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Antiquing in Florida

by Bob Hall (*Snowbird*)

Robert S. Hall, Immediate Past Chairman (President) of the Paperweight Collectors Circle in the United Kingdom, a 500-member group of paperweight enthusiasts, including some on the Continent, and his lovely wife Eileen have recently bought a home on the West Coast of Florida. As aliens, their sojourn in the US is limited to six months a year, during which they golf and bowl and entertain friends and family from overseas and Canada. Bob is the author of *Old English Paperweights*, *Scottish Paperweights* and *World Paperweights: Millefiori & Lampwork*, all Schiffer books published in 1998, 1999 and 2001, respectively, and well worth having in your paperweight reference library. [All three are available for loan from the Delaware Valley Paperweight Lending Library.] This article details some of Bob's early impressions of life in Florida.

Browsing through some of my UK antiques magazines before we left for Florida, I realized that there were a couple of big winter antique fairs in Florida and it appeared that one of the biggest in the Tampa area was close to where we had decided to buy a home to escape the English winters

As a serious collector of paperweights and a sometimes dealer, it was reassuring to know that I would not be too far from our usual weekend jaunts round the local antique fairs and shops but what a surprise to find that we had arrived in antique shop and flea-market heaven. I had not realized that the USA

had more junk than the UK- well this was certainly true at the flea markets. Back home in England we call our flea markets – car boot sales because everyone sells out of the trunk (boot) of their car and these are usually held in a field or rented parking lot on a Saturday or Sunday. Car “booting” is heavily promoted by such TV programmes as “Cash in The Attic”, “Boot Sale Challenge” and “Bargain Hunt” plus the mainstream shows such as “Antiques Road Show” where we regularly hear of fabulous finds that cost just a few pennies on a car boot sale.

The flea markets around the Tampa area are just huge. One of them calling itself USA Flea-Market has **3000 permanent stands**, a two day affair Saturday and Sunday selling just about everything that could be found at your local mall, but used. Another less than 5 miles away also has over 1000 stands as well. Every town in Florida would

appear to have an area of antiques shops and directories picked up in any antique shop tells you where to go for as many antique malls as you can handle.

I live outside of New Port Richey which has Highway 19 running down the gulf coast and in this area there are two enormous permanent antique centers of which the largest has around 500 stands and sells



Fig. 1: Janice's Chinese Magnum

mainly quality goods. Not every thing on show is an antique in the true sense of the word (100 years old) with many pieces being described as antique at much less than 50 years old.

So what about paperweights at these places? Well I have found there is absolutely no difference between here in Florida, the UK, Canada, New Jersey, France or anywhere in the world, the chance of finding something rare, old and valuable at a bargain price is pretty remote. Ask yourself, and be honest, when did you last find anything that looked remotely like an antique paperweight and was a reasonable payback for all the gas costs, time and effort that you have put into your paperweight hunting over the years. Well I spend a lot of time around the giant English fairs at Newark (4500 stands) and Swinderby (3000 stands). They are held 6 times a year and it is estimated that to walk past all 4500 stands at Newark means you have clocked 13 miles. It takes me all day, almost without stopping to do it and boy do my hips and knees ache when I've finished, I literally have to lift my legs back into the car at the end. Thankfully a company called "Mobility" has just set up a stand where it's possible to rent a motorized wheel chair to help people with "old bones" like me, and it's possible to cover the fairs much more quickly.

You must be thinking "Why does he do it if the rewards are so small", well it is all down to the time put in over the 30 years I have been doing it. I have found some amazing buys in England, like a classic Bacchus at \$400 which I later sold for \$4500 and another "Later Bacchus"



Fig. 2: New England Glass Company Scramble

hundreds of weights of various quality from Strathearns that were usually priced at \$20 or less, but have now all gone up to \$80 or more and are rarely found these days as they have all been snapped up into private collections- despite the estimated 100,000 they made over the life of the company, to Whitefriars, paying upwards of \$100.

