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PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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Strathearn's Lattice Ribbon Paperweights

by *Richard More*

Strathearn, the Scottish company that was Vasart Glass before it was taken over by Teacher's Whiskey in 1964 and renamed Strathearn, produced paperweights from 1965 to 1980. We are familiar with most of these weights, for they were regular production millefiori and latticino pieces made for the tourist trade. It is thought that the company never engaged in the production of really special "collectors' paperweights"...but did they? A few examples of truly beautiful faceted and overlay weights are shown in still existing Strathearn brochures and a few examples are pictured in recently published books on Scottish paperweights. But then, who made these weights and when?

In 1965, almost with the opening of the company's new facilities on the banks of the River Earn on Muthill Road in Crieff, Perth, Scotland, a young glass craftsman named Herbert Dreier came to work for Strathearn. He had started training in the art of glassblowing in Austria and at age 18 had moved to another glass house in Germany for additional training. In 1963 at the age of 21 he went to work for Caithness Glass, in Wick, Scotland and there trained under the legendary Paul Ysart until late 1964 or early 1965. As we now know, Herbert Dreier worked for Strathearn during the whole of that company's existence, from 1965 to 1980, when the company was taken over by Stuart Glass and renamed Stuart Strathearn Glass, at which time

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PCA Convention 2003: Exploring Texas A&M University

by *Bonnie and Gary Geiger*

Following the close of PCA Convention 2003 in San Antonio, attendees had the opportunity to travel to Texas A&M University in College Station, there to view the D.C. and Ruth Smith Paperweight Collection and the Bill and Irma Runyon Art Collections, housed in the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries, a part of the Memorial Student Center. These Galleries are committed to the education and enrichment of student life in the area of fine and decorative arts. Students are given experience in selecting, exhibiting and presenting the arts to friends, visitors and special guests of the University.

Six paperweight enthusiasts and two academicians met in the lobby of our hotel, the Adam's Mark, at 8 AM on Sunday, May 18 for the extra-curricular trip. Coffee, donuts and orange juice were provided for our 3.5-hour bus ride. The two from the University were Kirsten Wennermark, a student volunteer, and Professor Tim Novak who is Curator of the Runyon Collections and Director of the Galleries since 1990. The weight collectors were Anne Smith, Sacramento, CA, Dr. Carman Bahr, an internist from Oklahoma City, OK, Pam and Rob Campe, Charleston, WV and Bonnie and Gary Geiger from Beaver, PA. When our bus was about an hour from College Station, Professor Novak introduced Kirsten who talked to us at some length about Texas A&M, the oldest public college in the state, founded in 1871, and her student experiences there.

Professor Novak then spoke about the Bill (A&M Class of 1935) and Irma Runyon Art Collections which consist of 66 American paintings by such famous names as Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, Thomas Moran, Grandma Moses, and American Impressionists Mary Cassat and Childe Hassam, and vast holdings of

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paperweight production ceased.

In addition to producing all of the regular glassware lines at Strathearn, Dreier became a master paperweight maker while there. However, his talent and the attribution to his hand of some of Strathearn's more spectacular creations remained unrecognized during the life of the company. Only recently have he and his paperweight creations for Strathearn come into the light of day for the acclaim that is his, and their, rightful due. For Herbert Dreier was primarily responsible for many of Strathearn's "special" or "limited edition" highest quality paperweights as well as for special evaluation pieces for the company's management to review for possible production. Also, during the last few months of 1979 and into 1980 regular paperweight production ended and a period of experimentation and self-expression took place, during which some truly stunning weights were made by this master glass craftsman and the remaining Strathearn workers.

Lattice works, by which we mean different color crisscross designs, cushions, baskets and other designs made out of thick ribbon glass, are one of the more exacting and delicate design features of the paperweight artist. In this article we take a look at a few of these remarkable glass paperweight creations from the 1979 to 1980 experimentation and self-expression period before Strathearn closed. So, welcome to the spectacular paperweights of Strathearn and of Herbert Dreier as we look at seven wonderful weights either wholly made by him or at least produced under the influence of his guiding hand.

