



New England Paperweight Collectors Association

Newsletter – Spring, 2008

NEPCA Fetes Ayotte at Spring Meeting

Rick Ayotte, one of NEPCA's star artists, is celebrating a big one this year: his 30th anniversary as a maker of fine paperweights. To honor this important milestone, the NEPCA will hold a special meeting Saturday April 12, 2008 at which he and his work will be celebrated. Also honoring him is a spectacular exhibit of Ayotte weights at the Sandwich Museum of Glass.

As usual, the NEPCA meeting will begin with a dealers' fair and coffee hour from 9 to 10. At 10 the meeting will be called to order by President Clara Ayotte. Following will be the presentation of a display of Ayotte paperweights brought in by members, with comments by the owners. The Dealers' Fair will

continue from 11 to 12:15, to be followed by lunch. This part of the meeting will be held in the meeting room of the Plymouth Lodge, which will also be where lunch will be served.

After lunch, the group will adjourn to the Sandwich Museum of Glass for a very special afternoon: first a devoted fan of Ayotte paperweights will give a talk on his love of Rick's work. Gordon Park, originally from Texas, lives in the South where he is an Environmental Engineering Manager. He has been a collector of art and antiques for over thirty years. His interest is now focused on contemporary glass with a very strong emphasis on Rick's work. Mr. Park has the largest and most exten-

sive known collection of Ayotte's paperweights. His collection includes many unique Ayotte pieces, some of which will be included in the upcoming exhibit at the Sandwich Museum. After his presentation, members will have an opportunity to see the Ayotte exhibit in the museum.

Dealers for the day will include Roger Jacobsen, Leo Kaplan Ltd., Dan and Terri McNamara, and William Pitt.

NOTE: Please bring in your favorite Ayotte weight(s) so you can share its beauty with other members. When you arrive at the meeting, register your Ayotte weight(s). NEPCA will provide flat cases to house and protect your piece(s).

Inside this issue:

NEPCA Fetes Ayotte at Spring Meeting	1
NEPCA Presidents's Message	1
Paperweight Fest at Wheaton	2
News of Artists and Dealers	2
Noteworthy Items	3

NEPCA Presidents's Message

Spring meeting!! Is it possible that Spring will be here in April? As I sit looking out the window at piles of snow that just don't want to melt, it is hard to believe that in six weeks or so we

will be enjoying green grass and maybe a few Crocuses (croci?) or Daffodils!!

In taking the position of NEPCA president, I had no intention of planning a

meeting that would celebrate Rick's 30th Anniversary of being a Paperweight Artist! Because the Sandwich Glass Museum had

(Continued on page 3)

Paperweight Fest at Wheaton

The every-other-year paperweight gathering will be held May 14-17 at Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center in Millville, NJ. For the second time, the Delaware Valley Paperweight Collectors Association is co-sponsoring the event.

Opening day of the event will feature registration from noon to 5 and an Artists' and Dealers' Fair from 6 to 8. From 9 to 4, registrants can make their own glass object in the glass studio and visit the Museum of American Glass.

Thursday begins with registration at 8:30 (till noon), and after greetings -from Susan Gogan- and Stanley Kruger, three talks will be presented: Simone Simons, "The Political Symbolism of Baccarat's Rose

and Gridel Canes"; Allan Scott, "35 Years of Lampwork"; and Alan Thornton, "Queen's Head Silhouette canes in Old English Paperweights."

Box lunches will be provided for two sessions with four paperweight artists for "lunch and learn" – the first from 12:15 to 12:45, the second from 1:15 to 1:45. After lunch, Kevin Holt will show how to date "Ysart Weights Through Cane Analysis." The remainder of the afternoon will be spent in the Glass Studio where Alan Scott and Peter McDougall will give demonstrations.

Friday's program will begin at 8:45 with Mike Hunter revealing "The Clown in Me!" in the Glass Studio. At 10:00, Zach Jorgenson and

Chelsea Bent will talk on "Murrine Me!" in the Heritage House with John Hawley set to discuss Nicholas Lutz and the New England Glass Co. at 11.

After four "lunch and learn" sessions, each one repeated, two talks will complete Friday's formal program. At 2:15, Erick Hansen will talk on "Taking Laughing Glass" and at 3, Tony Glander will explain "Photo Emulsion Printing on Glass." A Dealers' Fair from 4 to 6 will precede the Friday evening "Dinner Caravans."

