



# The Paperweight Chase

Newsletter of the Paperweight Collectors Association Ontario Canada

Number 33

[www.pcaont.ca](http://www.pcaont.ca)

January 2025

## 2025 Greetings and Update

Well, here we are at 2025. What a year this is shaping up to be! So let's get into the swing of things through our mutual appreciation of the artistry of glass paperweights.

I'll begin with an update of where we are, where other paperweight groups are going, and updates from our international paperweight community.

## PCA Ontario Canada

Last year, we came together as a group in Toronto three times. The possibility of having meetings on ZOOM had been entertained but, currently, remains in the background in relation to meeting in person and the social interaction gained. A schedule of meetings for 2025 will be finalized soon and you will be notified.

On November 10, 2024, we celebrated our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a group. In honour of this, renowned glass artist Victor Trabucco was invited to celebrate with us via Zoom. We showed his recently released video, first seen in May 2024 at the PCA Convention in Providence RI, where he describes his latest work on recreating the Blaschka flowers.

### Note: Blaschka Flowers

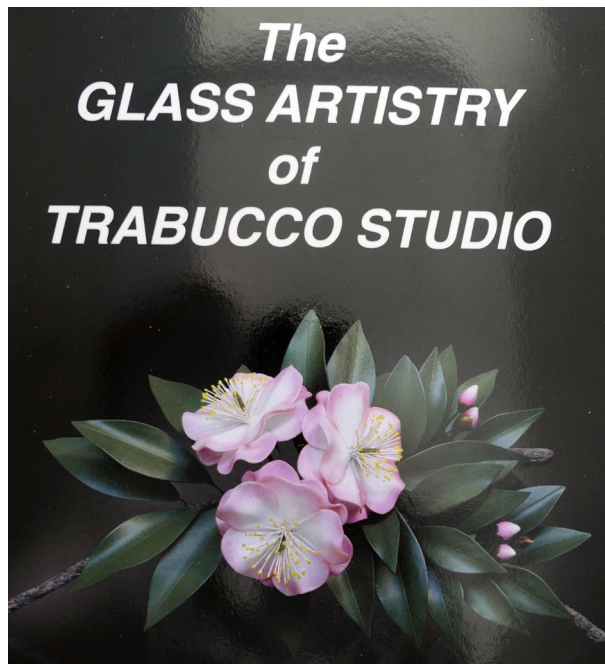
The Museum of Natural History at Harvard contains 4,300 detailed models of flowers and anatomical sections of various floral and vegetative parts of plants. Father and son, Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka, of Dresden Germany created these replicas between 1887 and 1936. (*Ref. The Glass Flowers at Harvard*)



For those of you who are interested, Victor's video is available for you to view on YouTube. Go to YouTube.com and search on Victor Trabucco, see the listing for Blaschka Inspired Glass Flowers or follow this link directly: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSnIyeSsfOo>>

After watching the video, Victor joined the meeting via a live Zoom video link from his home studio in Clarence, New York. He explained in more detail the inspiration and techniques from his 50 years of glassmaking, the science and years of practice testing compatibility and types of glass. All in all, it was stunning to have him there.

In addition, we had on hand a copy of "*The Glass Artistry of Trabucco Studio*" recently released on Amazon. Shown on the cover are "Camellia Glass Flowers 15" long".



**BOOK REVIEW (Courtesy of David Ramsay)**

**Glass Paperweights, the Heritage of the 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Riesengebirge and Isergebirge Glassworks**

I was first bitten by the glass paperweight collecting bug a bit less than a decade ago, and I've acquired some truly wondrous objects. My collection is weighted toward the lower and mid range weights but light on the more costly pieces, aside from a couple of splurges.

I've always been a bit disappointed that there is relatively little historical material published on two areas that have made notable contributions to paperweight production, namely Central Europe, and China.

