#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

t's hard to believe that Summer here. Time just shouldn't fly this fast! It has been a great summer, capped for my bride and me by a fantastic three-week trip to the East Coast - and the National Convention at Williamsburg. This was a wonderful show, and vou're destined to hear more about it in the reports that follow. Part of the "wonderfulness" for us was seeing and visiting with our many friends in Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland and Ohio. And we saw a couple of really fine insulator collections in Missouri and Oklahoma. On the long drive back to sunny New Mexico, we took many of the byways, staying off the Interstates. This allowed us to focus on the scenic beauty that is America. One special place stands out as a point of interest that you all might Near the little town of Grove, Oklahoma, on the far eastern side of the state, and just 15 miles south of I-44, lies the historic museum of Har-Ber This village houses a Village. huge collection of artifacts relating back to life in the pioneer days and contains well over a hundred major displays of building, furniture, musical instruments, antiques, tools, farm implements,

china, glassware and Civil War All this stuff is memorabilia. Smithsonian grade material and it's simply amazing to me that I had never heard of Har-Ber Village before. But the best...the best was that they had a really fine insulator collection on display, donated by someone long ago. So if you're ever headed through Tulsa on one of your trips (to next year's National in Scottsdale??), take the half-day to visit this attraction. Oh, by the way, it's free!

Once back to Corrales, I soon

(Continued on page 2)

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discovered the "pain of the grindstone" again. And I haven't caught up yet. Publishing the Drip Points and getting everything in order for the Eleventh EIC Show at the end of September really has my attention. At least the Drip Points is almost done!

In this issue, you will find the first quarterly message from our new NIA President, Kevin Lawless, and a recount of the activities at the recent membership meeting in Williamsburg. Also, John McDougald presents a rundown on some important activities of the Research and Authentication Committee and Steve Marks highlights the current efforts of the By-Laws committee. I've also included a listing of the awards given at the National.

The show itself was showcased by some outstanding displays. One display of porcelain insulators stood out above all other displays and received six awards for the magnificent efforts of first-time displayer Gary Dexter of Tryon,

NC. Congratulations Gary!

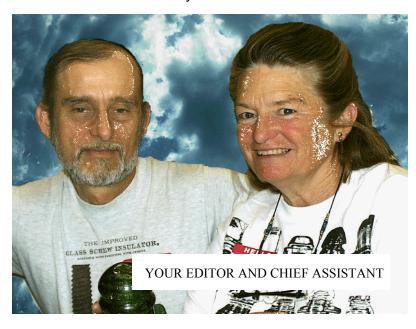
In other news, Chris and Marilyn Hedges are just recently (August 9<sup>th</sup>) the proud parents of a huge boy baby (Andrew, 9lb 6oz!), so congratulations to them as well. Gene Condon is reportedly on the mend and plans on attending the London Show in November, so this is good news. Oh, another important piece of news, Bob and Phoebe Adams recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

(Many folks have asked how they were able to do this – I do not know the answer!)

On the downside, Wes Gordon isn't doing well in San Diego, a result of his worsening respiratory problems. Your cards, letters and prayers will be appreciated.

And now, let's get into the issue!

#### **Tom Katonak**



#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Members.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those members who voted for me in the recent election. I appreciate your vote more than you'll ever know. Even though I did not win, I pledge to you to continue to seek more grass roots participation in the NIA.

I also wish to congratulate Kevin Lawless and Ken Willick on their election to office. I furthermore applaud Mr. Lawless's appointment of Bob Berry to the position of Education Chair. I hope this is a sign that the NIA

executive Committees will be opened up to those members who have never been afforded the privilege of serving.

Best in collecting.

### **Jimmy Burns**

## ANOTHER LOSS TO THE HOBBY

It is with deep sadness that I must report the passing away of Lu Farin from Decatur, Texas today. Lu traveled extensively with her husband, Sheridan who was a civil engineer, all over the United States and ocean islands looking for insulators, rocks, shells, fossils,

pitchers and arrowheads. Lu was a permanent fixture at the National every year except this year when her health would not allow it. Lu's bright smile and wit were a welcome addition to our hobby. Anyone who came by to visit her at home not only enjoyed her many collections, but had the privilege of signing her guest list and tablecloth.

I know that God has added another crown jewel to his collection. Lu is survived by her three daughters; Lynn, Sherry Lu and Ruth.

**Ross Baird** 

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

ear fellow NIA members:

I am most pleased to have been elected by my peers to serve as President of the National Insulator Association. I shall do my utmost to preserve the work that my predecessors have accomplished and to promote the values of collecting and researching electrical insulators.

