

NATIONAL SHELLEY CHINA CLUB



1990-2015



25TH ANNIVERSARY

PREPARED FOR THE 2015 SEATTLE CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL SHELLEY CHINA CLUB

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This document is a compilation of the work of many. The text draws liberally on the Conference articles and President's messages in issues of the NSCC Magazine from 1993 through 2015. A huge resource was the 10th Anniversary document prepared by Curt and Lynne Leiser. Many of the photographs are scanned copies of originals maintained by the Club Historian in the Club "scrap books". These books were loaned to the author for the purpose of building this document. We are indebted to Betty Shelley and her predecessor Marsha Loveland for their thorough work as Club Historians in preparing these books. Another significant source was the photographic file assembled by Curt Leiser from photographs submitted by many members over the years. This file is now maintained by Mike Smith and was made available for this work. These photographs were supplemented with original photos taken by Tricia Sullivan and the author. In all instances electronic copies of the photographs were made and then many were processed with Photoshop to enhance publication.

Thanks are also due to those members who reviewed drafts and offered comments, suggestions, corrections and anecdotes for incorporation in the text. Without the encouragement and support of the following this document could not have been produced. Contributors included: Lynne Leiser; Mary Dickerson; Carol Hansen; Betty Shelley; Helen Siegelin; Bernice Porrazzo; Peter Porrazzo; Ruth Friedman and Tricia Sullivan.

Greg Sullivan
September, 2015



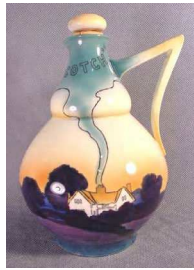
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National Shelley China Club

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wonderful 10th Anniversary piece and the memories of many members. From the beginning the Club has been blessed with one constant: members imbued with a spirit of volunteerism and willingness to help. That spirit is exemplified by the many who: have been involved in administration and publication; have hosted regional or general meetings; have volunteered to provide support in those meetings; have given presentations, written articles or letters; have attended meetings; or have, through their energy and enthusiasm, supported the Club. Thank you.

1. PREFACE

Before engaging in facts and figures, we wish to acknowledge the inclusive and friendly atmosphere of the worldwide Shelley Community. The authors have found all to be friendly, warm and genuinely enthusiastic. As newcomers, we stood in awe of the knowledge of all things Shelley that many members possess. But we found them totally unpretentious, welcoming and anxious to share that knowledge. Those qualities extend to the members of the Australasian Club, the New Zealand Club and the Shelley Group in the UK. Many are members of more than one Club so they can keep up with the news and articles available.

A totally disarming sense of humor is also a consistent trait. We are reminded of: Bernice Porrazzo singing in DC for the poor orphan cups and saucers; Lynn Smith interviewing "Buffalo Bill" in San Antonio; Mel Friedman in his Barack Obama mask in Charleston; and at one of the Shelley Group weekends Chris Davenport and Ian Davies dressed in mustaches, straw hats and aprons handing out ice cream in Telford, England. A playful, supportive, learning atmosphere makes the Clubs a total joy.

2. Introduction

In so far as we know, there were no early networks of collectors on this continent or elsewhere prior to the formation of the first club in Australia in 1983, followed by England in 1986. The New Zealand Club was formed shortly after the National Shelley China Club in 1990. Awareness of Clubs was through word of mouth, in publications and in books about Shelley.

The National Shelley China Club celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year (2015). We pause to take a look back at how it started and evolved into the vibrant organization it is today. This retrospective draws heavily on the content of the early Shelley NEWS, the later Shelley Newsletter, the current Shelley Magazine, Curt and Lynne Leiser's

When asked what factors members find most enjoyable about the National Shelley China Club, they almost always cite: the members, the magazine and the conferences. Elements of this presentation will speak to each.

Shelley fine bone china and its predecessor, Wileman, have been offered around the world from the late 19th century. The primary markets were: the UK; Australia; Canada; New Zealand; South Africa and the United States. Well-to-do travelers likely brought early Wileman and Shelley pieces back to North America from travels in England, but it wasn't until 1893 that marketing in North America began in earnest. In that year Percy Shelley attended the Chicago Columbian Exposition to assess the marketplace. Shortly thereafter showrooms were opened in North America and Australia.¹



The mass communication and marketing that exist today were not then available. Selected dealers across the continent cultivated discerning customers and catered to their individual tastes. Shelley didn't seem to be a household name in North America and its legacy was further threatened with its sale to Allied English Potteries in 1966, when production under that name ceased. While its fame as fine bone china of the highest quality persisted among the cognoscenti, it was left to a catalyst to build the flame.

¹ Linda Ellis and John Barter (Shelley Group UK) - Blue and White at the Shelley Potteries- April 2015 presentation.

3. Formation and Development

Prior to the formation of the Club, collectors had myriad challenges: limited documentation on the variety of shapes and patterns; small pockets of availability; and a relatively small market. A significant amount of the abundance of reference material now available was not produced until well into the 1990's. Collectors were fortunate to find treasures in antique fairs and stores and prized them for their intrinsic beauty and quality. They had to rely on their own resources to learn about and track down pieces. But that all changed when Bernie Huston became involved.

Bernie Huston of Portland, Oregon, was an active dealer in antiques who traveled widely across this continent. While he had been collecting china since 1959, he did not learn of Shelley until just a few years before 1990. In the first Shelley NEWS Bernie tells the story....



Bernie Huston

"I was not prepared for the sudden appeal for Shelley China. My interest grew from an inquiring dealer in Missoula (Montana). While on a shopping spree I visited his antique shop on the outskirts of the city, and he mentioned acquiring Shelley for some customers who collected. He also asked me to keep an eye open for any Shelley china or pottery I may run across during my travels. Needless to say, when I came across my first purchase, I forgot about sending it to the shopkeeper in Missoula. As a matter of fact, I sold off about 90% of my collectibles and concentrated on Shelley."²

Like the rest of us, Bernie had been bitten by an incurable bug.

Bernie had been aware of the Shelley Group in the UK for some time and saw a need to implement something similar for the US and Canada. He appears to have developed a network of contacts that shared an interest in Shelley. According to Curt Leiser, Bernie began promoting

the idea of a Club as early as 1988. He met with friends to begin organizing. The first correspondence we have is a letter from Bernie addressed to patrons, dated March 7, 1990. In it he announced the formation of the National Shelley China Club. It described the ultimate goal of the Club would be to be an effective resource center to all interested in Shelley. This message recognized the paucity of information then available to collectors. The message was also prescient as it announced the goal of holding an annual meeting of members in the future.

A network of close friends and collectors gave Bernie the support necessary to realize his vision of creating the Club. Bernie acknowledged them in the March 7th letter. Specifically, he thanked Paul and Ruby Klausen, Millie Fishman, Lila and Fred Shrad-
er, Eva Flynn, Ellen Crawford and Bill Saks. The letter also identified the initial officers of the Club: Bernard Huston – President; Laura Lester- Vice President; Geraldine (Gerry) Clegg- Secretary; and Marsha Rice- Treasurer.



Lila Shrader



Marsha Rice

The number and wide dispersion of the initial population of Club membership is impressive. It is in part a testimony to Bernie's engaging personality and powers of persuasion. Marie Leenerts relates that she met Bernie at an antiques show shortly after the Club was formed. "He must have spent a full 45 minutes introducing me to Shelley and the joys of collecting". Those one-on-ones were fruitful. By the time of the **Club's first meeting on April 9, 1990**, there were 25 members. While over 60% of those members were from the Pacific coast, there were members from as far as New York, Ontario and Alaska. By the end of 1990 the Charter Membership had grown to 58 and encompassed 15 States, the Province of Ontario and the Bahamas!

Bernie conducted officer's meetings in his home or nearby for months but the dream was to have a future convention which would be open to the entire membership. He recognized early on the Club had some specific needs: someone with organizing skills to prepare for that general meeting; someone with financial and fund-raising skills to build the foundation; and someone with journalism talents to move the NEWS to the next level. Bernie wanted the

Club to grow beyond what he could deliver by himself.

The July 1990 officers' meeting was held in the home of Gerry Clegg in Oregon. The minutes indicate the on-going ad in The Antique Trader Weekly was bearing fruit with a minimum of three membership inquiries each week. A future national meeting was discussed as was the need to set up a steering committee for that event. The prize in the quarterly drawing was described as a Shelley six-fluted covered muffin dish. That description illustrates the fact that the names of shapes were still in the discovery mode in 1990 and, lacking such information, the objects were described by the way they looked.

In 1991 the fledgling club was challenged with the resignation of Vice President Laura Lester. Bernie assumed her responsibilities. In addition Secretary Gerry Clegg had not been available and the officers had not been able to meet very often. In spite of this in early 1991 the Club announced it was making plans for the first meeting that would be open to all members. That was held in October, 1991 at Elmer's Pancake and Steak House in Portland, Oregon. From all accounts it was a great success with at least 18 people attending. While most attendees were from the West Coast, one couple journeyed all the way from Tennessee. This success encouraged the members to begin planning for a general national meeting. Bernie found his organizer when Anji Davis stepped forward to lead the preparations for that meeting. Club membership continued to grow, reaching 97 people by year end.

In 1992 the first issue of the NEWS was not published until June. Further leadership change occurred in October with the resignation of the Club's Secretary, Gerry Clegg. Anji Davis stepped up to fill the position while continuing to plan the future national meeting. The Club continued to grow with 119 members at the end of the year.

Early in 1993 the Club was filled with anticipation. Plans had been finalized to convene the first national general convention in Portland in late October.

In 1994 dramatic change occurred. In the Spring Bernie announced that he would be retiring effective the 1994 Convention. That triggered other changes and a new slate was approved at the Conven-



Anji Davis

tion consisting of Anji Davis- President, LaDonna Douglass – Treasurer, and Lynne Leiser – Secretary. There were concerns about just how the Club would operate in the future. Dick Douglass, Ron Hoffman and an attorney volunteered to draft a set of By-Laws.

These would formalize

the Club's structure and set expectations on how it would be run. The draft was presented to the membership for approval in 1995. In that year Marilyn Keck filed to have the Club incorporated in the State of Missouri. The By-Laws would be revised in later years by the team of Wayne Olsen and Dorothy Clark. Another important step was addressed in 1995 when Dick and LaDonna Douglass volunteered to investigate tax-exempt status for the Club. The By-Laws called for the establishment of an Advisory Board with staggered terms. The first Board was elected in 1996 at the Baltimore Conference. Table 1 lists people who have served as officers of the Club during the past 25 years. Table 2 lists those (other than future officers) who have served on the Board.



