



The Paperweight Chase

Newsletter of the Paperweight Collectors Association, Ontario, Canada

Number 18

www.pcaont.ca

January 2012

December Holiday Social

PCAO members enjoyed their winter meeting and holiday social in Toronto. The event was well-attended and members enjoyed the holiday atmosphere and refreshments. The group welcomed guest Ria Harvey, Program Coordinator for the Canadian Antique Collectors Association (CACA).



Our guest, Ria Harvey, was the delighted recipient of the doorprize – a limited edition Murano millefiori plate from a series sold at the Art Institute of Chicago. Thank you to member Kris Duwyn for donating the item

Millefiori Plate

Show & Tell was lots of fun, as always. We had an unusually large array of lovely paperweights brought in by members. There were numerous “finds” and lots of stories to share.

Paperweight Fest 2012, Millville NJ, Wheaton Village

This year's Paperweight Fest will be held at Wheaton Village May 31-June 1-June 2, 2012.

The Museum of American Glass, on site at Wheaton Village, will be featuring a Rick Ayotte exhibit.

The artist lineup for the Lunch & Learn sessions includes Colin Richardson, Damon MacNaught, Erik Hansen, Drew Ebelhare & Sue Fox, David Graeber, Gordon Smith, Clinton Smith and Chris Sherwin.

Demonstrations in the Glass Studio will include torch and tank background techniques – Jasper, marbrie, latticinio, muslin, color, frontal & reverse pickups, and Whitefriars style of encasement.

Speakers this year include Susan Grogan & Gay LeCleire Taylor, Gordon Park, John Hawley, Paul Dunlop, Xavier Simon, and Ben & Mitch Clark.

There will be an opportunity (limited attendance) for you to work one-on-one in millefiori with Jim Brown or Drew Ebelhare or to share a flameworking experience with Melissa Ayotte, David Graeber or Gordon Smith. Your setups will be professionally encased. Time with the artist will be

1 ½ hours. For the regular Make-Your-Own-Paperweight program, a selection of Whitefriars, LOVE and HOPE picture murine will be available.

During the three-day Fest, there will be Dealers' Fairs, banquet, raffle and door prizes along with an opportunity for you to get together with other paperweight collectors and artists.

Recent eBay Offering



Paperweight with Legs?

This item, described as “Vintage Filigree Style Flower Glass Art Paperweight With Legs? Millefiori?” was recently posted on eBay.

In reality, this is a Chinese-manufactured brush holder or chopstick holder. Unfortunately, the photograph given had the item positioned *upside down*. The item did not sell.

PCA, Inc. 2013 Convention Location Announced

The Board of Directors has announced that the Convention Site Committee has unanimously selected New Orleans, LA as the site for the 2013 Convention. The last time the Convention was held in ‘The Big Easy’, as New Orleans is otherwise known, was in 1983. The Board will be working hard to ensure that this convention tops that of 1983 and will be one of the most memorable to date.

We will apprise you of additional program information when further details are made available.

Catalogue of the Smithsonian Institution Paperweight Collection

Copies of the catalogue of the Smithsonian paperweight collection are still available for members of PCA Ontario. The collection, on display for attendees of the PCA, Inc. Convention in Washington, DC, May 2011, was photographed by John Hawley. The paperweights, which were brought out only for convention attendees, were returned to storage immediately after our viewing. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact Rick Willson at 416-239-8733 or at rick.willson@sympatico.ca.

The collection is also available for your viewing on the Smithsonian website at <http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?q=paperweights&sType=phrase>.

PCA Ontario Presentation to Canadian Antique Collectors Association (CACA) (Tracy Willson)

Recently, at the request of Ria Harvey who found us through the PCA Ontario website, I had the opportunity to give a presentation to the CACA in Toronto. The presentation “Glass Paperweights – Antique and Contemporary” was an hour in length with a PowerPoint presentation which included numerous photographs from the 1850’s classic period, various types of paperweights over the years, and contemporary art glass paperweights from many leading present day glass artists.

Rick handled the digital projector and assisted afterwards at the display table. The meeting was held at Montgomery's Inn with approximately 75 CACA members in attendance. Some attendees brought along paperweights for identification. The talk was general in nature and covered history, how paperweights are made, antique and contemporary weights, paperweight-related objects, dumps, Chinese weights, and a brief section on fakes. PCA Ontario Membership Brochures and business cards were made available.

A Mystery Paperweight

(Tracy Willson)

In 2011, I received the following email and picture requesting identification of a paperweight. It took me on a quest....

"For the longest time, I wanted to find out more about a paperweight I own. Browsing through the subject (on the Internet), I found you and hope you can help.

In 1944-45, our family was dragged through D.P. camps [previously concentration camps] in East Germany, mostly Dresden area. I was only 3 at the time. My Mother and Grandmother were assigned to clean "evacuated" Jewish homes. It was in one of those homes that my Grandmother acquired as payment for the work done, the paperweight. The initials on the bottom are R.W. It looks handmade but I am not an expert. Hope the pictures help."



