

BADGER MARBLE CLUB

Volume 11 No. 3

August 30th, 2009

Waunakee EMS
11 am Brunch
Meeting to follow. Bring food, utensils, and marbles..club will supply drinks.

Getting Ready for the Big Push!!!

This is it mibsters. The big push is upon us. Show is two months away and if we expect to maintain our 'great show' status, we need to get our shooters in gear. We've had some flyers out for a few months, but it would be really neat to get folks (with marbles of course) to both rooms and to the show on Sunday. We've been holding our own, and may never exceed our peak of 150+ through the door on Sunday.... but then again, people may be looking for something simple to do in these down times to say nothing of the opportunity to get some extra cash. Hope you can shake loose for the meeting!

MARBLEHOLICS.COM

A site dedicated to marbles and marble collecting. It is our goal to bring the fun and friendship back into marbles. Remember that these wondrous orbs were created for fun and games as a child's play toy.

Let's keep it fun.

Until recently I really didn't take the time to explore Del Morgans "Marbleholics", but there is sure a lot of marble reading to be had! Check out the 'menu'... Shipwreck, Auction Room, Auction Info, Catalogs, All kinds marbles, Consignment Services, Collecting Tools, Club Listings (we're there), Favorite Links, ID Guide, Popey's Page, Discussion Board, Guest Book, Auction Feedback, Contem. Artist of the Month, etc., etc. Not sure how well it has been kept up considering last update was in '06, but there is still a lot of interesting pages to go through. You may it interesting to read the court documents cited at: www.marbleholics.com/markblock_Transcripts.pdf. If you've been around a while, you recall a furor or two involving collectors, sales of questionable marbles, and/or authenticity. Their sincerity can be summed up by this statement.....

"At Marbleholics.com, we want all who visit our site to go away with a smile, a little education, a good feeling of knowing you may have helped a child and a pocket full of marbles."

August 2009



1-5/8" TRANSPARENT BANDED LUTZ
5 Bids \$405.00
2d 9h 55m



1-5/8" SITTING PEASANT SULPHIDE
2 Bids \$10.50
2d 9h57m



MINT 13/16" BLUE BLIZZARD MICA (GROUND PONTIL)
6 Bids \$100.00
2d 10h 0m



MINT 19/32" CHRISTENSEN AGATE ORANGE/GREEN S/O
9 Bids \$138.49
2d 10h 7m



PATTERNEED JOBBER BOX w/PELTIER OXBLOOD RAINBOS
8 Bids \$207.55
3d 10h 15m



PATTERNEED JOBBER BOX w/PELTIER CLEAR RAINBOS
14 Bids \$132.50
3d 10h 16m

Above: **Marblealan** ebay auction as of Aug. 8-09. We're all interested in the value of our marbles. While some items have bottomed out, really quality/sic. rare stuff always holds its own. Check out the prices of some 'stuff' at **Morphy Auctions** inside. Keep in mind, most sales include a 17% commission.





Brian Graham

The year was 1991. I was a college student at the University of Akron. I was studying archaeology at the time and had made friends with some other archaeology majors. Seems that some of them were working for a toy company in Akron on Exchange St., not to far from campus. The owner of the toy company was Michael Cohill. I remember that one night we were sitting around and drinking some cold ones on a friends front porch; typical college behavior. My friends told me that the "marble man" was coming over to join us. A few minutes later when Michael arrived, he shook my hand and pulled a marble out of his coat pocket, and placed it into my palm. I was intrigued. I talked with Michael for the rest of the night. He told me about the history of marbles in Akron. I was hooked! The next couple of years would be spent crawling around Akron, looking for anything and everything that dealt with toy marbles. Around the mid 90's, I transferred to Kent State Univ., and didn't have much contact with Michael. We would meet once a year for a marbles tournament in Wadsworth, Ohio, that was brought to our attention by our friend. Attorney Richard Dickey. I ended up getting degrees in Archaeology and glass blowing from Kent State. Around 1998, I started to work with Michael again, on gathering new research material on the toy marble industry. It never ends.

Brian currently maintains this web site and is also the President of The Board of Directors of The American Toy Marble Museum in Akron, Ohio.