Figure 1 is a stunning 3.0" x 2.5" example of a royal blue and white crisscross lattice ribbon cushion upon which is set a garland of complex canes and a large center eight pointed star cane encased in red. Earlier this year, in an interview with Kevin Holt, webmaster for the Cambridge Paperweight Circle, the major English weight collecting group, Dreier confirmed that this is a Strathearn weight but did not comment as to who made it. However the twisted, spiral design of the blue and white lattice ribbon work around the center cane is very similar to other weights directly attributed to him.

Figure 2 is a wonderful 2.8" x 2.4" piece composed of four major design elements. A translucent ruby cushion rests below a white crisscross lattice ribbon and upon this white lattice ribbon is a garland of green and white complex canes. In the center we find an eight-pointed white star encircling a yellow heart, all encased in green. What is unusual about this weight, in addition to its superb craftsmanship, is that the central white star cane is an Ysart Brothers or Vasart cane. I know this because I own a much older Ysart/Vasart paperweight, which has the same exact cane in it. Here, then, is further proof for the ongoing discussion that Strathearn did indeed possess and utilize these older canes in their paperweights. This weight also has an "S-79" cane in its base. It is highly likely that this weight was made by Herbert Dreier or at least created under his supervision.

Figure 3 is a magnum (3.45" x 2.55") example of Strathearn's often produced (and probably annual) flower weight. Here a six petal blue flower is surrounded by six large variegated green leaves but set up on a terrific emerald green and white crisscross lattice ribbon works cushion. Also of interest is the center cane of the flower. It is the same exact cane as in Figure 1 above. The maker of this weight is unknown at this time but the placement of the green leaves right on top of the lattice ribbon cushion is a novel feature and an example of fine artistic work.

Figure 4 is another stunning magnum (3.7" x 3.45") example of Strathearn's blue flower weights. This one lacks the center cane of the six petal blue flower and the six green leaves display a uniform green shading. What makes this weight particularly noteworthy is the fantastic white 1.5" tall crisscross lattice basket over which the blue flower sits. Even more appealing are the expertly placed small bubbles in each of the diamonds formed by the lattice ribbon basket. In the interview with Kevin Holt, Mr. Dreier confirmed that this lattice ribbon basket design was a later 1979/1980 concept and it is quite possible that he had a hand in its making.

Figure 5 is a wonderfully delicate 2.9" x 2.55"

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weight with a close-knit white lattice ribbon cushion sitting high up in the weight. A beautiful blue garland consisting of very rare cylindrical canes sits atop this lovely white ribbon cushion. These blue cane groups are formed with 100 to 150 individual thin blue canes. In the center of the weight is one of the canes designed in the 1979/1980 period but used sparingly in a very few special "limited edition" or experimental weights. Overall, the twisted, spiral design of the white lattice ribbons around the central cane and the use of the cylindrical blue canes strongly suggest Dreier's involvement in the making of this weight.

Figure 6 is an experimental magnum (3.45" x 2.7") weight. It displays a rather crude five-petal millefiori cane flower, with stem and leaves but over a stunning double translucent ruby red and white spiral lattice ribbon cushion. This ribbon cushion is formed by a translucent ruby red and white lattice ribbon swirling from the center outward, then dropping down towards the base. A second translucent ruby red and white ribbon are worked in a spiral fashion around the outside of the interior lattice ribbon works forming the splendid double lattice ribbon work. The maker is unknown but Mr. Dreier indicated that there was no one trained in lampworking during the last couple of years of Strathearn's existence which explains the poor flower attempt.

Figure 7 is a terrific 2.8" x 2.4" work of art consisting of a delicately constructed translucent ruby red twisted ribbon cushion upon which are six spaced complex millefiori canes. These canes were developed for use in Strathearn's 1979/1980 paperweights and you'll notice that one is the cylindrical blue rod cane from Figure 5 above. These canes are quite large, offering the viewer a full perspective not only of the top of the cane but also of the sides of each complex cane grouping. While Mr. Dreier did not state specifically that he made this weight, he did claim a hand in the making of three of the canes here, the cylindrical blue cane, the center cane and the cane just north of 9 o'clock.