Anji, Lynne, LaDonna and Curt



Ron Hoffman



Past Presidents at Rhode Island Conference: Lynne Lieser (for Curt); Lynn Smith; Carolyn Keating; Mildred Patterson; Wayne Olsen; Marie Leenerts; and Kay Hinderliter



Table 1 Officers the 1st 25 Years

Year	President	VP- Pres Elect	Treasurer	Secretary
1990	Bernie Huston	Laura Lester	Marsha Rice	Gerry Clegg
1991	Bernie Huston		Marsha Rice	Gerry Clegg
1992	Bernie Huston		Marsha Rice	GC / Anji Davis
1993	Bernie Huston		Marsha Rice	Anji Davis
1994	BH / Anji Davis		MR / LaDonna Douglass	AD / Lynne Leiser
1995	Anji Davis		LaDonna Douglass	Lynne Leiser
1996	Anji Davis	Curt Leiser	LaDonna Douglass	Lyne Leiser
1997	AD / Curt Leiser	CL / Sue van Vonno	LaDonna Douglass	LL / Rochelle Hart
1998	CL / Sue van Vonno	SV / Marie Leenerts	LD / CL / Rochelle Hart	RH / Doris Sweezy
1999	Sue van Vonno	Marie Leenerts	Rochelle Hart	Doris Sweezy
2000	SV / Marie Leenerts	ML / Paul Johnson	Rochelle Hart	Doris Sweezy
2001	ML / Paul Johnson	PJ / Kay Hinderliter	Rochelle Hart	DS / Joanne Pickering
2002	Paul Johnson	Kay Hinderliter	Rochelle Hart	Joanne Pickering
2003	PJ / Kay Hinderliter	KH / Wayne Olsen	Rochelle Hart	Joanne Pickering
2004	Kay Hinderliter	Wayne Olsen	Rochelle Hart	Joanne Pickering
2005	KH / Wayne Olsen	WO / Mildred Patterson	Rochelle Hart	Joanne Pickering
2006	Wayne Olsen	Mildred Patterson	Rochelle Hart	Joanne Pickering
2007	WO / Mildred Patterson	MP / April Simpson	Rochelle Hart	Carolyn Keating
2008	Mildred Patterson	Carolyn Keating	Rochelle Hart	Ethel Olsen
2009	MP / Carolyn Keating	CK / Lynn Smith	Rochelle Hart	Ethel Olsen
2010	Carolyn Keating	Lynn Smith	Rochelle Hart	Ethel Olsen
2011	CK / Lynn Smith	LS / Bernice Porrazzo	Rochelle Hart	Mildred Patterson
2012	Lynn Smith	Bernice Porrazzo	Rochelle Hart	MP / Greg Sullivan
2013	LS / Bernice Porrazzo	BP / Marcus Shelley	Rochelle Hart	Greg Sullivan
2014	Bernice Porrazzo	Marcus Shelley	Rochelle Hart	Greg Sullivan
2015	Bernice Porrazzo	MS / Donna Gapen	Rochelle Hart	Greg Sullivan

**Paul Johnson**

Note3

**Nick and Sue van Vonno****Table 2 - Members who have served on the Board**

Judy Church	Corey Hobbins	Kevin McMenamy
Dorothy Clark	Marilyn Keck	Sally Moore
Tom Collins	Ed Kellogg	Sam Moore
Mary Dickerson	Marsha Loveland	Joe Patterson
Dick Douglass	Zo Marquardt	Peter Porrazzo
Margaret Friedrich	Brenda Martin	Helen Siegelin
Donna Gapen	Wendy McGrath	Jane Wood
Barbara Gooding		
Carol Hansen		

Note Table 2 does not include Ex-Officio members such as Editor, Web Site Manager, Publicity Chair, Membership chair, Data Base Manager, and Historian – mentioned elsewhere in text.

In early 1997 the IRS recognized the NSCC as a non-profit organization, thanks to the diligent work of the Douglass's. LaDonna Douglass continued as Treasurer until failing health forced her resignation in early 1998.



Again the Club was fortunate to have another talented individual step in to the Treasurer's role in a difficult time and make it appear seamless. Rochelle Hart had succeeded Lynne Leiser as Secretary at the Conference in 1997. She now juggled two hats until Joanne Pickering assumed the role of Secretary in 2001.

Rochelle Hart

The position of Vice President had been open for several years until Curt Leiser was elected to that role in 1996. The position became a regular transition – preparation for the role of President in the following years. This reality was further recognized in 2005, when it was re-designated President- Elect.

Aside from the leadership, several other important functions and roles have developed over the years. The Club was honored when Chris Davenport agreed to become the Research Officer in 1996. The first Club Historians, Gene and Marsha Loveland assumed that role in 2000, to be followed by Betty Shelley in 2010.

From the beginning the Club realized the importance of embracing technology, not just to manage Club materials, but as a means of communicating and reaching out to prospective members. The first Internet initiative was the attempt at an email network in 1998 by Shelley Goodwin and Jeff Mason of Nanaimo, BC. Shelley Santora-Jones developed a new network on Yahoo in 2004 and man-

3 Donna Gapen was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Marcus Shelley upon his resignation in June 2015.

aged it for a number of years.

The first attempt at a web page was conducted by Sue Kline and Margaret Wehrspaun in 2001 but it did not last long. Kevin and Lisa McMenemy initiated a site in 2002, which ran until 2009. Kevin served as the Club's first Web Manager during that time. In 2009 operational difficulties led to its shut down and in the interim the domain name was bought by a commercial entity, resulting in some confusion when people look for the NSCC site. A new effort was required.

The Club sought a new champion and in 2010 found him in Lyle Keating. Lyle stepped up, embracing the opportunity to learn on-the-job as Web Site Manager. Through an overhaul and a number of enhancements over the next several years, he built a truly wonderful and effective web site.[www.shelleychinaclub.com] It is now a tool for research, recruitment, and even bill payment. Further, it supports behind the scenes analysis which Lyle has been able to develop to facilitate understanding the demographics of those who visit the site.

In 2011 Ruth Phinney established The Collectors of Shelley China Facebook site. It remains a great place to see collections. Curt Leiser initiated an effort to capture Club records, photos and other material in an archive early on. He solicited material from members to begin a photographic database as early as 1994.

Stepping back from computers to the personal touch, no one is more gently persuasive than Marie Leenerts - head of the Nominations Committee. Irene Shelley leads the Publicity Committee. Julia Gibson manages the Membership Committee. Tom Collins is responsible for the membership Database.

All of these people have kept the Club moving forward and deserve our thanks.



Shirley and Tom Collins



Chuck and Julia Gibson

4. The Magazine- heartbeat of the club

The Club is justifiably proud of the Magazine. It has evolved under Curt Leiser (13 years) and Mike Smith (9+ years) into something akin to a blend of The Smithsonian and Arizona Highways. That is, it contains well written articles, in depth research and beautiful photographs. Of course it contains the expected business reports, etc. But its chief attractions are the articles, mail forum, photos and reports on Regional and National conferences, as well as of those from sister clubs.

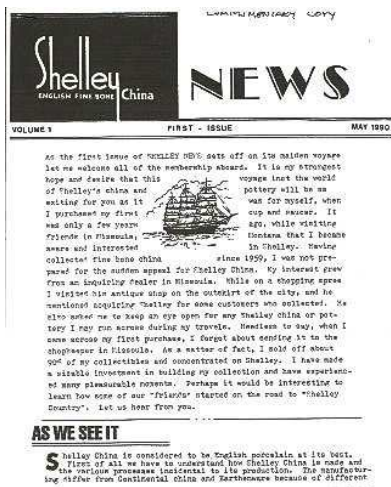
The articles present members' collections in their own words; travels in search of Shelley; Shelley and Wileman history; and well documented discussions of shapes, patterns and objects beyond cups and saucers. The collections range from eclectic mixes to narrowly focused and rare items, all of which make captivating reading.

The Mail Forum is an ideal complement to the articles as thoughtful questions often lead to extensive, well researched answers. Testimony to the value of the forum is that experts such as Ray Reynolds, Chris Davenport and Bruce Sandie read them and if not contributing to the original response then they often contribute follow-up material.

The collaboration between Club members and the authors is a powerful tool. Many articles are replete with photographs of Shelley or Wileman items, more than could be expected to be in a single member's collection nor that of the authors. Members have always been forthcoming with supporting materials when authors announce potential subjects and request photos or related material. Curt Leiser had a special talent for weaving this information into a story.

But we are ahead of ourselves. The Magazine had a very humble beginning in May 1990 as The Shelley NEWS, a three page B&W leaflet from the pen of Bernie Huston. That issue set the tone that this was to be more than a description of Club activities. It was to be a vehicle to promote learning and sharing information about Shelley items. In addition to Bernie's introduction and the minutes of the first meeting, it contained a short description of how Shelley China was made and exam-

ples of different back-stamps.



The notice of the Club's formation was carried in the *Antique Trader*. The *Antique Trader* continued to carry articles from Club members such as Bill Saks and Mannie Banner for many years.

In addition to raising funds and serving as President, Bernie was



Mannie Banner

the editor, lead author and publisher of *The NEWS*. From the outset he sought others to take on this formidable task but it was to take a while.

The second issue of *The NEWS* was released in August, 1990. It contained a letter from Mannie Banner that constituted the first article in response to Bernie's request for stories about how members got interested in Shelley. The answer to a future trivia question- what was the first item discussed in letters about private collections? A Foley⁴ Umbrella stand. The second issue also introduced Bill Saks and his column *Studying English Ceramics*, which regularly appeared in *The Antique Trader*. His first column was about dealers and the difficulties of selling Shelley over the previous fifty years. He speculated that the groundswell of competition from household names such as Royal Doulton, Spode, Minton, Wedgwood, Paragon, Coalport and others took its toll. Much of Shelley's superb china in both shapes and patterns was far ahead of its time. A conservative buying public was staying with the more traditional styles offered by others. In Bill's opinion the interest in Shelley in the 1990s was more of a revival and the variety was attracting a new buying public.

Bill also offered to answer members' questions to provide indicative values of Shelley pieces as guidance, but not as formal appraisals.

Bernie had intended to hand over publication responsibilities to Vice President Laura Lester, who joked it was

because she was the only one with a computer. But her late 1990 resignation forced him to continue. Publication became more problematic as the burden of running the Club grew. He used *The NEWS* to announce and promote the October open meeting in Portland. The year end issue reported on the successful meeting and we learned about Bernie's knowledge of miniatures.

The fourth issue of *The NEWS* appeared in May, 1991. In a short column Bernie noted the growth of the Club over that first year, thanked those who had served as the initial officers and made a request for members to volunteer their ideas and time to move the Club forward. There were no minutes from officers' meetings, although ads and an article on Shelley production techniques were included. A turning point had been reached and the serious business of building a more rigorous structure to sustain the Club was being recognized. Bernie's note sought ideas on fund raising, election processes, committees, by-laws, etc. Through mid-1991 the meetings had been open only to the officers of the Club. But Bernie used this forum to announce and later report on the first open meeting.

An early initiative of the Club was to establish a relationship with the Shelley Group in the UK. This was seen as an avenue to greatly expand the understanding of the history of Shelley and its products and meet people with whom we share enthusiasm for this exceptional china. Those initial contact efforts bore fruit with the December 1991 issue of *The NEWS* containing an article on the results of auctions held in England. An article also discussed miniatures using information from the Shelley Group. However true credit for building and maintaining that relationship over the years rests with Marie and Warren Leenerts. They attended many of The Shelley Group annual weekends and made great friends with many people. They eventually became and remain the official liaison between the NSCC and The Shelley Group. That relationship made it easier for members of The Shelley Group to make the journey to NSCC meetings and continue the bonding between the Clubs. Wonderful ties have also been established with the Australasian Club. Over the years numerous articles in the Magazine have been prepared by members of those sister clubs in Australia and England and members from the NSCC have contributed articles to their magazines.

In 1992 there were three issues of *The NEWS*. One was devoted to reporting on brochures from a series of wonderful exhibitions of Shelley in Great Britain in 1966. Another discussed restoration.

⁴ Foley was a trade name of Wileman until 1916, which became Shelley Potteries.

By 1994 The NEWS had become The Newsletter. It promoted the planned national general convention to be held in October. It then celebrated that meeting with a cover page that featured a Shelley Girl figurine.



In the first issue of the Newsletter in 1994 Bernie made his retirement official, effective with the 1994 Convention. In the Spring '94 issue Curt Leiser made his first contribution as an author in the Newsletter.



Curt Leiser

An article on Those Deceptively Desirable Daintys was published. Not long after, Bernie was able to persuade Curt to take responsibility for the entire Newsletter. It was bittersweet that the Fall edition, Curt's first, was to be devoted to retirement of Bernie Huston.

Curt and his wife Lynne

were prolific contributors of informative articles which became a foundational resource for all members. Their work was scholarly, readable and fascinating. They truly were a team. In addition to being authors they jointly published the Newsletter. He was the Editor and she the Reviewer- proof reader. They set the Gold Standard. They fashioned a work of art and learning that almost everyone cites as a key reason for being in the Club.



Mike Smith

In 2006 Curt and Lynne announced they would no longer be producing the Magazine. Curt worked with the Club and supported the transition of Mike Smith as the new Editor. Mike has carried on the tradition in wonderful fashion.

5. Recruiting and Recognition

The Club used a number of approaches to capture the interest of prospective members or retain them.