As we all know the general dealer does not specialize in paperweights- thank goodness, but they do have a general knowledge of most things, which works to our (the specialist collectors) advantage. Surprisingly the most common antique I find are Clichy miniatures. A small paperweight with a circle of canes around a central cane does nothing for most general dealers because of its

size and minimal content and are usually priced the same as Chinese and Muranos of similar size at around \$25 and this was certainly true of all the "Bohemian" weights, miniatures and full size weights that I have found over the years. I always bought them because I recognized they were antiques even though the quality was not up to French standards and consequently paid little or nothing for them. We now



Fig. 3: Whitefriars, Star Cane Center, original presentation box

realize that these “unknowns” are now being categorized as Saint Mande and Grenelle, which have given them a terrific hike in price.

Now back to Florida, and an interesting discovery just up the road. Tarpon Springs has an area called “The Historic District” which boils down to one road about 200 yards long with every shop on both sides of the road a quality antiques arcade with up to 50 booths in every shop. It would take a good three hours to peruse the merchandise on show but because I was paying a flying visit the last time I was there, I asked at the door “Any nice paperweights?” and surprisingly a couple of dealers actually found me weights that were not on display. “I have a nice antique Murano,” said one, as he brought out a 1960’s piece priced at \$450. I have stopped telling them that they are \$400 over the correct retail price, as I don’t need the abuse and sneers anymore. But there were plenty of weights to be found, albeit mostly Chinese and Murano, but I found Perthshires, and a modern Baccarat sulphide. Not surprisingly there were some Mid-West pieces with lilies and lots of bubbles, but I know almost nothing about these weights so I leave them alone.

One weight did take my eye as a possible Rithner candy cane weight but the dealer thought it was old and had priced it up at \$650 just in case. I finished the day without buying anything which is the norm for us paperweight collectors, but my sister who had arrived from Toronto to escape a blisteringly cold December for a week did, despite my



Fig. 4: St. Clair Mid-West Weight

misgivings and advice to her, she insisted on buying a Chinese weight because “she liked it” which I suppose is the best reason of all, but my mercenary dealer instinct kicks in and stops me making this kind of purchase anymore. She paid \$20 dollars for it after knocking the dealer down as she said “I’m Trade” -magic words that sometimes get you a discount. With hindsight it is a pretty weight and a magnum to boot, (Fig 1). I

should apologize for the scolding I gave her after her purchase, “You should know better by now.” I said, “Don’t you read the books I send you?” Sorry, Janice, you did OK.

Another great area for antiquing is St Petersburg which has many antique shops and with one in particular standing out as a must visit antique center. **The Gas Plant** (Fig. 5) on Central Avenue describe their store as “Florida’s Largest and Finest Antique Mall” with over 200 dealers spread over four floors and so far I would agree with this description as it is packed with genuine antiques and other quality goods. During my visit to this store in December 2004, I had the chance to purchase an antique New England Glass Co (Fig 2) scrambled weight at \$135 but it did not have any running hares or other special canes so I left it alone, a Whitefriars (Fig 3) with a “Star cane” in the center at \$300 and the usual Chinese and Murano weights. There were also St Clair Mid-West pieces (Fig 4) but having no knowledge of values for these US weights and flowery teapots I left them for a more knowledgeable collector to find.



Fig. 5: The Gas Plant Antique Mall, St. Petersburg, FL

more knowledgeable collector to find.

(continued on page 9)



PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Review of Events

Winter Meeting, January 29, 2005

Blessed with unusually fine winter weather, thirty-seven DVPCA members and guests convened on Saturday, January 29, 2005 at Williamson Restaurant, the large catering house in Horsham, PA where most of our Saturday meetings occur. The festivities began at 10 AM with a Paperweight Fair that included: a sumptuous display of weights brought by Guest Dealer William Pitt of Fairhaven, MA; an exhibit of lampworked art glass marbles created by Guest Artist Beth Tomasello; brochures and antiques newspapers free for the taking; selected items from the Delaware Valley Paperweight Lending Library, available for loan; and displays of weights and weight-related items brought by members for sale, identification or display alone. Attendees perused the various displays between 10 and 11 AM while munching on Danish and sipping coffee and tea.

