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PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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Portrait of Three Paperweight Artists

By: Neal Demp

Lee and I were introduced to three paperweight artists during our trip to Dearborn, Michigan for the recent PCA convention. We came home with a paperweight from each of these artists. We also wanted to introduce them to those who were unable to attend the convention and share their stories.

Richard Loesel

Richard is a French paperweight artist whose first trip to the United States was for the PCA convention [Figure 1]. He began an apprenticeship at the

had not made a paperweight in 13 years and spent nine months perfecting his craft. He submitted a paperweight depicting a monarch butterfly over a bouquet of flowers, and he was the winner of this most prestigious honor. At the convention, a video presentation called "Mirabilia" was shown which recounted his story. Mirabilia is from the Latin for "miracles," and his paperweights are indeed small miracles. One of his paperweights with an orange butterfly over apple blossoms was chosen as one of three commemorative paperweights for the convention. Lee purchased one of his weights with a Michigan robin design [Figure 2] which had also been submit-



Figure 1 - Richard Loesel and his friend (and handy translator) Gulsari Byrkit

St. Louis Crystal Factory at the age of 17. He initially worked as a glassblower making medical thermometer tubes. In 1987, he learned new torchwork techniques under the guidance of Rick Ayotte, and in 2015, he joined the team at Meisenthal factories. In 2105, Hermès sponsored a national competition to find the best artisan in France. At that time Richard



Figure 2 - Michigan robin and apple blossoms paperweight by Richard Loesel

ted to the PCA for consideration. In 2017, Richard opened Studio Loesel and produces about 100 pieces per year which show his inspiration from nature.

We hope to hear more from Richard in the coming years. Merci, Richard.

Christina Callahan

Christina [Figure 3] is a lampwork artist from Calgary, Alberta, Canada who specializes in complex murrini paperweights. She began lampworking 20 years ago as a hobby. She took her first murrini class with Loren Stump. She initially started by making jewelry and beads and progressed to making more intricate paperweights. She enjoys combining traditional Italian murrini with contemporary lampwork techniques. Lee purchased one of her weights which depicts a Murano scene surrounded by rose canes [Figure 4]. It is lovely!



Figure 3 - Christina and Bryan Callahan



Figure 4 - Murano maritime scene miniature paperweight by Christina Callahan

Marcus Barnes

Marcus did not attend the PCA convention in person, but I spotted his weights at the dealer booth of Eric Jump. I am interested in unique weights to expand my collection and Marcus' weights caught my eye. Eric explained that Marcus is a relatively new artist who is also from Canada. He studied under Paul Stankard as a scientific student at Salem Community College in 2016/2017. Eric also explained that Marcus pushes the limits of borosilicate glass, a medium rarely seen in paperweights. Color is achieved through a process called fuming. Gold is burned at the flame which allows the fumes to be absorbed by the molten glass. I purchased a paperweight with a complex gold-fume flower [Figure 5] at the convention. You can see the gold along the tips of the petals of the bloom.



Figure 5 - Gold-fume paperweight by Marcus Barnes

Lee and I hope this article inspires you to learn more about these three artists and to support them by purchasing their works. They each have websites or are on other social media.

President's Message

Here we are, ready for our last meeting of 2019. It seemed just yesterday that we were enjoying the PCA Convention and then our July meeting with the wonderful garden party at Boyd and Penney's home. Where has the summer gone? It was certainly a productive season for me as I added way too many weights to my collection (my display cabinets are starting to bulge). Does this mean I won't be eagerly accepting new finds for a while? In a word, No.

For those of you who hated the oppressive heat of the summer, it is now the fall season with its cooler temperatures and wonderful color which many of our favorite artists reproduce in their paperweights. October means the last DVPCA meeting of the year, and Toby and I are really looking forward to it as we'll have two first time guests - Artist Wesley Fleming and Dealer Allan Port.