The minutes of the first officers' meeting reveal heavy emphasis on recruiting more members. In 1990 early copies of Shelley Potteries by Harvey, Watkins, and Senft were acquired and offered to members at a discount. This was a significant risk because the purchase consumed 75% of the Club's finances. It proved to be a very successful approach, attracting more members. In late 1990 The NEWS mentioned a just published book- The Shelley Style by Susan Hill. Members quickly purchased copies and now had a good set of references with which to enhance their collections.

Drawings were held each quarter through which various pieces of Shelley china were awarded to members from across the continent. The first winner was William "Sandy" Hill of Oakville, Ontario who received a Woodland pattern cup and saucer. The tradition of awarding these prizes continued for almost 15 years.

Early on, the Club made an effort to record interests and "want" lists from members. As a follow up officers appear to have undertaken searches of antique shows for Shelley objects of interest to individual members. The Newsletter included the first "want" and sale notices and advertising with member discounts.

Over the years The Club has recognized members for a number of contributions. It was not automatic that an award be made each year. It depended upon the contribution. In the early years of the Club it did seem almost automatic to recognize Judy Osborne, Mannie Banner and Ed Kellogg for their efforts in recruiting new members. Innovation awards have been given to Sue van Vonno, Anji Davis, Lisa and Kevin McMenemy, and Ed Kellogg. A few times in the early years an Ambassador award was given to those who made a creative outreach through outside activities



Judy Osborne

or articles in other journals. Ed Kellogg and Toby Rodney were among those so recognized. The most prestigious award has undergone a number of name changes. Early on it was “Member of the Year” or “Outstanding Member”. It was then renamed in honor of LaDonna Douglass and later for Dick and LaDonna. The select list of recipients appears below.

Table 3 Recognition Awards

Award	Year	Recipient
Outstanding Service	1997	Ed Kellogg
Member of the Year	1998	Dick Douglass
LaDonna Douglass	2000	Anji Davis
	2001	Rochelle Hart
	2002	Curt & Lynne Leiser
	2004	Ray Reynolds
The Douglass Award	2005	Warren & Marie Leenerts
	2006	Kevin & Lisa McMenamy
	2011	Carolyn Keating
	2014	Mel & Ruth Friedman

A new award was given for the first time at the 2013 Conference. It is named in honor of Curt Leiser and is conferred upon the author of the best article appear in the Magazine over the prior year. The winner was Carolyn Keating for her series on Crinkle ware. The 2014 awardee was Peter Porrazzo for his extensive series of articles on Chintz.

6. Conferences 1993-1996

The leadership meetings of 1990 and 1991 were followed with the first general meeting in October 1991. The goal was to set up a larger format that would be complete with presentations, swapping opportunities and a chance to relax together. It is to the preparation for this 1993 convention that Anji Davis turned her attention. What followed were three annual “Conventions”. Then in 1996, at the suggestion of Sue van Vonno, the name was changed to the less formal “Conference”. Table 4 below identifies the sites which have hosted the Conferences. Descriptions follow.

Table 4 Conference Sites

1993	Portland	2001	Kansas City	2009	Minneapolis
1994	Portland	2002	Orlando	2010	open
1995	Chicago	2003	Seattle	2011	Scottsdale
1996	Baltimore	2004	Chicago	2012	San Antonio
1997	San Francisco	2005	Las Vegas	2013	Washington DC
1998	Minneapolis	2006	San Francisco	2014	Warwick, RI
1999	Atlanta	2007	Denver	2015	Seattle
2000	Portland	2008	Charleston		

A. The first National Convention

This meeting was held at the Oxford Suites in Portland, Oregon in 1993. Anji Davis was assisted in organizing this event by Bob Calhoun and Lori Buchannan among others. At



Display of mini cups and saucers

least 30 people participated. There was no specific theme other than to learn of the different items made by Shelley. Display cases were retained for the meeting and members were invited to bring items for viewing. The collections drew many oohs and aahs, as did the first Shelley Girl many had ever seen. This began a tradition for many years: announcing a theme and then filling display cases to overflowing with volunteered objects. Just prior to the 1993 Conference Lynne and Curt Leiser published their paper, Shelley Style Collectors. They drew on the earlier work of Susan Hill, the advertising in earlier editions of the NEWS and contributions from friends. This was in effect a tutorial containing sketches of known shapes. They also acknowledged gaps in documentation on names. They filled those gaps in the interim with descriptions based on the appearance of each object. This paper became an invaluable resource while also making a call to all members to help add to the knowledge base. It was the first in an exhaustive stream of wonderful papers on



Anji's Tea Service

a huge variety of Shelley topics which this couple produced over the years. Bernie filled a case with his miniatures and spoke on nursery ware. Anji Davis talked about silverware and the Art of English Tea. Doris Cearley spoke on the history of Shelley.

The chance to meet and greet and fill a class room with so many enthusiastic people proved to the organizers that the Club was headed in the right direction.



Jo & Bert Pickering

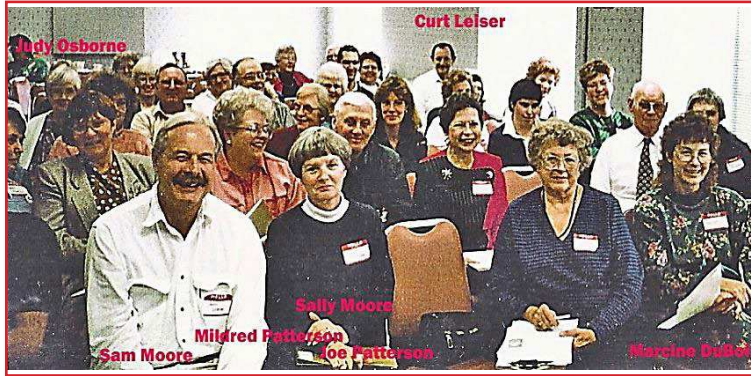


Anji Davis & Bob Calhoun

effort Ed had been conducting on his own. As of the date of the presentation the team had identified and cataloged about 1300 patterns. Anji and Curt presented on Chintz Patterns. Marcy DuBois discussed "mixing linens with china".



Marcy DuBois w Anji



Sam and Sally Moore, Mildred and Joe Patterson, Curt Leiser, Marcy DuBois



Marcy, LaDonna Douglas & Anji

Judy Osborne made a presentation on Shelley Jelly Moulds and shared recipes for sweets. Again members contributed to fill the display cases with great items. Lustre ware was featured.



B.The Club returned to Portland for the 1994 meeting.



The meeting drew 47 attendees and it was clear momentum was growing amongst the collector community. The theme was "Shelley through the Ages". Curt recalled the meeting as being loaded with Chintz. Bernie was not present and Anji took on all of the roles. In another

step to knowledge- building, Lynne and Curt Leiser announced the formation of a Patterns Database Committee in which they were joined by June Moore, Lila Shrader, Bette Meyer and Ed Kellogg. It built off an extensive



Bernie Huston with Anji Davis



Howard Osborne, Dick Douglass, Anji Davis

C. Chicago was the site of the 1995 Convention.

This was the first foray of the Club beyond the West Coast and the team of Anji Davis and Wendy McGrath did a great job of setting it up from long distance. Over 60 people registered for the meeting.

The Chicago theme was "Victorian". It featured displays of huge pieces of Intarsio ware including Mannie Banner's umbrella stand and Toby Rodney's jardiniere.

Curt discussed "scenics" followed by Anji on "silver accents for the table". Marsha Loveland presented "Amer-

ican-made glassware". A tone- setting highlight was Francis Norton



dressed to the "Teas" to discuss Victorian High Tea. Mannie discussed Art Deco.



Francis Norton

This convention set some precedents with the first Silent Auction and the group decision to make the

convention a "traveling" show with a general venue rotation of west coast, central and east coast. It was also the first convention to attract overseas visitors: Kevin Kelley from Australia and Marion Langham from England.



Chicago place setting



Silent Auction setup



Mildred & Joe Patterson



The Douglass', Solomons', van Vonnos' & Kelloggs'



Marsha Loveland



D. The 1996 Conference was in Baltimore, Maryland.



Anji and JoAnne Welsh organized the Conference. Lynne and Curt Leiser made yet another contribution to our reference library with an extensive presentation on different patterns which they categorized as Elegants. Chris Davenport, representing the Shelley Group- England, gave a presentation on Commemoratives and Heraldics.

We note the camaraderie and selfless support amongst the Australasian, UK and National Shelley China Clubs is a remarkable trait of the collectors of Shelley. Jerry Davis presented on techniques for photographing your Shelley pieces. Mannie Banner presented on Intarsio Ware. Mannie was also the author of a series of articles in the Antique Trader Weekly on



Chris Davenport



LaDonna Douglass, Paul & Sharon Johnson



Phyllis & Marty Jacobs

artistic Warren Leenerts took over design responsibilities for the pins.

Shelley. At this conference the iconic tradition of a conference "pin" first appeared. Anji had a beautiful little Shelley Girl pin designed for each attendee. She continued the tradition with a fresh design each year. Eventually the equally



Anji & Jerry Davis



Preparations underway



Lisa Walker



Sheila & Murray Telvi



Sue van Vonno



Herman & Alberta Solomon



Warren & Marie Leenerts



Sharon & Bob Calhoun, Sam & Sally Moore, Ron Hoffman



Sharon & Bob Calhoun



Enjoying photos of past Conferences

7. Regionals

Regionals play an important role in the Club. Being local they don't require as much travel enabling more from an area to attend. They can be more often than the General meeting and the casual atmosphere enables members to get to know one another while viewing a collection. They became a platform for finding people with similar interests.

Most meetings fit comfortably in a member's home and have ranged from a sit-down lunch to a cook out. Home displays have been everything to simple and focused to overwhelming but every single one is enjoyed.

The concept of the "regional" meeting first took hold in Florida in early 1996. Since that time this area has held three to four meetings each year. There are enough members in the State to support these frequent meetings with up to 25 in attendance at any event. Ed Kellogg has long been the lead organizer for the Regionals in Florida. Among those who have hosted one or more regionals are: Ed and Geneva Kellogg;



Ed Kellogg

Shelley Dale; Nick and Sue van Vonno; Doris Sweezey; Betty Shelley; LaDonna and Dick Douglass; Daphne Heath and Ken McGlothlin; Martha Richmond; and Jennie and



Florida Regional at Betty Shelley's



Marty Jacobs at the Grill



Tea with Phyllis



Bruce Fisher.

The second regional was in Michigan under the leadership of Mannie Banner and Sharon Wolok.



The third area to host a regional was the Pacific Northwest. Like Florida, there is a concentration of members and the region was blessed with the lead-



Ann Smallwood at Michigan Regional

ership of Curt Leiser and Wayne Olsen. Among those who have hosted Regionals in the area are: Ethel and Wayne Olsen; Anji Davis; Phyllis and Marty Jacobs; Sandi and Hank Wheeler; and Dorothy and Ed Redd.

California has been another area that has been very active with Regionals. Judy Osborne for many years was the lead organizer of these events. She and Howard served as hosts as have: Carolyn and Lyle Keating; Linda



Mimi Maring & Margaret Friedrich host a California Regional



California group at tea

Cummings; Lee Jones and Russ Nicholas, Mimi Maring and Margaret Friedrich; Tom and Kara McWilliams; Marie and Warren Leenerts; Nance and Jim Carpenter; Mary Grisafe; Diane Onken; and Bob LeBeau.



Northwest Regional at the Jacob's home



Lee Jones and Russ Nicholas host the California regional at their Petaluma home



Anji Davis host the PNW group



Judy Osborne displays her jelly moulds



Mid West Regional with Marilyn Keck

The Maryland / Virginia / Pennsylvania area has been the site of numerous Regionals. Among the hosts have been Kelly Moran, Kay Hinderliter, Florence Lawson, Fred & Lori Knopf, Susan Willis, Pat Kazarian, Dale Jensen, Bernice & Peter Porrazzo, and Al & Joan Chamberlin.