First, I would like to offer my thanks to several members of the past Board: To Rick Baldwin, who First Past now serves as President, who, as President, saw us through some touchy issues over the past two years; to Dwayne Anthony, who completed six vears as President and Past President on the Board and now sees his term completed; and to Bill Meier who performed some fine work as Eastern Region Vice President for the past three years. I would also like to thank three outgoing committee chairs: David and Karen Wiecek of the Promotions and Education Committee, who have chosen to end their three year term; and Jill Meier of the Product Marketing Committee, who ends five very successful years in that capacity. Thank you all for your fine service to the NIA.

As an organization, the NIA is quite strong, has some excellent leadership and has had positive long-term vision. There are several ongoing projects that we see will benefit the membership and will improve the ability of the NIA to accomplish the goals as set forth by the membership and by the Board. There are several ways that I would like to improve our ability to communicate - with clubs. members. non-members and fledgling collectors. First, we need target a growing to community, many of who have not taken advantage of learning about the organized hobby of collecting, and that is the Internet. To that aim, I have appointed as the new Chairman of the Promotions and Education Committee, Bob Berry of Round Rock, Texas. Bob is a long-time collector and NIA member, active in the Lone Star and Capital District Insulator Clubs and, as a long-term employee of IBM, has immense knowledge of data networking and the Internet. He will chair the committee, but not be its sole member. One of his tasks will be to investigate the creation of an official NIA Web with links to both Crown Jewels and Insulators.Com. and ways that the 15 current clubs can be assisted by this as well. This will take time, but I am confident in Bob's ability. A video is still something that would advantageous, and I have already communicated some possible sources to Bob.

As the new Chairwoman of the Product Marketing Committee, I have selected Caroline Berry of Round Rock, Texas. Caroline is not the typical insulator widow (!) and wanted to participate in Bob's hobby, and is very outgoing, so she will work out very well. Caroline, Joe Beres and I will be strategizing about ways that we can take advantage of NIA Products and Membership being offered live at shows by several committee members, and will have a committee appointed soon.

I am very confident in the abilities of Mike Guthrie, Tom Katonak, Joe Beres and Rick Soller and they will be continuing in their positions. I still have to touch base with a couple of committee members and will have my final committee detail soon.

The 1998 National Show in Williamsburg, Virginia has just concluded and Mark Becher and his wife Marcia Wills hosted a wonderful show. I'll leave others to comment more, but there were several positives that I feel the need to comment on. First, the show was definitely upbeat,

despite a little indoor rain and the

"...there were alot of newcomers, including four firsttime exhibitors"

unexpected lack of a drinking hole to slake one's thirst. Second, the walk-through was steady for all three days, which was a nice sign. Third, there were a lot of newcomers, including four firsttime exhibitors. One, especially, made a big impact. Gary Dexter (aka Jon E. Wreb!) from Tryon, North Carolina was attending his first insulator show and had a knockout display of Southern Porcelain Co. insulators and gowiths, taking home (I think) six A display like that is awards. talked about for a long time and helps make a show memorable. Thank you, Gary and wife Ginger, for sharing your exhibit with us, and congratulations on your wellearned rewards.

I feel good about our hobby. Are there problems? Of course there are. Are there ways to improve things? Absolutely, and we are working on some solutions today. Can you help? Yes. contributing your ideas improvement, by letting us know of some particular way that you can help your hobby and the NIA and your local club, all of which are important. In the next issue of Drip Points, I will devote my entire contribution to the visit that Doug

(Continued from page 3)

MacGillvary and I had at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution on August 4, and some exciting finds and some ways where we may be able to greatly improve our hobby's credibility and help this fine museum in the process.

I will be attending the following shows this fall: September 12: (Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club Swap) East Hampton, CT

September 26: (Eastern Pennsylvania Insulator Show) Kulpsville, PA October 25: (Capital District Insulator Club Show) Albany, NY November 6-8: (Mid-Ohio Insulator Show) London, OH

Until then, please remember to support your local show, your local club, and your fellow collector. Enjoy our hobby!

Good collecting.

#### Kevin F. Lawless, NI #1679

### FROM THE FIRST PAST **PRESIDENT**

want to take this opportunity to **⊥**thank our 1998 National Convention show hosts, again, for a job well done in providing us with a quality show and facilities, and in welcoming Kevin, Ken and of the new Board and committee members on-board. The NIA has many activities and projects currently in progress, and many new ideas and directions will soon be introduced. Please consider volunteering your time and talents, if asked, as there will be a lot to be done over the next two years.

Again, thanks to all who assisted me during my term in office, and a special thanks to Bill Meier for the three years which he competently completed as our Eastern Vice President. Besides other responsibilities. Bill spent countless hours behind the scenes helping the Board's interactions and communications go more smoothly and efficiently.

To reiterate from my preceding message to you, do not forget that insulator collecting is a hobby, and the ultimate goals of participation are to derive pleasure from the experiences and to have fun! share, educate, Learn,

involved and h е "...do not forget perpetuate that insulator the wonderful collecting is a positive hobby..." aspects of our great hobby. M 0

President

importantly, take every opportunity to build friendships and to enjoy the camaraderie that our hobby and the NIA offer.