Michael Cohill

I am the owner a small toy company and the subject of marbles came about coincidentally. In 1989 while moving my toy company into larger quarters near the University of Akron's campus, an old-timer in that neighborhood told me, "This used to be a toy factory. They used to make marbles here." During my company's seasonal slow period I did some research on the old factory. I went to the library and looked through the old history books. I didn't find anything. I talked to the most knowledgeable historians and they'd never heard of marbles being made in Akron. However, the evidence of marble manufacturing was all over the old factory. Walking through the driveway and parking lot one could find beautiful glass marbles, though few were in perfect condition. Long story short, I eventually discovered all the marble company records, photos, etc. and most exciting a complete collection of the marbles made there, many in their original boxes. The name of the company was "The M.F. Christensen & Son Company" and they made marbles here from 1903 to 1917. Reading through the confidential corporate records of a 90 year old toy company, while at the same time keeping my own toy company records, was extremely interesting to me. With the names and dates in the old records I went back to the library and searched the old newspaper microfilms (I now wear glasses) Long story short, the subject of marbles was a grand topic for 19th and early 20th century journalists and The M.F. Christensen & Son Company was the last to manufacture marbles in Akron. Again, long story short - the first marble works in Akron was also the first time in history toys were mass-produced and the first time children were marketed directly as consumers. It is the origin story of the modern American toy industry and the origins of the children's product market. To date we've discovered upwards of a thousand newspaper articles on the subject of marbles giving us an exceptional view into the trade in their own voice. These articles led us to further discoveries; to the relatives for former marble company owners, which opened up even more doors; this information gave us the ability to locate and conduct archeological digs and ultimately the ability to positively identify all the marbles manufactured by something like 30 marble companies.

In 1990 I wrote a book titled "M. F. Christensen & The Perfect Glass Ball Machine" and was intending to write a dozen others covering all those other 30 some marble companies. Well that effort has taken more than a decade. Soon we will market a complete work covering all of these marble companies, including personal and corporate biographies, hundreds of historic photographs, corporate records, sales materials, all our archeological data, all the newspaper articles we've discovered in full text, all of our primary research materials. The trail ends in about 1929 – an arbitrary date set by the start of the Great Depression.

And this is still only half of what we've discovered.... In the 1880's when Samuel C. Dyke invented the first machine to mass-produce toys (clay marbles,) allowing their price to plummet to the point where every child could afford to buy them with their own money - on the other side of town were men attempting to find new uses for rubber. Upon the creation of this children's product market, they jumped upon the bandwagon and turned out the first mass-produced balloons, rubber balls, rubber duckies, rubber dollys and rubber baby buggy bumpers. That activity spurred the creation of companies to make bicycles, tricycles and peddle cars, metal toys, tops, banks, children's books, etc., etc., etc. by 1929 we've identified almost 100 greater Akron area toy companies, the vast majority of which you've never heard of – but you probably know the toys they made, undoubtedly played with them when you were a child. So the research work goes on . . .

I am not a collector of anything, especially not marbles. I've a garage filled with boxes of toy marbles. I've given away many tons of marbles to inner city school children where I teach them the history, arts and games of marbles as part of their local history curriculum as a volunteer. I enjoy the history of the industry in which I work. The research and writing I do is a pleasure and has costs me a fortune. If you are a history buff and have something you'd like to share I'd love to hear from you.

Dr. Carol Robinson

Several years ago, I had just moved to the Northeast Ohio area, and was very interested in getting to know the local culture. Who would have thought that the toy industry started in this area -- an area still most known for its now decaying rubber and steel plants? It is not that marbles and toys are in any way my professional expertise. I have scholastic publications on film, medieval literature and Deaf playwright, Willy Conley. However, as a former school teacher and professional children's storyteller, my own interests in the production of toys for children was naturally peaked. Marbles have always held a fascination for me, as I'm sure they must have held for anyone who is reading through this website. For me, these colorful spheres rolling at intense speeds and with equally intense grace hold an element of magic that haunts memories of childhood -- my own childhood, my parents' childhoods, and my grandparents' childhoods. I wonder what was it like for my grandmother, as a young child recently off a boat from Germany in the early 1900s, to be learning English and how to play marbles in the back alleys of Brooklyn. We tend to think of shooting basketballs, kicking footballs and hitting baseballs as part of the "American pastime." But shooting marbles has been a part of that pastime, too. The research of the intimate relationship between childhood history and this history of an American industry is a worthy accomplishment. So, it has been with much pleasure that I have edited the writing (not the content) of Brian's and Michael's research.