More information on the master glass craftsman Herbert Dreier will be forthcoming from another author in the near future. And, while I cannot say

with 100% certainty that each of these weights was made by him, the degree of craftsmanship shown in them in comparison with others that I have seen attributed to him leads me to believe that he either made them or had a hand in their production. Unfortunately, Strathearn closed before the company really had the opportunity to create weights for the higher end collectors market. But, as we've seen from these examples, Strathearn workers certainly had the talent and ability to produce some spectacular paperweights. Further, it is my understanding that Herbert Dreier was the only artisan who made any of Strathearn's overlays. He was, in my opinion, an artist equal to any who worked at Perthshire or Caithness at the same time. Could it be that some of Paul Ysart's genius rubbed off on him?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: I would like to thank Kevin Holt for taking the time to review some of my weights with Mr. Dreier during a regional meeting of the Cambridge Paperweight Circle (CPC), and Bob Hall, CPC Chairman, for sharing information about, and photos of, Herbert Dreier's more spectacular paperweights.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Richard and Suzi More live in Killarney, Florida, a small town just outside of Orlando. They have four grown sons, Richard, Scott, Billy and Peter, all now out on their own, which allowed the Mores to gather their fine collection of Strathearns, Vasarts and Ysart Bros. glass paperweights. Richard has been in the Insurance and Annuity business since 1974 as an Independent General and Regional General Agent for a number of companies. In 1998 he began collecting glass paperweights. Like many other collectors his early acquisitions were eclectic but when he bought his first Strathearn he became fascinated with the Ysart influence on paperweight making and decided to concentrate. His goal is to acquire at least one of every weight Strathearn ever made but he is learning that there are many more than most people ever imagined. You are welcome to view Richard's collection on-line, if you like. Just go to www.photoisland.com, login as boopboopbedoop with the password Stratherns (note the intentional spelling). Richard can be contacted on-line at srmoresr@webtv.net.



PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Review of Events 11th Anniversary Celebration Weekend July 12 & 13, 2003

Delaware Valley PCA's 11th Anniversary Celebration Weekend began with the traditional Paperweight Fair at 10 AM, Saturday, July 12, 2003 at our usual venue, the large catering house called Williamson's Restaurant, located at the intersection of Blair Mill and Easton (Route 611) Roads in Horsham, PA, just north of Exit 343 (old Exit 27, Doylestown/Jenkintown) of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Forty-seven members and guests (49 had made reservations) were in attendance. Guest Dealer Nancy Alfano, Portia Paperweights, Chicago and a number of other members provided a wide range of antique and contemporary paperweights, reference books and paperweight-related items for show and sale. Besides the paperweights on display, attendees examined at their leisure, during the Social Hour from 10-11 AM: a large quantity of antiques newsletters and recreational brochures Free for the Taking, two DVPCA Memories Photo Albums recording meetings and events for the past eight years, other local PCA newsletters, Selected Items from DVPCA's Lending Library, DVPCA Logo T-shirts and an array of weights Collected at Convention. Early arrivals also snacked on muffins, Danish, fruit kebabs, coffee and tea.

At 11 AM, VP/Acting President Stan Kruger opened the Morning Programs by welcoming and introducing a number of first-timers: Rob Campe, Charleston, WV, Frederick Franke, Lyndell, PA, local Nancy Kenna, Joe Freeze and Billy Smelser,



First Timers: Denise and Jim Brown, Joey Alfano, Joe Freeze, Billy Smelser, Rob Campe, Frederick Franke

Leesburg, VA and Joey Alfano, Nancy's grandson, Chicago. He also welcomed back Linda Dennis, a long-time former member who was finally able to break away from family chores to attend. Wearing her "second hat", Nancy Alfano then presented a short talk on "Ron Hansen – An Old Friend Revisited". Nancy had known Ron since the early 1950's and had brought an excellent sampling of his weights for show and sale. She spoke of his very interesting life and paperweight-making background. For example, although a physically large man, he made small, very light weight paperweights; although prominently featured in Jean S. Melvin's American Glass Paperweights and Their Makers, both 1967 and Revised 1970 Editions, he remains a lesser-known and much under-appreciated glass artist.

After Nancy's presentation, at about 11:20 AM, four members who had attended this year's 50th Anniversary PCA Convention in San Antonio, TX, May 14-17, Beverly Schindler, Bonnie and Gary Geiger and Stan Kruger, were called upon for a "Show and Tell" of the items acquired there, 15 in all. President Stan had introduced a "ringer", a lovely Jim Brown 6-ring concentric, into the array and revealed that this weight did not come from the PCA Convention. Instead, Jim had donated the \$500 weight



Teresa and Jack Sullivan

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THERESA GREENBLATT
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to DVPCA that very morning and it would be auctioned off to the highest bidder in the audience later in the day. The Morning Programs ended at 11:40 AM; attendees then continued to



**Guest Artist Jim Brown,
 Guest Dealer Nancy
 Alfano**

examine the diverse displays until lunch was served at 12:15 PM.