р

Rick Baldwin, NIA # 336 First Past President

#### FROM THE EASTERN REGION

would like to extend my thanks to all that took the time to vote in this year's election. When the results were tallied, 54% of our membership had cast votes (much better than the numbers in most U.S. presidential elections!). Again, thanks for your support!

I've just returned from a family vacation to Williamsburg, VA, where we attended the 29th NIA National. This was a great show, with the largest variety of insulators I have seen in quite some time. Colored porcelain, multis, foreign, threadless, power, colored signals, some great pieces. fantastic California displays. The list goes on and on. I managed to acquire a longsought-after M-2420 Lima, NY, which was the highlight of the show for me.

The Williamsburg area was a great place for a family vacation. Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens, Water Country USA, nearby shopping, parks and affordable restaurants all added up to an enjoyable and relaxing experience. Many thanks to show co-hosts Marcia and Mark Becher, and Jim Frustieri for locating a show site so conveniently within this interesting and entertaining

area.

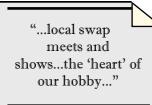
I attended my first official board meeting at the show and a number of items were discussed. Please be aware of a number of altered insulators originating in Florida and appearing in the southeast. These were common, clear pieces that have been irradiated to a muddy amber color. Please alert your fellow collectors if any of

these are spotted at flea markets or antique shows.

Also, the testing of the first selection of questionable glass insulators and lightning rod balls has started, and hopefully we'll have some results in a couple months. I will also try to put together a portable black light box, which can be used to view known or suspected repairs. If I can come up with a practical design, I will have it available at shows/swap meets I attend.

There are several shows and gettogethers coming up this Fall in the eastern region that are worth stopping in for. The first is the Yankee Polecats Swap Meet and cookout on September 12th, hosted by Larry Emmons at Emmons' Golden Pond'. A one-day show in Kulpsville, PA on September 26th should be a goodie. Contact Jim Frustieri for

details. Larry Craft can give you some info on the 13th Semi-Annual Gulf Coast Swap Meet in Havana, FL on October 24th. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, the CDIC and the Capital Region Bottle Club will cohost a show and sale in Albany, NY. Contact Kevin Lawless if you're interested in attending. I encourage everybody to attend your local swap meets and shows.



These are the "heart" of our hobby and provide a wealth of information, ideas and personal

friendships.

Lastly, keep looking for those "jewels", be they glass, porcelain, or friends you haven't met.

Good Luck and Good Collecting,

Ken Willick, NIA #3709
Eastern Region Vice President

# FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

had expected to see some Central Region NIA members in attendance at the National and I wasn't let down. Although most of the Central Region attendees seem to have been from Ohio, the states of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Texas were also well represented.

This year's National in Williamsburg, VA was a success and congratulations should go to Mark Becher, Jim Frustieri, Gus Stafford and the rest of the Chesepeake Bay Insulator Club for hosting such a wonderful event.

During the NIA Membership meeting the official announcement was made that the NIA is having a select group of items tested in hopes of determining the legitimacy of suspect insulators. The test is a non-destructive chemical analysis being performed by an agency that is well known throughout the country. I am hoping that this test may finally put to rest the problems associated with some suspect pieces in our hobby. This test however, will NOT identify items that have been

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irradiated or had coatings applied to after production. In saying this, I will also report that the NIA is getting ready to print a color page showing insulator halves before and after irradiation. I also hope that this will be informative and be well received by the membership.

The upcoming schedule of Central Region shows where insulators can be found follows:

- Sept. 12 Lone Star Insulator Club Show Houston, TX
- Sept. 12 North Western Region Insulator Club Sioux Falls, SD Swap meet
- Sept. 26 Texas Bottle &

Insulator Show Austin, TX

- Sept. 27 Huron Valley Bottle & Insulator Club Show Ann Arbor, MI
- Oct. 4 Greater Chicago Insulator Club Meeting St. Charles, IL, at Crown Jewels Headquarters
- Oct. 10 Insulator Swap Meet Cordell, OK
- Oct. 17 Missouri Valley Insulator Club Show Kansas City, MO
- Nov. 1 Metro East Bottle & Jar Show Collinsville, IL
- Nov. 7 & 8 28th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show London, OH

This impressive list covers the

calendar and the Central Region with swap meets, club meetings, and full-fledged shows. I can't wait to see next year's schedule!

Sincerely,

**Bob Stahr**, NIA #4186 Central Region Vice President

#### FROM THE WESTERN REGION

want to thank everybody who responded to the NIA survey. We had 134 responses and by far and away most were in favor of the NIA and the way the board is dealing with the various problems facing us today. The actual results and percentages will be posted in the next issue of Drip Points but a short summary exists here. A few people had some

"...most seemed

excited about

collecting and quite

optimistic on the

future of the hobby"

comments on the. prices of glass, and the status of testing of questionable insulators. Some stated their interest was waning a little were and they moving off in

different directions. However most seemed excited about collecting and quite optimistic on the future of the hobby. Of the 134 that responded, 46% have been collecting for 24 or more years, 80% don't consider themselves a dealer, 57% have been to at least two Nationals, 50% consider themselves having average size collections while 31% considered

themselves as having advanced collections.