Carol is an Assistant Professor of English at Kent State University--Trumbull. She is the editor for publications written by Brian Graham and Michael Cohill. Carol is also a valued Board member for The American Toy Marble Museum in Akron, Ohio.



	Onion Skin Blizzard * Size: 2 1/6" * Condition: 9.6 * Morphy Auctions * Sale Date: March 2009 * Sold Price: \$9,775		Christensen Agate Swirl # Size: 5/8" # Morphy Auctions # Sale Date: March 2009 # Sold Price: \$351	Morphy Auctions May 2009 Sale will be held live August 13th, 14th and 15th. This sale begins each day at 10:00 AM EDT. Thursday August 13th has Over: 350 Doll Lots, 300 Pottery and Decorative Art Lots, 250 Jewelry Lots, and 150 Silver Lots. Friday August 14th has Over: 90 Marble Lots, 50 Advertising Lots, 250 Kentucky Rifles, 200 Powder Horns, 200 Music Boxes and Phonographs, and 150 Gold Coins. Saturday August 15th has Over: 300 German Hand-Painted Toys, 150 Figural Cast-Iron Lots, 250 Mechanical and Still Banks, and over 350 Cast Iron Toys
	Onion Skin Mica * Size: 1 19/32" * Condition: 9.7 * Morphy Auctions * Sale Date: March 2009 * Sold Price: \$2,632.50		Onion Skin # Size: 2 2/5" # Condition: Excellent # Morphy Auctions # Sale Date: Sept. 2008 # Sold Price: \$2070	
	Solid Core * Size: 1 9/16" * Condition: 9.8 * Morphy Auctions * Sale Date: March 2009 * Sold Price: \$263.25		Solid Core # Condition: 9.6 # Size: 13/16" Morphy Auctions # Sale Date: Sept. 2008 # Sold Price: \$402.50	
	Sulphide Frog * Size: 1 3/4" * 9.7, original surface * Morphy Auctions * Sale Date: March 2009 * Sold Price: \$526.50		Onionskin???? # Date: September 2008 # Size: 2 1/8" # Sold Price: \$10,350	
	C A Banded Transparent * Size: 5/8" * Morphy Auctions * Sale Date: March 2009 * Sold Price: 760.50		Indian Mag Lite # Size: 1 9/16" Morphy's Auctions # Condition: Near Perfect # Sale Date: April 4-5, 2008 # Auction Price: \$9,200	
	Marbles consist of six oxbloods and nine assorted corkscrews in excellent plus condition. Includes original bag in near mint and unused condition. Box is in excellent condition with just one small tear on lower corner. Presently being auctioned.	I may have been asleep for the past couple of years. I've not heard of MORPHY AUCTIONS but some pretty hefty marbles. www.morphyauCTIONS.com/ (Search Marbles)		Assortment of Oxbloods # Size: Largest - 23/16" # Condition: Near Mint Plus Morphy Auctions # Sale Date: March 2009 # Sold Price: \$292.50

Badger Marble Club
6454 Hyslop Rd.
Waunakee, WI
53597



In This Issue...

August 30 meeting. Bring marbles, potluck at 11:00,

Badger Marble Club Meeting

**August 30
Waunakee EMS-
Brunch/Potluck
11:00
Mtg. to follow**



August 2009

Badger Marble Club

The Badger Marble Club Newsletter is published and distributed approximately every three months for the enjoyment and dissemination of information to members of the BMC. A one time complimentary copy is available to non-members upon request. Membership to BMC is \$20.00 per yr. and payable on or about Jan. 15th each year. Subscriptions to the newsletter only is \$5.00. Payment should be submitted to: Badger Marble Club, Bill Bass Treasurer, 410 W. Hickory, Lancaster, Wi. 53813. Information can be found on the BMC webpage hosted by Serius Sunlite www.getsirius.com/badger/

