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## P.G.P.P. or Pressed Glass Presidential Paperweights

by Stanley B. Kruger

One of the late, great William Drew Gaskill's favorite topics was Patriotic Paperweights, the subject of his fascinating PowerPoint presentation during Wheaton Village's Paperweight Weekend 2002. A sub-set of Patriotic Paperweights would be Presidential Paperweights and an even further sub-set, and the subject of this paper, could be termed Pressed Glass Presidential Paperweights. For purposes of this article, we will also include in this sub-category molded pieces not necessarily pressed into shape. Very little is mentioned in the paperweight literature about this genre of weight, mostly because these are thought to be of lesser quality, and therefore of lesser interest, than similar-themed weights with encased décor, such as sulphides and millefiori.

All examples of Pressed Glass Presidential Paperweights, hereafter P.G.P.P., in this article date from the final quarter of the 19th Century and are thus true antiques, being well over 100 years old. Even though most (if not all) were made in very large numbers, they seldom appear in the marketplace, and when they do, they usually sell for low figures, because so many of them were made and perhaps because of the stigma attached to pressed glass items as opposed to encased weights. Exceptions to this rule do occur, though infrequently. (A further cause may be that more than a hundred years after the fact, some of these P.G.P.P. may not be recognizable as important historical figures.)

Two volumes, one short, one lengthy, not usually considered part of the paperweight literature provide most of the references to the P.G.P.P. illustrated herein. Bessie M. Lindsey's 541 page *American Historical Glass*, self-published in two volumes in 1948 and 1950, re-published in a single volume by Charles E. Tuttle Company, Inc. of Rutland, VT in 1967, and Stan



Fig. 1: Gillinder Washington, straight sides, frosted and dated 1776 1876.



Fig. 2: Gillinder Washington, sculpted sides, frosted.

Gores's *1876 Centennial Collectibles and Price Guide*, The Haber Printing Company, Fond du Lac, WI, 1974, are the major sources of information and will be cited often throughout this article.

The first P.G.P.P. discussed here, pictured and described in both Lindsey and Gores, is, of course, that of the first president, George Washington (1732-1799), the legendary "Father of Our Country". See Figures 1 and 2. This weight was produced for the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876 by Gillinder & Sons, the image based on the French sculptor Houdon's bust of Washington. A total of 24 different glass companies produced items for the Centennial Exhibition. These included names easily recognized: Boston and Sandwich, New England Glass Company, Mount Washington Glass Works, Union Glass Works, Whitall Tatum and Company, Dorflinger Glass Co., etc., but only one of these actually built a glass factory on the grounds of the Exhibition, Gillinder, and this was five years after the death of William T., the founder. Gillinder's Washington paperweight came in several versions, with flat sides, as in Figure 1, and sculpted (fluted lengthwise) sides, as in Figure 2, both frosted, with bust frosted, with bust and background frosted, slightly concave or relatively flat top, etc. but all versions are 3 1/8" wide and 1" thick. (According to Lindsey, pages 270 and 271, there is an earlier P.G.P.P. of Washington, dating from the 1850s, but we have not run across it yet.)

All the other P.G.P.P. illustrated herein are of assassinated presidents, for, tragically, the last third of the 19th Century saw three Commanders-in-Chief removed from office in that fashion. The first of these three, and the most famous, is Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). See Figures 3 and 4. Here we show two examples of the same molded, frosted



Fig. 3: Two Libbey Lincolns, 1893, frosted right profile.

crystal Lincoln paperweight, featuring a mature right profile of the assassinated president. This weight is attributed to the Libbey Glass Company and was made for the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893. Both weights illustrated here are 3" wide and 4 1/2" long but, as we see in Figure 4, differ in thickness, the weight on the left being 3/4" thick, on the right, 1 1/8" thick. Another difference: the thicker weight is a pale rose color, not clear glass. This is the only P.G.P.P. pictured in the

usual paperweight literature, in Hollister's *Glass Paperweights of the New-York Historical Society*, Page 192.