In other results, 50% had access to the internet, and 85% felt that the internet will be more important tool for the hobby in the months and years to come. A total of 57% stated the hobby would continue to grow and 35% stated that it would stay the same. Importantly, 98% were satisfied with the NIA leadership and just 2% were

dissatisfied. Also, 63% felt that prices were too high for now and the difference, 37% felt that they were realistic. Lastly, 41% have been members of the NIA for at least 0-5 years, 16% have been

for 6-11 years and 13% have been members for at least 24 years. There will be more results in the next issue.

In other news, the Western Regional has come and gone. It was not as successful as regional shows have been in the past--but the people that did attend (the ones I spoke with) were happy

with the results. Many had decent sales and a few good pieces showed up--like a 145 HGCO Petticoat loaded with white ricelike bubbles (it was intense!) and a pair of 162 HGCO Patent May 2 1893 signals in a light ice aqua loaded with white junk. Actually, those last two were mine--one sold and I kept the other. Others included several nice signals, many in color-displayed but not for sale on a table, a Pluto and a Liquid Insulator and quite a few others. Mike Miller had a fine display of Denver glass and also WGMCo bottles and one Best of Show. The TRIC club appreciates all who took the time to attend and regrets any inconvinence the hotel caused in losing reservations or not getting the show hall opened up that Friday afternoon (it didn't get the room even identified until around 6PM). This was supposed to be a one and a half day show and resulted in being only one day.

I was not in attendance at the National but have heard good reviews about it.

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As a parting note, I would suggest making reservations for EIC Show in Albuquerque this year, the last weekend in September. It looks like they're headed for a table sellout again this year. If not for the fine show The EIC puts on, then certainly for the fabulous weather, Mexican food, roasted Chiles, and the International Hot

Air Balloon Fiesta (a week later in early October). It is always a successful show. Contact Tom Katonak if you need any details. Until then, hope all of you are well and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming show.

Matt Poage, NIA #3757 Western Region Vice President



# NIA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

inutes of the 26th NIA General Meeting, Williamsburg, VA, Friday, July 31, 1998

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Rick Baldwin. 73 members were in attendance.

- 1. A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made by Jackie Linscott, seconded by Claude Wambold. Passed by voice vote.
- 2. 1999 NIA shows were announced.

-The Dixie Jewels Insulator Club will host the Eastern Region Show in Huntsville, Alabama on March 6-7, 1999. Tables are \$30 for the first, and \$25 for the second. The Ramada Inn is offering a rate of \$38 for a single room. One major attraction in the area is the Space Center. In the past, the Huntsville show has had attendance of 400+ for a one day show so more are expected for a two day regional show.

-Bob Stahr, Rick Soller, and Arlen Rienstra will host the Central Region show in Crown Point, Indiana on September 11-12, 1999. Crown Point is just south of Chicago at the crossroads of three major east-west interstate highways (I-80/90/94) and I-65, the major north-south interstate highway going from Indianapolis to Chicago.

-Steve and Melanie Marks and the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club will host the National show in Scottsdale, Arizona on June 25-

"...the Natioinal

show in Scottsdale

Arizona on June 25-

27 1999"

27, 1999. Numerous attractions are available in the area including the Grand Canyon. Special flying

rates have been negotiated with one major airline.

- 3. Bob Stahr reported on the latest membership survey. Full results are available from him. Major concerns of those who responded included high prices of insulators and finding insulators.
- 4. John McDougald reported on the activities of the Research and Authentication Committee.

-John will be taking items to the Winterthur Museum to have research conducted on suspect speciments. The tests cost about \$40 per item. The first round of testing will involve testing of samples of CD 133.4s, CD 735s, EC&Ms, CD 120 CEWs, glass blocks, and lightning rod balls. The nondestructive tests will provide data on the composition of

both the suspect items and control items. An analysis will be done later to determine if this information can be used to identify questionable pieces.

-Photographic copies of the display by Dwayne Anthony showing the effects of irradiation

and heat on the color of glass insulators will be put in the hands of all NIA members and CJ subscribers who are not NIA members.

5. Elton Gish reported on the problem of irradiated insulators made by Pacer Henry in Florida. He stated that Pacer Henry does not intend to stop making them, and since he is not an NIA member, there is little the NIA can do directly. The insulators are turned a burnt amber color and this is also being done to bottles. Reports of these insulators and bottles have come from Texas and Florida. Pacer apparantly only sells these at flea markets, not through the mail. Elton will look into whether they were sold to collectors in big batches.

-Marilyn Albers reported that it is also a common practice to irradiate Australian insualtors.