Following lunch, at 1:15 PM, VP Stan convened the business meeting, making these announcements: On Wednesday, May 7, 2003, he had led a group of nine to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ, primarily to view

the Dale Chihuly exhibit there. Afterwards, the group had lunch at Mastoris Restaurant in Bordentown, NJ. Stan promised to schedule more fun side trips like this when circumstances permitted. Next, he announced that over the past year, through Internet contacts, he had solicited ten new membership units and he urged attendees to encourage more of their own friends and

acquaintances to join DVPCA. Stan noted the passing of George Laub, long-time President of Indiana PCA, on May 1, 2003; George had won the Grand Prize Stankard weight in our 1997 Grand Paperweight Raffle. VP Joann Eck would complete George's term as President until May 2004, but would serve no longer than that. Bill Burchfield, formerly of Cape Cod Glass Works, was no longer making glass and was in ill health. DVPCA member/dealer Bertram Cohen will be selling off Bill's own collection of paperweights on eBay and Stan advised those members interested to watch for these auctions. Our June 2003 Newsletter, at 24 pages, was the longest and most expensive issue in DVPCA's eleven years, so much so that Stan had listed it on eBay and



**Garden Party Guests: Andy Dohan, Jim
 Brown, John Hawley**

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actually sold five copies at \$7 each. Four Committee Chairman positions have been created, but only one has been filled so far, Andy Dohan, Fundraising Committee Chair. Three other Chairs remain vacant: Membership, Publications and Education. Maps to Boyd England's home (for the Garden Party later in the day) and to Wheaton Village (for the second day of Glass Weekend on Sunday) were available. A count was taken and 25 planned to make the trek to WV the following day. Finally, 15 Today's Raffle prizes were distributed to the lucky winners.



Garden Party Guests: Bonnie Geiger, Elliot Heith, Toby Kruger, Rosalyn Heith

Guest Artist Jim Brown's presentation followed the business meeting at 1:45 PM. Glass was his third career, after ten years in the Navy and almost twenty years as a mechanical engineer in private industry. In 1995 he bought his first paperweight and quickly became an avid collector. But collecting was not enough to satisfy his creative instincts and in 2000 he enrolled in the glass department at Tennessee Technical University, Cookeville, TN. Jim pulled his first cane in the late Fall of 2000. [Incredibly, in less than three years he has exploded on the international scene as a premier maker of millefiore paperweights, which are strongly reminiscent of antique Bacchus pieces.] Jim spoke modestly of his history as a millefiore weight maker, narrating a slide presentation showing him working, for only six hours per week (!), in the glass studio at Tennessee Tech. He may some day move on to lampwork products but believes there is still much to explore in the millefiore vein. A 20-minute Question and Answer period followed Jim's talk.



At Wheaton Village: Andrew Scott, Nancy Kenna, Billy Smelser, Joe Freeze, Diane Atkerson, Don Formigli

Next, an informal Stump the Dummies panel, consisting of Ken Brown, John Hawley and Patty Mowatt, considered about 15 mystery weights submitted by various attendees, often assisted by members who divined clues that the "experts" had missed. Door prizes donated by Nancy Alfano, Andrew Scott, John Hawley and Patty Mowatt were drawn by lot and following the prize drawings Rosemary Kozak won the auction, conducted by Ken

Brown, for the lovely Jim Brown weight that Jim had donated to the club that morning. The Summer meeting concluded at 4 PM and most everyone then drove to Boyd England's home, 9.6 miles north, for the now traditional Garden Party/Catered Cookout. [This was our fifth; our first Summer Meeting Garden Party took place in 1999 at the Englands' former home on West Court Street in Doylestown, PA.] Everyone enjoyed the buffet meal prepared by Gourmet Chef Boyd and the party lasted until 8:30 PM.