At 11:05 AM President Stan Kruger called the meeting to order. He acknowledged members and guests who had traveled the farthest to attend: Bill Pitt, 280 miles from MA, Elliott and Rosalyn Heith from New York, Marty and Beverly Schindler from Vienna, VA, Frank and Clara Gardner and Jim Perna from northeastern PA above Scranton, and first timer Beverly Merchant from Clinton in North Jersey. Stan noted the large number of items brought by members, occupying three 8' x 2 1/2' tables not the usual two, and urged the group to examine Bill Pitt's paperweight display carefully. He then introduced loyal member Martin Mikelberg, describing his professional accounting

background and many hobbies. Marty's topic was "You, Your Collection and eBay", concentrating today on the ethics of eBay commerce during his third talk in this series, begun in October 2003. He prepared the group by passing out a handout (two sides of one sheet) itemizing the issues involved in selling for someone else. To illustrate his topic Marty had chosen a personal incident, selling a musical instrument for an elderly neighbor. Selling for someone else brings up logistical problems, such as itemizing defects in the article offered and the need for appropriate photographs of the item. If the item offered has moving parts, be sure they work or note in your item listing that they don't. If you don't list the defects, the item is certain to be returned, for refund, by an unhappy buyer. Payment options are numerous and decisions must be made about what options you, as the vendor, will accept. Packaging can be another problem area, as well as shipping. Will you sell to overseas or just domestically? After all this, you must pray for positive feedback from the buyer or your reputation can be damaged, which can affect your ability to sell on eBay in future. (Marty sees more negative feedback on eBay than ever before.) Other problems are more personal. Marty feels that selling for someone else leads to much aggravation. What commission should you charge? In this case, Marty asked for 10%, fearing that if he took nothing he would be overwhelmed with requests from others to sell for them, too. In this situation, you must remember to account for all expenses incurred in the transaction. These selling expenses are steadily increasing. However, there is really no alternative to eBay. Millions of items appear on eBay every day and you can pay a little or a lot, depending on your timing. Marty finds that many more seniors are using computers now and they usually go to eBay first.



At what are the ladies looking? Diane Atkerson, Beverly Schindler, Pearl Kornit, Clara Gardner, 1/29/05.

At 11:20, Marty ended his talk, taking questions that elaborated on the complexities of this form of commerce. [Editor's Note: It should be emphasized that eBay commenced operations less than ten years ago, in September 1995, and has profoundly changed the business of buying and selling of all merchandise, not just antiques and collectibles. It was the forerunner of the boom in

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on-line marketing, which is now a multi-billion dollar affair, and certain to increase in value.] Marty said 75% of his listings are Buy It Now; the first bid wins the item without further auction activity. However, he must not allow himself to feel seller's remorse, the thought that perhaps he priced the item too low. He believes most items will appreciate over time. He personally has had only one bad experience buying on eBay. If his buyer is dissatisfied and returns the item, Marty refunds the purchase price, including USPS postage both ways, no matter what the reason for the return. Andy Dohan noted that the USPS now offers a flat rate of \$7.70 for any weight to a destination beyond the Mississippi River, delivered to the door. [Editor's Note: To elaborate, for \$7.70 the USPS will deliver up to 70 pounds to any destination in the US. The only condition is that the mass must fit into one of two USPS boxes; one box is 11.25 x 8.75 x 6, the other, 14 x 12 x 3.5, all dimensions in inches.] Marty concluded to appreciative applause at 11:30, at which time Stan released the group for further examination of the Paperweight Fair until lunch at noon.



Martin Mikelberg at the microphone for "You, Your Collection and eBay, Part III", 1/29/05.