It is nearly impossible to positively identify the exact maker but the background information given directed us to the area and the time.

Description: Bohemian flower weight, ball-shaped, with one level of faceting above the base and frit ground. A milk glass plaque with the initials (? Made from glass rods ? hard to tell from the photograph) RW on the underside.

Some History:

Five-bubble weights were typical designs coming from Central Europe (Northern Bohemia and Silesia, as well as makers in the Bavarian and Bohemian Forest) during the second half of the 19th century. The plentiful forests were used for fuel for the glass factories which numbered in the hundreds in that area. There was a glassmaking area called Weiswasser/Lausitz (Silesia) which would not have been far from Dresden in SE Germany near the borders of Poland/Germany/Czechoslovakia at that time.

Glasshouses were making fine glass, cut glass for the European and later the Victorian markets. This production occurred generally from the early 1840's on. The weight is a "folk" type weight

which could have been made between 1880-1920. Often, these items were made by glassworkers in their free time and given to family members as items of affection or souvenirs. The initials “RW” on your weight may refer to the maker or perhaps the person for whom the weight was intended.

In addition, I found the design of the flower petals to be rather unusual from most I have seen. It is well-made, so certainly the maker must have taken greater care in producing this weight. Also, the plaque with initials was extra work which makes it more special as opposed to being just a flower and five-bubble weight.

There are only several books written on the subject of Bohemian weights but there are websites with photos. One website you may find to be of some interest is: <http://briefbeschwerer.kulturpixel.de/index.html>. By clicking on the US/UK flag, you will select English. There is a section of German weights from before 1945 with illustrations containing white milk glass plaque with underside initials.

(I’d like to thank Monika Flemming and Peter Pommerencke for reviewing and concurring with my comments.)

The owner of the weight responded,

“Thank you so much for your lovely letter. You know, they say objects can’t talk. This is a proof that they can. So many times I was looking at it and asking whatever happened to the people who owned it? Unfortunately the answer is in history books and not very pleasant.

Just recently [a year or so ago] I found a website to the little town in Germany where we spent around 9 months as Displaced Persons. I wrote to them, asking if anyone was around at that time [1944/45], not really expecting any results. Lo and behold, a few months later, a teacher whose husband’s parents were one of the families who took in refugees, answered my inquiries. We’ve been corresponding since then and she found the house and the family who took us in. Their youngest girl is still living in the house – the parents long gone. She sent me pictures of the village. You see, Mother and Grandma [Oma] never wanted to talk about that time. Not all bad after a 3-year-old sees things differently. It was after we were moved from that little village [Kleinwolshendorf] that Grandma got the paperweight. I wish I could trace the family [if there is any left and it is a big IF] but my Mom and, of course, Grandma are gone also.

I will print your letter and put it with my papers for my children and grandchildren.

Thank you again, as I was not hopeful that I would find out any information.”

PCA Ontario Member Celebrates 100th Birthday

Lifetime member, George Turner, celebrated his 100th birthday in 2011. George was born in London, England in 1911. After he was married in 1937, he and his wife Mary moved to Glebeholme Boulevard, in the Coxwell and Danforth Avenues area, where he lived for more than 73 years. Father of three, grandfather of eight, and great-grandfather of nine, he worked for 48 years for Sangamo Electric in Leaside as a silk screener, printing dials for hydro meters and retired in 1976. George is one of the original members of PCA Ontario founded by Helen Carrothers in 1979. Daughter, Holly Montgomery and many family and friends celebrated his birthday with him. Congratulations, George!

PCA, Inc. Website

Visit the website <http://www.paperweight.org> for the Artist of the Month. This month profiles artist Ed Poore.

Members are also invited to join the PCA page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PaperweightCollectors and feel free to add your comments and photos.

Definitions

Jacks (also pucella). A one-piece, spring-loaded tool (about a foot long) somewhat resembling a pair of large tweezers. These are used as a general shaping tool, mainly for opening or closing the mouth of a molten glass vessel. Used for a paperweight to “jack down”, that is reduce the size of the lower part of the weight, so that a narrow “neck” of glass connects the weight to the pontil rod, which can then be broken away so that the finished object can be placed in the lehr.

Slug (also gob or ingot). A pre-made, optical quality piece of glass. These are made by a company which specializes in making optical glass for glasses and camera lenses. The company makes them, on order, to the specifications and size desired by the individual glassmaker. They are then re-heated when needed by the artist to encase a lampwork motif to make a paperweight.

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

New Museum Collection of Paperweights Announced in Ohio

Delaware Valley sent news of The Akron Art Museum recently acquiring a paperweight collection. The “Mike and Annie Belkin Collection of Paul Stankard Glass”, stated to be the world’s largest public collection of Paul Stankard’s work, was recently donated to the museum. 64 pieces of the Belkin’s 300 piece Stankard collection are now on permanent display.