Once we get into 2020, we can start anticipating the Paperweight Fest. One of the highlights will be the making before your very eyes of the largest ever Millville Rose. The WheatonArts glass artists are working hard on this project, and so far have gotten up to nearly a 5 inch diameter dome (see picture in this Newsletter). If you think this is big, just wait and see what happens in May!

I am often asked by my non-collecting friends, "How did you get interested in collecting paperweights (of all things implied but not spoken)? I am sure that many of you have an interesting story about how you first were attracted to this hobby and how your collection has matured, and I'd like you to share it with our membership. I'll start off with my tale and ask that you send in yours to Toby so we can make this a series in our Newsletter.

John Hawley
President, DVPCA



Ken Rosenfeld describing his one man studio

DVPCA Summer Meeting Review of Events Saturday, July 20, 2019

Welcome

The summer meeting of the DVPCA was held on July 20, 2019 at the Philmont Country Club on Tomlinson Road in Huntingdon Valley, PA. Although there was a major heat wave, we were cool and "collected". Inside, President John Hawley welcomed the 36 members and guests, including Guest Dealer Bill Pitt and wife Donna and Guest Artist Ken Rosenfeld.



Andy Dohan & Boyd England waiting patiently for lunch

Morning Program

Our morning program began with an interesting and informative presentation by Ken Rosenfeld. He not only creates paperweights, but now does the cutting as well. Ken lives in Portland, Oregon. His background is in glassblowing. He was influenced by art nouveau design. Working alone in his studio, he does all of the finishing, as well making and pulling his own canes. He said he adds color over white glass to add depth to his pieces. He now is working on spheres, for which he added a short video to his presentation to show how they are polished and finished. Ken showed how weights are marked for cutting. He emphasized the fact that when an artist makes a setup and encases it, many things can go wrong. And then all of the work is lost. We saw a wide variety of Ken's weights; some were cut and some were not, they were all lovely.

Business Meeting

John Hawley thanked Phil Edelman for the great job that he did with the recent PCA Convention in Dearborn, Michigan. Gordon Park was installed as the new PCA president at



Displaying his latest paperweights and jewelry is guest artist Ken Rosenfeld



Members escaping the heat of the day at Boyd & Penney's garden party

the event. Also, at the convention, for receiving a Barbara Stitt Award, Chris Sherwin donated two weights for a silent auction.

The October 2019 meeting will have Alan Port as the guest dealer and Wesley Fleming as guest artist and will be held at the Philmont Country Club. The Meeting dates for 2020 were announced: January 25*, April 18, July 18, and October 17. Jot them down. At the winter meeting at



Looking forward to the garden party are Delania Lefever, Penney Fleming, and DeeDee Dohan

the Buck Hotel on 1/25/20, Alan Kaplan will be guest dealer and Clinton Smith will be guest artist.

We collected \$145 in raffle ticket sales and \$300 more from the silent auction for the Sherwin weights. We have placed a two-win limit on raffle prizes winners.

Afternoon Program

John Hawley said that the convention in Dearborn was a great success and Don Formigli described some of the highlights. First, The Henry Hotel was lovely and conveniently located. Artwork was displayed all over the hotel and could be purchased for a fair sum. There were 31 new attendees, a record at this time. There was plenty to see even before the convention started. At the venue, there was a Whitefriars exhibit set up by my Tony Graham with books available for \$20 with proceeds going to a UK charity. There was a display of antique weights from an anonymous patron. Don showed us photos of all the dealers' tables. Friday we all went to the fabulous Flint Museum. They had many fine exhibits, among them was a large display of paperweights that belonged to the museum. They graciously extended the exhibit for the convention. Don showed us examples of many of the other gems in the museum. One of them was surely the state-of-the-art, air-conditioned Hot Shop. There is also an art school at the museum. Don's presentation really transported back to the convention. Great job, Don! John Hawley gave the closing remarks and thanked us all for attending. The meeting was adjourned to the Garden Party at the home of Boyd and Penney for a wonderful afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Munz

*There has been a date change for the Winter Meeting. It will be held on February 1, 2020 at the Buck Hotel.