On Sunday, July 13, 25 members met at 11 AM at Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ, to enjoy the final day of Glass Weekend 2003, meeting up with other DVPCA'ers (Monte and Michelle McGuire, Pat Ackerman, etc.) who had attended all of Glass Weekend and were already at WV. All enjoyed the special exhibits in the Museum of American Glass and the displays in the Exhibition Center of art glass for sale by galleries and dealers from as far away as Australia.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Mowatt (filling in for Sue Sutton, Secretary)

nineteenth and early 20th century art glass. Included in the latter are examples from Steuben Glass Works, Tiffany, Mount Washington and New England Glass Companies and other important glassmakers. The English Cameo Glass section is one of the most extraordinary collections in the world and is restricted from being loaned out but must always be on display for the students. Master cameo works by George Woodall are of particular interest.

J. W. "Bill" Runyon (1911-1992), Tim Novak continued, majored in electrical engineering at Texas A&M. He worked for Texas Power and Light as a practicing engineer, spent five years as a Signal Officer in the Army Air Force during WWII and then entered the residential construction business. Later he and his wife became art and antiques dealers with a special interest in nineteenth century art glass. They set aside their collections of art glass and American paintings for the specific purpose of being donated to Texas A&M for the enrichment of students' lives.

Next Tim told how paperweights came to the Memorial Student Center. One day some years back, Art and Joyce Elder, from Houston, TX, visited the MSC Forsyth Galleries and expressed that the glass collection was incomplete; it needed to include paperweights. Students told them there were paperweights in the Runyon glass collection, but they were stored in the basement. These weights, which included antiques and early Kaziums, were unpacked but the University decided to sell rather than display them. They were sold at auction in New Orleans and some were purchased by museums there. After that event, several things happened in Texas to bring weights to the Galleries. First, around 1992, Steve Lundberg appeared as Guest Artist at a PCA Texas meeting and everyone was quite impressed that he had come all the way from California to attend. Then, in 1994, the international exhibit organized by L. H. Selman, Ltd., The Art of the Paperweight-Challenging Tradition, was shown. In 1996, Al Bates, PCA Immediate Past President, helped organize an exhibit of members' weights to celebrate the tenth anniversary of PCA TX. In 1999, Don and Ruth Smith placed their collection of over 300 antique and modern paperweights on long-term loan to the Galleries; in 2001, upon Don's death, the loan became a gift. The special Stars of Texas paperweight exhibit at Convention, co-curated by Art Elder, President, PCA TX, and Tim Novak, Director of the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries, will be on display at the Galleries from June 9 to November 28, 2003.



Art Elder, Lowell Switzer

When we arrived at the Memorial Student Center in College Station, our tour group was joined by six other collectors who had driven in on their own. They were Wilbarine (long-time President of OK PCA) and John Favre, friends of Don and Ruth Smith, from Bartlesville, OK, and Art and Joyce Elder and Lowell and Zoe Switzer, from Houston. Visiting in the Galleries but not part of our group were Marilyn McKee Milligan Groves and her husband Loren, from Wichita, KS. Marilyn told us that some of the weights in the Smith Collection looked familiar to her because they were once owned by her mother who sold them to the Smiths.

We had only about thirty minutes to view the Runyon and Smith Collections before lunch so we quickly visited the paperweight collection. Both antique and contemporary weights are represented as well as pieces by modern masters. Included in the eclectic collection are several Clichy millefiore weights, a frit weight of the battleship Maine, a Gillinder hand holding a turtle, a Parabelle concentric on sodden snow ground and an Ayotte pink flower weight. Most unusual are two bronze statues on marble bases, on the head of each a basket holding a paperweight. We were told that Don Smith was very fond of this pair. In addition to the paperweights, there is a stunning chalice vase with a cobalt blue bowl, a gift from Ruth Smith. Also in the Galleries is Debbie Tarsitano's "The Outstretched Hand of Liberty", completed in 1990. This consists of eight plaques that tell, in glass, the true story of her family coming to America, entering through Ellis Island. Debbie loaned this exhibit to the Galleries in 2000 and especially after 9-11 felt that she wanted it to remain on display there.



John and Wilbarine Favre

At noon, we enjoyed a delicious lunch of salad, stuffed sea bass, broccoli,

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rice, rolls and dessert. Eighteen of us were seated at three round tables, surrounded by paperweights, art glass and paintings as a local TV station filmed the event. (At other times, there are chairs and sofas in this room where students study.) During the luncheon, the Elders and the Switzers, who are docents here, told us that when there is a home football game, between three and five hundred people visit the Galleries on Saturday morning. After lunch, Tim asked us to introduce ourselves to the group; then, he discussed the Runyon and Smith Collections in the room with us.