Saturday will feature the following presentations: at 9, Don Eckel on "Chinese Weights – Closing in on Antique!"; at 9:45, Skip DuBois, "Paperweight Buttons"; and at 11, Bill Price

"Milk Glass Weights of the 1892 World's Fair." "Lunch and Learn" sessions have been scheduled as in the previous days. The afternoon will include demonstrations by Gordon Smith and John and Craig Deacons as well as a Dealers' Fair from noon to 5.

Concluding the Fest will be a banquet in the Heritage House, preceded by a cocktail hour. Announcement of raffle winners and door prizes will complete the evening.

There is usually a large contingent of NEPCA members at the Wheaton event. Anyone interested in the attending can call 800 998 4552 or 856 825 6800 for further information.

News of Artists and Dealers

◆ We were saddened to learn that Doris and Harvey Robinson are no longer planning on setting up as dealers at the NEPCA meetings. They have been NEPCA stalwarts for many years, and their fine display of antique and contemporary weights was always one of the highlights of the NEPCA and national paperweight dealers' fairs. Doris also was a featured speaker at many NEPCA events.

◆ The Ayottes (including Rick and Clara, Melissa, John and little Gabriel) attended a special paperweight weekend at Larry Selman Ltd. in Santa Cruz, California. It was, says Clara, a busy and exciting time. The family even toured the wine country (arranged by John), beautiful, except the weather was chilly.

◆ Roger Jacobsen will be making his spring trip to New England after basking in the warm climate in Carlsbad, NM.

(Continued from page 1)

invited Rick and Melissa to have an exhibition of their work this Spring, however, the board and I decided that it might be appropriate to plan our spring meeting around Rick and his achievements.

As I worked to get the weights ready for the Sandwich exhibit, it became clear to me that our paperweight collection of Rick's work is like a family album recalling so many cherished moments and different feelings as to what was going on in our life. For example, Rick has been working on paperweights since our children were small. They therefore grew up knowing their father was mostly in the basement (where his first workspace was) sitting at a torch making "magic" with crystal! They and their friends grew used to seeing the latest creations – particularly the birds – which

emerged from Rick's hands.

Needless to say there were moments of excitement when a bird came out from the torch looking like a Warbler or a Cardinal, but also many disappointments when the piece looked like what he chose to call a "DO DO Bird"!! But, the next day he would be back at his torch with just as much enthusiasm as if the failed bird had been perfect!

Because of Rick's career, we have been blessed to have met so many interesting and wonderful people. This is certainly something that would never have happened had it not been for paperweights. For instance, when we first started out; Paul Jokelson called. He refused to believe that Rick's birds were made out of glass and not sulphides!! At one of his Christmas parties, we sat with him chatting about paperweights with holiday music in the background! At one

point, Mr. Jokelson and Rick shared what they considered humor, while the rest of us stood by in disbelief at what we were hearing!

Among other golden memories are the visitors over the years, many of them pleased to listen to Rick describe his latest endeavor in minute detail! I would at times interrupt with coffee, feeling they were probably bored, but such never seemed to be the case as they quickly focused on his conversation once again!

Also really special for us were the times we spent at Leo Kaplan's store in New York, being part of their weekend receptions. Also high on the memory list are the PCA conventions with all their many entertaining features, along with Larry Selman's very special events.

Then come the trips that we have taken that allowed

us to see parts of the world, not as a tourist but in a much more personal environment. Once Rick was invited to be a consultant at the Saint Louis Glass Factory. During our time there, we shared meals with the factory director and then were invited to the home of a SL glass maker to share a meal with him as well. We finished that trip with dinner in the Eiffel Tower looking over the "City of Lights". Fabulous!

I could go on and with stories of where paperweights have taken us, but I think most important to me are the friendships we have made over the years, friendships we carry with us always. Many who have started out as collectors or dealers are now considered dear friends! Some we have known 30 years!!

Doesn't seem possible.

Clara Ayotte

Noteworthy Items

NEPCA FALL 2009 MEETING

The fall meeting of the NEPCA will be held at the Sturbridge Host Inn and Conference Center on Saturday, October 25. Featured speakers will be Gay Taylor from the Museum of American Glass at Wheaton, and Daniel Salazar, noted paperweight artist. Make a note in your calendar now!!!

PCA CONVENTION--2009

While you are marking the NEPCA date on your calendar, make an entry for May 2009 and the PCA Convention to be held in Toledo. An exciting program is being planned, and a prime attraction will be an extended visit to the new Glass House at the Toledo Museum of Art.