Contrast these Libbey Lincolns with the magnificent \_ left intaglio view of Lincoln in Figure 5, produced by Gillinder & Sons in their glass factory on the grounds of Fairmount Park for the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial. The Libbey Lincolns were produced almost thirty years after John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865) cried "Sic semper tyrannus" ("Thus always to tyrants") while taking the life of our 16th President at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. on the night of April 14, 1865. On the other hand, the Gillinder Lincoln is "of the era", designed only ten years after Lincoln's death and must, therefore, have had a great deal more emotional impact on all concerned, including the designer of the piece. This Lincoln measures 4 7/8" long, 3 3/8" wide and 1 1/8" thick. The sides of this piece are sculpted (fluted lengthwise) and frosted; the portrait, too, is frosted, and this is the only version of the weight of which we are aware. (Gillinder made other intaglio emblems of the Centennial, such as Memorial Hall and the Women's Pavilion, two key buildings, Independence Hall and Alfred T. Goshorn, Director-General of the



Fig. 4: End view, two Libbey Lincolns, same as above.

Exhibition, in a similar weight though to slightly larger dimensions.) This Gillinder Lincoln is uncommon; the weight pictured here is but the third we have seen in ten years. As such, it still commands a price in the several hundreds of dollars. On the same Page 192 quoted above, there is a description, but not a picture, of this weight, perhaps because the New York Historical Society's specimen was "broken and has been mended", according to Hollister.



Fig. 5: Gillinder Lincoln, 1876, frosted 3/4 left profile, fluted sides.

A word about Booth: A professional and extremely popular stage actor of the day, he was a Confederate sympathizer who was dissatisfied about the outcome of the Civil War. Just four days before the assassination, on April 10, Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered, on behalf of the Army of Northern Virginia, to Union General U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, effectively ending the War Between the States. Booth, then, wasted little time in expressing his unhappiness over this outcome.

A third Lincoln P.G.P.P., also by Gillinder & Sons for the Philadelphia Centennial, is seen in Figure 6. In size, treatment and variety of versions, it is quite similar to the Gillinder Washington first discussed above. Lindsey calls this Lincoln "a crystal medallion paperweight" and considered it "Probably another 1876 item." All three different Lincoln P.G.P.P. pictured herein are also pictured and described in Lindsey on pages 288 and 289 of her excellent (and often very humorous) catalog of American historical glass.

So much has been written and is known about both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln that we did not dwell here on their historical significance. That will not be the case with our next two examples of P.G.P.P., the first



Fig. 6: Gillinder Lincoln, 1876, frosted right profile, sculpted side.

that of James Abram Garfield (1831-1881). See Figure 7. Indeed, Garfield is remembered as one of the four "lost Presidents" (Hayes, Garfield, Arthur and Harrison) who served rather uneventfully after the Civil War. The last of the log cabin Presidents, Garfield was born, the fifth of five children, on a poor farm on the outskirts of Cleveland, in Cuyahoga County, Ohio on November 19, 1831, perhaps the poorest man ever to become President. Fatherless at two, he supported himself as a part-time teacher at the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (later Hiram College), a carpenter, a janitor and even drove canal boat teams, somehow earning enough money for a college education, and graduating from Williams College in Massachusetts in 1856. Upon graduation, he returned to the Institute as a classics professor and within one year was made its president. He married in 1858 and in 1859 was elected to the Ohio Senate as a Republican.

In 1862, when Union military victories had been few, Garfield successfully led a brigade at Middle Creek, Kentucky against Confederate troops. At 31 he became a brigadier general and two years later a major general of volunteers. Meanwhile, in 1862, Ohioans elected him to Congress. President Lincoln persuaded him to resign his commission, for it was easier to find major generals than to obtain effective Republicans for Congress. Garfield repeatedly won reelection for 18 years and became the leading Republican in the House of Representatives. At the 1880 Republican Convention, Garfield failed to win the Presidential nomination for his friend John Sherman, and it looked like the ticket would boil down to a fight between former President Ulysses S. Grant and the more

(continued on page 8)



## PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

### Review of Events

*Winter Meeting, January 21, 2006*

DVPCA's Winter Meeting convened on Saturday, January 21, 2006 on a mild winter day at Williamson's Restaurant in Horsham, PA. The word "mild" in the previous sentence does not go far enough. The temperature hit **62 degrees** that afternoon, the record high for a January 21st in the Philadelphia area, set back in 1959. For only the second time in recent memory, all 43 members, guests, dealers and speakers who had registered for this meeting showed up, and it was a lively crowd, indeed. By 10 AM, the official opening of the Paperweight Fair, aficionados were partaking of Danish, fruit, coffee and tea as they conversed during the Social Hour and examined the many exhibits. Foremost among the exhibits was the dazzling display of paperweights by Guest Dealer William Pitt, set out on 16 feet of tables at the rear of the room. Additionally, there were displays of weights, books, and related objects for sale by Diane Atkerson, Andrew Scott, Frank Gardner, Ken Brown and Stanley Kruger; four crimp rose weights and a torso sculpture by Boyd England; a vivid display of full size and miniature weights and glass jewelry by Guest Artist Lewis C. Wilson; a display of enticing Today's Raffle Prizes; two weights being silently auctioned; a sampling of other local PCA newsletters from as far away as New Zealand; an entire table of Free for the Taking maps, recreational brochures and antiques newsletters; Volumes 1,2 and 3 of DVPCA's Memories Photo Albums; selected items from DVPCA's Paperweight Lending Library; and the last DVPCA T-shirt (available for \$8.00).

At 11 AM, President Stan Kruger called the meeting to order, promptly as usual. There was no contest as to who had come the greatest distance to attend, he said; Guest Artist Lewis C. Wilson, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, was the hands-down winner. Stan also said that for the first time in almost ten years, he would present a program, with Andy Dohan, on the origin and current status of Paperweight Fest 2006 at Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ, May 18-21, 2006. Launching into the program, Stan began by stating that Wheaton Village has held a paperweight event during even-numbered years since 1974, alternating with PCA, Inc. Conventions in the odd-numbered years. For a long while, these events, called Paperweight Weekend, were highly successful but starting around 2000 a decline in attendance and a corresponding decline in profitability were seen. So that these events went from being the Village's major fundraiser to a serious loss, particularly the event in 2004, which went off in a new direction and was called "Small Glass Works Weekend".

Last March, Gay Taylor, Curator of the Museum of American Glass, emailed Stan, saying that Susan Gogan, President of Wheaton Village wanted to discuss the paperweight event to be held at Wheaton in 2006. Stan and Toby met with Susan, Gay, Cathy Nolan, VP for Marketing, and Marcy Howard Peterson, Manager of the Arthur Gorham Paperweight Shop and the Craft Gallery, on April 12, 2005 and were presented with a proposal that DVPCA partner with Wheaton Village to co-produce a new revitalized event, focused on paperweights, in May 2006. WV staff suggested several titles for the event and offered several suggestions as to the role DVPCA would play, and it

was decided then to call this event "Paperweight Fest 2006", thereby implying a **new** fun and joyful experience rather than a time frame. This proposal was discussed at length during DVPCA's Spring Meeting on April 16, 2005 and the membership overwhelmingly approved the collaboration. Following the PCA, Inc. Convention the next month, Andy Dohan came up with a seven-page Memo containing 35 topics and numerous artists for the event, many of which had



(L-R) Toby Kruger, David & Betsy Nitshe, Nancy Kenna, Kay Reid, Andrew Scott, Sumner Reid, 1/21/06.



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never before appeared at a Wheaton Village paperweight event.

Andy then spoke about the artists, whom he had contacted first during research for his book, *The Dictionary of Paperweight Signature Canes: Identification and Dating*. "Artists are different from collectors", he said. They are generous with their time but don't necessarily follow through with paperwork or meeting (or even remembering) deadlines and dates. Finally, for this new paperweight event at the Village, Andy obtained some commitments and cajoled and persuaded even more. The many podium speaker topics are not now covered in the standard paperweight literature. The program for Paperweight Fest 2006 will be very full and attendees will be very busy. Registration for the four day event is a bargain; if you act now, it will cost around \$200 (not including hotel). Scheduled to appear: Loren Stump, speaking on and demonstrating production of murrine, picture canes more complex than millefiori; Chris and Lissa Juedemann, also speaking on and demonstrating murrine; John and Craig Deacons, Scottish

master weight makers; Beth Tomasello, on the similarities and differences between marbles and paperweights; Boyd England on The Ultimate Crimp Rose; Ken Brown on Antique Baccarat Flowers; Dale Murschell will speak on Paperweight-Like Whimseys; Bill Price will talk about paperweights that move; Peter McDougall will speak on "39 Years of Weighting" and will show work from his new studio; Christine Stankard Kressley will talk about the workings of The Stankard Studio; and many more. In addition, William Drew Gaskill's entire paperweight collection, some 1700 pieces, will be on display exactly as they were displayed in his home; Gay

Taylor's new book on weights will be available. Copying a popular feature of last year's PCA, Inc. Convention, at lunchtime there will be Box Lunch and Learn sessions with at least 12 paperweight makers, and attendees can choose which sessions to attend.

