Warning for Collectors of Czech Art Glass from the years 1930 to 1970: Heinrich Hoffmann, Henry G. Schlevogt, Rudolf Hloušek, Josef Inwald a.o.!

Poor Copies from Firms Czech It Out Inc., Brooklyn, New York, USA and Jaromír Schubert JaS, Jablonec nad Nisou, Czech Republic

In PK 2002-5 Dir. Stopfer already warned all collectors of glass from Heinrich Hoffmann and Henry G. / Curt Schlevogt about imitations from various firms, who own no original press moulds and produce glass with poor quality.

This „case“ grew to bigger dimensions now!

With a multi-coloured brochure with 76 pages a firm „Czech It Out Inc.” (C.I.O.), Brooklyn, New York, from 2001 on promotes reproductions of famous glass from the 1930-ies in Czechoslovakia, which originally were produced by Heinrich Hoffmann and Henry G. Schlevogt and others. This brochure was produced in Czech Republic: „Catalogue of glass products for export to USA, Size 170 x 240 mm, 72 (?) pages, colours 4/4, binding V2, 2500 copies“ [www.ajeto.com/graphics/-pages/cio.html]

From the pictures of this brochure „Czech It Out“ the quality of the promoted glass cannot be identified without difficulties. To distinguish between a reproduction from C.I.O. and an original glass one would need to keep both items in his hands close together, to compare colour and precision of pressing. Some of the press moulds from C.I.O. presumably were made by casting moulds from original glass, so the pressed figurines or flowers became blurred. This may be detected on some pictures of the brochure. (see examples below!) An admirer of art who is not an experienced collector for years will not detect the differences. Maybe he saw the item only in the brochure and ordered it by e-mail. Tourists who walk through the pedestrian zones in Praha, Liberec and Jablonec nad Nisou and find in a shop window these apparently beautiful bargain glass items, will take them as snips and buy them gladly as cheap souvenirs - like those poor quality copies of famous glass which were produced in the years from 1948 to 1990. To earn foreign currency nationalized Czech glass works then produced poor quality copies of glass from the 1930-ies themselves and exported it legally and illegally to international markets and caused great confusion.
both for private collectors as well as for art sellers and museums.

**An impertinent deception of customers!**

The probably Czech firma - hiding itself - which promotes its products with the brochure „Czech It Out“, makes a second important step. With three texts it wants to give the impression that it made a lot of efforts to search for and find the original press moulds and to press its products with them. This is an impertinent deception of its customers!

**Brochure „C.I.O.“, New York 2001, page 2:**


The C.I.O. Collection
A Brief History
In 1934, Mr. Schlevogt, a Czechoslovakian artisan, introduced a line of art glass under the name of „Ingrid“. Mr. Schlevogt employed the finest craftsmen of his day, and his glass line was enormously successful. Tragically in 1939, due to the outbreak of WWII, his success came to an abrupt halt. Mr. Schlevogt fled Czechoslovakia leaving his molds behind. Now, almost 60 years later, the C.I.O. Collection is dedicated to locating, repairing and eventually re-issuing the works of art created by these talented Czech artisans. Each design is created in a limited edition using original molds.

**Comment from Madame Ingrid Schlevogt**

There is a comment from Madame Ingrid Schlevogt, Paris, about a similar text „Ingrid Collection“ published by „www.myhomengarden.com/bio/“ and „www.franklinmall.com/ingrid“:

- ”Heinrich Schlevogt did not exist. There were Heinrich Hoffmann (1875 - 1938), my grandfather and Henry Günther Schlevogt (1904-1984), my father. [SG: and Curt Schlevogt, the father of Henry G. Schlevogt]
- ”Jewish descent”: not at all. The family can go back until 1785: nobody in the family has ever been Jewish.
- ”In 1938 his success came to an abrupt halt.” No, the firm continued until 1945.
- ”Mr. Schlevogt fled (in 1938)” Why should he, he was not Jewish. He did not flee. He had been expatriated from Czechoslovakia, not in 1938, but in April 1948.
- ”The etched vases” have never been produced by the firm Curt Schlevogt. They don't belong to the original “Ingrid Collection”. No original moulds could have been used.

**Brochure C.I.O., New York 2001, page 18:**


"The female woman form stopper, the most desirable and sought after perfume bottle stopper ever created by the masters of Czechoslovakian glass design."

A stopper which captivates the female form, originally created for both decorative and commercial use now available for the first time in over sixty years, using our own Vintage mold.

This stopper is once again available in a strictly limited worldwide edition of only 750 signed and numbered
pieces in each of eight colorations to be released in the course of the next two years.

A masterpiece created in lead crystal, completely handmade in the Czech Republic to dazzle your senses. Available exclusively thru the C.I.O. Perfume Bottle Collection, displayed in a spectacular specially handcrafted presentation case with a brief history describing the importance of this magnificent collectors item.

