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**9/29/03**

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**Phoenix Award Committee Reveals Annual Selection**  
**John T. Brown Wins 2003 Phoenix Award**

Corning, NY – This year's Phoenix Award has been presented to John T. Brown, current Technical Director for the Glass Manufacturing Industry Council (GMIC) as well as respected engineer, inventor and manager, who worked for almost 40 years at Corning, Inc.

As the 33rd distinguished winner, Mr. Brown received a Steuben glass sculpture of the mythological Phoenix bird at a ceremony and banquet held in Corning, NY on September 26, 2003.

The Phoenix Award was established in 1971 to recognize special individuals who have made significant lifetime contributions to the glass industry in the field of science, production, or education, relating to glass containers, fiber glass, scientific glass, flat glass, tableware and electronic glass.



The Phoenix Award Committee is made up of 24 voting members, representing a diverse group of suppliers to the glass industry. Members of the committee serve for a period of four years, with six new members appointed each year.

“This year's selection of John Brown required extra care in keeping the nomination under wraps,” stated Dave Brooks, Phoenix Award Committee Chairman. “The fact that John now works for the Council made it somewhat difficult to gather the information needed without him knowing about it.”

**40 Years of Dedication and Achievement.**

“John's selection by the Phoenix Award Committee caps a career that has spanned four decades,” stated Brooks. “Over the course of his career he has authored and presented over 50 papers and has 15 patents, 12 still active and three currently pending. His contributions, particularly in areas of energy management and oxy/fuel firing techniques have become building blocks for the entire glass industry.”

John T. Brown began his career as an engineer in 1963 with Corning Glass Works, now Corning Incorporated, in the Melting Technology Department of Technical Staffs Division. He worked with plant melting problems as a petrograher, with furnace repair inspection, refractory testing and plant melting service responsibilities. As a liaison with Research, he participated with development of the galvanic oxygen reboil theory and implemented the practice in several glasses, most importantly fusion glass for automotive windshields.

In 1969 he transferred to the Electronics Products Division, with three plants, to lead the product development group located in Bradford, PA. There he led a group of engineers and technicians in developing very low ohm resistors that were the basis of AT&T's first touch tone telephones. John's team also developed new UV cured coatings that allowed manufacturing of precision resistors to increase from 70 per minute to 700 per minute, as well as a series of sensors and actuators for the automotive industry.

In 1974 he returned to corporate development to work with a new acquisition, Zircoa. He developed several methods to apply platinum coatings on a partially stabilized zirconium (PSZ) and to define the ionic oxygen carrying characteristics of the material. Using the PSZ material and precious metal coating techniques developed by John and his team resulted in sensor survival in automobile exhausts as well as boilers and glass furnaces.

### **Insight and Innovation in Energy Reduction.**

Following the oil embargo in 1975, Corning was selected by the government as a benchmark company for the Glass Industry to measure the reduction of energy. John was responsible for the melting side of Corning, which represented 90% of Corning's energy use. John helped lead the effort to develop measures to compare furnaces of different life, pull, cullet ratio and electric boost. With these numbers, better planning and realistic return on investment could be employed in furnace repairs.

The data showed that the majority of energy in regenerative furnaces was lost through the large ports and crowns. Oxy/fuel firing had been suggested but previous trials had ended in disaster. By eliminating water cooling and using high temperature zirconium as a burner block, the most serious drawbacks of breast wall and crown damage were eliminated.

Brown's Corning team developed individual oxygen and fuel flow controls that could be made to be non-linear, accommodating all firing conditions. After converting most of Corning's furnaces, the process was shared with the glass industry. Today, nearly all types of furnaces have successfully demonstrated conversion.

For the last ten years of his career he returned to Research working on new combustion systems and manufacturing processes for fiber, photonics and high-purity silica products.

### **New challenges for a new century.**

After nearly 40 years with Corning John began a second career as technical Director of the Glass Manufacturing Industry Council (GMIC) in August of 2002. His approach to life continues to be one of continuous learning and investigation, to find new ways and better ways to solve the challenges of manufacturing glass.

John is married to Margo (Thompson) and they have two sons, both engineers, and an eight month old grandson (potential engineer).

In addition to a love of glass, John has a love of music of all kinds. He is still performing on trumpet with a Dixieland Band, Classical Brass Works, Stage Band and marches with the Community Band. He has recently started taking lessons on the cello.

He is a graduate of The Ohio State University, Bachelor of Ceramic Engineering in 1963 and MBA from Syracuse University in 1972.

(SIDEBAR)

### **The Legend of the Phoenix**

The legend of the Phoenix began in ancient Egypt and was associated with the worshippers of the sun. It was said to be the size of an eagle with brilliant scarlet and blue plumage and a melodious cry.

Only one phoenix existed at any one time and it was supposed to have a long life, not less than 500 years. As its end approached, it made a nest of aromatic boughs and spices, flapped its wings to set fire to the nest and was consumed by the flames.

From the fire, miraculously, arose a new Phoenix which, after embalming its father's ashes in an egg of myrrh, flew with the ashes to Heliopolis, the city of the sun, where it deposited them on the altar of the Egyptian sun god, Ra.

The Phoenix is an excellent symbol for a progressive, dynamic industry, working with a material that also first appeared in ancient Egypt and can be forever recycled through fire.