President Stan then continued with the history of the organization of Fest. Boyd England will be in charge of those DVPCA members who volunteered last April to assist with operations. There will be



Guest Artist Lewis C. Wilson, Bill Payne, 1/21/06

informal activities on May 17, Wednesday before Fest officially begins, such as Make Your Own (paperweight, bead, vessel, sock danner or other whimsey) opportunities by appointment at the Glass Studio, registration at the A.G. Paperweight Shop from 1 – 5 PM, and the DVPCA Hospitality Suite will be open from 7 – 9 PM that evening. Stan cautioned that if the turnout for Fest is low and the Village loses money, there will not be another paperweight event there, which will be a great loss for the collecting community.



Don Formigli, Guest Dealer William Pitt, 1/21/06.

Continuing with other aspects of the Fest program: Ed Poore, speaking from the podium on Post-1970 Pairpoint Millefiori, Chris Buzzini, one of the Box Lunch and Learn speakers; other makers will come from all over the States and overseas. Attendees will receive at registration a “goodie bag” containing numerous giveaways, including a copy of Dale Murschell’s book “Glasshouse Whimseys”. There will be a live auction Saturday afternoon during which shadow boxes of canes and/or lampwork decor donated by the various artists will be auctioned, along with items from the Glass Studio demonstrations during Fest. There will be a GREAT \$8500 Paperweight raffle; first prize is a Stankard orb with retail value of \$5500, second prize is a \$2000 Gordon Smith Morning Glory weight, third prize is Melissa Ayotte’s Harmony Bouquet Stone weight. Tickets are \$10 each, three for \$25. Early registration discount is 10%; a “Friend of Wheaton Village” who registers by March 1 will pay just \$202.50 for the entire Fest. Day rates are available at \$125. Wheaton Village will follow its own compensation schedule, so that podium speakers will receive some benefit but volunteer workers will not (as far as we know now). Exhibitors’ cost is \$475, down from \$800 two years ago. Finally, if you are not a member of PCA, Inc. nor a “Friend of Wheaton Village” and want to receive Fest registration materials, sign up and Stan will submit your names to the Village. There will be a sales booth manned by DVPCA members at Fest and anyone can submit weights for sale, subject to a 15% commission. The morning program ended at 11:40 AM at which time Stan urged attendees to view the many displays and

“Buy, buy, buy!”

The meeting re-convened after lunch with announcements: You can sign up for Debbie Tarsitano’s online newsletter at her website [www.debbie\\_tarsitano.com](http://www.debbie_tarsitano.com). DVPCA Election of officers will be held in October 2006, when President Stan will complete 10 years in that office. At this announcement, cries of “Ten more years!” echoed through the room. Stan appointed Andy Dohan as Chair of the Nominating Committee to develop a slate of four officer

candidates for two year terms as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Stan again emphasized how important it was that Paperweight Fest 2006 be successful. As the last order of business, Today’s Raffle Prize winners were selected for the 16 prizes. Rosemary Kozak won three (but she bought the most tickets), followed by Pat Reilly who won two and even guest Betsy Nitshe won a prize.

At 1:15 PM, Stan introduced Guest Speaker/Glass Artist Lewis C. Wilson, of Crystal Myths, Inc., Albuquerque, NM. Lewis said he’d learned glass working from a book 33 years ago, then apprenticed at Walt Disney World and learned more glass techniques. He left the military in 1974, never shaved again (just trimmed his full beard occasionally), and worked at Busch gardens as a juggler, knife thrower and fire eater for a princely \$15/hour. He did this for two years. In 1974, he also founded Crystal Myths, Inc. and began doing art shows, some 200 between 1975 and 1980. In 1981, he moved to Albuquerque and began a line of American Indian dancer sculptures in glass. He also began making beads, teaching over 1200 students a beginner’s class in bead making. In 1994, he made instructional videos and DVDs on bead making; there are now 24 vides/DVDs in the series. He organized his first bead show in Tucson, AZ in 1996 so that he and others would have a venue in which to show and sell. Later, with Chris Buzzini’s help, he learned to make paperweights. His weights have themes of items around his home, “critters and garden gnomes”. His daughter Jennifer makes most of the inclusions.

