



The Paperweight Chase

Newsletter of the Paperweight Collectors Association, Ontario, Canada

Number 17

www.pcaont.ca

February 2011

December Holiday Social

PCAO members enjoyed their winter meeting and holiday social in Toronto. The event was well-attended and members enjoyed holiday atmosphere and refreshments. Paperweight artists, Virginia Wilson Toccalino and Tony Toccalino from Milton, Ontario, attended as well as a new artist, Brad Jesson, of Stratford, Ontario, who spoke to members about his work.



Drew Ebelhare & Sue Fox

Paperweight artist, Drew Ebelhare, of Colorado, sent along a video presented at the meeting and weights made in collaboration with lampworker, Sue Fox.

Artists brought paperweights to sell and collectors displayed their favorite or newly-acquired pieces and discussed them during the *Show & Tell* presentation.

A drawing was held for a limited edition Perthshire paperweight donated by Rick & Tracy Willson.

Additional photographs of the event have been posted on Facebook under the Glass Paperweight Group link.



Brad Jesson



Established paperweight artists Virginia Wilson Toccalino and Tony Toccalino



Show & Tell

Discovery Channel Canada “How It’s Made” featured Local Artists Virginia Wilson Toccalino & Tony Toccalino

Virginia and Tony were pleased to announce that the Discovery channel in Canada aired two segments from the show “How It’s Made” filmed earlier this year in their Milton, Ontario studio (www.vwtglass.ca). The two segments, entitled **Millefiori Glass Paperweights** and **Filigree Glass**, were previously aired in the United States on the Science Channel.

Glass Paperweight Group on Facebook

You are all invited to join the “Glass Paperweight Group” (GPG) wall on Facebook. This group, which now has nearly 700 members, was created by new PCA Ontario member, Michael Calleri, who also is the moderator of the group. Michael created the link for glass paperweight collectors, artists and enthusiasts to share information about glass paperweights. The internet is constantly evolving with new information on glass paperweights, artists and resource material.

2011 PCA, Inc. Convention – Washington DC (May 18-21)

If you haven’t yet registered for the biannual convention, there is still time. The program will be highlighted by a special showing of the Smithsonian paperweight collection. Speakers will include John Hawley “Antique American Floral Paperweights”, Ed Poore “The Art of Paperweight Restoration”, William Warmus & Andrew Page “A New Look at the Art of Paul Stankard”, Susie Kaplan Jacobson “Paperweights at the Smithsonian”, Alan Thornton “If I Knew You Were Coming, I’d Have Baked a Fake” and Gay Taylor “Paperweight Primer”. In addition, you will have an opportunity to enjoy the Artists Panel, ID Clinic, Dealers’ Fair and the chance to get to know other paperweight collectors. Shuttle buses have been arranged between the Smithsonian and the hotel. Registration, if made by April 1st, is \$325 per person for PCA, Inc. members and \$365 for non-members. Lodging will be at the conference site, the Hilton-MacLean at \$158 per night. For more information, check the PCA, Inc. website at www.paperweight.org.

High Prices Realized at Bonham’s Auction

In a Bonham’s Auction in London, England, ending December 15, 2010, two very expensive items sold. The first item, Lot 298, was a small 3” inch high French millefiori scrambled millefiori vase, circa 1850, probably St. Louis. The estimate was GBP 1,500-2,000. The actual amount paid was GBP 14,000 plus a buyer’s premium of GBP 2,800. Converted to Canadian dollars, this amounted to a total of approximately \$26,000 CDN.

The second item, Lot 243, was a rare Pantin magnum salamander paperweight, second half 19th century. The weight measured 10.5cm diameter by 8cm high. The auction estimate was GBP 15,000-20,000. The actual amount realized was GBP 35,000 plus GBP 7,000 buyer’s premium. Translated to Canadian dollars, this amounted to approximately \$65,000 CDN.

PCA Ontario Presentation to Barclay Ladies Club

A recent presentation entitled “Glass Paperweights – Antique and Contemporary” was made to the Barclay Ladies Club, a local group, by Tracy Willson. Ginny & Tony Toccalino provided glass molds and blanks for educational purposes. The presentation included a slideshow, a handout, and a display table. A number of positive comments were since received, and a write-up was placed in the local Barclay Terrace newsletter.

Definitions

Lehr: (also annealing oven) An oven, whose temperature can be precisely controlled, which is used to gradually allow a finished glass object to cool from its almost molten state to room temperature.

Off-hand: A piece of glass made free-hand, as opposed to an object made with the use of a mold.

Ref: Dunlop, Paul H. The Dictionary of Glass Paperweights: An Illustrated Primer. Papier Presse, Statesville NC (2009)

Artist Bio – Robert Held

Born in Santa Ana, California, Robert Held aspired to be an artist from an early age. His father, a sculptor, only lived six years of his son’s life, but passed on the talent and appreciation of art that gave Robert the beginnings of a quest to create beauty in form and color.

