



MC 31.1

Alexander Silverman

Friend of the college,
Donated glass collection to Alfred
University

Collection:

Acquisition: ?

Processed: Susan Strong, 1981; Elizabeth Gulacsy, 1994

Updated: Laura Habecker, 2020

The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Scholes Library

Alexander Silverman

(1881-1962)

Born: May 2, 1881, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Died: December 16, 1962

Married: Elrose Reizenstein, December 16, 1908

Parents: Philip and Hannah (Schamberg) Silverman

Education:

Pittsburgh Public Schools

Central High School

1902 University of Pittsburgh, Bachelor of Philosophy

1905 Cornell University, A.B.

1907 University of Pittsburgh, M.S.

Work/Teaching:

1902-04 Chemist, Macbeth-Evans Glass Company, Charleroi Division, Corning Glass Works, Charleroi, Pennsylvania

1905-51 Professor of Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh

1918-51 Head of Department

1951 Emeritus

1943 Consultant, Office of Production Research and Development of the War Production Board Registered Professional Engineer, State of Pennsylvania

Honors/Societies:

1930 Honorary Sc.D., University of Pittsburgh

1936 Honorary Sc.D., Alfred University

1940 Pittsburgh Award, American Chemical Society

1951 Pi Lambda Phi Medal

Silver Medal, University of Pittsburgh

1955 Gold Medal (Chemistry), University of Pittsburgh

1958 Albert Victor Bleining Award and Medal, American Ceramic Society

No dates: American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow

American Ceramic Society (Vice President 1931, Trustee 1932, Chairman Committee on Honorary Membership 1937-1945, Chairman Committee on Glass Research 1944-1946, Emeritus 1952)

American Chemical Society (Emeritus 1952)

American Institute of Chemists, Fellow and Honorary Member (1951)

Chemists' Club of Pittsburgh (Emeritus 1954)

Deutsche Glastechnische Gesellschaft

National Institute of Ceramic Engineers, Fellow

Phi Beta Kappa (Alumni member 1955)

Phi Lambda Upsilon (National Honorary Member 1946)

Society of Glass Technology (England), Fellow

(see complete list Box 2)

Publications:

(over 160, see Box 2 for list)

Patents:

(over 25, see Box 2 for list)

Series Descriptions

Dr. Alexander Silverman upon his retirement from teaching in the Department of Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh, presented his collection of glass to Alfred University. The University is home to the oldest Department of Glass Technology in America.

The Collection started by Dr. Silverman in 1902 with a few colored semaphore disks employed as railroad signals, is considered an outstanding representation of modern glass, with samples from thirty countries, including the United States. The pieces range from lamp work to cut glass to industrial glass and was presented to AU in 1951.

Initially the Collection was housed in Binns-Merrill Hall, New York State College of Ceramics. Later, it became part of the collection housed in the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art.

Box 1

Photographs, catalog and inventory list of the Collection

Box 2

Dr. Alexander Silverman correspondence files (1939-1959) and biographical information. Reprints of some of his articles.

Collection

Box 1

Photographs. Collection

Photographs. Alexander Silverman

Catalog

Inventory list

Glass Club Bulletin # 138 "Cameo Glass of Joseph Locke" by Leonard S. and Juliette K. Rakow.

Spinning Wheel Oct. & Nov. 1958. Articles on Joseph Locke glass in Alfred.

Photographs from "Alice in Wonderland" series. Owens Illinois Newark Research Lab.

Box 2

Correspondence 1939-1946.

1951-1954.

1955-1959.

Misc.

Biographical Outlines

Publications:

"Glass collecting as a hobby." Journal of Chemical Education Vol. 8, No. 12, 1931.

"The contribution of the chemist to the glass industry for the advancement of modern civilization." The Chemist Vol. 12, No. 4, 1935.

"Joseph Locke, Artist." Glass Industry Vol. 17, No. 8, 1936.

"Glass research in the Chemistry Department, University of Pittsburgh." American Ceramic Society Bulletin 29 (8), 1950.

"Neutron-absorbing glass: CdO-SiO₂-B₂O₃ system." Journal of the American Ceramic Society 34 (3), 1951.

"Francis Clifford Phillips." Pitts Spring 1951. (includes note on his retirement)

"Glass: Symbol of infinite variety." American Glass Review, May 31, 1952.

"The importance of glass collecting." American Ceramic Society Bulletin 31 (2), 1952.

"Glass: Historical notes, 1900 to 1950." Journal of Chemical Education Vol. 30, Jan. 1953.

"Glass through the ages." American Ceramic Society Bulletin 34 (7), 1955.

"Glass evolution: A factor in science." Journal of Chemical Education Vol. 32, March, 1955.

"High-temperature glass fibre production." Transactions of the Society of Glass Technology Vol. XL 1956.

Bibliography from the indexes of the Bulletin of the American Ceramic Society (index cards)