



This, once, was rock.

Time, weathering and mechanical processes give us sand and the chemicals needed to make, and add colour, to glass.

Add heat, design inspiration and skill in glass making and forming, and this glass paperweight was created.

According to the Corning Museum of Glass, the earliest attempts at making glass are not known, but the first incidence of glass being found is in Mesopotamia, around 2500BC, although they say Pliny blames it on Phoenician sailors.

Paperweights, on the other hand, have a much shorter history, having originated in early 19th century France. There are a number of techniques for making them, including millefiori, lampwork, sulphide, swirls, marbles and crowns. None of which were used for this unique piece. It speaks of more than one hot glass processes because the three sections are so different.

It was made in Germany and sold, by the maker, at the Cologne Christmas Market in December 1998.

The customer was me - I chose it. I love glass, and I love whimsical art - and it was a gift. We were there on one of those 4-day bus trips to the Christmas markets. So nothing heavy, and nothing too expensive either. So this. It was the last gift my husband bought me.

When I'm also gone it will probably end up in a charity shop, no provenance attached, ready to start a new adventure.

I wonder how long it will take for it to again become rock - and what adventures it may have in between...?