Reserve yours today
2001 colorations opaline and aqua
2002 colorations crystal, citrine / yellow, topaz
2003 colorations lime / green, cobalt / blue, amethyst
$195.00

C.I.O. Perfume Bottle Collection Worldwide Exclusive“

Brochure C.I.O., New York 2001, page 74:
„We at the C.I.O. Collection are proud to offer you a large selection of original Vintage Czechoslovakian art deco objects d’art which were produced under the Hoffmann and Schlevogt [sic?] line of art glass.“

The texts published in the brochure are obvious misinformations - the brochure includes also etched and painted items, that have nothing in common with original products from Hoffmann and Schlevogt. Even on the front cover there is a reproduction of a stopper inspired by a center-piece, initially probably made by firm Josef Inwald about 1934 and reproduced by Bohemia Crystal about 1952. It is a mockery that the pages speak about Hoffmann, Schlevogt and Ingrid only.

The original press moulds
All press moulds from the firms Heinrich Hoffmann and Curt Schlevogt initially were their property. After 1945 moulds that had been taken over - also because of difficulties of payment after the unexpected death of Heinrich Hoffmann in 1938 - by Josef Riedel glassworks, Polubný [Polaun], who pressed all glass for Hoffmann and Schlevogt, and again in 1948 (together with moulds belonging to other small companies) were taken over and became the property of the nationalized Czech glassworks which followed Riedel (and other local producers). The direct successor of these nationalized glassworks in the Jizera Mountain region today is the privatized Czech firm ORNELA a.s., division Desenské sklárny, Desná v Jizerských horách [ORNELA Company Limited; www.ornela.cz]. ORNELA continues the production of former state organization „Jablonecké sklárny“. As its successor ORNELA has been using these original press moulds since its foundation in 1993 to reproduce Hoffmann, Schlevogt, Riedel and other glass, since 1996 with increasing quality.

To distinguish these reproductions from the originals free of doubt all items from 2000 on get sandblasted marks „DESNÁ“ (and certificate) which also distinguish 1st quality from 2nd quality. [for examples look at www.desna-glass.cz/classic/en/index.html]

This wandering of press moulds might have been similar for other former Bohemian glassworks like f.i. from Rudolf Hloušek and Josef Inwald which are allegedly used by C.I.O.

The mysterious firm „Czech It Out Inc.“
In the Internet one cannot find the publisher of the C.I.O. brochure. „Czech It Out“ is an idiom which is widely used in the USA and which shall promote bargain quality Czech products. The play on words „Czech / Check It Out“ means „Test it“ (those Czech products). With the Internet search machine „GOOGLE“ one can find nearly 16.000 hits for „Czech It Out“! A firm „Czech It Out Inc., 1120 East 72 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11234“ cannot be found with „GOOGLE“. Well - it might be possible that this agile firm does not promote its products in the Internet, but prefers exclusively a multi-coloured brochure. This would be very awkward nowadays and would create a poor sales potential. Remarkable is that this firm provides a telephone number in Praha, Czech Republic.

Is there a connection?
The mysterious firm „Jaromír Schubert JaS“
From the publicly accessible documents one cannot prove a direct connection between the firm C.I.O. in New York and the Czech firm Jaromír Schubert in Jablonec. This might only be possible if one could buy glass from both firms and compare it directly.

One can find in the Internet the Czech firm Jaromír Schubert JaS, Jablonec nad Nisou, but one cannot find any hint of a connection into the USA and to the firm which there published the brochure „C.I.O.“. [www.czech-top-export.com/FIRMS/SCHUBERT/, www.schubert-crystal.com/store/schubert/Uvod.htm] From Schubert there is a connection to another Czech firm CRYSTAL ONLINE s.r.o., Internet Business Provider, Bilina, CR, which promotes the same products as Schubert JaS with the same web layout, but is independent and does not belong to Schubert JaS.
There are two other Czech firms which maybe have connections to Schubert JAS - which does not own producing glassworks - and/or C.I.O.:

**Firm František Halama, Crystal of Bohemia,**

Jirchářská 55, 468 22 Železný Brod, near Jablonec nad Nisou. Many of the products offered in the C.I.O brochure are identical with products of Halama. They even got the same product numbers which were earlier used and partly are now used by Halama himself in www.halama-glass.cz: brochure C.I.O. page 24, 2 vases No. 1940; page 26, 2 vases No. 1955, 1626; page 49, vase No. 1580; page 50, vase No. 1919; page 56, vase No. 1940; page 58, vase No. 1955. Halama has no own producing glass work, his products show good quality. Halama Internet page: www.halama-glass.cz.

