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George Kulles Keynote Speaker at Spring Meeting

George Kulles provided an insightful overview of the lesser known paperweight makers at the spring meeting on March 22.

We learned about parson collar and shield canes in Bacchus weights and that there are only four confirmed Islington weights.

George discussed Bacchus, Bohemian, Islington, Pantin, Russian, St. Mande, and Venetian weights.

His new book, "Identifying Antique Paperweights—The

Less Familiar", contains pictures, drawings, and clues to help in the identification of these and ten other paperweight makers.

George gave us a quiz at the end of his talk and Larry Schwab got a perfect score!

The meeting also featured a fun silent auction which raised \$158 for the treasury. The ink cartridge recycling drive collected 42 cartridges. Once we get 50, the cartridges will be turned in and hopefully net us \$1 a

cartridge. Keep saving those cartridges for the next meeting.

Thanks to George Kulles for sharing his vast knowledge of paperweights and to those who donated items and those who purchased them!

Thanks also to **Betty and Larry Schwab** of The Paperweight Shoppe and **Nancy Alfano** of Portia Paperweights for displaying their wares, recruiting new members, and their continued support of our group.

Cambridge Paperweight Circle Convention

The **Cambridge Paperweight Circle (CPC)** held their convention in November. First, members of the club organized a fantastic paperweight exhibition in Birmingham, England. The exhibition consisted entirely of members' paperweights and was held in conjunction with an antique fair.



Roy Brown describes his lampwork collection at the Birmingham exhibition

A few days later, collectors gathered at the Crieff Hydro in Scotland for several days of visits to paperweight artists and museums and

dining on haggis (a Scottish delicacy).



Peter McDougall polishes a pontil mark

At our visit to **Peter McDougall's** studio, Peter demonstrated a crown paperweight. At dinner the first night, I had the privilege of sitting next to Peter and thoroughly enjoyed talking to him.

John Deacons lives in an old stone house and grows paperweights in his garden. He actually has twenty to thirty of what I assume are "seconds" planted with his flowers. His studio is railroad car size and didn't accommodate a demo but was the scene of a mad grab

for the few paperweights for sale.



John Deacon's lampwork flowers

Willie Manson and family demonstrated an overlay glass and, in what seemed a miraculous feat, fit it over the paperweight like skin.



Willie Manson shapes a paperweight

My thanks to **Bob Hall** for answering hundreds of pre-trip questions and to the very welcoming and gracious members of the CPC.

“XX Century Renaissance” - Paperweights at Exhibition

An important exhibit of paperweights opened April 4, 2003 at the Cultural Center of the Lorraine Region, the Abbaye des Premontres, in Pont-a-Mousson in eastern France. This important exhibit primarily consists of the paperweights produced by the two premier French Crystalleries **Baccarat** and **St. Louis** from 1952 – 2002. Both glass houses are located in the Lorraine region.

Approximately 600 paperweights will be on view until the close of the exhibit July 15, 2003 with most of the paperweights coming from the private collections of the two glass factories: 274 pieces from Baccarat and 233 pieces from St. Louis. Over 100 paperweights are on loan to the exhibit from private paperweight collectors throughout France and the rest of the collecting world, including 5 paperweights on loan from Portia Paperweights Inc. in Chicago.



The Baccarat factory was founded in 1764 and achieved its prominent designation as a Crystallerie in 1817. The Crystalleries de St. Louis was founded in 1782 and both Crystal factories reached their glory in paperweight making during the classic period 1845 – 1860. During the early part of the 20th century both factories were very active but not in paperweight making. It was in 1952 that they began to rediscover the art and beauty of the paperweight and that is what this exhibit is dedicated to.

Along with the paperweights will be an extensive showing of documents, technical details for lead glass and color composition, tools from the gaffer, mold and canes. This is the first time the two factories have collaborated in showing their private factory collection made during the second half of the 20th century and this will provide the unique opportunity to compare their creations in all aspects, side to side.

A detailed catalogue is being

produced by the Cultural Center documenting the paperweights made by these two most important French factories with 170 color photos. Kind permission was given by the



Corning Museum to run their beautiful Paperweight video, which has been

translated into French, during the exhibit. Group tours are available with an English-speaking guide with prior notice.

