



# New England Paperweight Collectors Association

Newsletter

—

Fall 2009

## Fall NEPCA Meeting at Currier Museum

A very special NEPCA meeting has been planned for the fall. This meeting will be held on Saturday, October 24, at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH. NEPCA visited the Currier some years ago to view the Henry Melville Fuller Paperweight Collection, but this meeting marks the first time the entire day will be spent at the newly renovated museum.

The day will begin at 9 with a social hour. The Dealers' Fair will be open in the Yellow Classroom, and the dealers will remain open throughout the day.

At 10 in the Currier auditorium, Alan Kaplan (of Leo Kaplan Ltd.) will speak on the Fuller Collection, both how it began and how it grew. Alan, one of NEPCA's dealers, was centrally involved in the accumulation of Mr. Fuller's beautiful weights.

At noon, a hot buffet lunch will be served in two sessions (an arrangement made necessary because of space limitations). Group A will be seated from 12 to 12:45; group B will be seated from 1 to 1:45.

At 2 in the afternoon, the featured speaker will be Andrew Spahr, curator of the Currier. His topic will be "Henry and the Museum."

The formal program will conclude at 2:45, at which time members will be free to shop the dealers or visit galleries in the museum.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Fairfield Inn and Suites for Friday night. Cutoff date for reservations is Wednesday, September 25. Cost is \$99.00 per night (single or double). Call 603 606 5485 for reservations and mention the New England Paperweight Association to get the \$99.00 rate.

### Inside this issue:

Fall NEPCA Meeting at Currier Museum **1**

NEPCA President's Message **1**

Noteworthy Items **2**

News of Artists and Dealers **3**

Raffle of Clichy Paperweight **3**

## NEPCA President's Message

### May to September!

It seems the seasons pass much too quickly these days. This is something my mother used to say - now I find myself saying it as well. I hope this has nothing to do with my age!

First, I have some comments on our April meeting. First, I would like to thank John Hawley once again for his very fine lecture on American Paperweights. John drove up from Florida just for the meeting!

As you will remember, this talk was given in memory of Dan McNamara who loved all paperweights but had a special fondness for American pieces. I heard from members that they found

John very informative and interesting.

We also thoroughly enjoyed hearing our own member John Walsh talk about his collection of beautiful antique and contemporary paperweights. His presentation (which also included information about how he and Linda became collectors) was very professional, extremely well prepared and enjoyed by all. I personally think there are other chapters that would enjoy hearing him speak!

In May, it was off to the convention. Melissa could not be with us as it was just too close to her due date, so Rick and I headed to Toledo. Our own Ben Drabeck, president of PCA, worked hard with his board to put on a fabu-

lous convention that was attended by more than 200 paperweight lovers.

The convention is always such a great opportunity to see old friends from all over the country and also make new ones who share the love and appreciation of the beautiful world of glass art!

The PCA board deserves special mention. These members are all volunteers who work for months to make sure everyone enjoys and appreciates the history of this very unique world of "art as a paperweight". There is always a special excitement in the air on arrival and when collectors are hovering near the doors waiting for them to open for the artists'

*(Continued on page 2)*

Editor:  
Ben Drabeck

Layout Editor:  
Mary E. Sayre

## Noteworthy Items

### State of the Market – Part II

#### by Art Elder

In the previous newsletter, a discussion was included on the state of the paperweight market in the present uncertain economic times. The discussion included the surprising strength of bidding in recent auctions. The previous two Selman auctions included many blockbuster weights from the Sam and Winifred Alschuler Collection which proved to be in big demand to collectors. What surprised most followers of these auctions was the high demand for other weights of quality, whether antique or modern. Fierce bidding by collectors pushed many weights to premium prices. The discussion concluded with the uncertainty of the future markets, and if the recent strength was a trend or a flash in the pan. Well the future is Now!

The best indicator of the health of the paperweight market now is the most recent L.H. Selman Ltd Spring Auction, which concluded about mid May 2009. This auction was watched closely by many interested collectors and dealers as an indicator of the uncertain economy and the future of the paperweight market. Some have said the recent economic recession in the US was the most severe in the past 75 years, and on top of that, this recession was global!

The most recent Selman auction (ending in mid May) included many rare and beautiful weights, but few with significant provenance (except for one weight owned by deposed King Farouk of Egypt). The question was what would collectors bid for these premium paperweights as the economy continued to falter and the eventual recovery faded further and further into the gloomy and uncertain future. Would the gloomy outlook cause bidders to become cautious? Or would bidders consider an investment in fine paperweights, like gold, as a haven to flee to in a financial storm?

When the auction was over and the dust had settled, interested parties were amazed again at the strength of the bidding! As in the previous auctions, the strong demand was for those items of special quality or rarity. It made no difference whether they were antique or modern. If they were rare, unusual, or particularly well crafted, they were in high demand with a feeding frenzy of bidding. Many of the weights far surpassed the usually reliable price range estimates. Recession? What recession?

Published originally in the Paperweight Collectors Association of Texas newsletter.

Reprinted by permission of PCA TX.

## Presidents Message (continued)...

*(Continued from page 1)*

and dealers' fairs. They can't wait to see what dealers and artist have on display! I want to extend thanks and congratulations to Ben and to the entire PCA board for a convention well done!

In June – Oh my! Melissa delivered a beautiful little girl on June 24, Angelique Rose who weighed in at 6 lbs 11 oz and was 20 inches long. So for the following months, glass took a back seat and I became a full time "Memere" to both Gabriel now 2 and Angelique--helping Melissa as much as possible. In the process, I got lots and lots of bend and stretch exercises!! We all need that, right?

