

# TEXASCENTENNIAL PAPERWEIGHT

by Roy Hieger

In October 1993, at Canton's first Monday Trade Days I came across the star-shaped paperweight shown (top and bottom) in the photo. Because it was beautifully iridized, in perfect condition, and reasonably priced (\$25.00) I bought it. It measures 4-3/4 in. across, 1-1/2 in. thick at the center and 9/16 in. thick at the periphery. On the under surface, at the center, is a slightly depressed circular area which contains a central 1/2 in. 5-pointed star and the inscription "Texas Centennial 1836. 1936. On the bottom, around the outer edge, is a 1/8 in. rim on which the star rests. The star is a pale ice blue with a slight lilac tint. I assumed it was intended as a paperweight and had been made in 1936 for the Texas Centennial. I was pleased with my find and showed it to a number of Texas collectors. To my surprise, no one recalled having seen one before. I couldn't imagine why, since it was obviously made to commemorate the Texas Centennial, none of the Texans could recall seeing one. In February 1994, I took it to the Texas Convention in Houston and showed it to Jim Seeck, John Britt, and some of the other out-of-state collectors but got the same response as before. Three years passed and I still didn't know who made the star paperweight or when. I decided to write this article to see if any of our bulletin readers had any information about the star. Before I could get the article in the mail to our editor, however, my questions were answered in a totally unexpected and surprising way.

I had been corresponding with Russell and Joanne Vogelsong, the owners of Summit Art Glass, about some of their other reproductions (the miniature Intaglio Nut Cup) and had asked them to send me information on the glass they were currently producing. The lists, etc. arrived December 18th, 1996. You can imagine my surprise when, as I was

looking down the list of cobalt pieces, I saw the star paperweight illustrated. I could hardly wait until the next day to call the Vogelsongs. Russell told me that they do, indeed, own that mold and that they bought it from Imperial in 1984 or 1985 when the Imperial molds were sold. The paperweight was one

of a shelf full of Texas Centennial molds, the others being for a sugar, creamer, water pitcher, tumbler, goblet, and a coaster/mint dish. The star and the coaster/mint dish had only the lettering and dates. The other pieces also depicted the Alamo. Russell said as far as he knew, Imperial had never used the molds. He felt they had acquired them from another company, probably the Central Glass Company of Wheeling, West Virginia, and had simply put them on the shelf in the warehouse. Russell told me that the only star paperweight he had ever seen was in non-iridized crystal and was made of a poor quality of glass, unlike any of Imperial's crystal.

The Vogelsongs have reproduced the star paperweight on two occasions, the first time in a color they called "Morning Glory" (my example), and the second time in Cobalt. There are no plans, at present, to produce it in any other colors.