Judy Silverman & John Barter at East Regional



Mannie Banner with Linda Ellis



Dick Douglass as Emcee in Maitland, Florida



Norm & Nancy Geary at their booth in Maitland



Chris Davenport with Florence Lawson



Alberta Solomon in New Jersey

There have been Regionals in: the Mid West- hosted by Marilyn Keck and Pam and Palmer Haffner; Michigan at the home of Ann Smallwood; Tennessee organized by



Toronto Regional

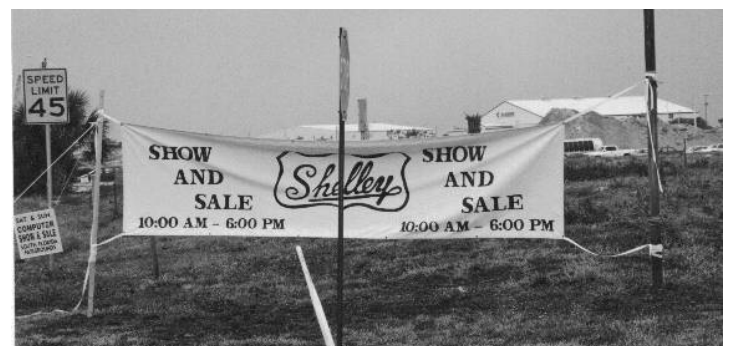
Margaret Wehrspau; North Carolina hosted by Helen Siegelin; Illinois run by Wendy McGrath, Toronto hosted by Pearl Jacks; and recently in Massachusetts hosted by Ned and Elizabeth Newton.

Mass Regional w John and Stacey Wallace, Bernice Porrazzo, Frank and Jeanne Speizer, Ned and Elizabeth Newton, Tricia and Greg Sullivan



Rochelle Hart has even hosted regionals in Alaska when she hasn't been attending those in the Pacific Northwest.

The Florida Region outdid itself when it conducted huge "All Shelley Sales" in Maitland, Florida in 1998 and 1999 and again in Ft Lauderdale in 2001. These highly successful shows were organized by the Kellogg, van Vonno, and Douglass families among others. This example was later followed by a similar event in New Jersey which was organized by the Silvermans.





The primary theme related to Children's ware. The Leisers co-authored an informative piece on the border designs found on many



Curt, Chris Davenport and Linda Ellis

cups. Chris Davenport, author of Shelley Pottery, the Later Years, journeyed to the US and presented on early Children's ware and on Special Shelley Patterns. Margaret Friedrich discussed the work of Mabel Lucy Attwell. A session was devoted to "Artists signed by." with Judy Osborne speaking on Lucy Dawson and Anji discussing the work of Hilda Cowham.



Ed & Geneva Kellogg



Margaret Wehrspaun & Sue Kline at Ft Lauderdale



Marie Leenerts & Nancy Wanamaker



Sally Moore



Mae Smith, Joanne Irwin, Shelley Dale, Doris Sweezey, Ed & Geneva Kellogg, Ed's sister & brother in law.

8 Conferences 1997-1999

A. In November 1997 the Conference returned to the West Coast -San Francisco.



Warren Leenerts & Art

It followed a precedent set by some earlier meetings by coinciding with the Hillsborough Antique Show. Judy Osborne and Anji Davis were co-chairs for the 1997 national meeting and were assisted by a team, including: Howard Osborne; Marie and Warren Leenerts; Linda Cumming; Sally Moore; and Myrna and James Herbinaux.

John Barter and Linda Ellis from the Shelley Group made their first trip. In addition we welcomed Andre Van der Walt, our first member from South Africa.



Anji, Ed Kellogg, Sam Moore, Dick Douglass



**Margaret Friedrich, LaDonna, Marie
& Judy**



Curt and Anji



LaDonna & Dick Douglass



Dick Douglass, Ron Hodgson, Marjorie David



Hilda Cowham's tea pot



**One of Lucy
Dawson's
puppies**



MLA tea pot



**Sue van Vonno, Nancy
Wanamaker**



Warren Leenerts



Pearl Jacks, Steve Ross,



Judy Osborne



Lynne Leiser



Doris Sweezey, Carolyn Keating

B. The 1998 Conference was in Minneapolis

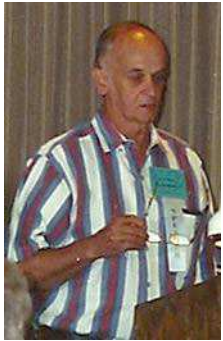
This Conference was organized by Sharon and Paul Johnson with help from Cory and Ken Hobbins. Prior to the meeting Curt announced he would resign as President to devote his time to the Magazine. Curt had demonstrated enormous energy as Editor, Author and Presenter and left us all in awe. Another tremendous contributor has been Dick Douglass who was honored during the AGM with the Member of the Year Award. With Sue van Vonno taking on the role of President, the members elected Marie Leenerts to fill the vacancy as Vice President.



Dick & LaDonna Douglass w Lynn Smith



Sue van Vonno, Andre Van der Walt, Jo Pickering



Gene Loveland

One conference theme was Queen Anne and the other was Wileman. Donna and Dick Gapen introduced Art Deco. Judy Church discussed Shelley Pottery. Curt presented on Wileman-Shelley 1890-1910. Anji and Sharon spoke in English Garden Teas.



Among the Conference highlights was Gene and Marsha Loveland's wonderful collection of teapots. It was amazing that they got so many to Minneapolis with any breakage- how brave ! It was a thrill to view the special teapot-Festival of the Empire.



It was a thrill to view the special teapot-Festival of the Empire.



Marilyn Keck, Rochelle Hart, Kelly Moran & Shirley Collins



Anji Davis & Kelly Moran



Mildred & Joe Patterson, Wayne Olsen, Mel & Zo Marquardt



Dick Douglass, Wendy McGrath, Sharon Johnson, Cory Hobbins, LaDonna Douglass



Ken McGlothlin, Daphne Heath, Bobbi Coleman, Betty Shelley, Stanley Latter, Martha Richmond, Geneva Kellogg, Bruce & Jennie Fisher, Shelley Dale, Doris Sweezey, Ed Kellogg, Nick & Sue van Vonno

Speakers at the Atlanta Conference included John Barter on White ware, Alan and Sue Shelley on Getting to know more about Shelley Potteries, Nick van Vonno on Special Heraldic pieces, and Curt Leiser on Jelly molds. Donna Gapen and Sue van Vonno presented the results of a survey on "what we love to collect" and Ed Kellogg chaired a panel of experts including: Phyllis Jacobs; Stanley Latter; Sally Moore and Joanne Pickering.



Marie Leenerts, Alan Shelley

C. The 1999 meeting was organized and hosted in Atlanta, Georgia by Donna and Dick Gapen.

The Club has been fortunate that individuals with strong ties to the original manufacturing of Shelley always been willing to contribute of their knowledge.



Dick & Donna Gapen

extremely
uals with
inal man-
pieces have
contribute



Ethel & Wayne Olsen, Joe & Mildred Patterson



Jennie & Bruce Fisher



Alan & Sue Shelley

Chris Davenport was joined in Atlanta by Alan Shelley and his wife Susan. Alan was the grandson of Percy Shelley.

In later meetings Ray Reynolds would join the NSCC Conferences. It was he, former head of the Shelley

decorating department, who saved the factory pattern books that would otherwise have been lost. We are eternally in his debt.



Betty Shelley, Alan & Sue Shelley



The Osbornes 'and Shelleys'



Doris Sweezey, Joanne Irwin, Martha Richmond, Shelley Dale



Atlanta Conf w Phyllis Jacobs, Anji Davis, Sam Moore, the Osbornes.



Chris Davenport, Heather Thompson



Florida contingent

9. Portland 10th Anniversary Conference

The 2000 conference returned to Portland, Oregon. As the Club's Tenth Anniversary, it was appropriate to return to our roots. Continuing that "return" theme, Anji Davis returned to organize the event. Discussions were given on Chintz and eBay. A panel was convened for "Ask the Experts". Curt discussed the History of the Club through the years as well as enlightened us about Shelley Fakes. There was even a contest to test member's creativity in coloring their own versions of The Shelley Girl. An insert to this document includes the group photos taken at this special Tenth Anniversary.



Anji, Chris, Kelly Moran

own versions of The Shelley Girl. An insert to this document includes the group photos taken at this special Tenth Anniversary.



Nick & Sue van Vonno



Anji & Kelly



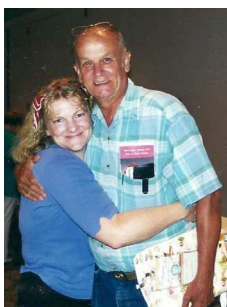
Nick & Sue van Vonno, Shelley Dale, Betty Shelley, Arlene Hatem, Geneva Kellogg, Doris Sweezey, Ed Kellogg



Joe & Mildred Patterson



Betty Shelley



Kelly Moran, Gene Loveland



Karen & Bob Springsteen





Geneva & Ed Kellogg



Lynne Leiser



Kelly, Anji & Marie



Kelly Moran



panelists Andre Van der Walt, Gary Hoare, Chris Davenport, Curt Leiser



Mississippi River- West: Rollie & Sybil Simpson, Lynn Smith, Kim Kolz, Elaine Bartozek, Marilyn Keck, Kay & Mike Hinderliter



California: Connie & Bob Sprung, Patricia Kopf, Christine Hill, Kathleen Cochems, Marie Leenerts, Margaret Friedrich, Warren Leenerts



Rochelle Hart, Kelly Moran



Dick Douglass



Kay & Mike Hinderliter



Margaret Friedrich



Paul Johnson, Phyllis Jacobs

*National Shelley China Club
Gala Banquet Menu*

Fresh Summer Salad
Served with rolls and butter

Roasted Prime Rib of Beef
With a natural jus & horseradish cream
or
Pecan Crusted Salmon

Yukon Potatoes
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Linzer Tart
Hazelnut crust filled with almond & raspberry

Coffee, Decaf, Hot and Iced Tea



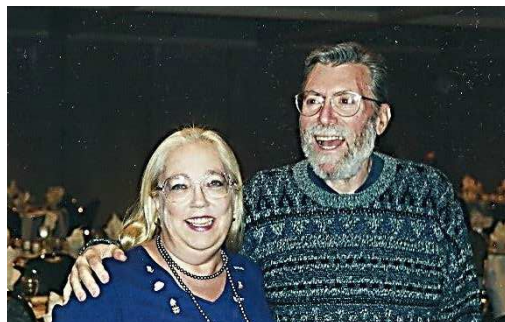
Diane Rolander



Rogene Mann & Sue Kline



Shirley Collins



Tobey & Jerry Rodney



Pat Hoffman



Australia: Lee Buckler, Yvonne Hammond, Gary Hoare



Alaska: Judy Hart, Rochelle Hart, Roxanne Wilson



Mississippi River- East: Jane Wood, Shirley & Tom Collins, Lou Ann Hutchins, Lola Whalen, Jay Miller, Joyce Leiby, Kay Adcock, Diane Rolander



Florida & Deep South: Doris Sweezey, Betty Shelley, Arlene Hatem, Geneva & Ed Kellogg, Shelley Dale, Sue & Nick van Vonno



Mixed Group: Lynne Leiser, Dorothy Clark, Sue Kline, Jerry & Tobey Rodney, Margaret Wehrspaun, Robin Varnet, John & Rogene Mann, Phyllis & Martin Jacobs

10. Conferences 2001-2015

A. Back in the Heartland, the 2001 Conference was held in Kansas City.

Judy and Jack Church and Gene and Marsha Loveland combined to assemble a real winner. The 102 registrants were serenaded by a Blue Grass Band and treated to a barbecue. Chris Davenport and Judy showed a special Mabel Lucie Attwell reproduction bank that was signed by Ray Reynolds and was a wonderful auction item. Marsha Loveland's presentation



Marsha & Gene Loveland

of slides of table arrangements that had been submitted by members, gave each a chance to get up and describe their collections. Ray was the last Managing Art Director at Shelley.



