



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**
Rick Soller, Editor



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Mid-Ohio Show Report

The 51st Mid-Ohio Insulator show, held on November 5-7, 2021, was a welcome activity for collectors who were unable to make many shows during the preceding year due to Covid-19. Hosts Curt Boster and Lois Blair once again put on a successful three-day show filled with displays, an educational presentation, a Friday night auction, and a show hall filled with dealers.

My favorite display was the combined display of porcelain transpositions coordinated by Jeff Hogan. Contributions to the display came from Jeff, Matt Grayson, Ken Willick, Elton Gish, club member Jason Townsend, Bob Berry, and Allan Stocky. I was asked to contribute but had scheduled to pick up a collection on the way to the show, had two huge light boxes in my truck, my own display, plus sales stock so did not have any room.

There were several one-of-a-kind or very rare pieces in the display. The best one, to me, was brought by Ken Willick that was ink stamped F.M. Locke. It had a patchy green glaze that made it look like the skin of a reptile. It came from the Fred Locke attic dump dig by Ken and Jeff Katchco. The piece is pictured below on the left. Equally impressive was the CD 100 brought by Matt Grayson. I had never noticed this piece before, even though I collect transpositions, because it is not listed with other transpositions. The hole through the top caused it to be moved into the section listing mine insulators. It is shown below on the right. Other rarities included the U-197 and 197A Macombs, a white CD 196 with an ink stamped Fred Locke marking, and the U-219. There was also a tan top to a transposition with a pebbly texture to it. Wow!



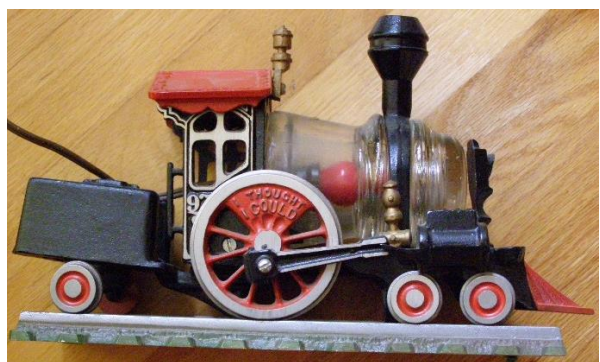
The display of Russian power insulators was acknowledged as winning the People's Choice award although, in talking to Earnie Griffin recently, no ribbon or other tangible proof of it was bestowed. This was a huge display that took three tables to hold. I have several examples of Russian insulators in my collection but was amazed at the number of variations Earnie owned. He had variations in color as well as subtle variations in design. For example, I own an example of a CD 638 (shown below) that I bought on eBay. Others have been listed there but they looked pretty much the same. Earnie had at least 9 variations of the CD. He had to point out all the little differences to me, but once he did, they were easy to spot. I saw on insulators.info that Earnie turned 78 on January 11, 2022, so I am impressed that he moved that many insulators and that much weight to the show. I hope I can do the same when I am that age. Earnie said he didn't get much feedback on his display, so the next time you see him, please provide him some.



CD 638



Miley Stove



Miley Train

I always like to bring a display to shows and for this show, I brought items made by Robert Miley that incorporated insulators into them. My favorite is the train (shown above) that uses a CD 122 as the boiler. I have two versions of this train. Another popular Miley creation is the stove (shown above). Both sometimes have lights inside them. Miley also made a cart, a cannon, a liberty bell, and CD 152-shaped pot metal banks. These were all part of the display. At the show, I was delighted to buy another Miley Stove and a new variation in the train.

I didn't catch who created the display of Whitall-Tatum go-withs but congratulations on an excellent display is warranted. The display showed funnels, a battery jar, paperweights, bottles, fruit jars, nasal douches, specimen jars, baby nursers, and, of course, insulators. Nice signs were next to each grouping. I have never seen baby nursers before and thought the nasal douches were perfume spray bottles. It seems that Whitall-Tatum had patents on a variety of items and made an extensive range of products. Shown below is a picture of the display.



The least glamorous display was of porcelain lightning rod insulators put together by Stephen Bobb. Unfortunately, most of the insulators were white, small, and similar in shape so a person might not look too closely. To the LRI collector, however, it was a comprehensive collection and impressive. A few brackets were included too! The display is pictured below.



In contrast to the LRI display, the display of Electika warning signs organized by Bill Sutliff was perhaps overwhelming in color and number of signs. I believe several others contributed to the two tables and over 57 signs involved in this display. It is amazing how much variation exists in a basic design of a high voltage warning sign. The display is shown below.



Club member Mark Gilmore organized an informative session and display of Pennycuik insulators. The session was held on the stage of the show hall during Saturday of the show. Collectors brought CD 102s, 104s, 112s, 126s, 134s, 145s, and 170s (previously assigned CD 170.1) and perhaps others. The dark sapphire blue CD 134 was the standout in the display in my mind but several others with wire in them also drew my attention. Here's a picture of the display, compliments of Larry Richards.