Perthshire Four Ring Concentric

A PASSION FOR PAPERWEIGHTS
By Carole Dodson

How could I have known the passion that was about to be released when I opened the innocent little gift box containing my first paperweight? Immediately my eyes were drawn to the beauty of what now lay nestled in the palm of my hand. The pristine colors, the symmetry of design, the feeling that I was holding a complete miniature world drew me in like a magnet and the fascination began.

Next, we were given a tour of the Galleries and the other two art collections in the Memorial Student Center. One contained dramatic works by Barbara Elan, the other, interesting student creations using natural materials. Immediately afterwards, we were taken to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum on the campus of A&M. At 4:30 PM, with box dinners and soft drinks, we started back to San Antonio, again accompanied by student volunteer Kirsten Wennermark. We arrived at the Adam's Mark at 8 PM, ending our twelve-hour day.

This brief article in no way portrays the magnitude of the experience of visiting Texas A&M University, the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries and the George Bush Presidential Library. As with almost everything else in the state, it is BIG but the students and staff on campus are very friendly. If you are ever in the area, take the time to visit one of the best-kept secrets in Texas and explore Texas A&M University.



George Bush Presidential Library

My first paperweight was a Perthshire in the general range [Figure 1], compelling enough to my unpracticed eye that, while traveling, I found myself seeking other sources offering these crystal temptations. Early pieces that captivated me were Josh Simpson's World and Planet series, R. Eickholt's ethereal marine weights and an Aro Schulze found in Provincetown on Cape Cod. Caithness, with their modern, controlled bubble designs, swirled color imagery and exquisite cut glass prompted my purchase of a number of pieces created by Colin Terris and Helen MacDonald and one by Franco Toffolo. I feel fortunate to have acquired these when I did as Colin has now retired and Caithness has undergone substantial change. Therefore, the pieces I have, I treasure.

Pursuing my love affair with this beautiful art form, reading informative literature, more readily available than ever, introduced me to many top artists and makers. I became intoxicated with these miniature worlds created in glass, forever suspended in time. I feel these art glass objects are a gift of beauty to pass along to others who will hold them close and gaze upon them as their senses awaken and kindle into fire. What a legacy to leave behind!

Perthshire has become and remains my favorite maker. I admire the balanced designs and clarity of color, the orderly progression of weights from least to most expensive, and the great care this Scottish factory took to release a superior, affordable product. I have heard it said that for these very reasons a majority of weight collectors started with a Perthshire paperweight. One marvelous Perthshire weight that recently entered my collection, the 1976D Magnum Cushion [Figure 2], moved me to exclaim, "I am in awe of the creative magnificence this wonderful paperweight offers!" It makes me feel as if I am viewing a stylized English Garden, impeccably laid out on a brilliant cerulean blue opaque ground. I am delighted by the array of complex

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canes, forming a tapestry of rose, green and white bordered by twist threaded latticino rods that add delightful texture to this fabulous piece. A moment afterward, I discover the “hidden garden” a step below and my breath catches as I view the entire artistry. A design believed to be unique to Perthshire, where the bottom level is visible only through an opening in the top layer, this was Perthshire’s first use of a two-layer set-up.



**Perthshire 1976D
Magnum Cushion Weight**

Recently I traveled to the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum in Neenah, Wisconsin, where the 2005 PCA Convention will be held. Fellow collectors, this is not to be missed! Evangeline Bergstrom was a solitary paperweight collector when weight making was, by and large, a lost art. She donated 632 paperweights to establish the Museum and since then the Museum has acquired an additional 1500 weights, many contributed over the years by private donors. The sheer number of paperweights on display overwhelms one. As you move through the Museum, you begin to recognize, almost as an old friend, a piece or two that we may have added to our own collections over time. The voyage of discovery then becomes a journey of joy. Truly, the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum deserves its nickname, “Paperweight Mecca”.