Wonderful displays



The Pickerings and Pattersons



**Chris Davenport, Rochelle Hart,
Ed Kellogg**



Daphne Heath & Ken McGlothlin



Jerry & Judy Robinson





**Ray Reynolds, Chris Davenport,
Marsha Loveland**

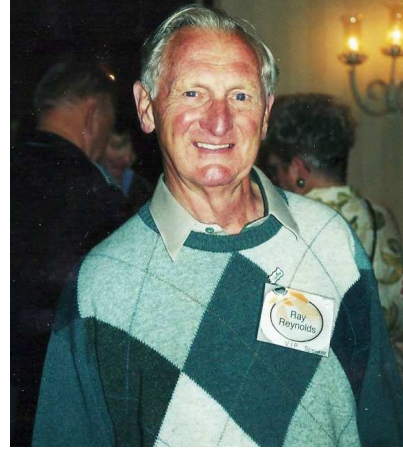


Judy Church



Gary & Shelley Hoare

Later the audience gasped as she and Gene unveiled their collection of nearly 100 tea, coffee and water pots of every size and shape. Corey Hobbins then discussed sweet dishes and Chris Davenport visited the history of "Art Decoratif" designs. The Loveland's graciously opened their home to members to view their outstanding collections and spend time on "the ranch".



Ray Reynolds



Sherry & Jack Johnson

Chris Davenport and Ray Reynolds treated the audience with a lively discussion of the potteries around Stoke where Shelley evolved in the late 1800's. Allan Bellamy from the Shelley Group also joined us.



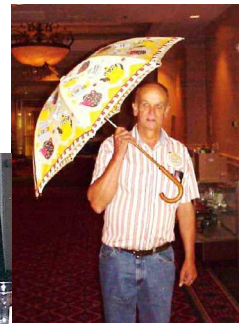
Lynn Smith with Allan Bellamy

The preliminary concepts of what was later to become the Club Website were developed through the efforts of Margaret Wehrspau and Sue Kline and were discussed earlier in the

meeting. Curt spoke on the material being accumulated in the NSCC Archives.



Marie Leenerts, Gerry & Liz Pearce



Gene Loveland



Kay Hinderliter



Carole Jamison, Suzanne Tierney, Irene Pyatt



Wonderful meal





Marie with Marilyn Keck



Shirley & Tom Collins



Laurette Rasmussen, Kathleen Cochems, Gretchen & Harold Richart



Judy Church

B Orlando, Florida was the site of the 2002 Conference.

Doris Sweezey chaired the organization of the meeting. A Disney theme pervaded. Members were encouraged to bring miniatures to exhibit. This included figurines, vases, gems and miniatures. In line with "keeping it small". Ray Reynolds had prepared and



Doris Sweezey

signed special napkin rings to be auctioned.



Douglass' minis



Ray with a napkin ring



Rodney's BooBoos



Daphne Heath's collection



Rodney's miniatures



Pat & Al Hoffman



Jennie & Bruce Fisher, Doris Sweezey, Nick & Sue van Vonno, Ed Kellogg



Marie Leenerts



Marie, Ray and Warren



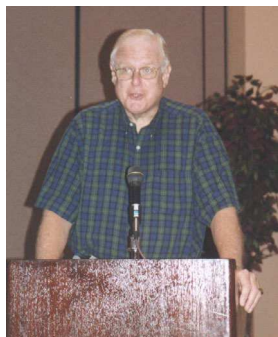
Gene & Marsha Loveland, Geneva & Ed Kellogg



Team preparing for Conference



Dick Douglass



Ron Hoffman



Lustre washroom set - Silent Auctions



Orlando buffet



Ray, Mini and friends



Betty Shelley's miniatures



C. The 2003 Conference was held in Seattle and attracted 84 registrants.



Many people contributed to this successful meeting. The host committee was led by Wayne Olsen with help from Ethel Olsen, Carol Hansen, Mary and Jerry Dickerson, Lynne Leiser, Sandi Wheeler, Curt and Anji, Phyllis Jacobs, Tom Berg, Hank Wheeler, Di-anne Dalton, Dan and Shirley White, Linda Malanchuk-Finnan, Jo Pickering and Rochelle Hart. The conference themes were "Rainbows of Color" and "Shelley through the Years". The imaginative decorations picked up on the influence of color starting with a rainbow



arch of balloons inflated by members and supplemented with colorful umbrellas.

Phyllis Jacobs with Kathy Cochems took charge of arranging by color several tables of Shelley brought by members for display. Mary Dickerson and Carol Hansen produced wonderful menus in the Shelley



Kathy and Phyllis prepare



tradition for the dinner. Books of collection photos from a number of contributors were available and drew great interest. We were thrilled that Dick Douglass was able to attend and he brought the entire Douglass Clan with him!



Curt Leiser kicked off the presentations with a discussion of Dainty Colors. This shape has always been a favored format for an array of colors but Curt revealed to a rapt audience the thrill of even more color discoveries including # 12087/29 "pumpkin" and "canary". These have become new "holy grails" for the Dainty collectors among us. We were fortunate that Linda Ellis and John Barter came all the way from England to give presentations. She presented on Shelley Shapes while he discussed "Wileman Colors". Allan Bellamy presented the Intarsio collection of James Shelley. James's is one of the largest collections of these ever assembled, numbering over 140 pieces.



John Barter, Linda Ellis, Dick Douglass

and John Barter came all the way from England to give presentations. She presented on Shelley Shapes while he discussed "Wileman Colors". Allan Bellamy presented the Intarsio collection of James Shelley. James's is one of the largest collections of these ever assembled, numbering over 140 pieces.



Allan Bellamy, Phyllis Jacobs

This year marked the debut of the Shelley web-site which was produced through the efforts of and Lisa and Kevin McMenemy. The Board approved the purchase of a new computer to support Curt's work with the Magazine. Many thanks to Dorothy Clark and the team she led in redrafting of the By-laws, which were approved at the Conference. Other highlights included the auctioning of an Attwell duck teapot and Shelley napkin rings provided by Ray Reynolds.



Kevin & Lisa McMenemy

the Magazine. Many thanks to Dorothy Clark and the team she led in redrafting of the By-laws, which were approved at the Conference. Other highlights included the auctioning of an Attwell duck teapot and Shelley napkin rings provided by Ray Reynolds.



The Shelley sales were spectacular and buyers eagerly lined up early to seize great buys before the general public was allowed some time.



Dorothy & Alastair Clark lead the queue

Following the meeting, members quickly boarded a charter bus for the nearby Tacoma Dome Antique show. Finding a local antique show is often a blessing for those attending a conference and this was no exception.





Prior to the meeting the Loveland's stepped down as the Club Historians and Betty Shelley volunteered to fill that role. The wonderful Shelley marquis produced by Warren Leenerts, welcomed us to the Conference.



Warren Leenerts sign

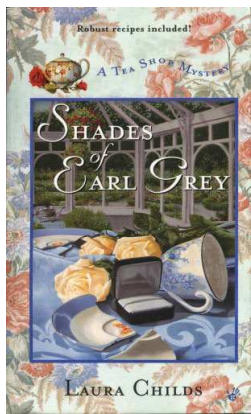


This meeting marked the first viewing of a 16mm film produced in the 1940's showing archival footage of the Shelley design and manufacturing process and narrated by Ray Reynolds. It was loaned by Royal

Doulton to Ray that he might bring it to the USA to present at the conference. All came away with an even greater appreciation for the craftsmanship and attention to detail in a process which was more labor intensive than we had imagined. Ray also provided



each attendee with a special Maytime coaster that was signed and dated by him. Fittingly later in the meeting the LaDonna Douglass award was bestowed upon Ray Reynolds.



Russ Nicholas and Lee Jones spoke about their new book, More Shelley China and the process of publishing.



Russ Nicholas & Lee Jones

Gary Hoare, President of the Australasian Club, presented on the Shelley Royal Family of shapes – Queen Anne and Princess.



Gary Hoare

Dan Wilson discussed the more than 100 shapes known and highlighted his presentation with photos of his favorite pattern- Bubbles. We were intrigued by Ray Reynolds' discussion on what it took to create a new shape. Allan Bellamy presented a kaleidoscope of color in the

Wileman Snowdrop shape of cups and saucers. Curt then discussed Shelley pottery. We were humbled to learn that between miniature pottery, small vase porcelain pottery and large vase pottery there are over 1200 shapes!



D. The 2004 Conference returned to Chicago.



It was organized by a team made up of: Pam and Palmer Haffner; Judy and Jerry Robinson; Jodi and Dave Douglass; and Muffett and John Schroer.



of

The Douglass Clan

It couldn't be a Shelley Conference without a proper Victorian Tea and Marie Leenerts rose to the occasion. She related "all you needed to know but were afraid to ask". We were all honored to be guests at Dick Douglass' 80th birthday party and to have the company Ray Reynold's wife Elsie.



Jerry & Judy Robinson

Raffles of donated hand-made quilts evocative of Shelley made for great fun and the hard work that went into them was deeply appreciated.



Ray & Elsie Reynolds



Carol Hansen bids on table decoration



Douglas's and Reynolds



Happy winners



E. The 2005 Conference was organized by Wayne Olsen and held in Las Vegas.

Wayne's team included Ethel, Marie and Warren Leenerts, Lynne and Curt Leiser, Judy Church, Dorothy Clark and Sally Moore. The theme was "Bells, Rings and Un-

usual Things". Warren Leenerts designed a special sign that emulated the famous Vegas welcome sign. A special menu and cookie retained the "bell" motif.

Through the efforts of Marie Leenerts, a new concept was tested out at this conference- a series of shorter talks



Warren & Marie Leenerts

less work for speakers and was perhaps less intimidating for each speaker, while enabling more speakers to share their stories.

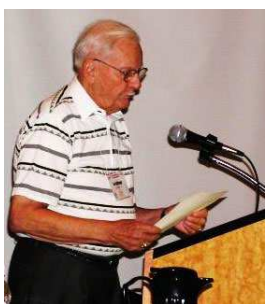


Rochelle Hart & Roxanne Wilson

on a variety of different topics. In some previous conferences speakers had made lengthy presentations. That enabled subjects to be covered deeply, shortening the talks resulted in

Rochelle Hart led off with a discussion of Shelley dinner bells with musical accompaniment.

Curt Leiser presented napkin rings. Consistent with the mystery that is Shelley, Curt pointed out that to date only 16 napkin ring patterns had been identified but another six are predicted to exist. Sam Moore described their Castle, Violet, Blue Rock and Regency dinner sets. Betty Shelley followed with a slide presentation on Harmony pottery and Pearl Jacks spoke on Intarsio pottery. The knowledge of our members is always an impressive resource and Pearl exemplified that with her discussion of the differences in the Intarsio designs of Frederick Rhead and Walter Slater. Gary Hoare discussed the May-time pattern.



Ed Kellogg

Carolyn Keating spoke on Shelley Elegants. Phyllis Jacobs described her collection of pure white cup and saucer shapes. Dorothy Clark discussed Shelley commemoratives and Dan Wilson described



Carolyn Keating

the Niagara Falls souvenir pieces he had acquired. Howard Osborne presented some guidelines for how to sell and buy on eBay. He was followed by Allan Bellamy who talked about how it is to be an antique dealer in England and Lynn Smith took the other side of the subject by discussing shopping for Shelley in England. The challenge of presenting



Howard Osborne

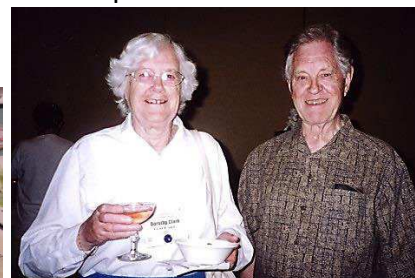
a huge variety of quick topics had been admirably met.



Dan Wilson, Gary Hoare

Ed Kellogg gave a glowing tribute to Dick Douglass, a true pioneer, who together with LaDonna will be remembered through

the renamed Douglass Award. President Kay Hinderliter announced the 2005 winners, Marie and Warren Leenerts who have contributed greatly not only over the last year but for the last decade. She in turn was presented with the newly designed "President's Award" by Curt Leiser. Dorothy Clark was also commended for her fine work in producing a set of Roles and Responsibilities for the Club and its officers.



