

# HISTORY OF THE GLASS & OPTICAL MATERIALS DIVISION

Submitted February 6, 1993, by Arun K. Varshneya, New York state College of Ceramics, Alfred University, Alfred, NY 14802.

## OUTLINE:

- \* Birth of the American Ceramic Society
- \* Birth of the Glass Division
- \* Summer/Fall meetings
- \* Recognition of excellence
- \* Brief review of membership
- \* Problems in utopia. Name change.
- \* "Competition".
- \* My perception.
- \* Memorabilia/ Sources/ Thanks.

### **1. Establishment of the American Ceramic Society.**

"Letter of Call".

Center of the American ceramic & glass industry.

Edward Orton, Jr., "provisional secretary".

First meeting, February 6, 1899. Orton Hall. Ohio State Campus.

First "summer meeting" July 4-7, 1899 at Cleveland.

### **2. Inclusion of glass as a "ceramic".**

### **3. First publication on glass in the "Transactions" (1909)**

By Robert L. Frink. "The effects of alumina on glass" and "Some fallacies of glass making".

### **4. Plan in 1914 for permanent committees on topical interests ("Industrial Divisions").**

Glass Division as one of the first seven in 1918.

(Pottery, Glass, Enameled Iron, Refractories, Structural Materials, and Cement and Lime). Followed by Terra Cotta, Art, Heavy Clay Products, and White Wares by 1922.

First chairman C. H. Kerr	1919
Second chairman S. R. Scholes	1920
Bill Prindle	1966
Dave Pye	1979
Arun Varshneya	1985

**In 1919, the ACerS Board voted to allow 10% of the membership dues of a Division to that Division to meet its operating expenses.**

**5. First "summer" meeting of the Glass Division**

About 10 people invited by Frank Flint (1926 chairman) to get together at his cottage at Cove Point on the west shores of Chesapeake Bay, MD 1929.

Stressed the fellowship of golf, tennis, hiking, and other forms of camaraderie. Frank Flint, Aaron Lyle, J T Littleton, Frank Preston, Ross Purdy, George Cooper, Otto Schott. (Others?)

Held each year except in 1962 (displaced by ICG Washington DC)  
Meeting sites: Keuka Lake (NY), Pittsburgh, Columbus, Toledo, Rochester, Corning, Bedford Springs, Poconos, New Orleans, & Others.

**6. Summer/Fall meetings organized by the Glass Division officers as of 1931.**

**7. Recognition of excellence:**

**MOREY AWARD:**

Established May (?) 1969. In honor of George W. Morey  
For outstanding contribution to glass science and technology

Preference to a single contribution, or a series on a single topic. Low priority to lifetime contributions in a wide area.  
(Priority raised in 1985 revision.)

Funds to pay for travel expenses of the recipient and a commemorative steuben bowl by PPG.

First recipient B. E. Warren. Oct. 8-10,'69. Bedford PA.

**KREIDL AWARD:**

Established May 1990. In honor of Norbert J. Kreidl  
For best student paper submitted to the GOMD at the annual meeting of the ACerS.  
Cash prize of \$300.

**8. Establishment of C-14 committee of the ASTM 1937.**

To standardize test methods, expected performance etc.

George Morey first chairman.

## 9. MEMBERSHIP

ACerS Membership: 5242 in 1976. Now about 14,300 .

(1988 data) : 23 - 53 years old. 200 or more for each age year.

### Glass Division membership data:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Corp</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>Total</u>
1976	49	918			
1985	36	1116	189	70	1411
1986	35	1145	217	82	1479
1987	42	1176	233	94	1545
1988	49	1192	240	114	1595
1989	51	1184	248	111	1594
1990	51	1180	240	116	1589
1991	55	1218	239	134	1646

## 10. PROBLEMS IN UTOPIA.

Name change as of May 1990.

From "GLASS DIVISION"

to "GLASS AND OPTICAL MATERIALS DIVISION"

(Action taken to combat falling attendance).

No real change in attendance. Fall meeting attendance as low as 75 (?).

## 11. "Other" U.S. organizations of interest:

Glass Problems Conference

Gordon Conference on Glass

Advances in the Fusion & Processing of Glass

Physics of Non-Crystalline Solids

University Conference on Glass Science

## 12. Topics which found "other homes":

Fiber Optics

## 13. The distinct lack of "glass" papers in the J A Cer S.

## GLASS PROBLEMS CONFERENCE

Brainchild of C. W. Parmelee, nurtured by Fay Tooley  
(Univ of IL)

First in 6/1,2/1934 ; second 11/2,3/1934.

Yearly thereafter except for an occasional miss.

Initially cosponsored by U of IL and Chicago Section of  
the American Ceramic Society.

Entry of Ohio State Univ as a cosponsor starting with  
the 9th conference (1947).

" Do you know one of the main things that attracts me to this conference? I figure it saves me a dozen trips during the year that I would need to make in order to learn what I learn here in a couple of days and nights" --- so said one regular attendee. (Quoted by Tooley, p69).

Attendance 400 or more after #24 (1963). 522 at #48 (1987).

Relations with the Chicago Section ACerS soured somewhere after 1947 (before 1970). (Tooley does not appear to say anything about the breakup). My guess would be 1957.

Letters from Earl Frazier and Bill Prindle (1970) to Henry Walker suggesting some kind of merger with the ACerS.  
Politely declined. (Tooley, p113).

## 14. MY PERSPECTIVE:

Fall meetings have:

Mostly scientifically oriented papers. Few on technology.

A large spectrum of topics covered. Rarely a focus.

Best attendance only when balance of science & tech.

Experience of Corning meeting.

Experience from New Orleans.

## 15. Memorabilia:

Preston's film.

50 years of the "glass gavel" in 1985.

Request.

## SOURCES:

### 1. Am Ceram Soc. "Transactions"/Bulletin

"Our Ceramic Heritage", J. I. Mueller & E. E. Mueller

Monthly issues of the 1976 Bulletin of the ACerS.

"Activities of the Society", J ACerS, 1, p662, 1918.

"Glimpses of the Glass Division's First 25 Years", S. R. Scholes, Am. Ceram. Bull. 25(2) p41-46(1946).

"Report of the Glass Division.." Yearbook of the ACerS, v1, p126- (1922).

"25 Years of the ACerS", C. Binns, Yearbook of the ACerS, v6, p18- (1923).

### 2. Glass Industry

"The Boys of the Old Brigade", F. W. Preston, Glass Ind. 44(12) p703-705 (1968).

"The Glass Division's Role", A. G. Pincus, Glass Ind., p16-18, April 1976.

### 3. "History of Glass Problems Conference" Fay Tooley, 1989

### 4. "The U. S. Glass Industry-Then and Now", Fay Tooley, Cer. Eng. & Sci. Proc. 11(1-2) 1-13 (1990).

## THANKS:

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