Mrs. Sylvie Tridon, the Cultural Director for the Abbaye des Premontres is available to help with any questions about the exhibit. One can look up information on their beautiful web site at www.abbaye-premontres.com. Click into exhibitions and don't be discouraged because everything is in French, scroll down to find information in English.

Nancy Alfano

PCA Celebrates 50 Years at San Antonio Convention

The Paperweight Collectors Association, Inc (PCA) is holding their biennial convention in San Antonio, Texas May 14 thru May 17 at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

There will be two unique exhibits of paperweights at the San Antonio convention: a special exhibit of selected weights from some of the best Texas paperweight collections and a special exhibit of later

Perthshire paperweights.

A special drawing will be held for a Bob Banford paperweight and two issues of the Annual Bulletin. Mew members and those who referred them are eligible.

The convention features an artists fair, dealers fair, identification clinic, and banquet. Just some of the session topics are: French,

Modern, NEGC, Sandwich, Pairpoint, Cambridge, Mt. Washington, and Gillinder paperweights.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about paperweights and meet others who share your passion. And don't forget the shopping!

For more information about the convention or the PCA, visit www.paperweight.org or call (336) 869-2769.

Identifying Fake Ysart Paperweights

The first examples of fake **Paul Ysart** weights are thought to have been produced in the late 1980s and these were primarily identified by what was called a "slipped Y" cane and a "20-cog outer sleeve". Others were subsequently found with a signature cane in which the P and Y were better positioned, but were comparatively small in relation to the overall size of the cane.



Following research by members of the Cambridge Paperweight Circle, it is now believed that all fake PY canes have a distinctive feature of an orange color to the "P" and a pink color to the "Y".

However, as shown in the images at the top of the page, this feature is not always very clear, even when enlarged.

Trying to assess the colors of the P and Y in a printed auction catalogue image or an online listing can be extremely difficult.



Even when personally examining an item it can be hard, without a magnifying glass and adequate lighting, to be sure about the cane.

Sellers of these items are often quite open about their status and the price is usually set accordingly. But there still remains a percentage of sellers who, through no real fault of their own, or sometimes through a desire to deceive, advertise these weights as genuine Paul Ysart pieces.

Kevin Holt has also confirmed that several of a recent batch of fake Ysart



weights offered through eBay (Feb / Mar 2003) have had good faceting, but the cutting was recent work probably as repairs to scratches and bruises. To date, it is not thought that any of the fake Ysart weights were faceted at the time of production.



For more information and photos of weights thought to be fake, visit <http://www.btinternet.com/~kev.h.glass/pages/fake-py/fake-py-weights.htm>

Thanks to Kevin Holt for his kind permission to use this information from his web site.

In Memoriam

I am very sad to report that **Carson Cash**, our friend and Vice President of the Paperweight Collectors Association of Illinois, passed away on March 17 due to complications with his blood after hip surgery. Carson will be greatly missed. Our deepest condolences to Carson's wife, Pam, and his family.

Ray Banford, paperweight artist, passed away on March 5.

Ray is best known for his beautiful basket-cut overlays with rose or iris bouquets.

Our deepest condolences to Ray's wife, his son Bob Banford, and his family.

Paul Jokelson, known as the king of paperweights, passed away at his home in Scarsdale New York November 24, 2002 at the age of 97.

Paul is credited with sparking the renaissance of paperweights in the 20th century. He founded the PCA in 1953 with 75 members, published the first annual PCA Bulletin in 1954, organized and hosted the biannual PCA Convention for many years, and wrote many paperweight books.

Our deepest condolences to Paul's wife, Margaret, and his family.

Upcoming Events

July 26, 2003

Trip to the Illinois State Museum Barker Paperweight Collection in Springfield and to The Paperweight Shoppe in Bloomington.

October 11, 2003

Trip to Chicago Hot Glass for glass blowing and paperweight making demonstration plus lunch

TBD

PCAI 25th Anniversary Celebration now being planned!