Dorothy & Alastair Clark



Allan Bellamy, Lynn Smith





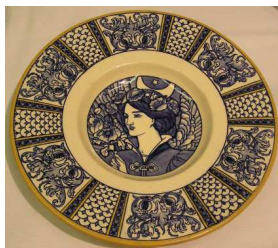
**Sandi & Hank Wheeler,
Ethel Olsen**



The Olsen's

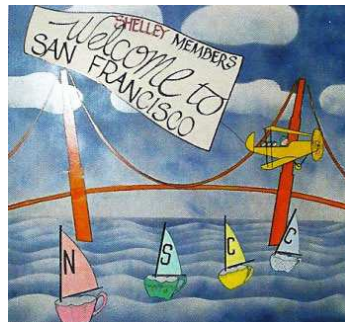
We were all pleased to meet her.

John Barter discussed the Shelley Advertising strategies. In the process we learned the famous Shelley girl painting was not of Elsie Harding but rather by her. Linda Ellis presented on the less well known nursery-ware artist- Linda Edgerton.



F. The next Shelley Club annual conference was held in San Mateo in 2006

This meeting and was organized by Carolyn Keating and Marie Leenerts. Once again the opportunity presented itself to take advantage of the proximity antique sale venues- in this case the Hillsborough Antiques Show. Reporting on this conference would be one of Mike Smith's first responsibilities as Editor of the Magazine.



The theme of the conference was Barrels of Fun. A display was set up in the hospitality suite to hold the various examples.

Curt gave the keynote presentation on Shelley and Wileman Biscuit Barrels in which he showed



slides of the extensive collection of Russ Nicholas and Lee Jones. Pearl Jacks presented on the artistry of Walter Slater. Speaking of artists, Ray Reynolds set up a demonstration of his painting and decorating skills with Sunrise and Tall Trees lithos. Ray brought his daughter Sue to the conference and

Gary Hoare gave a presentation on Shelley in Australia with emphasis on souvenir ware. He also had available for sale copies of the Australasian Club's wonderful new Red Book on shapes.



Ray working on plaque



The conference continued with Lynn Smith discussing her collection of pieces in the Ludlow shape. Warren Leenerts spoke on "crested smalls". A real highlight was Carolyn Keating entering the room in a complete Welsh Woman's costume and presenting on Welsh commemoratives. Gerry Pearce, the Shelley Group President, related the stories of his collection of the "Monks" series of scenic pieces and related poetry.

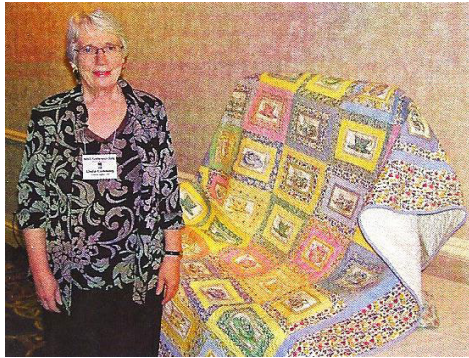
It should be noted that with Wayne, Gary and Gerry present this was the first conference to have all of the Club Presidents on site.



A tradition was continued by Linda Cummings- who made and donated a Shelley patterned quilt for the conference raffle.



Carolyn Keating w Sue and Ray Reynolds



Linda Cummings w her quilt



Linda Edgerton's designs

Lastly we would be remiss if we did not mention the superb teapot cakes that served as edible centerpieces for each table. Carolyn and Marie did a wonderful job with the arrangements for these. It is also a testament to their organizing skills that this conference drew over 120 members with 21 members attending from the UK and Australia— more than one quarter of the entire membership!



G. The 2007 Conference was held in Denver, Colorado.

It was organized and hosted by Ruth and Mel Friedman. Like some previous meetings, this one coincided with some great antiquing opportunities. This time it was the World Wide Antique Show. The tradition of display cases filled with Shelley continued with displays that struck awe in all who observed. The absolute show-stopper was the set of seven tea tables put together by Lynn Smith. Each tea set was paired with embroidered linens, silverware and serving pieces.

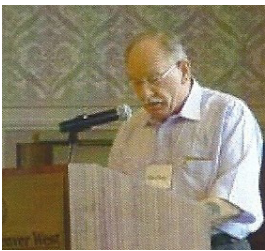


Warren Leenerts & Ruth Friedman emcee the diner



Curt Leiser

Curt left us wanting more as he teased us with visions of a Rainbow of Dainties. Bob Beatty from the UK spoke about his wonderful collection of Bouillon cups and saucers. Lynn and Mike Smith lived in Scotland for five years and used that experience to inspire us with the many nuances of the art of giving a tea. Bruce and Anne Sandie from the Australasian Club presented a DVD that revealed more unique Shelley items than most members had ever seen. Gary Hoare, President of the Australasian Club brought his collection



Bob Beatty

of Parian Busto and we all learned a lot from him.



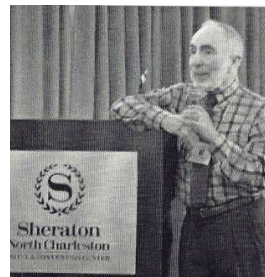
Bruce Sandie

Bruce Sandie spoke on Unnamed Cup Shapes and Questionable Crested Miniatures. It held us in rapt attention. That so much remains to be learned and so much remains to be found is one of the most fascinating features of collecting Shelley. We should also note the outstanding scholarship of our friends from the UK and Australia who have produced a book on crested pieces as well as the renowned Australasian Red Book on shapes.



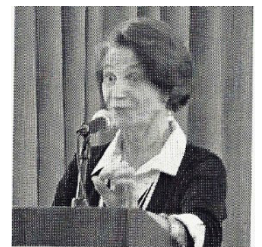
H. The 2008 Conference was held in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Friedman's once again did a great job organizing the event. Ruth Miller from the Charleston Historic Society



Mel Friedman

gave us local color. Curt spoke on rare cup shapes. Bob Beatty spoke on Vogue and Mode shapes. John Barter gave a presentation on the 1980 Shelley Exhibition in London.



Ruth Miller

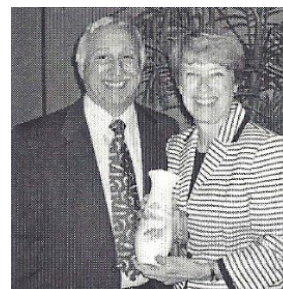
Linda Ellis described the poetry of Eugene Field as it related to Wileman nursery ware. Gary Hoare introduced us to beautiful Blue Dragon and Cloisonne patterns.



Warren & Marie Leenerts

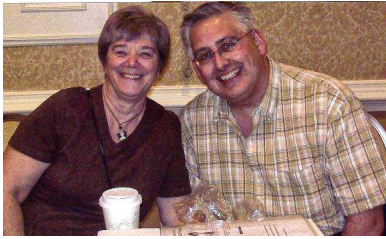
In our free time some members visited the only Tea Plantation in the continental US, just south of Charleston. We all enjoyed Low Country cuisine in nearby restaurants.

Ray Reynold's beautifully decorated vase was won by Lyle and Carolyn Keating.



Lyle & Carolyn





Linda Ellis & John Barter



Lynn Smith



Betty Shelley, Doris Sweezey, Shelley Dale & Arlene Hatem



Howard & Judy Osborne

I. The 2009 Conference was held in Minneapolis.

In spite of a severe downturn in the economy and difficult financial times the Conference went forward. It was a wonderful experience for those who were able to attend.

The conference was organized by Lisa and Kevin McMenemy. Their daughter Kayla did a great job introducing us to the theme of the Conference: Candlesticks and their history. Kevin followed with a discussion of Shelley candlesticks. Once again we got to share with our overseas comrades including: Gary Hoare and his wife Shelley; Bruce and Anne Sandie- also from Australia; and Bob Beatty from the UK.



Kevin McMenemy



Anne Sandie

Later, Anne gave a presentation on Shelley – Elegance in China.

Marie Leenerts spoke on the art work and lives of Mabel Lucie Attwell and Lucy Dawson.

Curt spoke on the Shelley of vices- Whiskey, Wine, Beer and smoking accessories.

Guest expert, Karen Maso gave an interesting presentation on The Art of Restoration.



Bob Beatty, Anne & Bruce Sandie

Bob Beatty regaled us with his tales of adventures in collecting Shelley. Ray Reynolds hand painted an elegant pin dish for a raffle prize at the conference. Mary Dickerson took it home with a big smile.



Relaxing at the Reception

Unfortunately overall attendance at the Minneapolis conference was considerably less than had been anticipated and the financial obligations incurred made it difficult to consider holding another meeting as soon as 2010.

The economic downturn also hit Club membership, which

fell to near 300. In addition it was no longer economically prudent to retain the web site licensing firm. The Board concluded it would be prudent to withdraw from that contract.



The Shelley Group had been successful with a much less expensive volunteer effort and the Board decided to seek volunteers to further develop and manage the NSCC site. Early in 2010 Lyle Keating volunteered to take on the role of Webmaster. While he professed to be learning on the job, his computer skills were quickly evident as the site improved and gained momentum.

J. Scottsdale 2011

With renewed vigor and a tightened financial belt the Club forged ahead and held the **2011 Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona**. The Friedman's volunteered once again to add their expertise and host the meeting, and for that we were especially grateful. Mel did his best cowboy imitations and had a bottomless bag of jokes to keep things moving along. We enjoyed a presentation on coffee and tea.

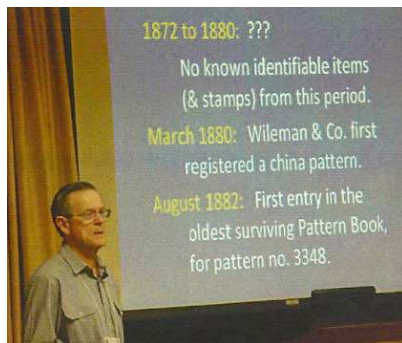


Gary Hoare spoke on Queen Anne and the numerous patterns, with so many yet to be found. Jane Wood gave a talk on Shelley Polka Dots. Bruce Sandie discussed the early patterns on Wileman.



Jane Wood

has proven to be an effective means of outreach, generating interest amongst individuals with whom we might not otherwise make contact and hopefully leading to more membership.

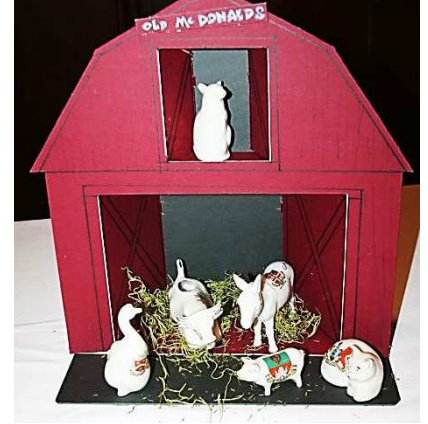


Bruce Sandie talks Wileman



Marty & Phyllis Jacobs making a sale to Tricia Sullivan

At the Scottsdale meeting Carolyn Keating introduced the Pot Show idea which has long been popular with the Shelley Group in the UK. San Antonio saw the initial NSCC Pot Show with five entrants. The display receiving the most votes was a farm scene, "Old MacDonald's Farm" with many Shelley figurines presented by Marie and Warren Leenerts.



K. The 2012 Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas.

Lynn Smith did a great job organizing this from afar with Texas sized help from Julia Gibson and her husband. The meeting coincided with the annual antiques fair centered on Round Top, Texas. We say centered there because it stretched out along 25 miles of country highway with what seemed to be a cluster of unique gift stands that could be found around every bend in the road. Many members enjoyed



Lynn Smith with "Buffalo Bill"



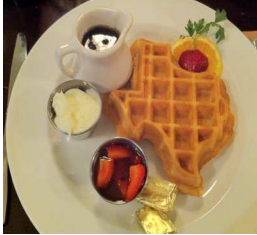
a cruise along the San Antonio River through the Riverwalk area. Lynn arranged a luncheon at the nearby Buckhorn Saloon where all enjoyed some excellent bar-becue. We received an ample dose of local color when Buffalo Bill sashayed into the conference and after a few tales from the Old West posed for photos with Shelley cowboys and cowgirls from far and wide.

Lynn and Julia provided us all with a true highlight when they graciously and perhaps with some trepidation served

us tea from 60 place settings of a variety of Shelley patterns from their personal collections. Their courage did have limits. The hotel staff was not allowed to come within a hoot or a holler of that china when it came time for cleanup. Closely supervised Club volunteers carefully washed



each item. It was a real honor to be served such a fine tea.