In the beginning there was an open window and loose papers on my desk....

By: John D. Hawley

How did I get started in this hobby of collecting paperweights? I'm sure all of us have an interesting reason for our near obsession, and here is my story.

My dad was a coin collector, but after reading the article on paperweights in the July 1965 issue of *Womans Day* magazine, his interest immediately changed. Even though I was exposed to them on almost a daily basis, I thought of the collection as being his hobby and I had other consuming interests. Years passed, the collection kept growing with both antique and modern specimens, and eventually we decided to move to a new house. Unfortunately, my dad passed away during the moving process and I got the job of packing up his paperweights. Well, once I got my hands on them and had a chance to really examine them up close, I was hooked. I read all the reference books he had and spent hours with a magnifying glass examining every millefiori weight in my dad's collection.

I was also fortunate to have the guiding hand of Don Nesbitt, a paperweight dealer living only 20 minutes away and who had been instrumental in finding super weights for my dad. He began my collecting journey in December of 1973 with a miniature Clichy closepack with three white roses in a white stave basket. A nice start, indeed, and I looked forward to Don's weekly calls about some new treasure he thought I should own. Looking back at my logbook, I find that I purchased 20 weights in 1974 – I was definitely hooked! Highlights were my first antique American weight, a New England Glass Co. (NEGC) pink primrose, Baccarat strawberries, and a St. Louis mushroom with a coral twist. Less exciting were the three modern Baccarat sulphides (my dad had a subscription for them and I just carried on, not knowing any better).

That year I got to know two more dealers that contributed greatly to my collection. Arthur and Theresa Greenblatt lived in neighboring Massachusetts. They would come to the West Hartford, CT antiques show every year and would always have one or two weights set aside for me out of sight under their display table (the afore-mentioned primrose was the first one). A month later I purchased a Clichy turquoise color ground millefiori at a Sotheby's London auction through Patricia McCawley of Spinks; and she soon became my eyes and ears at overseas auctions. Thus, my collection began to grow in leaps and bounds.

The Greenblatts were contributors to the PCA, Inc. Bulletin, and for the 1975 edition they wrote an article on my collection. It was titled "A Father and Son Collection," but being camera shy, I was not identified as the owner. I took the photographs, and looking back at them, they were pretty bad in comparison to what I do today (to be continued).

WORLD'S LARGEST MILLVILLE ROSE

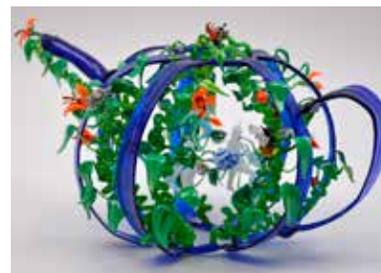
The 50th Anniversary of WheatonArts will be celebrated at the 2020 Paperweight Fest. One of the highlights will be the making of the world's largest Millville rose in the Glass Studio on Saturday afternoon, the last day of the Fest. The glassworkers at WheatonArts have been working hard on this project and lately created a Millville rose that was almost five inches in diameter, significantly larger than the "normal" rose which is a bit over three inches in diameter (see photo). Well, if you think that is big, just wait! Don't miss the glassworkers' culminating attempt at the Fest.



Trials of large Millville Roses in relation to one by Don Friel, photo courtesy of WheatonArts

Wesley Fleming – Guest Artist

As a youth growing up in rural Pennsylvania, Wesley Fleming loved to explore the space beneath logs and rocks and read science fiction. Because of this, the shapes and colors of the natural world as well as his fertile imagination are the main sources that inspire his work which includes beautifully detailed lampwork flowers and many inhabitants of the insect world. For example, if one carefully examines his glass beetles you will see the intricate detail that truly mimics the actual species. Other pieces are creations from a dream, and some reference familiar images from a mythical work. No matter what the end result, he enjoys the process of glassworking - transforming a brittle cold substance to a molten and pliable material and then back to a solid form.



