

The Paperweight Chase

Newsletter of the Ontario, Canada, Paperweight Collectors Association

Number 1

July 2002

Bates to speak at August PCA Meeting

Al Bates, President of PCA Inc. will be at the Ontario PCA Barbecue/Picnic on Saturday, August 17, 2002, accompanied by his wife Marion. He will be speaking to us about his collection of Souvenir, Commemorative and Advertising weights. Al will also talk about what's happening at PCA Inc. and outline some of the reasons why you might consider joining this International Association. Please bring your Souvenir and Advertising weights for "Show & Tell". Meeting time 3:00 PM followed by an afternoon of socializing, eating & drinking, at the Wright's in Cambridge. *See last page for directions.*

Canada Day at Ontario PCA

At our June 15, 2002 meeting held at the George Locke Branch of the Toronto Public Library we celebrated Canadian Glass Makers. A short talk on the history of Canadian Glass was presented by Ken Wright (*copies available on request*). This was followed by four stellar presentations from our glass artist members.

Jeff Elsie kicked off with a series of slides which beautifully illustrated parts of Ken's talk. The scenes included old pictures of the Burlington Glass Works, Hamilton and Wallaceburg Works in south western Ontario. Jeff showed shards and glass objects from the Mallorytown dig that was directed by Gerald Stevens. These included the Mallorytown pitcher. He also included some paperweight pictures from Stevens book, *Early Canadian Glass*.

"B" McCall spoke about her hometown area of Hamilton/ Burlington which was one of the major glass centres in Canada for many years. She made reference to a number of glass workers and also

talked about the glass paperweight display that the Hamilton Steam Museum had mounted a few years ago. She discussed the possibility of speaking to the Museum about repeating this type of an exhibition.

Stopher Christensen talked about the Glass Schools in Canada, including Sheridan, Red Deer, and Quebec. He spoke about the various types of glass creation being taught at these facilities and the types of instruction that is now being taught in Canada. Up to this time creating glass paperweights has been very low on the list of subjects at Sheridan. It has only been happening in first year to give new students an opportunity to get the feel of glass by working with small objects. However, in the past year a new 'flameworking' studio has been opened, with Alex Hamilton as the Instructor. This is an important step in demonstrating the methods for cane making.

Lastly, the important topic of 'marketing' glass in Canada. Mark Armstrong walked us through the challenges facing glass paperweight artists working in our country. First, to find the right balance between creating and marketing and then trying to develop a niche for their product. In Mark's case he specializes in inexpensive fruit weights and in the past couple of months produced 700 weights in this category. He has about 20 different weights in his line and some of the larger more complicated pieces are in the \$500 range. He sells through dealers, and directly to organizations such as various Boards of Education, plus through a shop at the studio.

Jon Trabucco shared the experience of American artists in marketing their weights and said similar marketing problems and opportunities occur in the USA to what Mark had been outlining for Canada.

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The 'Show and Tell' session included looking at more than fifty paperweights by Canadian artists. It was decided that everyone really liked the George Locke Branch location and we will try and book it for future PCA meetings.

A Social Hour ended an educational and pleasant Saturday afternoon.

Ontario PCA Newsletter

We owe a thank you to Jane Wright for creating the name for the first issue of the Ontario PCA Newsletter, *The Paperweight Chase*. She decided that we're all chasing around trying to find perfect weights for our collection and this seemed to describe the activity that we're all passionate about. We hope you agree with our choice.

2002/2003 Membership Fees now due. Please make sure that you get your payment off to Treasurer Claire Jobin.

Perthshire Paperweights 1968 - 2002

When Stuart Drysdale founded Perthshire Paperweights in 1968 his goal was to produce weights that would rival those produced in the Classic period of the 1800's. As most of us have examples of Perthshire weights in our collections we have personal experience to show that he was very successful in achieving this goal.

In 1990 Stuart Drysdale died and his son Neil took over the reins of Perthshire paperweights. He remained in this capacity for more than a decade and continued the tradition of making quality weights. Neil Drysdale died in late 2001 and the factory was closed early this year. Definitely the end of an important era in the history of glass paperweights. However, the joy of owning one of these treasures

will continue for the many collectors who have Perthshire paperweights in their collections.

Two New Scottish Glass Houses

Peter McDougal, the former General Manager of Perthshire Paperweights has announced that he will be opening his own Studio in Scotland to produce fine glass paperweights.

The second announcement is that *William (Willie) and Joyce Manson* have hired three former Perthshire glass workers and formed a new company called Phoenix Paperweights Ltd. This company will be operated along with William Manson Paperweights Ltd. The new employees include *Duncan Smith*, lampworker, *David McNicholl*, weight maker, and *Gordon Taylor*, faceter. Prices will range from \$200 - \$300 Canadian.

William Manson Paperweights Ltd., is located in Perth, Scotland. You can check out their story at <www.williammanson.co.uk>

Michel-Pierre Grenier 1950 - 2002

Michel-Pierre Grenier, the longtime President of the Montreal Chapter of PCA, died in a Montreal Hospital in March of this year. He was 52 years old. Michel-Pierre was a long time collector of Canadian, mostly Quebec, contemporary weights. He wrote articles for the PCA Inc. Bulletin and the most recent one which appeared in the 2002 Bulletin, featured one of his favourite subjects, Souvenir weights.