**Sklárny Vladimír Tom Glass Cut Co.,**

výroba skla [production of glass], brusírna skla / broušené sklo [cut glass], Kufívodská 508, Bělá pod Bezdězem, near Mladá Boleslav - also Tom Bohemia Crystal s.r.o. with three shops in Praha. Many of the products copied by Schubert JAS can be found also in the offer of Tom Glass Cut / Tom Bohemia. These products bear a gold label with blue print “Tom Bohemia, Hand Cut Lead Crystal, Over 24 % PbO”. The quality can be compared to the products made by Schubert JAS (missing details; look below for an example). In the collection of this company appear more and more items from the pre-war glass production, copied from the catalogue “Ingrid” and others. Tom Glass Cut / Tom Bohemia Crystal has an own website: www.tom-crystal.cz/cz/index.html.
Abb. 2003-4/182
Brochure C.I.O., New York 2001
page 24, opaque coloured vases with figurines

Abb. 2003-4/183
Brochure C.I.O., New York 2001
page 26, opaque coloured vases with figurines

Abb. 2003-4/184
Brochure C.I.O., New York 2001
page 48, clear matted vases with plants

Abb. 2003-4/185
Brochure C.I.O., New York 2001
page 58, clear frosted vases with figurines

Abb. 2003-4/186
Brochure C.I.O., New York 2001
page 49, clear frosted vases with figurines and birds

Abb. 2003-4/187
Brochure C.I.O., New York 2001
page 56, clear frosted vases with figurines
An impertinent misuse of the famous names Hoffmann, Ingrid and Schlevogt!

The firm Jaromír Schubert JaS, Jablonec n.N., in July 2002 got registered as „Trademarks“ the names and the handwriting „Hoffmann Glass“, „Ingrid Glass“ and „Schlevogt Glass“ at the „Industrial Property Office“ of Czech Republic [www.upv.cz]. These trademarks could be used for glass of all sorts, (11) lighting glass, glass parts for ceiling, wall and table lighting fixtures; (21) crystal (clear) and coloured glass, pressed and blown glass, art glass, glass for refining - especially engraved, painted, gilded, etched, hot-decorated glass and glass decorated with any other decorating techniques, goblets, beakers, jars, bottles, decanters, glasses, vases and other glass containers for water, portable containers, bowls, dishes, plates, candleholders, bells, any other glass products of applied art, any other glass products and glass parts whichever belong to the class 21; (34) ashtrays. (“11 … = I.P.O. Nice classification numbers of products”)

The mostly marked glass and the marks of „Schlevogt“, „Hoffmann“ and „Ingrid“ are widely renowned in the world of glass collectors as guaranty for high quality, outstanding art design and proper methods of business.

With this registering the good names of this family will be misused to sell trash - not only in Europe but also in the USA! Above all collectors in the USA must be warned about this poor remakes!

It is a scandal that a Czech office accepts such abuse! In the European Union law courts forbid the misuse of the names of living and renown persons. The Czech Republic apparently still has to reform its law into common European law on its march into the European Union.

This misuse must be prevented!

Mme. Ingrid Schlevogt, who lives in Paris, with an e-mail from August 2003 called my attention to this impertinent misuse of the names Hoffmann, Ingrid and Schlevogt. She proposed to inform the readers of Pressglas-Korrespondenz and www. pressglas-korrespondenz.de about this abuse of trademarks.

She plans to take this misuse of the names of her family to court in Czech Republic. The firm ORNELA also takes official steps to help to abolish these registrations of trademarks and to stop the production and selling of poor copies with brazen claims.

Differences between glass from Schubert JaS and from ORNELA a.s.

It is no problem to prove that glass of poor quality is promoted by comparing glass from Jaromír Schubert JaS with glass from ORNELA. Take for instance the famous scent bottle with a nude „Odalisque“, which was created by Austrian artist Michael Powolny for Henry G. Schlevogt: the black opaque and the clear copy are smaller, the bottleneck is thicker, in the relief of the
figurine fine details are missing - compared to the reproduction from ORNELA produced with the original press mould. (ORNELA Product No. 80023/200, Scent Bottle Odalisque, reintroduced at Ambiente Fair Frankfurt / M. February 2002) [look for: PK 2002-1, Stopfer, Bemerkungen eines Laien zur Broschüre „Der Flug der Glasmöve“ (Dekor Michael Powolny)]

[Translation SG]

Abb. 2003-4/190
Scent Bottle „Odalisque“
design Michael Powolny for Henry G. Schlevoigt
opaque black / clear pressed glass
from Schubert JaS (left)
opaque blue pressed glass
from ORNELA / Desná (right) (photo ORNELA a.s.)
left: the copy is smaller, the bottleneck is thicker, in the relief of the figurine fine details are missing

Abb. 2003-4/191
Vase „Small Grape Harvest“, design František Pazourek
green opaque pressed glass
from Schubert JaS (left)
from ORNELA / Desná (right) (photo ORNELA a.s.)