After lunch, which concluded with apple pie, Stan reconvened the meeting at 1 PM for announcements. As a token of appreciation, he presented Marty with a bolo tie (a nickel Indian head mounted on white stone), which item Marty used to wear. Stan noted that Karen and Richard Federici are holding their first annual winter clearance sale this very weekend, January 29 & 30, in Vineland, NJ. A French paperweight collectors group, Association des Collectionneurs et Amateurs de Presse Papiers, started up last fall in Metz, France, and Stan sent Jean H. Wurtz, the President and Founder, a copy of our January 2005 Newsletter. In response, he received a letter from Wurtz, in English, asking permission to reprint the lead article from that newsletter, translated into French, of course, "as none of our members is able to write anything like that", according to Wurtz. Loyal member Charles Ugi had brought a huge amount of old paperweight brochures for distribution; all had been snapped up by lunchtime and Stan thanked Charles for the donation. The biennial PCA, Inc. Convention will take place May 18-21, 2005 in Appleton, WI, only seven

miles from “Paperweight Mecca”, the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum in Neenah, WI. Quoting: “If you only attend one paperweight Convention in your lifetime, make it this one!” Stan corrected the attribution of the Fall Meeting minutes from October 9, 2004 printed in our January '05 Newsletter. A recent Caithness Bulletin includes a picture of Helen MacDonald, Caithness Lead Designer, and our own Andrew Scott.



William Pitt (looking away) and his paperweight display, 1/29/05.

For the past year, PCA Texas has been sending newsletters, three a year, to its members as a Portable Document File (PDF) attachment to a brief email message. Stan receives these as a courtesy; we reciprocate by snail mailing our newsletters to the PCA Texas Newsletter Editor. DVPCA has the capability of doing the very same thing, sending our newsletter as an email attachment. Advantages are numerous. Members receive emailed newsletters much faster, in full color, can retain them in a separate file on their computer hard drives, and the process saves time, printing and mailing costs. Our January '05 newsletter was extremely expensive to print and mail, somewhere between \$3.60 and \$4 a copy, and this does not include formatting costs. After lengthy discussion, Stan passed out a sign-up sheet for those members willing to have their newsletters emailed to them; nine households signed up.

During our 13th Anniversary Celebration Weekend, July 16 & 17, 2005, on the Sunday following the meeting our group will tour TWO New Jersey glass museums, the Heritage Glass Museum in Glassboro, NJ (How did the town get that name, we wonder!) and the Museum of American Glass at Wheaton Village, during Glass Weekend there, with three paperweight dealers attending. On 11/27/04, Stan notified DV's on-line membership of a 12/3/04



Sue Ross and Leonard Kornit at the Members' Tables, 1/29/05.

auction at Douglas Auctioneers, South Deerfield, MA; one member, Xavier Simon, won an antique Baccarat closepack “at a very reasonable price” (read “cheap”). The current Paul Stankard exhibit at the Museum of American Glass, running through March 20, '05, had some disappointing aspects, although the work was magnificent. Identification labels were located too low and poorly lighted in some cases, and one could not figure out the chronology of the many displays, how to move

through the exhibit. The work is still worth a trip to Wheaton Village. There would be no general raffle today; instead, a large number of door prizes would be handed out, taking up that time.

As a result of a solicitation from Paul Stankard last fall, the membership voted to donate \$1000 to Wheaton Village during their 2004 Annual Appeal. As a result of the donation, Stan received a letter of appreciation from Susan Gogan, President of Wheaton Village, including an offer for a personal tour of Paul's art studio. When professional auctioneer Ken Brown was persuaded to auction off that benefit, he stated that if the tour (including lunch) sold for more than the \$1000 donated, we'd make a profit! Ken then asked for an opening bid of \$1100!!! With no Reserve set, the bidding started at \$30, rose through heckling from Andy Dohan and finished at \$60, the winning bidder our own president.

At 1:40 PM Stan introduced Beth Tomasello of New Jersey who makes art glass marbles that could be described as “miniature paperweights”. During the past six years she has studied with Paul Stankard, Dinah Hulet and Loren Stump. As a result of the announcement of her appearance before DVPCA today, she has been asked to