-Don Bryant stated how terrible the whole practice was.

-James Doty suggested contacting Pacer Henry's place of

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employment to point out the noncompany use of equipment if such was the case.

-Jackie Linscott asked about the availability of Dwayne Anthony's display of altered insulators for use at local shows. This exhibit is available for any NIA sanctioned show with postage reimbursed by the NIA for shipment both ways. Contact Dwayne to arrange for the display.

-Butch Haltman asked about the assignment of classification numbers. This is part of the ongoing work of the Research an Authentication committee.

6. Dudley Ellis reported on the results of the last election.

-Thanks to everyone who ran including Jimmy Burns, Kevin Lawless, and Bill Meier who ran for president, and Larry Novak and Ken Willick who ran for Eastern Region Vice President.

-The elections produced one of the largest turnouts with 52% of NIA members voting for president and 54% of eastern members voting for V.P. -Kevin Lawless was elected president with 219 votes (50%), followed by Bill Meier with 140 votes (32%), followed by Jimmy Burns with 78 votes (18%).

-Ken Willick was elected Eastern V.P. with 103 votes (62%) followed by Larry Novak with 64 votes (38%).

7. Kevin Lawless spoke about his goals as the new president.

-He pointed out that 15 clubs is a record, that they were active clubs, and that Nationals were being hosted by them.

-New board members were announced. David Wiecek will be replaced by Bob Berry. Continuing on will be Mike Guthrie (Treasurer), Joe Beres (Membership), Tom Katonak (Information Director), and Rick Soller (Executive Secretary).

-One pet project that he will focus on is the NIA History. There have been some disappointments in the past but he would like to see the archives cataloged and made available to members. To get the ball rolling, he donated copies of newsletters from two defunct

insulator clubs and photos from the first national. He challenged local clubs to catalog and contribute their newsletter.

-On a few personal notes: Pete & Lillian Bish are celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary. Clarice Gordon who could not make the show at the last minute sent greetings and informed everyone of the availability of her new book on Hemingray. A round of applause was given for Rick Baldwin as the outgoing president.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike Guthrie, seconded by Dudley Ellis. Adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Executive Director

### ...DRIP NOTES

- NIA T-shirts now available for kids! (See Product Marketing note)
- Moving?? Send your change of address to Joe Beres, Membership Chairman
- Do you have your insulator collection insured? NIA sponsered insurance is available
- Dwayne Anthony's display of altered insulators is available for your show: Contact Dwayne at (909) 862-9279 (or *blobtop126@aol.com*)

- Bill Meier reports there are now 550 subscribers on the ICON!
- Thanks to Shaun Kotlarsky and Don Reinke for the digital photos used in this issue

# FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR

reat National!
Beautiful
insulators!
Outstanding food!
The very best of
friends! It doesn't
get any better than
this! Kudos to Mark
Becher and Jim
Frustieri for a grand
National.

Congratulations to our new NIA President Kevin Lawless from Schenectady, New York and to the new NIA Eastern Region Vice President Kenneth Willick from Lima, New York!

NIA members are commended for the fantastic return of ballots. The NIA mailed out 308 ballots for Eastern Region Vice President and 845 ballots for President. The membership returned 167 Vice

President ballots for a whopping 54% return and 437 President ballots for another whopping 52% return! The return indicates to that we the members care about the direction of the NIA and our hobby.

The following are the results of the balloting:

### **President**

"The large ballot

return indicates to

me that we the

members care about

the direction of the

NIA and our hobby"

Jimmy Burns: 78 votes or 18% Bill Meier: 140 votes or 32% Kevin Lawless: 219 votes or 50%

## **Eastern Region Vice President**

Larry Novak: 64 votes or 38% Kenneth Willick:103 votes or 62%

I would like to thank each of the

candidates for stepping forward to offer their respective abilities to move our organization forward and better our hobby. I hope the candidates who did not win this election will continue to express their ideals and will consider running for office again.

Remember that the Western Region Vice President position will expire during next year's National. You folks in the Western Region need to begin thinking about who you are going to encourage to represent your region on the NIA Board.

Thanks again, NIA membership, for the record election returns!

**Dudley Ellis**, NIA #5085 **Nominations Chairman** 

# RESEARCH AND AUTHENTICATION UPDATE

The issue of suspected fakes L has received a great deal of attention over the past few years. Through the efforts of Rick Baldwin, Mark Lauckner, Dwayne Anthony, Mike Guthrie and others, several avenues have been thoroughly investigated in an attempt to help the collector identify fakes. Dwayne Anthony and Mike Guthrie have created a wonderful display of "treated" insulators which is available for NIA sanctioned shows at no cost to the show hosts. (The only requirement of the show host is to provide a lighted display case to hold the display.) You will probably read more about this display elsewhere in Drip Points.