In the case of China, the time elapsed since production started, the vastness of the geography, the cultural difference, and the general indifference of many glass collectors to this area, make it unlikely that that state of affairs will change. I find this a bit saddening.

Central Europe is an area much less well documented than the like of France, Scotland, the USA, etc., but I have just come across a book that goes a long way to fill in some of the blanks in my knowledge of what I have previously heard being vaguely referred to as Bohemia and Silesia.

There is a guided tour of this historical glass producing area in the offing, which I plan to join. In preparation, and through the generosity of friends, I've laid my hands on a copy of the book by Marek Kordasiewicz written in Polish, and with an English translation included. The English title is "Glass Paperweights, the heritage of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Riesengebirge and Isergebirge Glassworks".

Immediately on reading the title, my curiosity was piqued by "Riesengebirge and Isergebirge". What is this?

It turns out to be a description of the relevant area, using geographic features rather than political borders, which renders obsolete the vague terms of "Bohemia" and "Silesia". The bewildering number of times that political borders have been moved in this part of the world was a source of confusion to me over quite what was meant by "Bohemia" and "Silesia". Since mountain ranges tend to be much more stationary than national borders, Mr. Kordasiewicz's choice to describe the area just makes good sense.

It took me a little time spent playing with Google translate and Wikipedia to zero in, but "Riesengebirge and Isergebirge" are two specific geographical areas, mountain ranges actually, and constituent parts of a larger range in Central

Europe. The area being discussed occurs on both sides of an area of the shared border between the contemporary political entities of the Czech Republic and Poland.

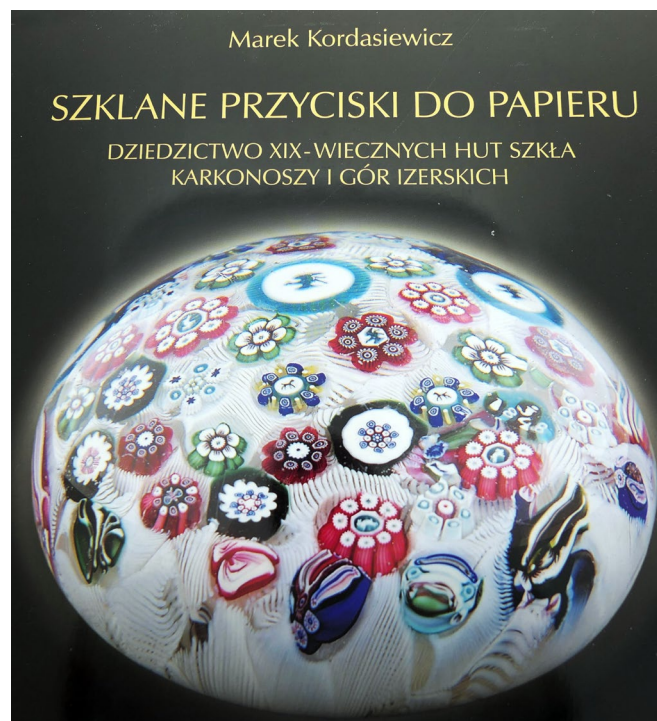
Riesengebirge translates from German to English as Giant Mountains, and Isergebirge translates from German to English as Jizera Mountains. The Jizera Mountains derive their name from the Jizera River, which runs through.

So simple. Thank you Mr. Kordasiewicz!

A very significant fact revealed in this book is that there exists documentary evidence showing that millefiori canes and weights were being produced in this area several years prior to their appearance in the other glass producing centres of the world, when they became such a sensation from the 1840s to the 1860s.

The book is beautifully illustrated with colour photographs showing examples of glass paperweights from the period in that area, and with close ups of many canes for close study.

Quite a revelation for me. Recommended.