Examples of this Massachusetts artist's work can be seen on his website wesleyfleming.com.

A Midsummer's Night Tea by Wesley Fleming

Special Auction

This beautiful John Deacons magnum concentric millefiori mushroom paperweight will be auctioned off at the October 19 DVPCA meeting. This weight was generously donated by L. H. Selman Ltd. at our April meeting. It has a JD signature cane, six heart silhouette canes, fourteen blue rose canes, a blue and white torsade, and a star-cut base. It is 3 7/8" diameter x 2 3/4" high.



John Deacons Magnum Mushroom (top view)



John Deacons Magnum Mushroom (oblique view)

David Graeber
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CALENDAR

Advance Meeting Dates, Guests and Related Events

February 1, 2020 (DATE CHANGE)

Guest Dealer: Alan Kaplan

Guest Artist: Clinton Smith

Location: Buck Hotel

April 18, 2020

Guest Dealer: L. H. Selman

Guest artist: TBA

Location: TBA

May 14 – 16, 2020

WheatonArts Paperweight Fest

Millville, NJ

July 18, 2020

Guest Dealer: Bill Pitt

Guest artist: TBA

Location: Philmont Country Club

SAVE THESE DATES AND PLAN TO ATTEND!



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Fall Meeting Announcement Saturday, October 19, 2019

At the Philmont Country Club, 301 Tomlinson Road,
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006. Tel: (215) 947-1271

Directions

From the East:

PA Turnpike I-276W, take exit 351 onto US-1S/
Lincoln Hwy towards Philadelphia. Take the PA 132
W/Street Road exit. Merge onto E Street Road/PA-
132 (1.1 miles). Turn left onto Philmont Ave./State
Route 2040 (1.8 miles). Continue to follow Philmont
Ave. (1.4 miles). Turn right onto Tomlinson Road
(0.4 mile). Turn right into Philmont Country Club

From the West:

I-276 East to exit 343 PA-611 towards Willow Grove
Merge onto PA-611 S/Easton Road (0.5 mile). Turn
left onto Fitzwatertown Road (0.7 mile). Continue
onto Terwood Road (0.8 mile). Take slight left onto
Huntingdon Road (0.8 mile). Turn left onto Masons
Mill Road (1.0 mile). Turn right onto Byberry Road/
State Route 2009 (2.0 miles). Turn right onto Buck
Road (1.0 mile). Turn left onto Tomlinson Road (0.8
mile). Turn right into Philmont Country Club

9:00 AM Dealers and Artist setup

10:00 AM Paperweight Fair with Guest Dealer
Alan Port and Guest Artist Wesley
Fleming

11:00 AM Presentation by Wesley Fleming

12 Noon Lunch, Raffle Sales

1:15 PM Business Meeting - Announcements,
Reports, Auction of John Deacons
Paperweight, and Raffle

1:45 PM Presentation by Kirk Nelson
"Paperweights at the New Bedford
Museum of Glass"

2:30 PM Paperweight Fair continues

3:30 PM

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS OCTOBER 19, 2019 PHILMONT COUNTRY CLUB

Luncheon Choices @ \$30 per person*

*Luncheon includes salad and dessert

_____ (#) Chick Marsala. Boneless Breast of
Chicken with Wild Mushroom Marsala
Demi Glaze and Saffron Risotta Cake

_____ (#) Grilled Salmon with Lemon Beurre
Blanc, Rice Pilaf and Medley of Fresh
Vegetables

_____ (#) Pasta Primavera, Penne Pasta with
Assorted Fresh Seasonal Vegetables in
Light Lemon with Wine Sauce

\$ _____ **Luncheon Total**

Names _____

**Please mail this tear off slip with your
selections and check to:**

DVPCA

c/o Don Formigli, Treasurer
455 Stonybrook Drive
Levittown, PA 19055

NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 14, 2019



*Photographer Diane Atkerson with special guest
Anne Brown*



Address Service Requested

PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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