present her work to the New York/New Jersey group in Manhattan on May 4 this year. Beth's Power Point presentation reviewed her development as a glass artist. Born in Hammonton, NJ, "the blueberry capital of the world", she came from a farming family with roots in New England and Italy, and acknowledged the great experience of growing up around family farms. She graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in Graphic Arts and spent fifteen years in the printing industry before computers stole her job away. In 1999, she took a stained glass course which sparked an interest in hot glass so she took courses in glassworking at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, then at Wheaton Village, where she saw someone working with canes. This led to her signing up for a course at New Jersey's Salem Community College, serendipitously Paul Stankard's first teaching class. Salem C.C. was looking for a lab assistant and Beth took the job for two years. That gave her experience with other glass artists like the Briening brothers, Lucartha Kohler, Richard and Karen Federici and others. Following Stankard's advice, she took as many courses from as many different glass artists as possible and now says she is a better lampworker than glassblower. She has studied at Wheaton Village, Salem C. C., Penland, focusing on marbles in the spring of 2002 and sold product at the first Wheaton Village Marble Weekend in June, 2002. Her studio is set up in Haddon Heights, NJ, and contains two ovens--she utilizes a very long annealing cycle and needs two ovens—a grinder, saw, torch, bench and graphite molds.

Beth showed examples of several of her marble designs: 1) swirl ("beginning of the day") marbles. Her slides demonstrated how these were made. Two rods of glass were melted



Table 1: Pat Doherty, Toby Kruger, Andrew Scott, Nancy Kenna, Jim Doherty, Marty and Sandy Mikelberg, 1/29/05.



Half of Table 3: Ken Brown, Pat Ackerman, John Zecca, Sue Ross, 1/29/05.

together and blocked in a mold; 1 1/4" diameter is her current favorite size. As a sphere is formed she adds dots and twists the rod to make swirls. When satisfied with the design she blocks the form again, one half of the sphere at a time. This process of blocking continues until the globe is a perfect sphere. She then fire polishes to remove tool marks, knocks off the pontil and heats the nub to round it off and melt it in. She uses Moretti glass, which is soft, so she must be careful the marble does not fall away.

She then picks it up with tongs and places it in the annealing oven until the next day.

2) Eyes. Beth uses murrini techniques to create a realistic eye design in her marbles. Murrini may be bundled for a more complex design. The cane slices are fire polished to make the top surface shiny. Then she makes a 1 1/4" marble and attaches the murrini one at a time, encasing them. At this juncture, the small canes spread out and enlarge. Each eyeball starts out very small, and then spreads out to the size she wants. She places six on each marble. Then she shapes the form, knocks it off the pontil and fire polishes it.

3) Florals. These are her favorites because they are the most challenging. Beth says she may end up just doing these. She adheres to the same standards as for paperweights, no air bubbles, pretty arrangements, etc. She starts with a small amount of clear glass pulled into a pencil-like shape for encasing. She mixes in Moretti glasses for shading, striping, etc., then shapes the colored glass into petals and other flower parts. She assembles the set up on a hot plate. Using a "Stump Sucker", invented by Loren Stump, she drops a glob of clear glass into the Sucker over the set up, with a

Bunsen burner below and a flame above. She hits the high tech vacuum, a Kenmore vacuum cleaner, to suck out any air bubbles or pockets, then pulls the marble half out of the Sucker. Next she adds a second glob of clear glass to the punty for pickups with a colored back. Unfortunately, she doesn't yet have slides of her making two-sided floral marbles. But she puts the flower set up in the kiln to keep it warm while the second half is made. Next she places the flat sides of the two half marbles together and forms them into a single sphere. This is the most time consuming aspect of the lampworking and encasing process. She can then add colored glasses to make a swirled back half or can pull the design with a pick. At this point the marble is misshapen so she moves the punty to the back. After rounding, she knocks it off, smooths the nub and anneals for 24 hours. The hardest part is waiting to see the annealed piece. Has she been successful? We won't know until tomorrow! Beth works spontaneously and on the fly; she doesn't make drawings beforehand

4) Two sided marbles. Her latest design, two sided marbles, i.e., a set up on both sides of the sphere, are very popular and sell well. She enjoys making these and may even consider in future moving on to paperweights. She would need more equipment and more glass but she will always make marbles. One funny note: She met Gordon Smith and discovered that he grew up on the street she now lives on in Haddon Heights!

