



# The Paperweight Chase

Newsletter of the Paperweight Collectors Association, Ontario, Canada

Number 12

February 2008

## Silent Auction from the John Gooderham Collection

We send our warm thanks to Jennine O'Connor, daughter of our dear friend and former artist member, John Gooderham, who provided a variety of pieces from her late father's personal collection for auction at our December Holiday Social. All items except one were taken home by delighted members who had great fun in the bidding game. Jennine has donated the remaining piece – a four-leaf clover lapel pin – to the club to be auctioned off at a future meeting.

## Glass Worlds: Paperweights from the ROM's Collection

The ROM has extended its exhibit of over 250 antique and contemporary paperweights from November 2007 to likely the end of March 2008. If you have not yet seen it yet, it is a comprehensive exhibit, and definitely worth seeing. ROM Visitor Services suggests that, if you plan to attend in March, you check their website or call the ROM to confirm the closing date of the exhibit.

In addition, Brian Musselwhite, Assistant Curator, held two more Lunch 'n Learn sessions:

### Glass Worlds: Paperweights from the ROM's Collections

Tuesday, Feb 19, 11:30 am – 2 pm

Sunday Feb 24, 11:30 am - 2 pm

We'd like to hear comments from those who attended.

The ROM has published a companion book to the exhibit written by Brian Musselwhite, Assistant Curator. It features photographs and descriptions of the pieces displayed. It is available for purchase at the ROM for \$14.99, through the University of Toronto Press, or from Chapters bookstores [www.chapters.indigo.ca](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca).

## Wheaton Arts Paperweight Fest, May 14-17, 2008

Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center (the Village's new name) is gearing up for this year's paperweight event. The program is available on the Wheaton website [www.wheatonarts.org](http://www.wheatonarts.org) In addition to the Artist Lunch & Learn sessions, Artists & Dealers Fairs, and hands-on sessions in the Glass Studio, the following presentations are planned:

- Political Symbolism of Baccarat's Rose and Gridel Canes (Simone Simmons)
- 35 Years of Lampwork (Allan Scott)
- Queen's Head Silhouette Canes in Old English Paperweights (Alan Thornton)
- Dating Ysart Weights Through Cane Analysis (Kevin Holt)
- The Clown in Me! (Mike Hunter)
- Murrine Me! (Zach Jorgenson & Chelsea Bent)
- Nicholas Lutz and the New England Glass Co. (John Hawley)
- Taking Laughing Glass (Eric W. Hansen)
- Photo Emulsion Printing on Glass (Tony Glander)
- Chinese Weights – Closing in on Antique! (Don Eckel)

- Paperweight Buttons (Skip DuBois)
- Milk Glass Weights of the 1892 World's Fair (Bill Price)
- Glass Demonstrations by Alan Scott & Peter McDougall, Gordon Smith, John & Craig Deacons

## Texas PCA Meeting



This picture was taken at a recent Texas PCA meeting which Jane and Ken Wright attended. It shows Jane on the left with Art Elder, past President of the Texas Club, paperweight author, and Editor of their Newsletter, along with Nancy Alfano, owner of Portia Paperweights, Chicago. If you're wondering what Art has on his head it's a gift from his fellow club members. The Texas group were on a Caribbean cruise and because his wife, Joyce, had a bad fall they had to cancel at the last moment. Well, his friends brought him home this souvenir hat as a gift, dreadlocks and all.

## Chasing Paperweights in the Southern States

Jane and I decided to travel south in the winter of 2008 to find some warm weather and to explore some new territory. Instead of the regular snowbird haunts of Florida, Texas and California we decided to see what was happening in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. When we were planning the trip we noticed that *Texas PCA* was holding a meeting in Houston that fit in with our dates.

We emailed Al & Marion Bates, members of the Texas group, to ask if we could attend their meeting. Many of you will remember Al & Marion when they visited Canada in 2002 and spoke to our club. They answered very positively and we made this weekend get together a part of our plan.

Texas PCA has three 'weekend' meetings a year which they hold in different cities in the State running from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. The format is to have a guest speaker; many times this is an artist and/or a visiting dealer who brings lots of goodies to offer for sale to the members. In February 2008 it was to be Cathy Richardson, glass artist from Minnesota and Nancy Alfano, the owner of Portia Paperweights, from Chicago. It sounded like a great opportunity for us to learn, maybe to buy, and certainly to meet a lot of new fellow collectors.

The drive from Gulfport/Biloxi was a six hour undertaking but with our new Tom Tom GPS system it was not the chore of needing nerves of steel to get through the confusing and large interconnected highway systems. We arrived about five o'clock on the Friday evening and after a short get together in President Jayne Gilbert's room we all set off for a great Chinese meal at *P.F. Changs*, a restaurant near the *Hilton Garden Inn Hotel* where the meeting was held. It was great to be back talking about paperweights and collecting.

On Saturday Jane and I decided to become members of the *Texas PCA* and then attended their annual meeting. I must say President Jayne Gilbert ran a great meeting. She followed that up the next day with Sunday morning Brunch at her home in Houston and of course the chance for the Canadians to see her paperweight collection.

