



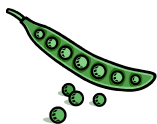
# Paperweight Collectors Association, Inc.

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## Wm Gaskill & Gary McClanahan Collections Within A Collection

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### Why Collections within a Collection?



Often times collection elements find each other and form a core competency for the collection – buying what you like will eventually mean you have multiple genre in your collection...your taste eventually forms your collections.



More is better – usually. If one paperweight looks good to you, then two will look better – next thing you know you have a wonderful selection of related paperweights that collectively tell your collecting story... (you know, like four-hundred dumps...)



Research and scholarship can often motivate deep collections of the 'study type'. How can you evaluate Union glass paperweights if you only have one? Also the study of history and culture can encourage you specialize in specific types of weights and time periods.



Hey, it's a jungle out there. Paperweight collecting is a competitive sport. If you don't bag the great weight now, it will be in someone else's trophy case...

- Rose is a rose is a rose...
- Mercury glass paperweights
- Chinese paperweights
- Railroad Paperweights
- Chequers Paperweights
- Remembrance paperweights: Wedding
- Sodden Snow paperweights
- Remembrance paperweights: Memorial
- Bohemian Inclusions
- Blown Fruit paperweights
- American Critter Weights

**Rose is a rose is rose...**

Perhaps no other flower is as well loved and esteemed around the world as is the rose. The earliest paperweights in the classical period were rich in roses – Clichy was so proficient and used the rose so prolifically that almost all roses today are referred to as ‘Clichy roses’ even though the maker may not have gotten any closer to France than New Jersey.

The ‘Clichy rose’ is, after all, a cane with special magic and appeal to collectors and modern makers as well.

**Mercury Glass Paperweights**

Mercury or silvered glass has a coating of silver-coloring on the inside of a hollow space which gives the appearance of silver. It is called mercury glass because in the early days the internal coating was mercury, which proved unsuitable. Silver nitrate was also used.

The hole on the bottom which allowed access for pouring in the silver coating was sealed with either a metal or glass disk to keep the silvered surface from tarnishing. This was patented in England in 1849 and in the USA in 1855. The best English pieces are marked E. Varnish & Co. the American pieces are often not marked but may have the New England Glass Company mark.

**Chinese Paperweights**

We are most familiar with the Chinese paperweights that were made in the 1920s and up to World War II. Some were rough copies of classic American and French paperweights that were provided by unscrupulous westerners. Others were explorations of traditional Chinese motifs and subjects normally expressed in their two dimensional art forms.

Glass paperweights, aquarium decorations, and buttons were sold in Woolworth’s, Kresge, and other five and dime stores – they were also featured at the Chicago and New York World Fairs in the 1930s.

They are ideal ‘collections within a collection’ because of their color and variety and, for the most part, they are relatively inexpensive.

**Rail Road Paperweights**

Rail Road paperweights were created to celebrate a promotion, retirement, or mark a service anniversary. These weights are more often found in folk genres where they were made by local glass factories – although the railroad allowed the buyers to come from afar.

The Rail Road weights usually had the initials of the RR where the intended owner worked and often a title or job description (the meaning may be lost). The weights are similar to occupational shaving mugs that once graced barbershops.

Cross-collectible with the 7,000 Railroadiana collectors in the United States, specific RR names can catapult prices into the stratosphere...

**Chequers Paperweights**

Another type of classic paperweight that seemed to reach its artistic zenith at Clichy, the chequers paperweight consists of orderly arrangements of canes separated by filigree cables...

Auction catalogue editors and writers in the hobby have enriched our descriptive vocabulary with clever descriptions of striped cables, calling them ‘barber pole’ and candy cane Chequers – some day in the near future, no one will know what a ‘barber pole’ is...

Modern makers include Baccarat, Perthshire, McDougall, and Parabelle Glass.

**Remembrance Paperweights: Wedding**

Remembrance Weights were created to celebrate a marriage or to celebrate the anniversary of a marriage. These weights are often found in the folk glass genres where they were made in local glass factories.

The wedding weights often reflect the literacy levels of the makers with reversed letters, misspellings and creative use of abbreviations. Typical wedding weights include:

- text-based
- symbol-based

- photographic-based weights

### **Sodden Snow Paperweights**

“The canes are sunk into what first appears a solid ground of a peculiar opaque but fuzzy white-like dense fog, or as someone aptly named it “sodden snow”. Closer inspection shows it not to be a ground at all but an arrangement of thick rings...like cotton wadding...” - Paul Hollister

A surprising richness in antique and modern weights.

