



Old Wine and New Glasses

When the Governor General of Canada rises to toast the Queen she holds a Skookum goblet in her hand.

Robert Held of Calgary (Mr. Skookum himself) was asked to sit on a panel to pick a designer for the crystal to be used in the intimate dining room at Rideau Hall. He declined since he intended to enter the competition himself.

He won, triumphing over scores of other glassblowers, and was surprised, according to his wife Martha Henry, a glassblower too, though she was not.

"He has been working on goblets for some time. He has them perfected."

Held's winning white wine goblets are tall and fluted and "grow out of the stem." The red wine goblets have a stouter "belly shape."

Each piece is hand-crafted, using techniques that go back to the Egyptians. The glass is melted in large furnaces at

about 1,825°F, then "gathered" at the end of a long blowpipe. "Bits" of molten coloured glass are heated and added to the surface. Additional gathers may be made over the original layer to add depth. The piece is then blown and shaped into its final form and placed into an annealing area which cools the glass slowly and evenly. After cooling, the glass is inspected, polished, signed and dated.

Mr. Held's work is represented in the Roland Michener Collection, the Massey Foundation, the Indusmin Collection and the Museum of Montreal, and is available at galleries and stores in Canada and the United States.

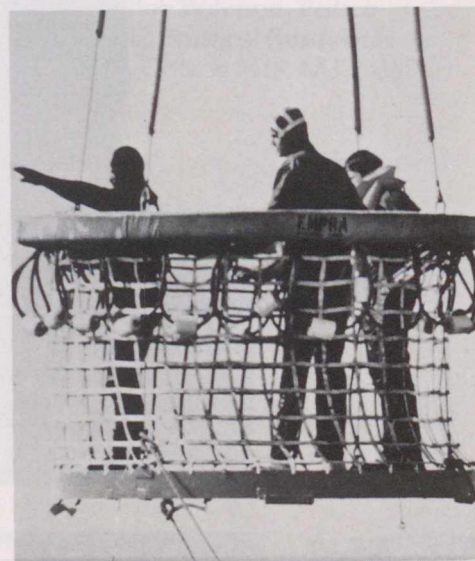
The goblets at Rideau Hall cost around \$38.00 each. For further information on wholesale prices of varieties of free-form blown glass, write Robert D. Held, Skookum Art Glass, 2916F - 19th Street N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 6Y9, or call (403) 250-1353.

Rescue Raft

Seventy-eight people died when a commercial jet crashed into the icy Potomac in Washington, D.C., in 1982, and the tragedy started Jim Bradley thinking. Conventional helicopters use a single winch or net to rescue people one at a time. Bradley designed a single, sturdy, collapsible raft which can lift as many as twenty. The device, EMPRA (for Emergency Multiple Person Rescue Apparatus), is an open ring net that can be slung from a helicopter or a ship's crane. When lowered, the top flotation ring settles down almost flush with the water and weakened survivors can roll or be rolled aboard.

The raft comes in three models capable of lifting six, twelve or twenty people. They cost \$6,900, \$8,900 and \$10,200, and have already been bought by ten major oil companies and the Canadian Department of National Defence. Write or call Jim Bradley, Jr., Dart Aero Systems, Inc., 5811-B Cedarbridge Way, Richmond, British Columbia V6X 2A8, (604) 270-2313.

Photo: Trina Reinhardt



Canada Today/d'aujourd'hui

Available free upon request in the U.S. only. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Canadian Government. If you wish to change your address, please include the number on the top of your mailing label. Written by Tom Kelly; edited by Judith Webster; researched by Felicity Garrard; designed by Eiko Emori, Ottawa, Canada; printed by K.G. Campbell Corporation, Ottawa, Canada.

Canada Today/d'aujourd'hui

Canadian Embassy
Ambassade du Canada
Room 300
1771 N Street, NW
Washington, DC
20036-2878
(202) 785-1400
Address correction requested

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
WASHINGTON, D.C.
PERMIT NO. 26

ISSN: 0045-4257

Printed in Canada