Lewis told of a glass art show in Albuquerque in 1996, a show whose attendance was compromised by a

nearby visit of President Bill Clinton. Because of the tight security, few were able to attend Lewis's exhibit of sculptures. At the end of the disastrous glass show, however, the President stopped by and bought some of Lewis's pieces, including the famous glass hatpin that Clinton eventually gave to Monica Lewinsky. Clinton's credit card receipt, with no credit card number on it, was subpoenaed by the Senate investigating committee. A photo of Clinton buying the hatpin from Lewis was unearthed and published, leading to Lewis and his wife appearing on Mexican TV!



Barbara Brackin, Rosemary Kozak, Pat Reilly, 1/21/06.

Lewis says he has a 60% failure rate of marbles, beads and weights. "My garden grows broken things." Recently Gordon Smith moved to within 180 miles of Lewis in Albuquerque and wants to make a video himself, so he generously advises Lewis. In fact, Lewis and Jennifer were just at Gordon's studio within the last week. Gordon told Lewis: "The glass told me to help you!" Lewis then showed and narrated portions of his 22nd DVD, entitled "Making Paperweights", and gave a copy of the DVD to DVPCA's Lending Library. He noted that it took him three weeks to neaten up his studio before he could make the video! He uses a vacuum system inside the kiln, rather than on a tripod, to regulate the temperature more precisely and has fewer breakage problems. After forming, through the use of water soaked cherry wood blocks, the weights are annealed for two days. Following the video, there was a Question and Answer period. Responding to one query, Lewis admitted that he is a promoter, mostly of bead shows in Tucson. He put on his top hat and displayed his walking cane. With these accessories, coupled with his large frame and massive full beard, Lewis makes a striking



Anne Brown, Diane Atkerson, Ken Brown, Clarence Brunner, 1/21/06.

and formidable appearance, one sure to evoke comment and interest. In fact, there is a building in Hilliards, PA dedicated to him, the Lewis C. Wilson Memorial Building, even though he is still among the living! Last month, December 2005, he was in Japan for an International Flameworking Conference and wondered why so many Japanese women repeatedly poked him in the stomach. Later he was told that to them he resembled Santa Claus and it was a gesture of good luck to poke Santa's tummy! To

see examples of Lewis's other products...he had brought only paperweights and glass jewelry for display today...he suggested that one could see pictures of his American Indian Dancer sculptures, beads and other works on his website, [www.crystalmyths.com](http://www.crystalmyths.com). His dancer sculptures are made in both clear and colored glass, though he noted that clear is easier to work than colored. Paradoxically, his website site became confused with "crystal meth" when that drug became popular years ago. Lewis is continually experimenting with his weights, incorporating Gordon Smith's advice and he looks forward to seeing DVPCA members again at Paperweight Fest 2006. He concluded at 2:10 PM to appreciative applause.

DVPCA's Spring Meeting is later this year than usual, on April 29, 2006, when Gateson Recko, of Universe Marbles will be the PM speaker. The Morning Program will be a "My Favorite Floral Weight" contest, with paperweight prizes to the top entries. The formal meeting concluded at 2:15 PM and the room cleared by about 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Sutton,  
Secretary

(Continued from page 3)

moderate James G. Blaine. Garfield surprised everyone, however, by earning an ever-increasing number of votes in the convention balloting. Finally, on the 36th (!) ballot, Garfield became the “dark horse” nominee. By a margin of only 10,000 popular votes, the smallest ever in a Presidential election, Garfield defeated the Democratic nominee, General Winfield Scott Hancock, a Union general who had made his mark at Gettysburg, and was inaugurated on March 4, 1881.



Fig 7: Garfield P.G.P.P., circa 1881, clear right profile.