Abb. 2003-4/192
Vase „Small Grape Harvest“, design František Pazourek
clear frosted pressed glass
the glued on label claims „Tom Bohemia, Hand Cut Lead Crystal, Over 24 % PbO“
from Tom Cut / Tom Bohemia (left) with trademark
from ORNELA / Desná (right) (photo ORNELA a.s.)
Abb. 2003-4/193
Vase „Small Grape Harvest”, design František Pazourek, clear blue frosted pressed glass from Schubert JAS (left) - from ORNELA / Desná (right) (photo ORNELA a.s.)

Abb. 2003-4/194
Vase „Great Grape Harvest”, design František Pazourek, uranium yellow frosted pressed glass from Schubert JAS (left) - from ORNELA / Desná (right) (photo ORNELA a.s.)
Trademarks and handwritings „Schlevogt Glass“, „Hoffmann Glass“ and „Ingrid Glass“, which were registered for the firm Jaromír Schubert JnS, Jablonec n.N., in July 2002 at the „Industrial Property Office“ of Czech Republic.

http://wdb.upv.cz/rs/oz.ozdet?lan=en&xcisp=181994 / ... 181995 / ... 181993; cuttings
For the history of Czech Art Glass look for Pressglas-Korrespondenz (PK):
(some of the following articles may be found also in www.pressglas-korrespondenz.de)

PK 1999-1 Stopfer, Gläser von Schlevogt und Halama
PK 2001-2 Anhang 4, SG, Neumann, Stopfer, Musterbuch 1927 Heinrich Hoffmann, Gablonz a. N. (Auszug)
PK 2001-3 Schlevogt, Zum Musterbuch Heinrich Hoffmann, Gablonz a. N., nach 1927
PK 2001-3 Anhang 4, SG, Schlevogt, Musterbilder "Ingrid" der Fa. Curt Schlevogt, Gablonz a. N., um 1939
PK 2001-3 Anhang 3, SG, Schlevogt, Musterbuch "Ingrid" der Fa. Curt Schlevogt, Gablonz a. N., um 1939 (Auszug)
PK 2001-4 SG, Nachgepresste Gläser von Heinrich Hoffmann und Henry G. Schlevogt, Gablonz
PK 2001-4 Halama, Kunstglas - Produktion und Verkauf, 1999
PK 2001-5 Nový, Lisované sklo s umeleckými ambicemi - Heinrich Hoffmann a Curt Schlevogt
[Pressglas mit künstlerischen Ambitionen]
PK 2001-5 Nový / Ornela a.s., Der Flug der Glasmöwe [Let skleneného racka]
PK 2001-5 Nový / Ornela a.s., Künstler, die für Hoffmann und Schlevogt arbeiteten
PK 2002-1 Stopfer, Bemerkungen eines Laien zur Broschüre der Ausstellung "Der Flug der
Glasmöve" (Dekor Michael Powolny)
PK 2002-4 Stopfer, Pressglas in der "Gablonzer Bijouterie" um und nach 1900
PK 2002-5 Stopfer, Warnung an alle Sammler von Hoffmann- und Schlevogt-Gläsern
PK 2003-1 Stopfer, Reliefglasplatten der Firma Heinrich Hoffmann, Gablonz an der Neiße, um
1930
PK 2003-1 Stopfer, Die Marke "Ingrid" - von Curt Schlevogt, Gablonz, ab 1934, von
tschechischen Glaswerken nach 1945 und von der Glashütte Kurt Wokan,
Schneegattern
PK 2003-2 Schorcht, Musterbuch "Glassexport Jablonecglass" und zwei Etiketten "Ingrid"
PK 2003-2 Schorcht, Tabelle der Artikel-Nummern im Musterbuch "Glassexport Jablonecglass"
und in www.halama.cz (Firma František Halama, Železný Brod)
PK 2003-2 Schorcht, Zuschreibung von Pressgläsern der Firmen Heinrich Hoffman und Curt
Schlevogt, Gablonz a.d. Neiße [Jablonec nad Nisou]
PK 2003-2 SG, Ein neues Buch über Pressglas aus Nordböhmern (Isergebirge) (Petr Nový,
Lisované sklo ...)
PK 2003-2 Nový, Lisované sklo a krystalérie v Jizerských Horách [Pressed Glass and Crystal from Jizera Mountains]
PK 2003-3 Stopfer, Gepresstes Glas aus den Dreißiger Jahren und nach 1945

Special Literature

Nový 2002 Nový, Petr, Lisované sklo a krystalerie v Jizerských Horách [Pressed Glass and Crystal from Jizera Mountains; English Summary], published by Ornela a. s. - Desenské sklárny, Desná v Jizerských horách, 2002, ORNELA - ARCHIV / Muzeum skla a bižuterie, Jablonec nad Nisou