Another issue that has received a lot of attention is the appearance

of certain insulators in heretofore unknown colors and some new styles in desirable colors. Efforts to establish the authenticity of these pieces have not been

"...the Winterthur

Museum...specializes

in the analysis of

historical artifacts to

help provide

authentication"

successful to date for a number of reasons, not the least of which has been the cost of some of the technical tests that might reveal some helpful information.

Recently, we contacted the Winterthur Museum which is related to the DuPont family and which specializes in the analysis of historical artifacts to help provide authentication. They were very interested in our situation and agreed to provide an analysis of some of the questionable items on our behalf. At the NIA Board Meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>, the Board

approved the appropriation of funds and agreed to the group of items that would be submitted for testing. The testing will provide a thorough qualitative and

> quantitative analysis of the chemical makeup of the specimens. In order for the test to yield useable results, control items need to be submitted so that the chemical analysis can be analyzed on a comparative basis.

Winterthur will provide us with a statistical analysis of the specimens and will express an opinion as to the likelihood of common manufacture between the control and suspected items.

The following control/suspect groups were turned over to Winterthur for analysis on August

(Continued on page 10)

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- 1. CD 123 E.C.& M.'s 6 items
- 2. CD 120 C.E.W.'s 3 items
- 3. CD 133.4 (Virginia Bullets) 6 items
- 4. CD 731 4 items
- 5. CD 735 3 items
- 6. Glass Blocks 3 items
- Lightning Rod Balls 6 items

The actual testing will take several weeks, and the analysis will probably take an additional several months. While the Board is optimistic about the testing that is underway, it is important to understand that the output from this testing will not designate

certain items as "real" and others as "fake". However, this analysis should provide a good basis for collectors to make their own decisions about these specimens, which the Board feels is the best alternative we can offer the NIA membership. If the testing is successful, we will plan to submit more specimens for testing, and with the expertise we have within our own membership, we may be able to build an effective database individual analysis collectibles in our and related hobbies. I will be reporting more as results become available.

On an unrelated and more positive topic, Kevin Lawless and Elton Gish have been working on a numbering system for battery

rests. Battery rests have been a popular go-with in the insulator hobby, and this is an excellent effort to raise their status to that of pin type insulators. Once the proposed numbering system has been approved, it will be made available to the NIA membership. Preliminary work has also begun to create/update numbering systems in a number of other non pintype insulator styles. More later.

John McDougald, NIA #689 Research and Authentication Committee Chairman

# INSULATOR CABINET PROBLEMS

### **WARNING**

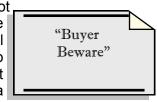
any of you are familiar with Bob Ryckman has produced over last several years. Unfortunately, Bob has fallen behind in production for unknown reasons and has failed to meet several promised deliveries. addition. he has stopped communicating with his customers and with me regarding two complaints against him. One complaint deals with a cabinet ordered more than two years ago and another complaint deals with failure to meet several promised delivery dates and refusal to send a sizable refund. Neither of the two complainants has been able to either obtain the cabinet they ordered or the requested refund. It appears that Bob has ceased all communication with customers and he refuses to return calls. He was issued a final warning and failed to respond by the specified deadline. Therefore, you are cautioned against ordering a cabinet from Bob until this matter is resolved.

Please contact me if you are waiting on delivery of a cabinet from Bob. Make sure you include date ordered and amount of downpayment. I would also like to hear from anyone who received a cabinet in 1998.

On an added note: It is more important than ever to exercise caution when dealing with people you do not know. This is

especially true in the world of the Internet where people can disguise their true identity through email. Always be cautious of anyone contacting you with insulators to sell and asking you to send payment. If they contact you first, you should expect them to send the insulator on approval. If

you do not know the person, feel free to contact either me, a well-known



NIA member, or a fellow collector. Buyer Beware!!

Elton Gish, NIA #41 NIA Ethics Chairman

### FROM THE BY-LAWS CHAIR

uring the NIA Board Meeting in Williamsburg, the Board unanimously approved a revision to the "NIA General Show Floor Rules" and the "NIA Position on Fakes and Reproductions." These revisions were necessary so that these two directives would not conflict with the recently revised "NIA Code of Ethics."

The most significant change is the addition of the "Questionable" insulator category. Many Board and Committee Chairmen feel that there are insulators out there that cannot be definitively categorized as an "imitation" or "altered" insulator, yet these pieces still don't seem "right". A discussion during the revision to the "NIA Code of Ethics" led to the suggestion that an appropriate remedy for such a situation might be to simply label the insulator as "questionable," until further testing or proof can be offered that would indicate that the insulator is "original" or something else. Below are the revised directives. They were already included in the 1999 National Show Packet that was handed out in Williamsburg.

