

# President's Message:

## *The Value of Research*

When I left to attend the Summer Conference on June 7, 2013, I was the First Vice President of the SGAA — when I returned a week later, I was the SGAA President.

Of all the duties I would be faced with as the President, there was one that I dreaded, that of writing a *President's Message* for *The Stained Glass Quarterly* for the next eight issues. I had heard many people say that they never read that page in the magazine, so what would I possibly be able to say that would get people to read it, and — if they did read it — would the message have any positive impact for the reader or for the image of the magazine?

Through the summer months, I created the beginnings of several messages, never to finish one of them. Try as I might, I was unable to create the inspirational message for which I was looking. So I decided to look back through history to see what others had written and what the Presidents of the SGAA from the very beginning had done. Now that was inspirational! (It was to me anyway, and, I was hoping to many of you.)

I created the *Past Presidents Page – Honoring the Past* (see facing page), hoping that readers and members would enjoy knowing more about the past leaders of our organization. I had no idea how much I would learn and what I would personally gain from the experience of researching, studying, and reading about all of the SGAA Presidents who came before me — and I've only researched 14 of them so far.

Preparing for this issue alone, I learned that, in addition to A. H. Rossbach, there was a Charles D. Rossbach (not sure if he was related,) who was the President of Rossbach & Sons Architectural Metalworks, founded in 1882. Rossbach & Sons, Inc. was a manufacturer of ventilators and casements for church windows, and Charles Rossbach was once a member of the Stained Glass Association of America.

My husband, Fred, had always called the old bronze latches from steel ventilators “Rossbach latches.” When I asked him what he knew about Rossbach



and why he called the latches this name, he opened his desk drawer and pulled out an old bronze latch that was stamped with the name “Rossbach and Son, Inc.” (And I had always thought Fred had just made up that name — who knew?)

I also discovered the origin of the “Swinton Clip.” Years ago, my husband and I had learned of a bar-end clip that could be used for installing reinforcing bars into aluminum frames. We were told that these were called “Swinton Clips.” We had no idea who or what Swinton was. Now I know: in the April 1926 issue of *The Bulletin of the Stained Glass Association of America* (an early title of what today is *The Stained Glass Quarterly*), there is an advertisement for a “Dalite Clip” manufactured by Dalite Clip Works in Toledo, Ohio. In the “Reliable Sources of Supply” listing on Page 3, the Dalite Clip is listed as being available from Swinton Art Glass Works.

Desperate to find more information about A. H. Rossbach — I couldn't find anything on my own — I turned to Katei Gross for help. The only reference she could find was a conference lecture transcript called *Old and New Leads* that was printed in the June 1925, issue of *The Bulletin*. Mr. Rossbach was one of the attendees at this lecture, and his name is listed a few times in the Q & A portion of the transcript. This lecture is very interesting and will likely be part of a future article for *The Stained Glass Quarterly*.

Needless to say, I am enjoying this project to no end and looking forward to working on the next issues. I no longer dread writing a *President's Message*, because, with the help of those who came before me, I am able to provide readers with some historical information, as well as honor our past SGAA Presidents.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Shea".

Susan Shea



# The President's Page Honoring the Past

"Today we have that unusual phenomenon of the Ornamental Glass man who works out a fair proposition at a fair price, and maintains that price even if it means the loss of a contract. Our association has raised our members from a position of servility to one of Independence and a greater respect for their work." — George Mueller, August 1924

