



# The Paperweight Chase

Newsletter of the Paperweight Collectors Association Canada

Number 30

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

January 2021

## Greetings

2020 has been such an unusual one for all. We have sheltered and lived our lives in a different way. Unfortunately, we were unable to gather for any meetings. As a result, we have decided to reinstate this newsletter as, to this point, we cannot be together. There is always news in the paperweight world to share with you.

## New Members

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Margaret Bryant, a new member from Burlington, Ontario and also to paperweight artist, Shannon Scollard from Oakville, Ontario..

## Closures of Antique Malls

Over the years, we all have spent many hours browsing through antique malls and stores searching for paperweight finds. Not too many years ago, one could spend an entire afternoon on Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Bayview Avenue or Yonge Street or Queen Street browsing antique stores. Here is just a short list of Toronto area malls which have disappeared:

Harbourfront

Virgil

Jordan Station

Stratford

Elora

St. Jacobs (1 out of 3)

And most recently Pickering Antique Mall.

We are hoping that once Covid has disappeared some of these malls will pop up again. Freelon Antique Mall is still open but, at the moment, in lockdown. Aberfoyle Market is open but currently off-season.

## Artist and Dealer Websites

A revised list of artists and dealer websites is being developed. It will be shared with you and will also be posted on our website. A number of regional paperweight collectors' organizations also have websites which have additional paperweight information.

There are still no paperweight dealers in Canada. You may still find estate sales etc. where you may have a paperweight find. But at the moment, most paperweight shopping is online through dealers and auctions, and directly from artists.

## **Zoom Meetings**

The Paperweight Collectors Circle (PCC) in the UK held its first Zoom meeting on 13 December 2020 which we attended. It was quite successful. I recall around 30+ attendees. One of their members gave a Powerpoint presentation as well.

Wheaton Arts also provided a virtual meeting with artists. There were videos of artists in their own studios discussing their work. We do not know if the Wheaton Paperweight Fest will take place in 2021 but, if that is not possible, in all likelihood there will be some sort of virtual event. I will keep you updated.

Wheaton Arts is continuing a program called 'Wheaton Conversations' in 2021. Guest artists discuss their recent projects, innovations and concerns. As I hear of more scheduled events, I will let you know.

## **Netflix Series "Blown Away"**

If you have not watched these episodes on Netflix, it is highly recommended for glass enthusiasts of any sort. Although we have not seen any paperweight pieces made, the techniques used and the collective energy of a hot glass studio should be appreciated.

Season Two features hot glass artists competing in a challenge for a \$60,000 cash prize and a residency at the Corning Museum of Glass. The filming takes place in what they describe as "North America's largest Hot Shop". Now, while this may be the largest, it is not actually real. The Hot Shop was created by the show's production team, Marblemedia. Marblemedia found an abandoned warehouse in the city of Hamilton in Ontario, Canada. They then built this warehouse into a ready-to-use Hot Shop. Hamilton is about an hour drive southwest of Toronto.

The Hot Shop is the heart of the drama. It is where all the glassblowing and subsequent presentations take place. The Blown Away team roped in the Craft and Design Glass Studio team from Toronto's Sheridan College to help conceptualise and build the Hot Shop. Students from Sheridan also participate in the show, as assistants to the competitors.

Each contestant gets their own 'glory hole' (reheating furnace) and studio space to work. There are also two large furnaces for glass-melting.

## **Richard Loesel, Paperweight Artist**

At the last PCA Convention in Dearborn, we had an opportunity to meet this French paperweight artist. His glass career is long and successful. His background as a paperweight artist evolved over 20 years spent at the Compagnie de Cristallerie de Saint Louis. After his Saint Louis years, he worked as a glassblower at the Meisenthal Glass Factory Museum. In 2016 he opened "Studio Loesel".

Here is our first Loesel weight.....



### **Definitions**

**Wear Marks:** Wear marks on the base (basal rim) of a paperweight can be a good indicator of the item's age if it has not been polished. Care needs to be exercised in using this as a guide, as wear can be faked.

**Jasper Ground:** A mottled ground made of small particles of colored glass (frit). This ground is usually two colors with one of the colors being white. Single color frit grounds are known as well as three and four color examples, which are rare. Frit grounds are most commonly seen in weights from St. Louis and the American makers. The particles of frit are generally finer in St. Louis weights.

**Circlet:** (also ring or ringlet) A small circle of millefiori canes.

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

## **PCA Ontario Library**

Our lending library recently received a number of back issues of the PCA Inc. Annual Bulletin. This reference material is free to borrow. Please contact Rick or Tracy if you are interested. A complete list of items is available on our website [www.pcaont.ca](http://www.pcaont.ca). During this time of lockdown due to Covid is a perfect time to get to know more about paperweights. We have the resources.

## **2021 Paperweight Events Calendar**

We have no events planned as yet. If any of you are interested in participating in a Zoom meeting, please let me know and we will look at arranging one. In the meantime, you will be receiving emails and newsletters.

**PCA Membership Application** (please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in PCA Canada in 2021 is free of Charge.

**Mail Application to:**

Paperweight Collectors Association Canada  
# 1701 – 1320 Islington Avenue  
Toronto, ON M9A 5C6  
Canada

Phone: (416) 476-3691

email: [twillson@sympatico.ca](mailto:twillson@sympatico.ca)

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