Speaking of the 1999 National, Melanie and I are pleased to report that we have already surpassed the half-way point in

"The 1999

National Show

Packets are already

available!"

table sales (55/110), and d i s p l a y commitments (12/21). Hotel rooms are already being booked, and we have

already sold 12 banquet tickets! All of this within 10 days of the Williamsburg National and before news of the 1999 National had even hit CJ! The 1999 Show Packets are already available so please don't hesitate to contact us

at 602-473-7014 or at gcsic @ insulators. com! I have the feeling that this show is going to sell out quickly, particularly because of the discounted airfare and superb resort hotel rates that we have arranged for. So make your plans early to come to Scottsdale! Thanks for your support!

### NIA General Show Floor Rules

These Floor Rules have been adopted by the NIA Board as a guide to proper conduct of individuals at insulator shows, and they are to be publicized to all show participants and attendees. Only items #1 through #7 are of concern to the general public. All items, #1 through #18, are of concern to the sales table dealers and exhibitors.

- 1. All participants shall abide by the NIA Code of Ethics.
- 2. Participants shall not knowingly misrepresent the attribution, condition, rarity or value of insulators or related items they offer for sale or trade.
- 3. All categories of insulators as defined in the NIA Code of Ethics shall be both marked and marketed with respect to the mandates for such, as specified in the NIA Code of Ethics. With respect to addressing proper

conduct at NIA sanctioned shows "Questionable Insulators," are insulators about which there is uncertainty, as to whether they are original, imitation, altered or restored. Dealers and

exhibitors shall honor and comply with all requests from show hosts and/or NIA officials which pertain to any items deemed by them to be categorized as "questionable." Such requests may involve labeling or removal from sales

tables or exhibits. It shall be the show host's responsibility to strictly enforce this rule and the decision of the show hosts shall be final.

- 4. All restored or repaired items on sales tables must be clearly labeled as such.
- 5. All show participants and the attending public shall respect any show rules in force with respect to local ordinances and restrictions imposed by the owner of the facility.
- 6. Positively no public attendance during show set-up hours.
- 7. "Aisle dealing" by the attending public will not be permitted.
- 8. It will not be permissible for sales table dealers to "work the aisles" in any fashion which preempts the opportunities of fellow dealers.
- 9. Dealer side shows (spotlights, excessive cow bell ringing, etc.), shall not be carried to the point of being abusive to fellow dealers and the general public.
- 10. Dealers will not sub-let all or portions of tables without first consulting with the show chairman and obtaining permission.
- 11. Dealers shall keep aisles in front of tables free of boxes and clutter.
- 12. Dealers are encouraged to not leave their uncovered tables unattended at any time and do so at their own risk of loss.
- 13. Dealers should keep their sales tables intact until the end of the published show hours. There will be exceptions made for those

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driving long distances or needing to make other travel connections, but advance arrangements should be made with the show chairman when making table reservations. The chairman reserves the right to locate such table on the outer aisle or near exits to avoid disruption of the rest of the show with any early departures. chairman may announce blanket authority for early takedown at such time as public attendance appears to have essentially anytime Sunday ceased afternoon.

- 14. Dealers and exhibitors will be responsible for any damage they do to the facilities with their set-up practices. Please no thumbtacks and no signs or other items taped to walls or furnishings.
- 15. The NIA and the show hosts will make every effort to provide good security, but neither will be responsible for any loss of participant property due to theft, loss or breakage. Each dealer and exhibitor is asked to help in security by watching after his own items and by keeping an eye on adjacent tables in situations of obvious risk.
- 16. At the NIA National Show only, exhibitors and sales table

dealers who offer a substantial amount (over 25% of table), of insulators and/or "related items" must be NIA members.

- 17. The reservation of a sales table or an exhibit space constitutes the acceptance of these rules and agreement to comply with them.
- 18. All show hosts of NIA sanctioned shows shall secure an NIA approved agreement from dealers and exhibitors.

# NIA Position on Fakes and Reproductions

- 1. Guidelines for the permanent marking of various categories of insulators and items are specified in the NIA Code of Ethics. The goal is that the existence of appropriate markings will cause the prospective purchaser to easily recognize that an item is an imitation, a commemorative or has been altered or restored, or cause him/her to question its authenticity.
- 2. We are asking that hosts of NIA sanctioned shows (and hopefully all insulator shows whether sanctioned or not), note the rules and the applicable Code of Ethics definitions and mandates pertinent to "fakes and reproduction" items in their Dealer

Agreement, in addition to providing a copy of the NIA General Show Floor Rules to all participants.