1903-1906	Joseph E. Flanagan
1907-1908	Karl Steward
1909	E. W. Smith
1910	W. G. Speier
1911-1912	H. H. Jacoby
1913	Karl Steward
1914-1915	Charles Donaldson
1916	Frederick Lamb
1917-1918	Henry Hunt
1919	A. H. Rossbach
1920	A. J. Schuler
1921	D. H. Swinton
1922	W. E. Ford
1923	A. W. Klemme
1924-1925	George Mueller
1926	Henry Hunt
1927-1928	Fred Oppliger
1929-1930	Nicola D'Ascenzo
1931-1937	Charles Connick
1938-1941	Wilbur H. Burnham
1942-1943	Henry Lee Willet
1944-1945	Harold W. Cummings
1946-1947	Harold Rambusch
1948-1949	Orin Skinner
1950-1951	Rupert Schmitt
1952-1953	George Hunt
1954-1955	Karl B. Lamb
1956-1957	Wilbur H. Burnham, Jr.
1958-1959	John D. Weaver, Sr.
1960-1961	George D. Spiers
1962-1963	John A. Riordan
1964-1965	E. Crosby Willet
1966-1967	Otto C. Winterich
1968-1969	Stephen Bridges
1970-1971	Harold L. Hollman
1972-1973	A. W. Klemme, Jr.
1974-1975	James Helf
1976-1977	Patrick White
1978-1979	Helen Hickman
1980-1981	John Kebrle
1982-1983	Bill Laws
1984-1985	Gerhard Hiemer
1986-1987	Elizabeth Perry
1988-1989	Walter Judson
1990	Florence Welborn
1991-1992	Paul Pickel
1993-1994	Truett George
1995-1996	Gary Helf
1997-1998	Kirk Weaver
1999-2000	James Whitney
2001-2002	Dennis Harmon
2003-2004	Karen Hendrix
2005-2006	Andrew Young
2007-2008	B. Gunar Gruenke
2009-2010	Jack Whitworth
2011-2012	Jerome R. Durr
2013-	Susan Shea

**Henry Hunt**, who learned the glass craft from his father George Hunt, started the Hunt Studios of Pittsburgh, PA in 1906. The usual work week at that time was 56 to 60 hours. With his own shop, he instituted a 48-hour week and was among the first to adopt the legislated 40-hour week. He served as President of the SGAA from 1917 to 1918 and again in 1926. Hunt Studios is now owned and operated by Nicholas Parrendo.

**Adolph H. Rossbach** served as President of the SGAA in 1919. His name appears in a transcript of lectures (discussion of "Old and New Leads") of the 24th National Convention—June 1925 in Pittsburgh, PA. The lectures were printed in the July 1925 issue of "The Stained Glass Bulletin" (now *The Stained Glass Quarterly*).

**A.J. Schuler** was educated in Chicago, where he learned the glass trade. He was a founding member of the SGAA in 1903 and served as President from 1920 to 1921. He worked in a glass shop as a boy, formed Schuler and Mueller in 1893 with Max M. Mueller, sold his interest in the business in 1910, and then started Schuler Art Glass.

**David H. Swinton** was born in Canada, apprenticed at age 15, and came to the U.S. at the age of 20. He started Swinton Art Glass Works in Toledo, OH in 1905. Swinton Art Glass Works patented the "Dalite Clip" which was invented to "make the Bracing in Leaded Glass More Rigid and Simplify the Installation" of Stained Glass Windows. D. H. Swinton was President of the SGAA in 1921.

**W.E. Ford** of Minneapolis, MN, was President of the SGAA in 1922. The Biographical Index compiled by Robert O. Jones provided information about Ford Brothers Glass Company and Ford – McNutt Glass Company, both of Minneapolis, MN. In an article by Dr. Barbara Johnson, she states, "On the 'Christ with the Children' painting (on glass) in Raymond, you could faintly read the signature McNutt. That name was synonymous with the Ford Brothers Studio in Minneapolis, Minn., which was famous for their stained glass work."

**Albert W. Klemme** was the founder of High Point Glass and Decorating Company in High Point, NC. He was born in Cincinnati and apprenticed at age 13 with the Decorative Art Company in that city; he continued with the firm and its successors for 15 years. In 1906, he visited High Point and returned several years later to work for the Standard Mirror Company. His firm, High Point Glass and Decorating Company, was founded in 1912. He served as President of the SGAA in 1923. He later served as Treasurer of the SGAA from 1939 to 1956.

**George Mueller**, owner of Milwaukee Mirror and Art Glass, served as the President of the SGAA from 1924 to 1925. In the August 1924 (Volume 18, Number 7) issue of "The Ornamental Glass Bulletin" (now known as *The Stained Glass Quarterly*), he wrote an article entitled "THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS HIRE."

[Bio Index of Historic American Stained Glass Makers](#)

[The Bulletin of the Stained Glass Association of America Volume 21 April, 1926 Number 3](#)

<http://dakotafire.net/newspapers/dr-barbara-johnson-sheds-light-on-stained-glass-in-clark-county/5094/>