Because of my active interest in gardening, I have been drawn to the complexity of Rick Ayotte’s intimate multi-layered gardens and to Drew Ebelhare’s intricate millefiori flowers: pansies, daisies, pompom dahlias and roses. These are my indoor gardens with which I surround myself, especially during the winter months when Mother Nature covers us with her frosty white mantle. John Deacon’s diverse work has also found its way into my collection. The meticulous delicacy that Daniel Salazar infuses into each of his weights commands my attention as I admire his sensitive touch. One of Mayauel Wards’ new Geodes graces my entertainment center and I cherish it for the stimulating work of art it is.

Admiring Perthshire as I do, I found I wanted to follow the company’s history backward to its inspiration, if possible. I now own a few pieces from Strathern Glass, managed by Stuart Drysdale before he left in 1968 to begin operations at Perthshire Paperweights in Crieff, Perth, Scotland. Recently I acquired a lovely old PPI, set on a soft yellow ground, which I hope is from 1969,



Jim Brown Concentric

the first year Perthshire produced weights for sale. This piece, to me, is “the beginning”. I also have a few excellent Perthshire pieces from 2001, the year Neil Drysdale died, perhaps the beginning of the end for the company. These later pieces, I feel, are “an ending” of a magnificent product line. Thankfully, highly talented craftsmen from Perthshire are now producing their own creative offerings and I am rewarded by owning some of Peter McDougall’s new pieces. The legacy continues.

Back home, after traveling with my husband Dennis, I gently unwrap a package that had arrived and was awaiting us on the kitchen table. We enjoy the excitement when a new piece comes “home to stay”. In this case, the delicacy of each type of complex cane used in Jim Brown’s recent work [Figure 3], so reminiscent of lovely antique Bacchus weights, captures one’s attention as you are invited to explore. My eye is drawn inward through the ring of hollow purple canes of a new piece, and then recedes, resurfacing over the lavender ruffles of a central floret. Slowly meandering at my leisure over a meadow of softest salmon, creamy white and pale green complex canes, I am reminded of the petals of the tiniest flower. Only then do I enjoy the view in its entirety. Captivating!

How wonderful it would be to mingle with other collectors who share the same interest and passion. Many times I’ve tried to arouse interest in friends or company, only to have them “fade away” from the subject. Then, much to my delight, not long ago, having friends over for Bridge, I mentioned my paperweight collection. One or two were interested and others, their curiosity piqued, followed me into another room. Soon everyone was exclaiming excitedly over these miracles in glass. Needless to say, I loved the commotion and their desire to learn.

Glass paperweights are my diamonds, rubies, and pearls. I am fascinated by the creative minds and the diverse applications each artist renders for us to enjoy. Introducing others, including my own grandchildren, to this captivating art form, I hope to be just one of many who spread the word about this glorious hobby. The exquisite beauty of this intriguing art form stimulates the senses. May we pass this fascination ever onward.

THE SCRAMBLE:

THANK YOU...Once again we thank a number of loyal DVPCA members for their donations to the group: Marty and Sandy Mikelberg for a boxed glass snail; Nancy Alfano for a Door Prize paperweight; Andrew Scott for a Mother's Day Orrefors plate; John Hawley for an unknown maker weight; Patty Mowatt for two Christies Auction Catalogs; and the Krugers for four different weights, an American Glass trivet and a price guide by Harry Rinker. All these items added to our Door and Raffle Prizes at the Summer Meeting on July 12, 2003.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS STILL AVAILABLE FOR INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS...Andy Dohan has accepted the position of Fundraising Committee Chair but there are three other Chairs still open, for Education, Publications and Membership Committees. Please consider that DVPCA needs your efforts in these three areas if we are to continue to grow and to remain a vital organization.

SOLICITING NEWSLETTER ARTICLES...We wish to thank long-term DVPCA members Bonnie and Gary Geiger and newcomer Carole Dodson for their articles, appearing in this issue. Perhaps you are aching to see your own name in print, as a by-line on a topic of your choice pertaining to glass paperweights. We actively solicit your writings: stories, travel articles, research projects, whatever you care to tell us about the wonderful world of art glass paperweights. Email your submissions to stanleyk2@comcast.net or mail them to VP Stanley B. Kruger. And thank you for your support!

ADVANCE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS...SAVE THE DATES!

January 24, 2004 Winter Meeting: Morning Program: "The History and Products of Pairpoint Glass" by Guest Dealer **William Pitt**. Afternoon Program: "David and Dennis Briening's Glass Paperweights" by DVPCA members, weight making brothers, **David and Dennis Briening**.