- 3. We are asking that show hosts monitor the tables during the setup and conduct of the show and take appropriate action if improperly marked and/or "questionable" items appear on tables. It is understood that the show host will have the full support of the NIA for enforcement of the standards set forth. Any NIA Board member(s) and/or designated NIA representative who may be in attendance at an NIA sanctioned show, will provide active assistance should a show host require such in resolving any violation of the NIA standards.
- 4. NIA sanctioned shows are by definition National and Regional shows but can be defined as any show where the NIA ribbon is to be awarded for exhibits.
- 5. In addition, we are asking that all NIA member (and hopefully non-members), observe the rules pertaining to "fakes and reproductions" not only at shows, but at all times when dealing with their fellow collectors, including mail order transactions

Steve Marks, NIA #4951

# FROM THE PROMOTION AND EDUCATION CHAIR

I look forward to taking on the committee chair of Promotion and Education. This is my first NIA position, and I am in information gathering mode. I think one of the most important things the NIA can do is to make the general public aware of the hobby and to provide new collectors a link into the hobby mainstream. I know of several key areas that are and have been absolutely key to the growth of the hobby.

- 1) Shows!
- 2) Hobby Literature and Magazines
- 3) Internet (ICON & Web sites)

- 4) Educational displays / material
- 5) Promotional Video(s)

The Internet has been one of the most exciting areas of growth in the hobby with ICON, insulators.com and recently

"The Internet has been one of the most exciting areas of growth in the hobby..."

Crownjewelsofthewire.com bringing many new and closet collectors. We must take care, however, to ensure that Insulator shows and hard-copy literature are not negatively impacted, as all are key to the hobby's growth and health.

I know there has been a lot of

activity in the past on a number of projects including a promotional video. David and Karen Weicek

have offered to help bring me up to speed on what is already in-place along with some additional ideas.

There are also a few other good opportunities that I have discussed with Kevin Lawless that we may be

able to take advantage of! In general I'm just trying to sort out ideas and set priorities and I am looking for as much input and/or help as possible. If anyone has any ideas on hobby promotion or education drop me a line!

**Bob Berry**, NIA #1203 **Promotion and Education** 

A NOTE FROM PRODUCT MARKETING

ur NIA items sold like hotcakes at the National in Williamsburg! We even ran out of a few T-shirt sizes. But never fear, you can always order by mail. See the order form enclosed in this newsletter.

SPECIAL BULLETIN: I will be placing a special order of childsized T-shirts and Sweatshirts for the holiday season. SPECIAL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 1, 1998 so that I can have the items shipped out in plenty of time, hopefully by December 1. These shirts will be just like the adult version, or as close as possible. Due to the limited nature of this offer, I will not be putting these items on the order form, but please see it for descriptions. You can use the form for easy ordering, but please be clear if you want the children's sizes.

Tip: The adult Small (34-36) may be perfect for an older child.

And, while we're at it, if you want a larger than 2X adult size shirt, please give me a call and I can see what I can do.

All of our NIA items make great gifts, so plan early and order today!

For Child Sizes, order Small (6-8), Medium (10-12), or Large (14-16). Prices are \$12 for child-sized T-shirts and \$20 for child-sized sweatshirts. Shipping charges follow the same formula as our other items; \$3 for the first item and \$1 for each additional item.

Happy Collecting,

Jill Meier, NIA #4323 Past Product Marketing Chairwoman

#### AWARDS AT THE WILLIAMSBURG NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dr. Frederick L. Griffin Memorial Award (Best of Threadless): Doug McGillvary

NIA Best of Category Awards
Color: Jim Frustieri

Foreign Insulators & Relateds: Eric Johnson and Anne

General: Carl Rusk

Go-Withs: Tom and Alice Moulton

Porcelain: Gary Dexter Specialty: Bob Jones

Lightning Rod Equipment: **John McDougald**Milholland Educational Award: **Doug MacGillvary** 

Bob & Phoebe Adams Showmanship Award: John McDougald

Capital District Insulator Club Award (Best Exhibit Using Eastern Insulators): **Gary Dexter**Central Florida Insulator Collectors Award (Best First Time Display at a National): **Gary Dexter** 

Len Linscott Pioneer Award: John and Carol McDougald

Central/Southern Counties Insulator Club Award (Best Exhibit Using Southern California Insulators): Carl Rusk

Dixie Jewels Insulator Club Award (Best Use of CD's, in memory of Jim Overstreet): **Bob Jones** 

Greater Chicago Insulator Club Award (Best Exhibit Using Power Insulators): Fred Collier

N.R. Woodward Literary Award - Lone Star Insulator Club (Author of Best Research Article): Gary Dexter

Nor-Cal Insulator Club Award (Best Exhibit Using Western Insulators): Carl Rusk

Crown Jewels of the Wire Award (People's Choice): Bob Stahr

Sterling Finch Memorial Award (Dedication to the Hobby of Insulator Collecting) Williamsburg Rgnl Library

Lon C. Holy Award (Donation by Larry & Mary Beth Veneziano): Gus Stafford

Jack Tod Memorial Award: Gary Dexter

National Show Host's Plaque: Mark Becher, Gus Stafford, Jim Frustieri

Show Host's People's Choice Award: **Gary Dexter** NIA Outstanding Service Award: **Dwayne Anthony** 



GARY DEXTER'S MULTI AWARD-WINNING NATIONAL SHOW DISPLAY



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