In high school, his paintings won him the “Ebell Award” for promising students. He studied painting at Whittier College until ceramics artist F. Carleton Ball crossed his path. To explore this new medium, Robert changed colleges, supporting himself through this time as the Art Director of the LA County Fair.

Upon graduating, Robert was offered a position as Head of Ceramics at a college being built in Ontario. He accepted the position, becoming the youngest department head at Sheridan College School of Design.

In 1968, on a course at the Penland School of Crafts in N. Carolina, Robert discovered a new love: the art of glassblowing. He returned to Sheridan and succeeded in launching Canada’s first college level hot glass program in 1969. This program allowed many Canadian artists to become skilled in this medium, and crowned Robert Held as the pioneer of art glass in Canada.

“When the course was over, I returned to Canada inspired and excited, but realized that I had no idea where to even start collecting the tools necessary to create a hot glass studio. So I opened the yellow pages and searched for glassblowers. At the time (1968), there were only two listings: Consumer’s Glass and Dominion Glass. So I called Consumer’s Glass – at first they sort

of scoffed at my request and then kindly referred me to their engineering department. The engineers were interested in my inquiry and offered to give me a tour of the glass plant. These men were unbelievably helpful and eager to help me set up a glassblowing school in Canada, and encouraged me by donating a furnace. They even had it delivered to the school and supplied me with the names of tool manufacturers in Germany where I could buy supplies to begin courses at Sheridan. We completed the building of the studio and soon glassblowing became a requirement for my Ceramics students.

Unfortunately, after a few years of running the courses, our equipment began to fail and, late one night, after a call from someone driving along the QEW (Queen Elizabeth Way) who saw flames leaping from the building, the fire department broke down the doors and attacked the poor furnace with their axes! Shortly after, the administration decided they didn't want the glass department anymore. I convinced them that there was a solution. If I could find them a metal building, they could have a department. We built it, moved the tank and studio there on Sheridan property, and I taught glassblowing until 1976..."

Eventually, he left the teaching world and, in 1978, began his own glass studio – Skookum Art Glass based in Calgary – and operated there until moving to Vancouver in 1987. He continues to enjoy much success there today at his studio: Robert Held Art Glass. Many fine galleries and gift shops carry his work through N. America, Europe and Japan.

Robert uses techniques that date back to 2000 B.C. however, his collections range from classic to contemporary. Some works are inspired by the painting of famous artists such as Monet and Klimt, while others take inspiration from photographers and even interior designers. The studio prides itself on providing its customers with a large selection of affordable handblown gift items, as well as Robert Held's individual creations for the serious collector.

Robert's glass work has also been chosen for many prestigious awards and collections. His goblets were selected to grace the table of the Governor General's "Perfect Setting" and his commissioned piece: a glass bowl encasing 23 karat gold maple leaves and sparkling dichroic glass now sits in Her Majesty's Royal Collection. His glass sculptures may also be found in major collections such as the Roland Michener and the Indusman.

2011 Spring Meeting Reminder, April 9th

Our Spring Meeting will be held in Toronto on April 9th, 2:00-4:00 pm, hosted by Tracy & Rick. As usual, bring along your weights for Show & Tell. There will be a presentation, quiz, door prizes and time to visit with your paperweight friends. More details will be forthcoming.

In Memoriam

William (Bill) Wasserfall – February 22, 2011

PCA Ontario Meeting Schedule 2011

Date	Event
April 9, 2011	Meeting (hosted by Tracy & Rick)
May 18-21, 2011	PCA, Inc. Convention (Washington D.C.)
June 11, 2011	Meeting (hosted by Marcia)
August 13, 2011	Summer BBQ (hosted by Stephanie & Etienne), Cambridge
October 22, 2011	Meeting (hosted by Marcia)
December 10, 2011	Winter Meeting & Holiday Social (hosted by Marcia)

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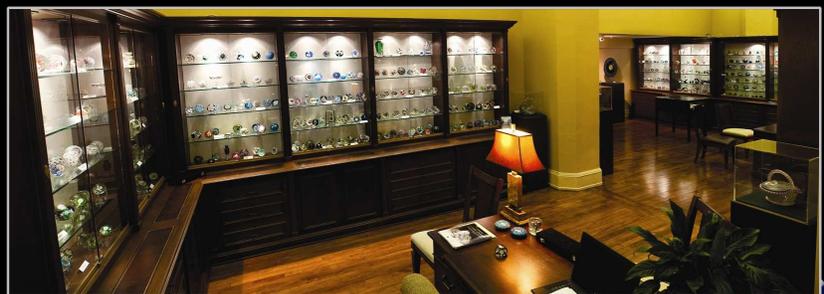
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The Dictionary of Glass Paperweights, by Paul Dunlop

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Annual Fees
PCA Ontario, Canada

July 1 (current year) - June 30 (following year)

- Single Membership \$20.00
- Couple \$30.00
- Mailings only \$15.00

Cheque payable to:
Paperweight Collectors Association - Ontario

Mail Application to:
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