTS - Hanes Heavyweight - 6.1 oz. cotton - Pre-shrunk

Screen-printed logo (front & back) S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20)

2X ___ (\$23)

Colors: Stonewash Green, Stonewash Med. Blue, Pebble (sand), Lt. Steel Gray

NEW! Henley style S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ (\$28)

Colors: Black or Lt. Steel Gray

Embroidered logo (front only!) (**NOTE: I have a limited number of t-shirts with pockets, call for details)

S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20)

(*note: pockets, \$2.00 additional on all sizes)

2X ___ (\$23)

Colors: Sand, Golden Yellow, Ecu, Ash Gray, White, Royal, Red, Burgundy, Lt. Blue, Lt. Steel Gray, Stonewash Green

CREWNECK SWEATSHIRTS - Heavy weight - 100 % Cotton/polyester blend - Pre-shrunk

Colors: Hunter Green, Cardinal Red, Lt. Steel Gray -- Embroidered logo

M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$30)

HOODED SWEATSHIRT w/ full front zipper/muff pocket/drawstring hood -embroidered logo

Color: Lt. Steel Gray M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$35) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$40)

EMBROIDERED CAP - low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16.00)

Circle color choice: Stone/ Navy bill, Khaki / Green bill, or all Denim

COFFEE MUG - 10 oz. white mug with logo (*ONLY 5 left!*) \$7.00

COLLECTORS PATCH -embroidered \$4.00

KOOZIE™ - The original beverage Koozie™ fits any standard beer / soda can / 12 oz. water bottle !!

Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$1.50

NIADECAL - for inside car window \$0.50

NIA Name Badge - engraved; beveled edges (fill in form on page 2)

NEW OPTION: Pin back (free) OR Magnetic back (add \$1.00) \$13.00

BADGE BAR - (ie. NIA position or Local Club) \$4.00

NEW "BIG THUNDER" Tote bag - sturdy; NIA logo \$15.00

Subtotal _____

U.S. Postage (see back) _____

Total Enclosed _____

Adult / Men's Size Chart:

S (32-34) M(36-38) L (40-42)
 XL (44-46) 2X(48-50) 3X(52-54)

***Ladies Size Chart:**

S (28-30) M(32-34) L (36-38) XL(40-42)

***Ladies order comparable adult/men's size for most shirts, unless specifically noted as a ladies shirt**

****U.S. Postage: \$6.25 for the first item & \$1.50 for each additional item ordered.**

-- Postage for Patches, Decals, Badge Bars are \$0.60 each.

-- Name Badges are \$0.85 each to mail.

***for non-US postage, AK & HI (contact me)*

~for an exact postage quote, please contact me~

Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to:

National Insulator Association or NIA

Order / Shipping Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Email address _____

Name Badge Engraving Information (current NIA member) Circle back style (pins are free)!!

Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
 Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
 Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
 Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet

Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____

Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____

Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____

Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____

Thanks for your support of the NIA !

Contact Information:

Carolyn Berry – 1010 Wren Court, Round Rock, TX 78681 / 512-255-2006 / pyrex553@aol.com

THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION GLASS COMMEMORATIVES

"Now in the 41st year of continuous production"



41st NIA CONVENTION* 2010 Boxborough, MA
in "Orange Amber"

Embossed on the base of the commemorative:



Embossed on the dome of the commemorative:



\$40.00 postage paid for the first commemorative
(each additional piece \$35.00 when shipped with first)

Solid pours (limited availability) - \$50.00 each

History of the National Show Commemoratives: "Collecting Our History"

Being an enthusiastic insulator collector, Frank Miller of Tulsa, Oklahoma went home from the *First National Insulator Meet* (that's what the "National" show was referred to in 1970) held in New Castle, Indiana with an idea that collectors should have something by which they could remember the national meets. After months of struggling, he managed to have an insulator mold made. Frank said it was often referred to as "Frank's Last Folly" since he retired from teaching shortly thereafter. He also said it was worth the struggle. The commemorative insulator he designed replicated the early threadless "pilgrim hat" (CD 736) and is almost 4 inches high and is 3 1/4 inches across at the base.

Since 1970, the glass commemorative has marked the national show event with new embossing for the location and a new color of glass. In 1979, the project was continued by John & Carol McDougald of Sedona, AZ. John and Carol produced the yearly commemoratives through 2009 at which time they donated the production to the National Insulator Association starting with this 2010 version. Many thanks to the McDougald's for 30 years of production and for allowing the NIA to take over this venture! Any profits made from the 2010 Commemoratives will go to benefit the, not for profit, National Insulator Association.

Please remit order and payment to: NIA 2010 Commemorative
c/o Carolyn & Bob Berry
1010 Wren Court
Round Rock, TX 78681

Checks payable to: NIA

Phone orders: (512) 255-2006

Email orders: pyrex553@aol.com

Google check-out available: see note below

Website: www.nia.org (for Google Check-out follow link from website)

If you have questions, please contact us by phone or email.

A LONG JOURNEY HOME

by Dan Gauron

Some may debate where home truly is for this French 370.6 Monster, but I'm feeling like its right here in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It's got a lot of miles under its belt getting here, but sheer determination and love for foreign glass has kept Bernie Warren on track discovering and bringing home the largest & heaviest glass insulators that France has to offer. This monster started its journey in the south of France back in October 2005, where it was packed with care and sent on its 4,700 mile airplane ride to Anchorage, Alaska. Of the 8 others that accompanied it, this was only one of the 6 that arrived unharmed. Some of the others have found new homes around the country but this one remained in Anchorage until its 3,400 mile airplane ride to the 2010 National. Though I'm not a serious collector of foreign glass ... a Gingerbread man insulator was my 1st French piece, and also the 1st piece I received via a trade (with Mike Green) back in 2004, I always stop to chat with Bernie and admire the glass on his tables. I just never thought I'd be the keeper of one of his Monsters until this years National at Boxborough. I guess the combination of a great insulator, a great price and great folks like Miles & Jerry McLall who were willing to transport it back to Colorado ... was just too much to pass up. So, with another 1,777 miles by land under its belt (for a total of 9,877 miles), it now resides and is displayed in Colorado Springs. I believe it's feeling pretty settled in and enjoying its warm space on the desk with a great view of Pikes Peak. Maybe its days of traveling are over for a while.

Thanks Bernie.

THE FRENCH MONSTER



From Boxborough, MA

TO

Colorado Springs, CO