

## **DREAMS CAPTURED IN GLASS**

*Enthusiastic paperweight collector Henri Rooijmans enthralled club members with a colourful history of paperweights. by Moira Holden*

Henri's superb film presentation looked back at the beginnings of the craft in Egypt 3,000 years ago where the techniques originated. He took us on a journey during *Presse Papiers: A Dream Captured in Glass* through the many ages and influences of this intricate art form. 'I started collecting paperweights 30 years ago,' said Henri. 'But I had no knowledge whatsoever.' He outlined the big names of the industry: Baccarat; Arthur Rubloff; St. Louis; Paul Izzard and Clichy. Letter-writing had become more popular in the mid-1800s, so the desire for pretty paperweights increased. Famous collectors include: Truman Capote; the Aga Khan; Eva Peron; Queen Victoria and Jacqueline Kennedy. Henri displayed many of his favourite paperweights from his own extensive collection.