Michigan Paperweight Exhibit at Flint Institute of Arts

“Captured in Glass: Historic and Contemporary Paperweights” on display October 9, 2011 until June 10, 2012 includes more than 200 paperweights, drawn from the FIA’s permanent collection. This exhibition presents a survey of glass paperweights from the 19th century to present day. *Captured in Glass* highlights different techniques, styles, and various types of paperweights.

Flint Institute of Arts
Decorative Arts Gallery
1120 East Kearsley Street
Flint MI 48503
Tel: 810-234-1695

AllSorts Gallery

Located in the heart of the textile and home décor district on Ottawa St. in Hamilton Ontario, AllSorts Gallery is an artist-run cooperative with multi-media unique items for sale. Virginia Wilson Toccalino is one of the hosting glass artists.

Visit the gallery at 244 Ottawa St. North, Hamilton ON L8H 3Z7. Telephone 905-393-7381 or view artist bios and featured work on the website at www.allsortsgallery.com.

New Books

The Art of the Paperweight: The New England Glass Company

By John D. Hawley

Published by Paperweight Press, 2011

Softcover, 161 pages

Available through *L.H. Selman Ltd.*

Encyclopaedia of Caithness Glass Paperweights: The First 40 Years

By Andrew Nowson

Published by Tamefox Publishing, 2011

Hardcover, 638 pages

Available Enquiries@Tamefox.me.uk

The Paperweight Keeper

By Wes Clark

Published by Paperweight Press, 2011

Softcover

Available through *L.H. Selman Ltd.*

2012 Spring Meeting Reminder, Sunday, April 15th

Member feedback indicated a preference for **Sunday** meetings this year. Please note the change from Saturdays.

Our Spring Meeting will be held in Toronto on Sunday, April 15th, 2:00-4:00 pm, hosted by Marcia. As usual, bring along your weights for Show & Tell. There will be a presentation, a quiz, door prizes and time to visit with your paperweight friends.

In Memoriam

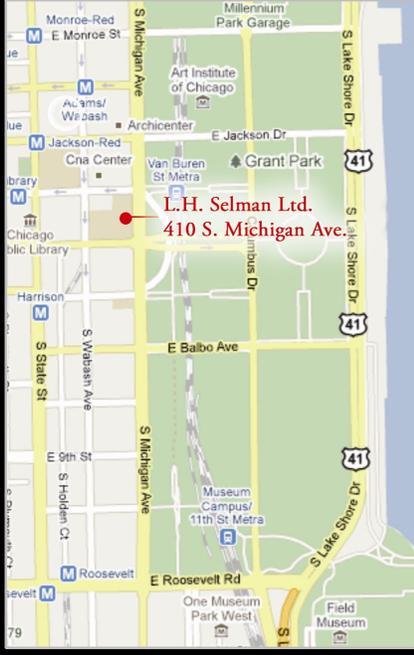
Don Erdman – May 20, 2011

PCA Ontario Meeting Schedule 2012

Date	Event
April 15, 2012	Meeting (hosted by Marcia)
May 31-June 2, 2012	Paperweight Fest – Wheaton Village, Millville NJ
June 10, 2012	Meeting (hosted by Marcia)
August 12, 2012	Summer Meeting (To Be Announced)
Sept. 28-30, 2012	Selman Paperweight Weekend, Chicago IL
October 21, 2012	Meeting (hosted by Marcia)
December 2, 2012	Winter Meeting & Holiday Social (hosted by Jean & Bill)

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519-301-4874

bossglass@ymail.com

The Dictionary of Glass Paperweights, by Paul Dunlop

\$74 US funds, postage & insurance paid to Canada.
Papier Presse, PO Box 6269, Statesville, NC 28687

dunloppaperweights@gmail.com

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Sue Fox 505-670-5751

foxglassart@gmail.com

www.miniaturesinglass.com

Drew Ebelhare 719-250-8384

debel@earthlink.net

www.ebelharepaperweights.com

PCA Membership Application (please print)

Date _____

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov _____

Postal Code _____

Country _____

Phone _____

email _____

Paperweight Collectors Association Ontario, Canada www.pcaont.ca	
# 1701 – 1320 Islington Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9A 5C6 Phone: 416-239-8733 E-mail: twilson@sympatico.ca www.paperwts.ca	
Tracy Willson, President	416-239-8733
Marcia Whittaker, VP & Treasurer	416-967-4570
Ken Wright, Past President	519-621-7990
Claire Jobin	416-368-7875
Rick Willson	416-239-8733

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:

Paperweight Collectors Association - Ontario
1701 – 1320 Islington Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M9A 5C6
Canada

Phone: (416) 239-8733
email: twilson@sympatico.ca