Beth concluded her formal presentation at 2; 20 PM and took questions for the next few minutes. 1) How long does it take to make her marbles? As parts are made at different times, she produces maybe one to two a



Table 4: Beverly Merchant, Elliott Heith, Andy Dohan, Louanna Hammond, Jim Perna, David Rich, 1/29/05.

day. She spoke of the frustration of spending time making a set up only to have the soft glass drop off the rod or bumping her arm on something and dropping the hot glass that way. But she loves what she has been doing for the past 5 1/2 years. She is also now taking metal smithing classes at the University of the Arts. She is grateful to the paperweight artists who have contributed to her growth. 2) Survival rate of her marbles? This week Beth spent five days making marbles. None survived! However, she estimates an overall survival rate of 60%, though she is getting more precise as her standards are escalating. She gives away her rejects to friends and family. 3) Replying to an inquiry, Beth said she would be willing to give our group a tour of her studio and show interested persons how to use a torch. She doesn't have a website yet but hopes to have one in the next couple of months. President Stan said he would publicize her site to the group when it becomes a reality.

At 2:25 PM, Beth ended her talk and was roundly applauded by the membership. As a token "Thank you" and to aid Beth is viewing and measuring her marbles, President Stan presented her with a 5-power magnifying glass and two pairs of DVPCA calipers. Then it was finally time for distribution of about 15 mostly glass door prizes, almost enough for half the audience to win one. Stan reminded everyone of the Spring Meeting on April 16 and then photographed each table of members and guests. The meeting was adjourned close to 3 PM.



Table 5: Don Formigli, Kay Reid, Diane Atkerson, Frank Gardner, Sumner Reid, Clara Gardner, Bart & Sue Sutton, 1/29/05.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Sutton,
Secretary

AUCTION NEWS:

One hundred sixty-eight antique and contemporary paperweights were on the block at the December 3, 2004, 6 PM auction held by Douglas Auctioneers, South Deerfield, MA. Two antique pieces, a St. Louis three-color crown and a Clichy piedouche brought top dollar, \$3450, including 15% buyer's premium, after spirited bidding from the auction floor and from bids left through the Internet.

Auctioneer Douglas Bilodeau set a fast pace and moved through the 168 items in 90 minutes. Antique weights, which comprised about 20 % of the evening's offerings, included a fine New England Glass Company fruit bouquet on latticinio basket, \$747.50, a faceted Baccarat dog on amber ground, \$345, Baccarat concentric on clear ground with spaced silhouette canes, \$1725, and Baccarat miniature closepack, not signed or dated, \$575.

Contemporary weights, the major portion of the auction, included three by Charles Kaziun, Jr.: blue and white pansy with blue and red torsade, \$1265, a "40's girl" silhouette, \$1150, and a gold foil dog on light blue ground with cane garland, also \$1150. Paul Stankard pieces included a blackberry and belladonna bouquet, \$1725, and a pink flower bouquet on clear ground, \$1265. About 20 other modern makers were represented in the sale also.

Because this first paperweight auction was so successful, Mr. Bilodeau has announced that a second paperweight auction will be held at the gallery on Friday, June 3, 2005. Those interested in consigning items for this sale should call the gallery at 413.665.2877 or contact Mr. Bilodeau via the Internet at www.DouglasAuctioneers.com. Deadline for submissions to the sale is May 1, 2005.

Terms of Sale: A 10% seller's commission is charged by the auction house. Reserves are allowed on pieces valued at \$300 and above. No fee is charged for weights not sold through the auction. As noted above, the buyer's premium is 15% of the winning bid. If you have questions, call Douglas Bilodeau at 413.665.2877, Ben Drabek at 413.259.1575 or Roger Jacobsen at 505.885.9487.

But what about paperweights in Florida? Is it worth everyone charging down to the sunshine state to hunt out the undoubted bargains lying at the bottom of some tatty box on a flea market stand? My opinion, don't bother if you think you may strike it lucky, just come for the sun and I'll tell you if I ever find anything. You are more likely to find that bargain weight in your local antique center near where you live and are familiar with, than down here, but when you get tired of the sunbathing, golf and partying, then its just great to know you can jump in the car and be "antiquing" within minutes.

But I forget, you snowbirds know this already, it would appear everybody in New Jersey comes south for the winters and have already picked the place clean! 