Although Garfield made a good start on his term as President, attacking political corruption, supporting education for black Southerners and calling for African-American suffrage, he is most remembered for his assassination. On July 2, 1881, in a Washington, D.C. railroad station, he was shot down by Charles Julius Guiteau, an emotionally disturbed attorney who had failed to gain an appointment in Garfield’s administration. Mortally wounded, Garfield lay in the White House for weeks. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, tried unsuccessfully to find the bullet with an induction-balance electrical device he had designed. On September 6, Garfield was taken to the New Jersey seashore. For a few days he seemed to be recuperating, but on September 19, 1881, he died from an infection and internal hemorrhage. He was two months shy of his 50th birthday.

Lindsey pictures this weight, 3” in diameter, 1 3/4” tall, on Page 304 but describes the bust as being frosted, which it is not in this example (making it extremely difficult to photograph properly). The maker of this weight is unknown.

For our last entry, we note that images of our 25th President, William McKinley (1843-1901), appear on trays, plates, plaques, cups, tumblers, cup-plates, statuettes, memorial platters, etc. (as do the images of the other Presidents discussed in this writing), but nowhere in the usual paperweight literature and not even in Lindsey can we find pictured a McKinley P.G.P.P. However, that does not deter us from identifying the intaglio portrait in Figure 8 as McKinley and attributing manufacture to the Libbey

Glass Company, possibly for the Buffalo Pan-American Exposition of 1901 or the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair. Everything about this weight replicates the Libbey Lincolns produced for the 1893 Columbian Exposition, dimensions (4 1/2” long, 3” wide, 1” thick), the frosted portrait, the otherwise clear glass, and when you compare this 3/4 right profile with McKinley images on the other artifacts listed, the portrait’s identity is confirmed.

Born in Niles, Ohio on January 29, 1843, William McKinley planned as a young man to become a Methodist minister. He briefly attended Allegheny College and was teaching in a country school when the Civil War broke out. On June 23, 1861, he enlisted in the Union Army as a private in the 23rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He saw combat in several battles in western Virginia and elsewhere and was promoted frequently by his superior officer, Rutherford B. Hayes, another future U.S. President, who became a lifelong mentor and friend. McKinley eventually mustered out as a Brevet Major of the same regiment in September 1865. Following the war, he attended law school in Albany, New York, was admitted to the bar in 1867 and returned to his native state where he began his law practice in Canton, Ohio. He served in Congress as a Republican almost continuously from March 1877 to March 1891, becoming the leading Republican tariff expert. However, he was not successful in his bid for re-election in 1890, instead winning the governorship of Ohio in 1891 and serving two terms as Ohio’s Governor from January 1892 until January 1896.

At the 1896 Republican Convention, in time of depression, Cleveland businessman Marcus Hanna ensured McKinley’s nomination as “the advance agent of prosperity” while the Democrats, advocating the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold, which would have mildly inflated the currency, nominated William Jennings Bryan. McKinley won election by the largest popular majority in 25 years. When McKinley took office in March 1897, the depression of 1893 had almost run its course and with it the extreme agitation over silver. Deferring action on the money question, McKinley called the Congress into special



session to enact the highest tariff in history. Not prosperity but foreign policy dominated McKinley's Administration. After the battleship Maine blew up in Havana (Cuba) harbor in February 1898, McKinley bowed to public pressure and three Congressional resolutions and led the country into the Spanish-American War. In the 100-day war, the United States destroyed the Spanish fleet outside Santiago harbor in Cuba, seized Manila in the Philippines, and occupied Puerto Rico. Detecting an imperialistic sentiment in the American people, McKinley annexed the Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico and took supervisory control over Cuba.



Fig. 9: William McKinley, c. 1901, frosted 3/4 right profile.

In 1900, McKinley campaigned for, and won, a second term, again against Bryan who inveighed against imperialism while McKinley quietly stood for "the full dinner pail". Sadly this second term was cut short on September 6, 1891. While standing in a receiving line at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, McKinley was shot by Leon Czolgosz, a Republican turned anarchist. He died of blood poisoning from his infected wounds on September 14. He was 58 years old.

As Lindsey points out, American glassware applauds most generously military men and presidents. Of course, these two classes merge, since many presidents had military records, too. Of the eighteen presidents whose commemoratives Lindsey encountered (through 1944), twelve were army men, including all four pictured in these P.G.P.P. Perhaps it is more than coincidence that three of these four either governed during wartime, as Lincoln and McKinley did, or gained the fame in wartime that propelled them into the White House, as did Washington during the Revolutionary War. That fact certainly led to the martyrdom of Lincoln and McKinley, war and its aftermath arousing the most vivid and fanatic of emotions, both for and against the administration processing the conflict.