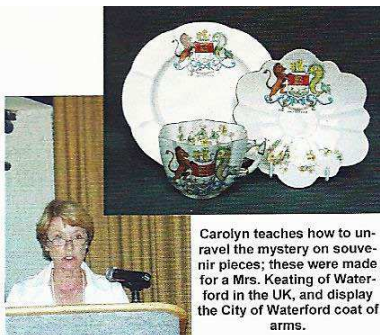


Washing detail w Irene Shelley, Carolyn Keating, Marcus Shelley, Lynn and Mike Smith

Some of us returned to



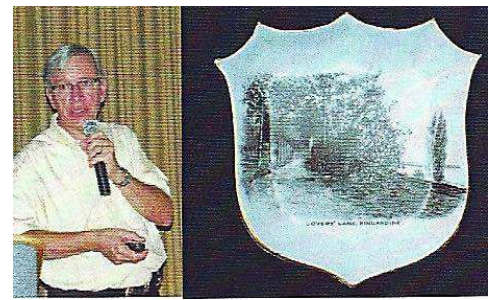
the Riverwalk after hours and after a few drinks it was amazing what you might find walking down the street!



Carolyn teaches how to unravel the mystery on souvenir pieces; these were made for a Mrs. Keating of Waterford in the UK, and display the City of Waterford coat of arms.

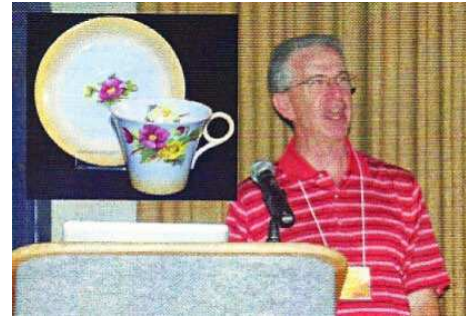
Starting with a piece of souvenir ware he was able to find the actual lake front scene that was immortalized on Shelley. Peter Porrazzo spoke about the beautiful begonia

pattern.



Marcus Shelley

L. Con- was sub- ton,



Peter Porrazzo

The 2013 conference held in urban Washington, DC.

Bernice and Peter Porrazzo put on a truly memorable show. I may be dating myself but can't resist recalling the late Washington DC socialite Pearl Mesta, who was known as "the hostess with the mostess", and thinking how richly that title applies to Bernice. The theme was "Red, White, and Blue". The real show stopper was the impromptu dance number Bernice surprised us with as she made an appeal for someone to adopt the orphan Shelley. Her enthusiastic routines kept us from listening too closely to Peter's poetry. Peter got the bugs out of the Club's newly acquired portable sound system and presented some dazzling photographs of their trips to different National parks. A magical moment was the airing of a video of Ray Reynolds being interviewed by Lynn Smith earlier in the year.



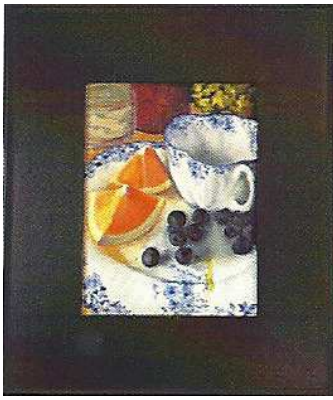
Bernice Porrazzo

The Club was truly blessed to have some wonderful items donated for the Raffle and auction. Donna Gapen is a gifted artist and offered a delightful scene in Blue Dainty.



Lynn Smith & Ray Reynolds

Mary Dickerson put in many hours to fashion a beautiful quilt made from fabric in many Shelley patterns. No doubt these outstanding items helped the Club to raise a substantial amount of money. But some credit must also be



Donna's painting

given to the almost legendary arm-twisting capabilities of Rochelle Hart and Julia Gibson as they competed to sell the most raffle tickets. Fittingly they ended up being the high bidders in the "silent" auctions for these two treasures. Julia was also the artist behind the beautiful place cards for the seating arrangements. The center-

pieces and little keepsakes for each guest were prepared by Bernice and Peter's daughters. Bernice was also the architect behind wonderful chocolate mementos of the Capital Building.



Mary's quilt

This meeting saw the inaugural presentation of the Curt Leiser Award for the year's best article published in the Magazine. Carolyn Keating became the first recipient for her article on Crinkle ware. In accepting the award she acknowledged the contributions of Rochelle Hart, Bruce Sandie and others. Lyle Keating an-



Julia's cards & Bernice's chocolates

nounced that he would be stepping down as Web Master by the end of the year and the search has begun for volunteers to take up the site. Lyle has made an immense contribution in building the site and enabling it to become the premier tool in informing prospective members of the thrill of Shelley collecting.

The Pot Show saw growing popularity with eleven entrants. The winner was "The Lady in Red" assembled by Carolyn Keating. The imagination of the Shelley designers produced so many items that continue to trigger the creative juices of members and leave us anticipating what next year's show will

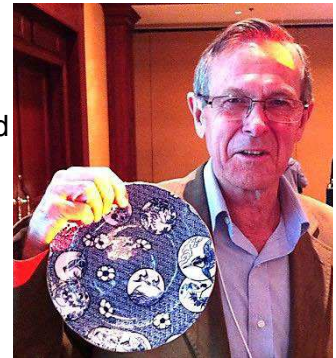
bring.

Another highlight was the visit to the remarkable collection in the home of a member. A few lasting impressions appear below.

The conference presentations were rich and varied.



Dan Wilson discussed his favorite pattern- Bubbles, while Dick Gapen related his never ending quest for the next mustache cup. Anne Sandie spoke on Gems and small china vases. Ron Hoffman took us on a journey through his astounding collection of miniatures and Gary Hoare discussed the art Deco designs of the 20's and 30's. Warren Leenerts designed yet another terrific pin. We were also honored by Ray Reynolds donating a signed medallion of Sunrise and Tall Trees for the raffles. We heard about highlights from the personal collections of Helen Siegelin, Greg & Tricia Sullivan, Donna Gapen and Phyllis Jacobs - with Peter Porrazzo standing in for Phyllis who could not make the Conference. Bruce Sandie also discussed early Wileman and its predecessors. There is always so much to learn! Kelley Moran also brought along and signed some copies of her excellent book on Shelley Chintz.



Bruce displays an early plate



Kelly Moran & Tricia Sullivan





Rochelle Hart, Mary Dickerson, Julia Gibson, Donna Gapen
M. The 2014 Conference was in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Tricia and Greg Sullivan were our hosts. The Conference was preceded by a day trip to Newport, Rhode Island to visit mansions and take tea at a local inn.



Marble House



Vanderbilt Tea House

The theme was Leaves, Shore and Jazz in honor of the various Newport music festivals.



Barbara Gooding, Lynne Leiser, Lyle & Carolyn Keating, Bob Beatty taking tea.

Bob Beatty, Dick & Donna Gapen, Bernice & Peter Porrazzo at The Spring Seasons Inn



Bruce & Jennie Fisher



The Wilson's with Mary Dickerson



Borrowing an idea from the Shelley Group, members were encouraged to bring in vases from their collection to create a Snake of Vases. A volunteer panel including Garry Hoare, President of the Australasian Club, Marcus Shelley, President-elect of the NSCC, Bob Beatty from the Shelley Group and Peter Porrazzo and Carolyn Keating from the NSCC gave ad hoc comments on the display.



Our distinguished panel

Saturday evening many adjourned to local seafood houses. Marty Jacobs faced off against a Maine Lobster.



Marty Jacobs vs the lobster

Speaking of food- guest speaker Paula Wallace talked about the best food and places to visit in "Little Rhody". The Registration packet included recipes for a wide range of Chowders- there is no single way to do it. Make the broth clear, thin, thick, creamy, tomato, or bisque all have their advocates.



Paula Wallace



Barbara Gooding



Dick Gapen



Marcus Shelley



Kathy Tarr



Ruth Phinney

This conference was again an opportunity to learn about collecting and collectors. Jeanne Speizer described their Queen Anne collection and we heard from Ruth Phinney and Jeanne Peifer as well. Dick Gapen took the podium to discuss ---. Kathy Tarr discussed Shelley from a dealer's perspective. Barbara Gooding took us through Ebay. Marcus Shelley and Peter Porrazzo gave different perspectives on commemoratives.



the Douglass Award to Ruth and Mel Friedman.



Mary Dickerson's quilt

Frank and Jeanne Speizer made a special presentation to Bob Beatty.



Dinner was highlighted by table centerpieces made by the Sullivan's of replicas of various New England lighthouses. Bernice presented



Bob Beatty w Jeanne Speizer



Donna's painting

Two fabulous quilts were made for the Conference. Mary Dickerson produced another outstanding quilt and Bernice's daughter's mother in law made another. Donna Gapen produced a wonderful painting of a yellow Vogue cup and saucer.



Helen with the note cards

The Conference was made extra special by the chance to see Bernice Porrazzo presenting a gift to Ray Reyn-

olds on behalf of the NSCC and record his best wishes for the 2014 conference. The video had been made at the Shelley Group annual Meeting in the Spring.



and more memories.



Elizabeth & Ned Newton at their first conference



The Warwick Conference was a great opportunity for the Club to offer wonderful Shelley-based note cards. Helen Siegelin conceived and produced the cards and it was a welcome revenue producer for the Club. Thank You Helen!



Lyle & Carolyn Keating with Bob Beatty



Mary Dickerson, Greg Sullivan and Carol Hansen



Mel & Ruth Friedman



Tricia & Greg Sullivan



Bob Beatty, Donna Gapen, Mary Dickerson, Ethel Olsen, Shelley Wilson

It wouldn't be a Shelley Conference without a Pot



Marie Leenerts, Dorothy Clark

Show and Carolyn Keating graciously managed it for the Club. Alas it was time to say good bye. Like this pot show entry about the

Antiques Road-show,



Bernice & Peter Porrazzo with Lynne Leiser

Bernice & Peter Porrazzo with Susan our host at The Spring Seasons Inn



Judith Roach, Kathy Tarr



Ruth Phinney with Virginia McNamara

We approach the 25th Anniversary of the NSCC ever on the hunt for more Shelley

N. Seattle in 2015

The planning for the Seattle conference was conducted by the team of Mary Dickerson and Lynne Leiser with the assistance of Peter Porrazzo and others. As this document is being drafted preparations are well underway.

11. Precious Memories

While our mutual interest in Shelley China brings us together, it is the friendships created and deepened over the years that sustain us. For the 25th anniversary of the NSCC we sought to share memories. How did we learn about Shelley and the Club? What people made an impression?

To answer these questions a two pronged approach was taken. Many issues of the Magazine were reviewed for the articles people submitted on "How it all started" or similar stories. These were supplemented using responses to a questionnaire circulated following the 2014 Conference in Warwick, Rhode Island.

How did you learn of Shelley? What got you in? What keeps you in?

Almost invariably respondents were not aware of the Shelley name when they started collecting. Given Shelley went out of business almost 50 years ago, members are generally too young to recall the Company's advertising.

Inheritance was rarely mentioned but always interesting. Avice Goodlad and her sister grew up washing the most beautiful, fragile china. Their mother had over 80 pieces of Lowestoft designed, Vincent - shape tea ware. It was used on Sundays and special occasions. The girls really didn't know of Shelley until after their mother passed away. While her sister inherited the tea ware, Avice volunteered to join her in antique hunting to fill out the set. They had never been antiques before and got side tracked as they learned of Shelley and expanded their interests. Over the years they found enough for each to have a large set in their moms' pattern.

Several fondly recalled those few precious cups and saucers their mothers brought out for special occasions. Helen Siegelin and her sister didn't know when their mother acquired her six cups and saucers. But when they were cleaning out her house they split the sets between them; Helen got trios in Dainty Green, Red and Blue. They began searching in earnest for Shelley. Helen related as a young girl that she joined her mother in checking out a little shop in northern Wisconsin. Her mother spotted a Dainty Mauve cup and saucer but balked at the \$7.50 price tag, arguing over the last 50 cents. It was left behind

but created a lasting impression. It took Helen 30 years to find one again.