## **Online Auction of Paperweights**

Waddington's Toronto held a Decorative Arts & Design Auction in November and December featuring a number of paperweight lots, both antique and contemporary. More lots will be featured in upcoming auctions. Watch their site for future auctions at [www.waddingtons.ca](http://www.waddingtons.ca)

## **ZOOM Meetings**

Paperweight Collectors Circle (PCC) in the UK has held a number of Zoom meetings and video discussions with artists. Rick and I have participated in a number of them along with other international members. The moderators, Victoria and Brian Egan, are quickly gaining expertise in Internet hosting. We recommend that you join the PCC.

Here are a number of Zooms held in 2024:

- 8 Dec Christmas meeting
- 10 Nov Alison Ruzsa
- 8 Sept Victor Trabucco
- 22 Sept Clinton Smith

On January 19, 2025, the guest will be Paul Stankard.

On February 9, "To B or not to B" (or is it or isn't it a Bacchus paperweight?). Alan Thornton and Victoria Egan will host this event to attempt to clarify the confusing subject of identification of Bacchus paperweights; using Bob Hall's book to help with identification. The plan is to go through each attributed weight in Bob Hall's book, get your thoughts as to whether it is or isn't Bacchus. Membership in PCC and pre-registration is required.

## **Glass Artist Contacts to Add to Your List**

For your information, the Deacons Glass Studio in Crieff, Scotland, in addition to creating new weights, also restores them. Gordon Taylor, their cold-cutting artist, does this work along with John and Craig Deacons. You can message Gordon Taylor through his Facebook account or Craig through Deacons Glass Facebook account. The website is [www.deaconsglass.co.uk](http://www.deaconsglass.co.uk)

Another artist, William Manson Junior, worked with his father for years, then left to pursue his career as a policeman. He has now established his own glassworking studio in Stirling, Scotland, and is producing paperweights on a part-time basis. There is a brief bio and examples of his new work on his website.

Here are details if you wish to contact him or buy direct from him.

[www.mansonglass.co.uk](http://www.mansonglass.co.uk)

Email: [info@mansonglass.co.uk](mailto:info@mansonglass.co.uk)

William is also on Facebook. You are free to add him personally – William David Manson. Or you can go to Facebook and search for MansonGlass for regular information/weights for sale etc.

## **PCA Inc. Convention 2024 Update**

Providence RI was the site of the PCA convention in May 2024. Melissa Ayotte presented a video celebrating the work of her father, Rick, “60 Years in Glass”. Also Mike Hunter presented “Murrine, Art in Weights and 50 Years in Glassmaking”. The Mansons were there from Scotland, Joyce and son William Manson Jr., and Clinton Smith presented “The Evolution of Marbles throughout my Career”. In addition, Victor Trabucco’s video was shown, there was a visit to New England Glass factories, the Sandwich Museum, and Harvard for the Blaschka Botanicals. Paul Stankard shared a documentary film “Paul Stankard: Flower and Flame”.

The location for the 2026 Convention has not yet been announced.

## **Internet Sites of Interest**

- See “*Paperweights : The History of a Fine Murano Glass Work of Art*” at <https://www.muranonet.com/blogs/unfold-venice>
- Fermacarte – Paperweight. See <<https://www.muranonet.com/blogs/glossary/fermacarte>
- *Rare Artistry Enrich Your Soul with Relaxing Craft of Venetian Glass Art Design*” on YouTube
- *St. Louis video* on YouTube

### **Definitions**

Parson’s Collar: Many Bacchus canes are contained in an opaque white tube, which George Kulles has aptly described as a “parson’s collar”. These usually surround a ruffle cane but can be used around other canes.

Whorl: A whorl cane has one continuous line of color radiating from the center, layer upon layer like a jelly roll. It is different from a bullseye cane which has concentric circles of color alternating with white or clear glass. As these are some of the simples canes to make most makers make one or both of these designs.

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

## **In Memoriam**

Jane Port

John Hawley

**PCA Membership Application** (please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Marcia Whittaker, VP & Treasurer	416-967-4570
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Membership in PCA Canada in 2025 is \$25 CDN per household.

**Mail Application to:**

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