DVPCA'S FIRST NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED VIA THE INTERNET

For the first time, the current issue of DVPCA's prize winning newsletter (Vol. 12 No. 2, March 2005) is being distributed to certain households as PDF (Portable Document File) attachments to brief email messages from your Acting Newsletter Editor. At our Winter Meeting on January 29, 2005, 10 households requested this form of distribution, which will save us time, money and effort and provide a more prompt, more colorful and more easily stored (on your computer's hard drive) publication.

You must have Adobe Reader 6.0 or higher installed on your computer to read the emailed Newsletter but Adobe Reader is a free download from:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

We hope more of you who are on-line will sign up for email distribution of DVPCA's quarterly newsletter. To do so, just send a brief email to stanleyk2@comcast.net.

Thanks for your consideration.

THE SCRAMBLE:

THANK YOU...

Once again, we thank a number of our loyal members for their donations which become Door or Raffle Prizes: Diane Atkerson for a Gandy Dancer Gold Commemorative Spike; Leonard Kornit for a Revolving Lighted Paperweight Display Stand; Sandy and Marty Mikelberg for Framed Paperweight Stamps, Glass Journal, Fall 2004, a CD of Southern Appalachian music and a Travel Classics magazine; Charles Ugi for a huge amount of early Selman brochures and other paperweight literature; Barbara Stitt for an IPS 2005 Calendar; Sue Sutton for a paperweight tie tack; and the Krugers for Cristal d'Arques book ends, a \$20 Selman gift certificate, a LIFE photo album and two art volumes. Thanks to all!

DVPCA HAS DONE IT AGAIN!...

The Paul Jokelson Writing Prize Committee has completed its deliberations and the third ever Jokelson Writing Prize will be awarded to Patty Mowatt for her lead article in our September 2004 Newsletter, "A Personal Look at Collecting the Less Appreciated Paperweights". Thus, DVPCA authors have won two of the three Jokelson Writing Prizes awarded since the Prize's inception. The Prize includes a check to the author from PCA, Inc. for \$300 and re-printing the winning article in a future issue of PCA, Inc.'s quarterly newsletter.

A SURFEIT OF RICHES...

Although, it did not win the Jokelson Writing Prize, Tad McKeon's and Jim Barton's lead article in DVPCA's January 2005 Newsletter, "Identification Strategies for Antique Sulphide Paperweights", impressed authorities on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and will be re-printed in a future PCA, Inc. newsletter and, translated into French, in a future bulletin of the Association des Collectionneurs et Amateurs de Presse Papiers, the recently formed French paperweight collectors group. How about that for recognition!

ALMOST HALF...

Regrettably, almost half of our members from last year have not yet renewed their memberships for 2005. That is why some of you will find a bright color drawn across your names on the Address Page of this Newsletter. Please renew promptly, even if you will not attend the Spring Meeting on 4/16/05.

CALENDAR:

ADVANCE MEETING, AUCTION & EVENT DATES

April 19, 2005: Last day to enter initial bids in Larry Selman's Spring Catalog Auction. You will be able to preview and bid online (<http://selman.com/pwauktion>) or bid by mail, telephone or fax.

May 18-21, 2005: PCA, Inc. Biennial Convention, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI, only seven miles from "Paperweight Mecca", the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum in Neenah, WI. If you attend only one paperweight Convention in your lifetime, make it THIS one! See PCA, Inc.'s website (<http://paperweight.org>) for details.

June 3, 2005 Douglas Auctioneers, South Deerfield, MA 01373, Phone 413.665-2877. Their paperweight auction on December 3, 2004 was so successful they are holding another on this date. When the time comes, preview the auction online at www.DouglasAuctioneers.com.

July 16 & 17, 2005 DVPCA's 13th Anniversary Celebration Weekend: AM: **Drew Ebelhare** returns for a brief program on his most recent activities. PM: PCA, Inc. President **William Drew Gaskill** will present "American Folk Art Paperweights and Their Audience". Guest Dealer: **Paul Dunlop**. On Sunday, July 17, at 10 AM we will meet in Glassboro, NJ for a guided tour of the **Heritage Glass Museum**. At 11:30 AM we will convene at Wheaton Village to attend the second full day of **Glass Weekend 2005**.