April 17, 2004 Spring Meeting: Morning Program: "You, Your Collection and eBay, Part II" by **Martin Mikelberg**. Afternoon Program: Celebrated paperweight author, Editor and lecturer **John Hawley** returns to speak on "Paperweights That Tell A Story". Not to be missed! Guest Dealers: **Dan & Therese McNamara**.

July 10 & 11, 2004 12th Anniversary Celebration Weekend: Morning Program: "You, Your Collection and eBay, Part III" by Martin Mikelberg. Guest Dealer **Nancy Alfano** returns to sponsor another paperweight artist and to present her own Morning Program on another special collecting niche area.

October 9, 2004 Fall Elections Meeting: Morning Program: "You, Your Collection and eBay, Part IV" by **Martin Mikelberg**. Afternoon Program: Emerging artist, second generation weight maker **Melissa Ayotte** will display and discuss her own and her father's artistry.

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

Martin Mikelberg graduated from Temple University with a BS degree in Accounting, earned his CPA Certification and then worked 31 years for CW Industries of Southampton, PA as Controller, later Vice President of Finance (CFO), retiring in 1998. He has many hobbies including music (tin whistle and harmonica), composes haiku, travels the world and is an avid eBay.

Drew Ebelhare last appeared before DVPCA almost exactly six years ago, on October 18, 1997. He is, and has been for some time, one of the few acknowledged masters of millefiori paperweights working today. Lately, his designs have shifted; currently his focus is on making his millefiori look more like lampwork, crossing the line between the two genres. About five years ago he moved from Texas to Canon City, CO where the outdoor activities are more to his liking. Drew is concerned that the burgeoning studio glass movement in the US seems more and more popular, making millefiori weights and canes less desirable than lampworked decorations. He also sees a decline in the overall number of paperweight collectors worldwide. He will narrate a series of slides illuminating the progression in his millefiori designs from 1992 up to the present moment. We are very pleased that Drew was willing to make the long trip from Colorado to Pennsylvania so that we could enjoy this presentation.

FALL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT...October 11, 2003

At Williamson Restaurant, 500 Blair Mill Road at Easton Road (Route 611), Horsham, PA
Located two traffic lights north of PA Turnpike Exit 343 (Old Exit 27 Doylestown/Jenkintown)...Phone (215) 675-5454

10 AM **Paperweight Fair** with Guest Dealer **William Pitt** of Fairhaven, MA. Members' Tables, Displays of Interest. Social Hour with Coffee, Tea and Danish available for early arrivals.

11 AM **Morning Program: Martin Mikelberg** on "You, Your Collection and eBay". Martin will discuss eBay's history and how it can play a role in your collecting life, what your collecting aims are and how to evaluate, plan for and dispose of a collection.

11:30 AM **Morning Program: BEST FINDS CONTEST OF 2002/2003:**

- **Six Categories:** *BEST ANTIQUE, BEST MODERN, BEST BUY, MOST ATTRACTIVE, MOST UNUSUAL, UGLIEST.*
- Must be a weight acquired since the last BEST FINDS CONTEST on February 2, 2002.
- May have been acquired anywhere...dealer, auction, gift, Internet.
- May enter as many items in each category as you wish.
- Judging will be by DVPCA members; you will receive your category assignment with your name label.
- PAPERWEIGHT PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNING ENTRIES!

12:15 PM **LUNCH**

1:15 PM **Business Meeting:** Announcements, Raffle Prize and BEST FINDS CONTEST winners, Silent Auction Results, Reports from the Floor.

1:45 PM **Afternoon Program: Drew Ebelhare,** Master Millefiori Maker, Canon City, CO.

2:45 PM **Paperweight Fair** continues.

LUNCHEON REASERVATIONS – OCTOBER 11, 2003

Choices @ \$14.50 each _____ Number Attending
_____ Boneless Breast of Chicken Maryland, Bacon
_____ Broiled Fresh Scrod, Tartar Sauce

NAME(s) _____ Check for \$ _____ enclosed.
Email Address _____

*Please mail this slip with your selections and check to: DVPCA, c/o Don Formigli, Treasurer
455 Stonybrook Drive, Levittown, PA 19055 NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3, 2003!*



PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION


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Dated Reservations Tear-Off Slip

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STRATHEARN LATTICE RIBBON PAPERWEIGHT CREATIONS

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