For three months at the of 1994 and early 1995 Grenier mounted an exhibit of Canadian Glass paperweights at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum in Neenah, Wisconsin. More than 40 weights were on display by such well known Canadian glass artists as Denise Belanger, Martha Henry, Toan Klein,

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Ione Thorkelson, Michael Trimpol, Christiane Charpentier and Jean-Marie Giguere.

Most of us remember Michel-Pierre as that cheery, exuberant voice on a Sunday morning who just wanted to talk and talk. He was always quite excited about his favourite subject - Paperweights.

Jean Hegle, a member of the Montreal Chapter, passed along much of this information. She visited the Montreal apartment where he had been living and spoke with the Manager of the building. He explained to her that Michel-Pierre had contracted pneumonia and in the final stages had been rushed to hospital.

Michele-Pierre ended his 2002 PCA Bulletin article with these words - "*These souvenir weights are true windows on history and today are rarely found, so if you should come across one, do not hesitate, buy it now for tomorrow it will be gone.*" Good advice for all collectors, from a genuine collector.

Looking back in history at the Ontario Paperweight Collectors Association

Our Founding President, Helen Carothers, wrote these words in 1981. . .

"Dave and I were encouraged by Doris Burns, a member of the Montreal Chapter to start a chapter of the PCA in Toronto. We called the first meeting in September 1979 with the names of people given to us by Doris. The response was gratifying. Our first thought was that three meetings a year would be ample. Secondly, in order to keep costs down we would ask for only a \$5.00 fee from each member. We had our second meeting in November, 1979, and added a few more members. In May of 1980 Brian Musselwhite (ROM) put on a slide show and talk. Then in September Warren Abrams, a collector-dealer from New Jersey, talked to us about Antique weights. In October John Gooderham arranged to have Leah & David Brodie, Chicago

dealers speak about antique weights. Both Abrams and the Brodies had a collection of weights with them and it was possible to add to our personal collections with gems from each of them."

The Cambridge Paperweight Circle 21st Anniversary Exhibit & Tour

From November 28th to December 1st, 2002 the Cambridge Paperweight Circle will be exhibiting 1,000 antique and contemporary weights at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, England. Following this the CPC has organized a five day trip to Scotland. They will be visiting various Scottish factories and makers including trips to Edinburgh and Perth Museums. If you're interested in the details e:mail Bob Hall at <bobhall123@aol.com>

Ottawa Meeting

The next Ottawa Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21st at 6:30 PM. Location, Nepean Public Library, Centrepoint Branch, Centrepoint Drive, Nepean. This is located 15 minutes from downtown Ottawa.

Our Guest Speaker is Al Bates, PCA Inc. President. Al & his wife Marion are meeting with both Ontario groups while in Canada. He will be talking about the PCA and his collection of Souvenir, Commemorative and Advertising weights. Bring your examples of these weights for a "Show & Tell".

If you have any questions about this meeting please call Garry Stearns at 613.258.3661 or e:mail him at <garry_stearns@sunlife.com>.

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Rick Ayotte coming to Canada

Rick Ayotte has confirmed that he will speak to a group at the Royal Ontario Museum on Saturday, March 29, 2003. This will be part of the ROM's *Brocklebank Lecture Series*. Rick will be speaking about a weight that the ROM has commissioned to add to their collection. The format will be similar to that for the two previous speakers in this series, Paul Stankard and Jon & David Trabucco (who sat in for their Father Victor when he had to cancel his appearance because of illness)

Further details will be issued from Brian Musselwhite & Conrad Biernacki of the Royal Ontario Museum. However, mark the date on your calendar now.

P.S. You might like to know that in Selman's Spring 2002 Auction a Rick Ayotte weight, #130 set a record price of \$10,450.00 US!!! Rick said this weight originally sold for \$200.00 of which he received \$100.00. The weight "*American Bald Eagle Head*" was produced in 1983 and was the first weight in the Wildlife Portrait series. This was a limited edition of 50 weights and Rick said . . . "I employed the design concepts of antique sulphides to portray the grandeur of the bird . . ." By the way, the suggested price range in the Selman catalogue was \$3,000 - \$4,500.

PCA Newsletter *The Paperweight Chase*

Keeping this newsletter going, and we plan to bring it out quarterly, will be a strain unless we can get input from our members. We welcome contributors. Send articles on any aspect of this fascinating subject of glass. Tell us how you got started, write about your favourite artist. tid bits of paperweight knowledge will all make it more interesting.

Some interesting web sites . . .

<www.sweetbriar.com>
<www.paperweights.com>
<www.weights.co.uk>
<www.selman.com>
<www.salazarglass.com>
<www.glassaustralia.anv.edu.au>
<www.cia.edu>
<www.wheatonvillage.org>
<www.pilchuck.com>
<www.lkmodern.com>

2002 PCA Barbecue

Date: August 17th

Time: 3:00 PM

Place: The Wrights,

18 Lansdowne Road North, Cambridge

Directions: 401 west, exit at Highway #8, make sure you're in the left lane on the ramp and follow the sign to Cambridge. As you exit the ramp turn left (south) under the highway and down the Schantz Hill. At the bottom of the hill turn right (west) at the Petro Canada Station on to Fountain Street. Follow this road over the Grand River. Take the first turn left (south) and go through the Village of Blair and follow this road through the countryside. You'll come to a fork - stay to the right, going straight. Follow this winding road to the end, which is Blenheim Street. Make a right turn. The first street on the left is Lansdowne. The Wrights are the third house on the right, in the second block.

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