Terry Drollinger had a show and tell pop-up display of his OTIS lightning rod insulators at Stephen Bobb's table. A few other collectors brought their OTIS LRIs to compare heights, brackets, colors, and designs. The short examples were most interesting to me. Thanks to Terry for posting on insulators.info these pictures.



Another somewhat informal display was of olive CD 134 1871 insulators. Patrick Moylan and his dad, Chuck, asked collectors to bring theirs to the show so colors could be compared. Six of them showed up.

Josh Dondorf got some good news at the show. A CD 154 Hemingray MR that he has always wanted showed up and he ended up with it. Rick Soller got the piece in exchange for a glass and porcelain repaired Fred Locke gutter top. Since Rick already owned one and knew of Josh's interest, a deal was struck, and the insulator changed hands. Josh returned the favor a

couple weeks later when he found in an Aurora, Illinois antique store, a CD 740 amber blackglass threadless insulator embossed on the base FOSTER BROTHERS / ST. JOHN C.E. 1858 (backwards “N”) and sold it to Rick. It was a piece that was always of interest to Rick. A story about Josh’s find will be published in an upcoming issue of Allinsulators: Crown Jewels of the Wire.



The free table was always worth checking out. Insulators filled the two tables as you come in the door, were taken away by collectors, and more showed up so you had to check throughout the show. I was delighted to acquire a modern Ohio Brass U-630 in light gray with a massive flashover. Greg Delia found on the table a marble slab with a bell and battery attached to it that he gave to me when I showed interest.

A controversial event at the show was when Jason Townsend left the show on Saturday morning and broke all the insulators he had left in the dumpster. Collectors discussed this extensively on ICON. I would have bought them but did not get to his table in time.



U-630 with massive flashover



Insulators thrown in the dumpster

On Friday night, an after-hours auction at the fairgrounds provided an additional activity for collectors. Over 150 lots were sold beginning at 6:15 p.m. with the auction called by a professional other than Rick Soller.

Jennifer Alley scored several lots including a "helmet," a blue insulator, and a box lot purchased at the end of the auction. Greg Delia stayed for the entire auction and bought a couple lots consisting of multiple insulators, some including foreign porcelain, and some Crown Jewels magazines. Chris Hernandez picked up some nice pieces such as a CD 106 PSSA, a piano insulator in light amber with yellow edges, porcelain books, a CD 267, and a light box. Dennis Seltrecht picked up a forest green CD 162, a green CD 162, a CD 123 E.C. & M., and a couple NEGMs to add to his collection. Rick Soller bought multiple pieces, mostly for resale, but also won the bid on the most expensive piece in the auction which was a CD 370.6 three-piece glass French insulator that is one of the largest glass pin-type insulator.

Show Calendar

Saturday, January 15, 2022

Normally there would be a Western Reserve Insulator Club swap meet in Strongsville, Ohio on this date but, due to Covid, the show was cancelled and an online meeting for club members was scheduled. Since this newsletter was not going to get to members in time to attend the Zoom meeting that replaced the face-to-face show, the link is not included here.

Saturday, January 29, 2022

Crown Point, Indiana

The 14th annual "Beat the Winter Blahs" insulator swap meet is once again planned for the last Saturday of January which this year falls on January 29. This is the 5th year at this location, bigger and better than ever: Lake County Fairground, 889 S. Court St., Crown Point, Indiana (SE entrance). The meeting is in the 4-H Building which is spacious, well lighted, and warm. Tables supplied at \$30 each, additional \$15 each. Lunch provided. Bring insulators or related collectibles to show and tell, sell or trade. All are welcome to experience Hoosier hospitality, plenty of space, GCIC auction, business meeting and a great new larger location. Doors open 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Hosted by Arlen and Tina Rienstra and the Greater Chicago Insulator Club. Located easily from I80/94 and I65. RSVP ariens@att.net or (219) 671-8816.

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Wheaton, Illinois

The Dupage Collectors Expo will be held Saturday, April 2nd at the Dupage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois, Hours are 9:00 to 3:00. Items for sale & trade include: Insulators, Lightning Rod items & Weathervanes, Telephone & Telegraph items, Bottles, Jars, etc. \$40 for the first table, \$35 for each additional one. Electricity is \$10 more. Info: BOB STAHR: bob@hemingray.com (630) 793-5345 and RICK SOLLER: com574@clcillinois.edu (847) 782-8602

Friday – Sunday, July 29-31, 2022

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

The National Insulator Association's 53rd Annual Show and Convention will be held at The Wyndham Gettysburg located at 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325. The spacious Ballroom will accommodate 126 Dealer Tables and 18 Exhibit Tables.