The late William Drew Gaskill often commented that after speaking on a particular paperweight genre, he could no longer afford to buy the weights under

discussion, whereas previously they had been relatively inexpensive. We certainly hope that is not the case with the genre discussed herein for we have yet to locate and acquire the following examples of P.G.P.P., all of which are pictured and described in Lindsey: the 1850s Washington mentioned earlier, round, frosted portrait, 3 1/2" wide, 3/4" thick; U.S. Grant, President during the 1876 Centennial, round, left profile, with "U.S." on the left and "Grant" on the right, 2 3/4"

diameter; and, expanding our category beyond Presidents, W.S. Hancock, the Democratic presidential candidate defeated by Garfield in the 1880 election, round, bust in civilian clothes, 3 1/4" diameter, 7/8" thick; and Daniel Webster, famed orator and Secretary of State under three Presidents, Harrison, Tyler and Fillmore, hexagonal, right profile frosted, 3" diameter, 1 1/2" thick. **DV**

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Figures 1, 2 and 6: Collection of Marshall J. Deitsch  
All other Figures: Author's collection



Toby Kruger, Guest Artist Lewis C. Wilson, President Stan Kruger, 1/21/06.

# Spring Meeting Announcement

April 29, 2006

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

**10:00 AM Paperweight Fair** with Guest  
Dealer **Dan & Therese McNamara**.

**11:00 AM "My Favorite Floral Weight"**  
Contest. Attendees are requested  
to bring in their favorite weight  
containing a floral image, rose,  
pansy, poinsettia, what have you,  
as realistic a depiction as  
possible (no abstract  
interpretations, please). These  
will be laid out on a partitioned  
table and assigned numbers for  
later judging.

**11:30 PM** Attendees will record, individually,  
their top two choices from the  
entries. The written ballots will  
be tabulated and prizes will be  
awarded to the top two.

**12:00 PM LUNCH**

**1:00 PM Business Meeting:**  
Announcements, Raffle Prize  
winners, Silent Auction Results,  
Report on the status of  
Paperweight Fest 2006, Reports  
from the floor.

**1:30 PM** Guest Artist **Gateson Recko**, of  
Universe Marbles, is a Philadelphia native now  
living in Swedesboro, NJ. He has been  
working in glass since the early 1990s. He  
started his journey into the medium of glass  
through traditional furnace work but over time  
transitioned to flame worked glass. In 2002,  
Gateson began the body of work entitled  
"Universe Marbles". These spheres, ranging  
in size from 1/2" to over 3" in diameter, have  
allowed him to create his own unique  
language. Gaining inspiration from the worlds  
of science and astronomy, Gateson finds  
limitless variations for his creations. His

lecture, "Universe Marbles – Worlds Beyond",  
will include examples of both early and  
current work accompanied by a video  
presentation of his process in the studio.

## CALENDAR:

### ADVANCE MEETING DATES AND GUESTS

**April 25, 2006:** Last day to enter initial bids in **Larry Selman's Spring '06 Auction**.

**May 18-21, 2006: Paperweight Fest 2006, Wheaton Village.** Four days of seminars, Glass Studio demonstrations, Lunch and learns with glass artists, Wine and Cheese Reception and Exhibitors Fair, live and silent auctions, etc., all focused on paperweights and paperweight techniques. **Not to be Missed!**

**July 22 & 23, 2006 – 14th Anniversary Celebration Weekend: Saturday: AM: Beth Tomasello** returns to discuss "Paperweights vs. Marbles (and Vice Versa)". **PM:** Our own **Ken Brown** narrates a slide show entitled "Antique Baccarat Flowers". Impromptu "Stump the Dummies" ID Clinic. Guest Dealer: **William Pitt. Garden Party/Catered Cookout** to follow at the home of Treasurer **Don Formigli**. **Sunday:** We convene at Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ for a tour of the Memorial Exhibit of William Drew Gaskill's Paperweight Collection, guided by Gay LeCleire Taylor, Director/Curator.