Adding to the busy-ness were a couple of family reunions – always Rick's side of course as his family is quite large! These gatherings can be chaotic, but when all is said and done they are quite special. At one of these there were 35 people from ages 92 to 7 weeks old. Amazing!

In August, I returned to the real world, the world of glass – and my position as Madam President of the NEPCA!! I must tell you all, that I am very excited about our upcoming meeting which will be held at the Currier Museum on October 24. It was my personal objective to have a meeting once again at the Currier to enjoy Henry Fuller's collection one more time! My feeling is that Henry's collection should be seen by all who have an appreciation and respect for paperweights.

I personally knew Henry. When I was with him I felt like I was living in another era and it was a delight. He was a "dapper gentleman" with wonderful stories about his adventures--including those with family members of the Czar of Russia! What a unique individual he was!

So I am asking you to come and enjoy the newly renovated museum, and hear some of the history of this beautiful collection. By the way, it should be noted that Henry left his entire collection of paperweights to

the Currier, but he also donated many very fine paintings.

Since our meeting is being held in the museum, our luncheon schedule will be a little different. Because of space considerations, we must eat in two sessions. Do not, however, let that be a problem. Simply take the time while you are waiting to enjoy the rest of the museum!

SOMETHING EXTRA: On Sunday morning (October 25) from 9 to 1, the Ayotte family has decided to have a working studio on from 9-1 to which you are all invited. Coffee and danish will be served. We will have directions on how to get to New Boston at the meeting.

*I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN MANCHESTER  
(AND NEW BOSTON).*

*Clara Ayotte*

## News of Artists and Dealers

### Barry Robert Sautner

Cameo Glass Artist Barry Robert Sautner passed away suddenly on June 30 at his home in Vero Beach, FL. He was 57. Although his work was almost entirely in untraditional paperweight genres, he was considered one of the supreme artists in the paperweight world.

After a nine plus year career as a glassblower in New Jersey, he began an artistic adventure that led to his evolution as a sculptor in glass. That journey began officially in 1977 when he began work at the Vandermark/Merritt Glass Studios in Flemington, NJ, to learn glass blowing.

His first work in cameo glass occurred in 1980 and from that time forward he developed new and often unique techniques to create new and unique glass pieces. One of those techniques was an undercut process which creates a three-dimensional bas-relief cameo glass.

In 1984, he developed a diatreta paperweight. The design is totally undercut with the exception of a few posts that keep the design connected to the mass of the paperweight. In the same year, he crafted an entirely new process he termed insculpture, consisting of carving through a small opening at the base of the paperweight, creating a three-dimensional design within the paperweight itself. Finally in 1984, his pieces combined the two processes to create a unique type of

three-dimensional, floral design carved within the crystal center and a three or four color floral diatreta design encircling it.

In 1986, he started Sautner Cameo Studio in Lansdale, PA, where he stayed for several years until his move to Florida. In both Lansdale and Florida, he created works that have occupied a place of honor and prominence in collections and museums worldwide.

"Glass has always been my canvas and my voice," he once said. "In my carvings, I attempt to express my innermost feelings which are, for me, most difficult to express verbally. Major themes in my work have included the environment, beauty, nature, mythology and the spiritual nature of man as well as man's struggle with himself."

He is survived by his partner, Brian Smith; a daughter, Heather Sautner; a son Jason and his wife Shari; two grandsons, Colin and Rowan; and four brothers, including his twin Alfred.

A memorial service was held on Aug. 29.

For further information about Barry Sautner and his beautiful and amazing work, refer to "Something New in Paperweights-Diatreta and Insculpture" by Leonard and Juliette K. Rakow in the Annual Bulletin of the Paperweight Collectors Association, 1984 (14-19). See also "Barry R. Sautner: Diatretarius of Paperweights Extraordinaire" by Juliette K. Rakow, (32-

excited about the future of our company and plan to help Ben and Mitch learn the business by staying closely involved for quite some time to come.

...

Thank you for your support and friendship over the years. Please know we are not saying goodbye to friends-just passing the torch to some younger folks who have talent, energy, and the desire to continue our life's work. We feel fortunate that our lifelong endeavors will be carried on by members of the paperweight family. We hope you will stay in touch and continue to enjoy the pleasure of collecting art, and the wonderful camaraderie we have all shared through L. H. Selman Ltd. for many years to come.

### Excerpt of message from Larry Selman

After forty years working with paperweights, Marti and I decided recently it was time to "pass the torch" by selling L. H. Selman Ltd. We are very excited that two brothers, Ben and Mitch Clark, have purchased our business and announced their plans to move The Glass Gallery to Chicago's Fine Arts Building on Michigan Avenue by the end of this year. Ben and Mitch grew up in a paperweight collecting family and bring a unique combination of business and art experience, combined with great enthusiasm and energy for paperweights. They are joined by Alexis Magaro who has been a member of the European arts community for many years and is fluent in English, French, Italian and German. We are



### Raffle to benefit our Educational Fund of a Miniature Clichy Paperweight with Central Rose

Therese McNamara donated this beautiful little Clichy weight in memory of her husband Dan McNamara a friend, a long time dealer, and an avid collector of very fine antique paperweights. Proceeds from the raffle will go into our education funds and allow us to bring interesting speakers from across the United States to our meetings.

Raffle tickets may be purchased from members of the NEPCA for \$5.00 each, 5 tickets for \$20.00, or at the meeting of the NEPCA to be held on October 24, 2009 at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH.

The drawing will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at the NEPCA meeting at the Currier Museum of Art.

---

Manchester, NH 03104

150 Ash St

Currier Museum of Art

October 24, 2009

# Fall 2009 Meeting



New England Paperweight Collectors Association  
44 Norris Street,  
Manchester, NH 03103-3726