### **Remembrance Paperweights: Memorial**

Remembrance Weights were created to remember a loved one that has passed on. They follow and reflect the Victorian sensibilities about death and remembrance. These weights are almost always folk genres and were made in local glass factories.

The memorial weights often reflect the literacy levels of the makers with reversed letters, misspellings and creative use of abbreviations. Typical memorial weights include:

- text-based
- symbol-based
- photographic-based weights

### **Bohemian Inclusions**

Bohemian inclusions (a generic term, probably not all were made in there) contain a variety of inclusions (ceramic-like objects) that were encased in glass and often internally decorated with colored glass. They were quite stylized. They were often faceted to increase the visual appeal and complexity of the object.

Many had animals and children as their subject matter. In the largely Roman Catholic Bohemia, religious subject matter is not uncommon.

### **Blown Fruit Paperweights**

Blown fruit weights are a personal favorite of many – the ‘best’ are supposedly those produced by the St Louis factory – they are amazingly lifelike but rare– often on a square ‘cookie’ of clear glass to support the fruit.

NEGC began to make the blown fruit early in its history and produced a remarkable range of fruit paperweights from very lifelike to more abstract and associated with folk art. They also appear on ‘glass cookies’ although more often than not, they are round cookies rather than square. The range of colors and toning are amazing...

### **American Critter Weights**

Similar to other inclusion techniques, the American ‘critter’ weight contains ceramic figurines that are encased in quality glass and made into the paperweight form.

Many are from the Midwest/West Virginia glass families that make them hard to identify as to which member made them (unless they are bottom stamped).

Somewhat ‘naïve’ in style, these weights have a ferocious following and prices that may surprise you...



**Figure 1. Rose is a Rose is a Rose...**



**Figure 2. Mercury Glass Paperweights**





Figure 3. Chinese Paperweights



Figure 4. Railroad Paperweights



Figure 5. Chequers Paperweights



Figure 6. Remembrance Weights: Wedding





Figure 7. Sodden Snow



Figure 8. Remembrance Weights: Memorial





**Figure 9. Bohemian Inclusions**



**Figure 10. Blown Fruit Weights**





**Figure 11. American Critter Weights**



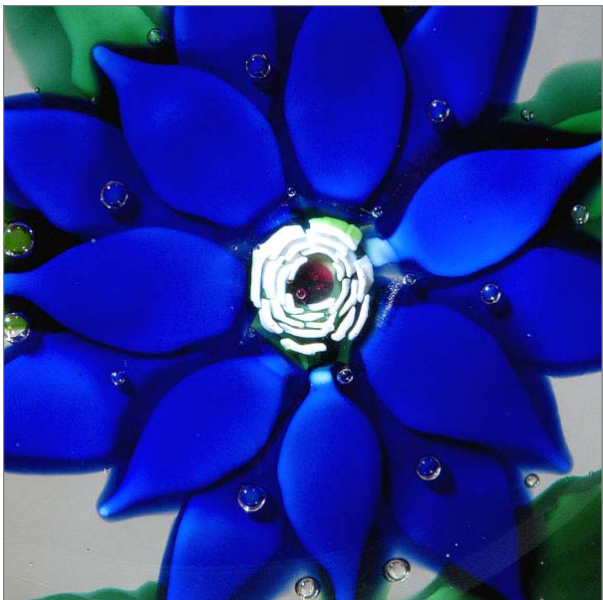
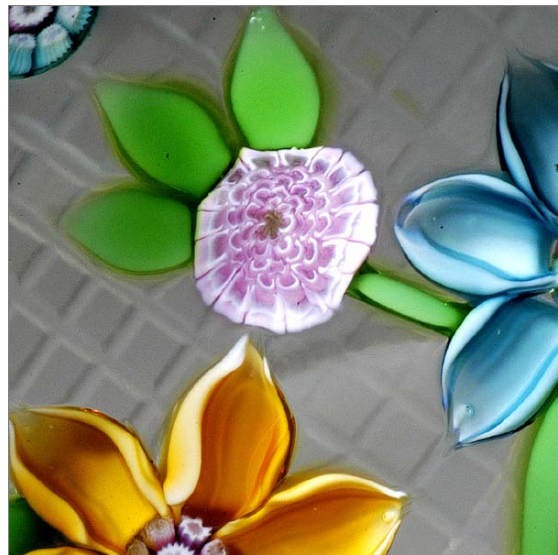


Figure 14. More Roses