



# The Paperweight Chase

Newsletter of the Paperweight Collectors Association, Ontario Canada

Number 29

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

2017

## Midwest Paperweight Collectors

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the group was invited to visit the home of Joan Parsley in Wisconsin to celebrate the life, art and legacy of John Parsley, her father. The group was invited to view her collection of 200 paperweights, including 150 made by her father.

In addition, the group was joined by leading contemporary artist Cathy Richardson, who gave a presentation of her new work.

## PCA Ontario News

The meeting schedule for 2017 has been finalized. Please secure the dates for those meetings which will be held in Toronto, hosted by Marcia. Details are on the 2017 Paperweight Events Calendar on Page 5 of this newsletter.

Members are encouraged to attend meetings. If assistance with transportation is required, arrangements can be made through your executive. Also, please be reminded that guests are always welcome.

## PCA Ontario Meeting Highlights

At the last meeting of 2016, members were given a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Tracy & Rick Willson's recent visit to France and Switzerland. As usual, we were on the hunt for paperweights, both in museums and in factories, as well as for purchase.

A visit to the Louvre's Musée des Arts Décoratifs was somewhat disappointing as the weights on display were set up in a darkened room which the museum staff was unable to illuminate for us. We were limited to viewing photos of those weights at a computer kiosk at the entrance to the room.

We attended the Foire de Chatou which is an outdoor antique fair, held twice per year, with 700 dealers over 7 days, most of which were high-end art and antique dealers. We purchased both a large and a small Clichy, as well as a Val St. Lambert sulphide, and paid fair prices for each.

While in Paris, we attended the Marché aux Puces weekend flea market and antiques shopping area in Saint-Ouen. There are semi-permanent booths, dealers (including Liberty's) and stores, as well as weekend vendors. We found a lovely small Clichy and negotiated a good price.

We visited the city of Metz, France (near Strasbourg) where Rick had lived with his family during his teen years. While in Metz, we had the occasion to visit Jean Wurtz (President of the French paperweight collectors organization) and his lovely wife, Françoise. We were treated to a delicious home-cooked meal and spent a delightful time with them, discussing paperweights and enjoying their paperweight collection.

Our visit to the town of Baccarat and the Musée à Baccarat was very, very disappointing (although we were previously informed by Jean Wurtz that our visit to Saint-Louis would be much better). There were only two rooms to the museum and only three paperweights to be seen. Surrounding the museum were glassworkers' cottages, now rented out. The town is small and looking quite run down. Baccarat production is now done in Poland. The Baccarat store there does not sell paperweights of any kind as the current store manager has no interest in them, we were told by a staff member. The only weights we saw in town, which has numerous crystal shops, were Murano and Dynasty weights.



Next, we were in Meisenthal in the French area of Lorraine and stayed in a lovely inn, Auberge des Mésanges, within walking distance of the museum and glassworks. The Meisenthal Glass Museum is comprehensive although they do not feature paperweights on display. We were, however, treated to a 'behind the scene tour' with a staffer. She was allowed to take us upstairs to the archives where she brought out numerous modern Saint-Louis pieces for us to view. The International Centre of the Art of Glass-Making on the site is home to students and artisans, and exhibit areas of modern glass. The factory still produces 'boules de Noël' (glass Christmas tree ornaments) in small numbers there.

We drove to the town of Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche and the Saint-Louis factory and La Grand Place - Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis, a venue which is not to be missed. Although we could not visit the factory as it was in shutdown mode for renovations, the museum's collection of glass is magnificent. The museum is undergoing an expansion and collections were in 'temporary' exhibits. However, we spent a good part of the day there taking hundreds of photographs. No doubt the PCC coach tour in 2017 will be timed when the renovations are complete. The PCC group is in for a treat.



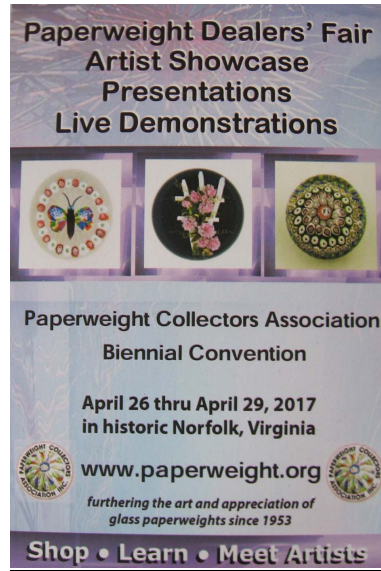
On this particular trip, we chose not to visit the Lalique Museum, short minutes away, in close proximity to Meisenthal and Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche.