The main event for Saturday was the presentation by Cathy Richardson, although before she spoke Nancy Alfano opened her 'shop of goodies' for us all to admire and acquire. During the morning session Nancy talked about collecting miniature weights. This was like a whole new insight into having a collection within a collection as Jane and I both realized that we had just lumped our miniatures in with the rest of the weights but we should really be looking at them as an important part of the bigger collection. We'll talk more about this idea of collecting miniature weights later in this story.

Cathy's studio, Touchstone Glass, is a family business with son Colin and husband Steve, a retired academic, and Cathy, a former University Professor, with a PhD in Geology. They are located in Winona, Minnesota. Cathy took us behind the scenes and into her workshop with a series of excellent slides showing the various steps in the creation of one of her weights. She is a nature lover and here is part of her artist's statement:

*"Glass, like water, is a very fluid and dynamic medium. It can contain, surround, and magnify objects, creating magical effects to delight the eye and fascinate the imagination. Using these properties, I am able to create beautiful, dynamic designs that are full of life, inviting you to look again and again into my world. The engaging three-dimensional environments in my paperweights and marbles express my meticulous attention to detail and life-long love of nature."*

Cathy produces a number of different series of paperweights, the *First Seed* series, egg shaped weights representing *Spring, Summer, Fall* and *Winter*. She also has created a *Marine* series, titled *Coral Reef* and *School of Fish*, among others.

She recently released limited editions of what I would call her *Pond* series. Here, she is using underwater life with flowers and rocks and plants and creating stunning scenes in these magnified glass objects. Most are done in soft colours of glass.

The feature talk was followed with a question & answer session and of course we all had a chance to speak with Cathy one-on-one during coffee and food breaks.

Everyone gathered for a scrumptious Italian Dinner on Saturday evening prior to visiting Art & Joyce Elder's home to view their wonderful collection of paperweights. Wonderful is not a strong enough adjective, this collection is spectacular. Hundreds of weights, displayed in beautiful cabinets, all organized in various categories, - antiques, contemporary, miniatures, by artist, by type, by geography. The case of approximately 30 miniatures demonstrated that small can be beautiful. Art and Joyce have this group in a square coffee-type table under glass.

On Sunday the whole group was together again for a Jayne Gilbert breakfast and the viewing of her weight collection, also something to behold. Jayne lives on one of those beautiful oak tree-lined streets where the branches overhang the road.

Jane and I left for downtown Houston to attend **HADA** (*Houston Antique Dealers Association*) bi-annual antique fair with more than 150 really first class dealers. Downtown Houston was quiet on a Sunday which gave us the chance to drive around slowly and look at the sights.

Yes, we succumbed – Jane bought one of Cathy Richardson's *School of Fish* series and I liked one of the *Pond* weights. Also discovered a *Phoenix Paperweight*, by Willie Manson, in Nancy Alfano's gems that we just couldn't live without.

We've probably been in every antique store between Mobile, Alabama and New Orleans, Louisiana, during our jaunt down south, yes, we also picked up some on our drive south, around the Nashville area.

- Ken Wright, *PCA of Ontario & Texas PCA*.

## **Virginia Wilson Toccalino & Tony Toccalino – Featured in PCA Inc. Newsletter**

Last quarter's newsletter from the Paperweight Collectors Association, Inc. from the United States featured an article, "Inside the Artist's Studio – A Visit with Virginia Wilson Toccalino and Tony Toccalino" of Galactic Art Glass Studio in Milton, Ontario. The article included photos of their studio and the Artisans Gallery, their shop in Milton which features selections of their own work as well as local artists whose designs are in ceramics, leather, watercolours and other. Our member artists certainly get around. Did you know that their work is exhibited at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England, and the Claridge Collection in Montreal, Quebec? We hope that PCA Inc. will continue to run articles in this series so that we can celebrate the creativity of other successful artists.

## **L.H. Selman Auction**

For those of you who are interested, Larry Selman has an upcoming auction:

April 25, 2008: Spring 2008 Catalogue Auction *featuring paperweights from the Sam & Winifred Alschuler Collection*

Website: [www.TheGlassGallery.com](http://www.TheGlassGallery.com)

Phone: 1-800-538-0766

## **Membership Information**

Please be reminded that personal contact information in your membership list should be for your own use and should not be shared.

## **In Memoriam**

Josephine Galt (1919 – December 12, 2007)

Betty Wasserfall (1922 – December 21, 2007)

## **2008 Meeting Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
April 5, 2008	Meeting (hosted by Marcia)
May 14-17, 2008	Paperweight Fest, Wheaton Arts, Millville NJ
June 7, 2008	Meeting (hosted by Marcia)
August 16, 2008	Summer BBQ
October 25, 2008	Meeting
December 6, 2008	Winter Meeting & Holiday Social



**PCA Membership Application** (please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Paperweight Collectors Association Ontario, Canada</b>	
# 1701 – 1320 Islington Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9A 5C6 Phone: 416-239-8733 E-mail: <a href="mailto:twillson@sympatico.ca">twillson@sympatico.ca</a> <i>Editor: Tracy Willson</i>	
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
Jane Wright	519-621-7990

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