October 15, 2005 Fall Meeting: AM: **Ben Drabeck** narrates the slide show: "How Josh Simpson Makes a Magnum World Weight". Also: **Best Finds Contests of 2004/2005**. PM: **Dale L. Murschell**, Past-Editor and guiding light of The Whimsey Club will present a slide talk on the subject "So You Think Devil's Fire is a South Jersey Thing?" Guest Dealer: **Roger Jacobsen**.

**ALL MEETINGS AT WILLIAMSON RESTAURANT,
HORSHAM, PA..... SAVE THE DATES!!!**

Spring Meeting Announcement

April 16, 2005

At Williamson Restaurant,
500 Blair Mill Road
(Route 611/Easton Road at Blair Mill Road),
Horsham, PA

Located two traffic lights north of PA Turnpike Exit
343 (Old Exit 27/Doylestown/Willow Grove)
Telephone (215) 675-5454

MORNING PROGRAM:

Loyal DVPCA member **Martin Mikelberg** graduated from Temple University with a BS in Accounting, earned his CPA Certification and then worked 31 years for C. W. Industries of Southampton, PA as Controller, later Vice President of Finance (CFO), retiring in 1999. At our Fall Meeting in October 2003, Marty began a series of talks on **"You, Your Collection and eBay"**, discussing aspects of the auction site and how it can play a role in your life. Today he continues with Part IV of the topic, reviewing what one can accomplish as an eBay buyer and seller.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM:

Donald W. Friel, Studio Manager and Head Gaffer of the T. C. Wheaton Glass Studio at Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ, first came to WV as a student working on a school project. He has been a staff artist at the Village since 1977 and was Wheaton's first ceramicist. After two years throwing pots, Don's focus changed and he entered the Glass Studio, eventually achieving his present position. He enjoys the opportunity to improve his glass skills by working with visiting artists of national and international renown. Don's own work is exhibited both locally and nationally and sold through the Arthur Gorham Paperweight Shop at WV. Today, he will narrate a videotape on the subject "How to Make a Crimp Rose Paperweight".

DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005 ARE - P A S T - DUE!

Dues are simplified and all categories of membership pay the same rate, \$25/year. Quarterly newsletter ads cost an additional \$20/year. Please submit the proper sum with the tear-off slip at the top of this page.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS – APRIL 16, 2005

Choices @ \$16.00 each:

_____ (No.) Boneless Breast of Chicken Maryland w/Bacon

_____ (No.) Baked Orange Roughy, Lemon Butter

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2005

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_____ Four Ads \$20

NOTE: YOU MUST BE A MEMBER TO ADVERTISE!

NAME(S) _____

EMAIL _____

Please mail this slip with ALL your selections and check to:
DVPCA, c/o Don Formigli, Treasurer
455 Stonybrook Drive, Levittown, PA 19055

NO LATER THAN APRIL 10, 2005!!!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 10:00 AM Paperweight Fair** with Guest Dealers **Dan and Therese McNamara**, Seal Harbor, MA, Members' Tables, Displays, Brochures and Antiques Newsletters Free for the Taking, Coffee, Tea and Danish.
- 11:00 AM "You, Your Collection and eBay"**, Part IV by **Martin Mikelberg**.
- 12:00 PM LUNCH**
- 1:00 PM Business Meeting**, Announcements, Reports from the Floor, Today's Raffle Prizes, Silent Auctions.
- 1:30 PM "How to Make a Crimp Rose Paperweight"** by **Donald W. Friel**.
- 2:30 PM Paperweight Fair** continues.



PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

5 Johnson Lane
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**DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005
ARE PAST DUE!!!**

See pages 10 & 11
inside this Newsletter!

ISSUE CONTENTS:

- Lead Article: “Antiquing in Florida”
- Review of Events: **Winter Meeting, 1/29/05**
- THE SCRAMBLE
- CALENDAR: Advance Meeting, Auction & Event Dates
- Spring Meeting Announcement: 4/16/05
- **DUES BILL FOR CALENDAR 2005**
- Dated Reservations Tear-Off Slip

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