In Switzerland, we saw some extremely overpriced paperweights including a Caithness ‘Moonflower’ for CHF 450 (CDN \$609), a Caithness ‘Mooncrystal’ for CHF 285 (Canadian \$386) and a 1978 Orient & Flume paperweight with pink flowers and trailing vines for CHF 785 (Canadian \$ 1,063). Needless to say, we did not purchase any paperweights there.

Back in France and heading back to Paris, we stopped in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region at the Musée de Colette, located in Saint-Sauveur-en-Puisaye. A paperweight collector and French-born novelist (1873-1954), she was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948. Her best-known work was ‘Gigi’ (1944), on which the Lerner and Loewe academy award nominated movie was based. Her Paris apartment, in the Palais-Royale, has been re-created in the local museum and her paperweight collection is on permanent display.

### **PCA Inc. Biennial Convention**

The PCA Convention will be held April 26 through April 29 in historic Norfolk, VA, home of the famous Chrysler Museum of Art, and only a 45-minute drive from Colonial Williamsburg. Hotel reservations at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott can be made through the PCA website at [www.paperweight.org](http://www.paperweight.org) or calling the hotel at 1-800-228-9290. The room rate of \$130 per night is available to registrants for a period of three days prior to and three days after the convention.



If you have never attended a convention, you really should consider it. The program is filled with opportunities for collectors to socialize with artists, dealers and collectors from around the world. A full program of educational presentations and activities has been planned.

### **Upcoming Trabucco Exhibition - Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo NY**

The art of Victor Trabucco and the Trabucco Studios will be featured at an upcoming exhibition April 14 to September 17, 2017. The exhibition will include more than 40 works by Trabucco and 20 works by others displayed in the Sylvia Rosen Gallery. Here, audiences will be provided opportunities to enjoy, understand and appreciate this beautiful material and the innovative ways in which Trabucco and his studio assistants manipulate glass to achieve remarkable and breathtaking results. In addition, a range of public programs will be offered, including artist-led tours of the exhibition, studio visits, artist-led glassworking workshops etc.

Opening Celebration, Friday April 14, 2017, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

[www.burchfieldpenney.org/exhibitions](http://www.burchfieldpenney.org/exhibitions)

### **Changes to Paperweight Groups in USA**

The name of the PCA Illinois group has been changed to Midwest Paperweight Collectors. Nancy Alfano, President may be contacted at [info@midwestpaperweightcollectors.com](mailto:info@midwestpaperweightcollectors.com) or 312-623-0001. Website [www.midwestpaperweightcollectors.com](http://www.midwestpaperweightcollectors.com)

Allan Port, a registered paperweight dealer, is now President of the New England Paperweight Collectors Association. Website [www.nepaperweight.org](http://www.nepaperweight.org) or [president@nepaperweight.org](mailto:president@nepaperweight.org) or 781-504-7804.

## Winter 2017 Selman Auction

The current Selman Auction is available online at [www.theglassgallery.com](http://www.theglassgallery.com)

There are 336 lots, including antique and modern weights, as well as some paperweight-related objects. Bidding closes on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Another Facebook Site for Paperweights

For those interested in following paperweight news on social media, a new group has been started up on Facebook based in the UK. The Facebook group is called Paperweight Heaven. The link below will take you straight to the page once you are signed into Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/paperweightheaven/>

### Definitions

**Crimp:** A tool with “flat blades” used to force colored glass into clear glass, to create a flower or other design. This technique originated in Millville, New Jersey in the early 1900’s.

**Ground:** The area of a paperweight on which the design is placed. If the motif is totally surrounded by clear glass, it is said to be placed on a clear ground. Examples of other grounds include upset muslin, color, jasper, carpet, rock and moss grounds.

**Stain:** The staining process, sometimes incorrectly called a flash, results in a very thin layer of color on the surface of a glass object. Paperweights were made with this technique from the nineteenth to the early twentieth century. A thin stain was applied to the base of a clear weight, then a scene or other subject was acid etched or engraved through the stain.

*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)

## 2017 Paperweight Events Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sunday, April 2	Meeting (hosted by Marcia)
Friday, April 14-Sept. 17	Victor Trabucco Exhibit, Buffalo NY
April 26-April 29	PCA Inc. Biennial Convention, Norfolk, Virginia
Sunday, July 16	Meeting (hosted by Marcia)
Sunday, November 19	Winter Meeting & Holiday Social (hosted by Marcia)

**PCA Membership Application** (please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in PCA Ontario is free of charge.

**Mail Application to:**

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

Phone: (416) 476-3691

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

Paperweight Collectors Association

Ontario, Canada

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

# 1701 – 1320 Islington Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9A 5C6

Phone: 416-476-3691

E-mail: [twillson@sympatico.ca](mailto:twillson@sympatico.ca)

Tracy Willson, President	416-476-3691
Marcia Whittaker, VP & Treasurer	416-967-4570
Rick Willson	647-883-8733