



National Imperial Glass Museum



*“Dedicated to the memory of Imperial, its
Employees and the beautiful glass they
created.”*

3200 Belmont Street
Bellaire, Ohio

History

The Imperial Glass Corporation of Bellaire, Ohio was one of the true giants of the American handmade glass industry. In its time, Imperial was the largest factory and produced more types of glass items than many of the scores of smaller glass companies that were located throughout the Ohio River valley.

Over the years Imperial employed thousands of highly-skilled glass workers who turned out countless items of beauty in a wide variety of patterns, styles and functions. Today, Imperial glass is eagerly sought out by increasing numbers of enthusiastic glass collectors.

At the outset of the 21st Century, the remarkable workers of Imperial are slowly vanishing from our midst. Their legacy and the beautiful glass they created must be protected and made available for future generations. The need for a National Imperial Glass Museum dedicated to this purpose has never been greater.

NIGCS

The process of establishing the National Imperial Glass Museum is well underway. As is often the case, the turning of this dream into reality requires help from many sources.

Standing at the forefront of the effort to establish the National Imperial Glass Museum is the 1,100-member National Imperial Glass Collectors' Society (NIGCS). The Museum's purpose, as mandated in the NIGCS By-Laws, is clearly set forth in Article III, Section 2: “A primary objective of this organization is to establish and maintain a permanent museum in or near Bellaire, Ohio for the displaying and studying of Imperial Glass.”

The purpose of the following is to set forth NIGCS' program for developing the National Imperial Glass Museum.

Funding

Through its' *Campaign for Imperial* the NIGCS has established multiple gifting opportunities.

The Establishment Fund will be dedicated to building renovation and equipping of the museum. Several years of solid Society earnings, a wide variety of ongoing fund-raising activities, and generous member contributions have brought the Establishment Fund to the point of building purchase and partial renovation. Additional Establishment Fund support will be required to prepare for Museum opening. Donation opportunities will continue to be created to encourage participation from all possible contributors. In addition, capital grant opportunities from several levels of government are being sought.

We also must plan for the ongoing costs of present and future operations. To meet these needs, the NIGCS has established both the Operating and Endowment Funds to receive contributions from Society members, Society earnings, and Study Groups. Targets for future levels of these funds are being developed.

The Society has established supplemental contribution opportunities at the time of membership renewal with the aim of allowing members to make major designated contributions to the Museum's Establishment, Operating, or Endowment Funds along with their annual dues.

Primary Member Annual Dues (\$18 after 8/1/02)	\$15	Establishment Fund	\$
Family Member Dues (each)	\$3	Operating Fund	\$
NIGCS Patron	\$50	Endowment Fund	\$
NIGCS President's Club	\$100	Operation Display (Display Cabinets)	\$
NIGCS Sponsor Club	\$250	Donor Recognition Placque \$1000	
NIGCS Benefactor Club	\$500		

NIGCS, P. O. Box 534, Bellaire, OH 43906

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heritage of the former Bellaire Glass Museum. Additionally, the Imperial archives at the Museum will be progressively opened to approved researchers working under the guidance of the NIGCS Archive Policy. The NIGCS has already acquired a number of items for display in the Museum. The Glass Acquisition Committee continues to purchase hard-to-find items and pieces of general interest. Desirable display items will also be sought for the Museum on a loan status. The Museum accepts donations of glassware from members, other glass organizations, and interested parties



Conclusion

Establishing a permanent National Imperial Glass Museum will only become a reality with much hard work and financial support from individuals and organizations of all sizes. Efforts such as these, that preserve our history and heritage, have become an American tradition in themselves.

Please respond generously to any of the *Campaign for Imperial* gifting opportunities. The NIGCS non-profit status allows gifts in cash or kind to be tax deductible.

With your help and others like you, the dream of a National Imperial Glass Museum will become a reality and the fires of the 'Big I' will burn once again for generations to come.

A key element in preparation for opening the museum is the procurement of a number of custom, lighted display cabinets. To meet this need the NIGCS has established *Operation Display* which provides members, organizations and local businesses the opportunity to contribute funds and have their involvement be recognized

Facility

The NIGCS now owns the Building at 3200 Belmont Ave. in the City of Bellaire. The 3800 sq. ft. main floor is targeted to house the hospitality, office, display, and archive operations of the Museum. Interior design and renovation is underway.

As the home of the Imperial Glass Company, the City of Bellaire has demonstrated significant support for the Museum project.

Staffing

At the outset, Museum staffing will be heavily reliant on NIGCS and local volunteers. Part time, professional staff will support the possibility of operational grants.

Promotion

The NIGCS will heavily promote the National Imperial Glass Museum throughout the glass collecting community. The new Museum will be promoted in trade journals, local media and the internet. All venues will be explored with the goal of creating a significant awareness of the National Imperial Glass Museum and its programs.

Display and Archives

Glass displays at the Museum will be on both a continuous and rotating basis. Changes will take place to relate to annual NIGCS Convention themes, Bellaire-related celebrations, and educational opportunities. We are working toward combining the