It was Ruth Friedman's grandfather that started her interest. Many years ago he gave Ruth's mother a pair of Shelley cups and saucers. They were beautiful. When closing her mother's home 20 years ago she split the pair with her sister and Ruth acquired a wonderful Gainsborough Hedgerow. It started her path.

Rochelle Hart grew up sharing her mother's and grandmother's interest in teacups. Her mother preferred Royal Doulton. In 1992, Rochelle found herself in Phoenix on a business trip. When the conference ended the hall was filled with antique dealers for the next conference. She decided to check it out and in the process encountered Lila Shrader and a wonderful display of Dainty. Lila explained the Shelley story; and cups and saucers in Begonia, Stocks and Rosebud found their way into Rochelle's luggage. Rochelle's enthusiasm must have created a great impression because thereafter Lila would contact her when she found something from Rochelle's wish list. It would be sent immediately to Alaska and never hit the antique booth shelf.

Like so many of us, Rochelle came across articles written by Curt Leiser and that was enough to make the decision to join the NSCC. Meeting him, meeting other collectors, and having the chance to find more Shelley were great motivators. Rochelle's first conference was Chicago where she encountered Jerry and Tobey Rodney. Through them she discovered Footed Oleander. "Wow!" Then she became captivated by Ripon, followed by Ludlow. Like the rest of us she has found the journey is unpredictable but great fun.

Sometimes it was a family shopping adventure that started the process. Carolyn Keating related going antique shopping with her sister Jane Wood in northern Michigan in 1995. She had already been collecting silver spoons and wanted some tea cups to go with them. She spotted an unusually shaped cup behind the counter in a shop and asked the clerk why it was so expensive. The lady answered "It's a Shelley!" Carolyn had never heard of Shelley China before but decided to buy it anyway. It was a Dainty Begonia which she thought must be quite unique. Back home in California, she came upon a small antique shop in a little town, Niles. She found a huge case just brimming with Shelley. Glorious! That case belonged to Judy Osborne. A quiet - spoken lady who single handedly brought so many people, including Carolyn into the Club.

Some family links to collecting Shelley were more remote. Jerry Gard is one of the few who knew early on about Shelley. He began collecting over 50 years ago. But it was his in-laws who got him into it. They had found some in Victoria BC in the early 1950s. They didn't know of Shelley but admired its "fragile beauty" and bought two cups and saucers in blue and white. When he started dating their daughter his future in-laws invited him over

for tea. He was blown away by “the shapes and crispness of the patterns”. The mutual admiration of Shelley that was established took the form of Jerry gifting pieces to his in-laws from time to time and they responded in kind for Jerry and his wife.

For some, the antique shop discovery of a piece of china with their name on it was enough to result in that first purchase. Shelley Bayer’s mother bought her a beautiful cup and saucer, in part because it had her name on the bottom. But Shelley started learning and hunting for more.

Shelley Wilson got her first piece at age 12 from an aunt. It had her name and it was a solitary treasure in her cabinet for years. She met Dan and discovered flea markets. Dan’s father would give Shelley a flea market find on each birthday. But Shelley didn’t really get hooked until engaged in a bidding war in an auction with Jean, who was to become a close friend. Shelley lost the bid but got invited to Jean’s home to see her collection. That opened her eyes and created a thirst that has never been quenched.

Publications such as Sheryl Burdess’s book, **Shelley Tea Ware Patterns**, expanded many readers’ horizons once they learned of Shelley, and can be blamed for triggering many a collection binge. But only one person, Mimi Kobayashi, indicated she initially learned of Shelley through a magazine. The surprise was that it was almost 30 years ago and the magazine was Japanese.

Spouses always play a big role in fueling the Shelley passion. Sometimes it is just developing a shared interest. Warren Leenerts was content to watch Marie gather Queen Annes, Daintys, Vogue, Nursery ware and teapots. That is until a neighbor gifted him with a small crested drum. It opened his eyes to a new horizon of Shelley and he caught the bug.

For Peter Porrazzo, he might have been content as Bernice assembled the collection, but he began to learn about the history and scarcity of Shelley. That excited the detective in him. The hunt was on. Greg Sullivan was similarly fascinated by the history, variety and richness of potential discovery. While he started out looking for items for Tricia, it soon moved beyond that.

Several spouses could ascribe to the tale told by Jerry Gard. At some point his wife stopped him and said “You’re not buying that for me. You’re buying it for you!”

David Seguin professed only mild interest as his wife and her parents introduced him to the world of yard sales. But when he saw a Celandine Dainty her father bought for a song get auctioned at \$175 he woke up!

One frequent theme is how influential other people can be. In some cases it’s a casual remark while in others it’s a crusade. Anji Davis had a tradition of doing a “girls weekend” of antique shopping twice a year with three

friends. She had developed an interest in starting a tea cup collection with a blue and white theme. On one trip she found her first Shelley, a Harebell cup and saucer. After buying it, all other makers’ products didn’t seem so nice. This was in early 1991, and the dealer happened to mention that this fellow, Bernie Huston, was starting a small club. He gave her Bernie’s phone number. She joined the dozen or so at a meeting in 1991. A tender point was that she had only recently lost her last living relative and LaDonna and Dick Douglass virtually adopted her as their daughter. They remained close thereafter.

Curt Leiser had been exposed to Shelley initially as a teenager when his mother took him to a shop in Vancouver, B.C. Years later he returned but the shop was gone. He heard about a large antique show in Portland but saw no Shelley. That is until he and Lynne came to Bernie’s booth. He had never seen so much Dainty and so much more! “When they asked him (Bernie) about Shelley he simply lit up and took off”. Curt and Lynne bought and bought and their collection was underway.

Most had some interest in antiques, yard sales, etc and came across pieces whose beauty, delicacy and craftsmanship made them stand out from other china they observed. Ron Hoffman described this as discovery by happenstance.

Ron and Jeanette Hoffman’s adventure began in 1979. They were visiting the Jersey shore and went into an antique shop where they found their first Shelley, an Oleander Briar Rose Chintz cup and saucer. They loved it. Hence forward as Ron traveled the country on business he would seek out antique shops near airports and find Shelley to bring home to Jeanette. Their friends took note and one gifted them with a Green Paisley Chintz Westminster cup and saucer. It was their first miniature. In the mid 1980’s they met Bernie Huston and were overwhelmed by his collection of miniatures. Their hunting was culminated when given the opportunity to acquire a good portion of Bernie’s collection years later.

Mildred Patterson recalled browsing antique shops in the Houston area in the early 1990’s. She was seeking some Royal Doulton for Joe’s mother. There on the table sat a pair of Bridal Rose cups and saucers and one Rosebud. The clerk told her they were “very collectible”. In another antique shop she met the Gamms. Their booth was full of Shelley. While in the process of making her first purchases, they told her about the Club and shared some paperwork from an early meeting. That was enough to gain their interest and the Patterson’s joined.

Tricia and Greg Sullivan have two antique dealers to blame- thank for their journey. About ten years ago they decided to check out the Brimfield Antique Fair. There they found Kathy Tarr surrounded by some of the most beautiful china they had ever seen. While they didn’t buy they found it hard to walk away and wanted to know more before committing to that kind of spending. Later, having bought and studied a copy of Sheryl Burdess’s book.

They met Kathy again at one end of the Boston Antique show and found Mary Ann Null and her huge display of Shelley at the other. Caught between these pincers escape was impossible. The collection started.

Sometimes it took no more than a chance remark.

Karen Cizek recalled going to the Kutztown, PA fair with her mother. A vendor commented that Shelley was simply the best. That got her attention. She then was able to acquire at least one book about Shelley and her adventure began.

Sometimes it worked in reverse. Gloria Ellis recalled having lost her job in 1995. She had long had an interest in antiques and thought she might be able to get by at least temporarily through selling "stuff". She overheard customers talking about how wonderful Shelley was and how expensive it was. So Gloria decided to look into it. She bought a DuBarry Maroon cup and saucer with the intention of "flipping it". But she admired it more and more and just couldn't part with it. Instead she started hunting for pieces with which to build a complete service. The world of possibilities was expanded when she discovered eBay.

She was not alone. Once a year as Ruth van Essen and her brother grew up, they would clean their mom's china cabinet. Among its treasures was a single Shelley Dainty Mauve cup and saucer. One day at an antique show Ruth's husband saw a Dainty Green across the aisle. They bought it and decided to hunt for other colors. But Ruth was not computer fluent. She decided to ask her friend Mina Hector for help. Mina knew computers but had never heard of this Shelley thing. Ruth asked her to do a search. They came across eBay and the curtains were raised. They both became instant collectors.

Leigh Ellen Clark's mother had an antique shop as Leigh grew up. But Leigh had little interest in cups and saucers, even though her mother had told her of the renown of Shelley. She describes one day as having had an epiphany. She was antiquing with a friend in Texas when she saw her first Shelley. It was a Stocks pin dish. It was so delicate and beautiful! She decided to buy. Months passed until the day her mother brought her an Atholl shaped Lily of the Valley cup and saucer. It was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen. Love had blossomed.

Several related the missed opportunities from which they took a long time to recover. Bernice and Peter Porrazzo moved to England for business in 1985 and spent five years there. She developed an interest in trios but didn't learn of Shelley for several years. She returned to the United States with only six Shelley trios and her first Jelly Mold. It took until 1998 when Peter took a "crash course in Shelley" in preparation to finding her a gift that the "Search and Collect team" was really born.

Nance Carpenter was another who spent time in England in the 1980's but didn't know of Shelley at the time. Nance had a friend Jane with whom she canvassed local antique

shops in the mid 1990's. Their goal was to find items "made in England". Nance was interested in Aynsley at the time. Jane mentioned her mother collected something with an English name that began with an S. Nance was invited to her house and the collection really captured her. Her first Shelley in 1997 was a Dainty Campanula which she aspires to grow into a setting for 12.

Dorothy Clark had been born in Scotland and settled in northern England after marrying Alastair. They lived there 20 years before moving in 1975 to Connecticut, never having heard of Shelley. They left an adult daughter behind. After a few years they learned their daughter was collecting Art Deco Shelley. They decided to look for Shelley to send as a gift and in the process found a Blue Rock trio. Dorothy bought it for her daughter and put it aside before sending it. Over time, Dorothy would pull it out and admire it and came to the realization that it was not Art Deco and not consistent with her daughter's collection. So she decided to keep it and in the process caught the Shelley bug. Dorothy was later surprised to learn that her sister who lived in the United Kingdom, had received a dinner service of Shelley as a wedding gift in 1959. Oh the years that if she only had known, could have been spent collecting Shelley!

Perhaps typical of so many is Sherry Johnson's story. She received a gift of six Dainty cups and saucers from an aunt of her husband in 1984. They were absolutely the most beautiful things she had ever seen. She simply had to find more. Her husband was enlisted to drive her to different antique shops each weekend. Often they were disappointed and in fact most dealers didn't know of Shelley. Those that did, mentioned it was both hard to find and expensive. Their hopes were low. One day one of the dealers called to say he had received some Shelley. Without hesitation, Sherry had her husband drive 23 miles to the shop. Upon entering, where was the Shelley she asked? Over there! Where? In a corner sat a Rock Garden Chintz cup and saucer in Ripon. Sherry only knew of the Dainty shape. This was a whole new world and she loved it. It also kindled her husband's interest. They found books by Susan Hill and Chris Davenport to be a revelation. She had begun to get worried about the effort and money being spent in building their collection. But a wonderful reinforcement came from her husband who proclaimed "Tea always tastes better in Shelley."

Closing

We cannot acknowledge all of the wonderful people who have and continue to make this Club a treasure. People who have worked tirelessly to: make lively Regional meetings; produce memorable Conferences; supply a wonderful range of articles; and make the Magazine so essential and core to our learning and sharing. But there are a few in whose debt we will forever be and for whom we give special thanks. Thank you Bernie Huston. Thank you Curt Leiser. Thank you Ray Reynolds.

Curt Leiser



Ray Reynolds