**October 7 & 8, 2006:** Northeast Marble meet, Radisson Hotel, Marlborough, MA. Contact DVPCA advertiser **Bert Cohen** at [marblebert@aol.com](mailto:marblebert@aol.com) for more information.

**October 14, 2006 Fall Elections Meeting: AM: TBD. PM: Bergstrom-Mahler Museum Curator Jami Severstad** presents a slide show featuring some of the Museum's rare paperweight holdings. Guest Dealer: **Roger Jacobsen**.

**November 11, 2006: Leo Kaplan's** annual Great American Paperweight Artist Show, 1-5 PM, NYC.

**January 27, 2007 Winter Meeting**

**April 14, 2007 Spring Meeting**

**July 14 & 15, 2007 – 15th Anniversary Weekend**

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

# THE SCRAMBLE:

## THANK YOU...

As usual, members have been extremely generous, donating to the club weights, literature and glass items of all kinds. In fact, so many donations have come in recently that I doubt I have recorded all of them accurately. So please forgive any credit omissions here. We thank Diane Atkerson for two glass candies, Joe Freeze for a magnum weight containing a sailing ship image, Anonymous for a Gentile ring holder, the Kornits for a box of unrecorded items, Jim Perna for a magnifier, pen, letter opener set and the Krugers for a crystal dish and an overall-faceted glass globe.

## A SERIOUS SUBJECT...

In the Wall Street Journal for February 25 – 26, 2006, Jeffery Zaslow's article discusses a serious subject, entitled "Who's Going to Want Grandma's Hoard of Antique Gnomes?" Zaslow describes the dilemma of a 51 year old Ohioan with a collection of 5000 pencils, some dating to the 1800s; an elderly Arizona woman with a collection of antique gnomes; a 72 year old Illinois man who collects miniature guns; a resident (78) of Palo Alto, CA who owns 900 antique slide rules; a 64 year old Philadelphia Daily News columnist who has collected the last editions of 79 newspapers that closed down since 1963; and a man in Tulsa, OK who has amassed 35,000 (!) used instant lottery tickets. The dilemma? Who will want their prized collections after they are gone and what will become of them? In every case listed, the children and grandchildren of the collectors want nothing to do with their parents' and grandparents' collections. The 45 year old son of the lady with gnomes would be happy to inherit one of the giant cabinets she stores them in but not the gnomes themselves. Indeed, when an English collector of antique sewing machines died recently, his family sold them to a junk dealer for \$200. The machines, some dating to the 1860s, were worth about \$65,000.

Zaslow claims that collecting things, once a huge part of growing up, is no longer a childhood interest. When was the last time you saw a child or grandchild paste a stamp into a collecting book or slip a coin into a plastic sleeve? These days baseball cards and comic books are collected by adults! In 2000, of the estimated 37 million Americans who identified themselves as collectors, only 11% were under the age of 36. Most were over 50. If new generations of collectors don't materialize, the value of all collectibles, even antiques, will plummet. That is why marble clubs send free marbles to schools, to generate interest. The U.S. Mint has a website with

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**NO LATER THAN APRIL 22, 2006!!!**

cartoons and computer games to entertain kids about the thrills of coin collecting; children are showing considerable interest in the state quarters program. The West Chester, PA founder of the 700-member National Toothpick Holder Collectors' Society gives away toothpick holders to young people. Few get hooked, however.

Harry Rinker, the well-known 64 year old collectibles researcher says: "Old-timers thought the next generation would love their stuff the way they did. Well, guess what? It's not happening." He advises: Enjoy your collections, die with them and have no expectations about anything after that.

QUESTION: Does any of the above apply to the world of paperweight collecting?

## NEWS FLASH...

Jim Lefever, President of PCA, Inc. just announced that PCA's 2007 Convention will take place in Providence, RI on **APRIL 18-21, 2007**. A trip to the Sandwich Glass Museum is planned.



**PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION**

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**ISSUE CONTENTS:**

- Lead Article: **P.G.P.P. – Pressed Glass Presidential Paperweights**
- Review of Events: **Winter Meeting, January 21, 2006**  
**THE SCRAMBLE/CALENDAR**
- **Past Due Dues Bill for 2006**
- Announcement: **Spring Meeting, April 29, 2006**
- Dated Reservations Tear-Off Slip

**SPECIAL NOTE: Have you paid your 2006 Dues?**

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