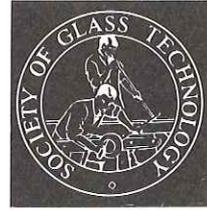


SGT NEWS



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Technology

VALUABLE STORE OF KNOWLEDGE

The Frank Wood Library is an important industry resource of glass texts and journals. Here, M PARKER discusses its origins and value to Society members.

From the early days of the formation of both a department to study glass technology at Sheffield University and the Society of Glass Technology, books and journals were collected as a valuable store of knowledge on all aspects of the subject. Wherever possible, the range of coverage was extended by asking for donations and by arranging exchanges of the Society's journals with those of equivalent overseas organisations. This process was encouraged by the creation of an abstracting service as early as 1917 to provide Society members with up-to-date information of developments taking place internationally; by 1934, the library had grown to 1250 volumes.

By 1937, Professor W E S Turner had found 'Elmfield' and was anxious to acquire this building for the Department of Glass Technology; funds were raised, the building was purchased and work was soon initiated to convert this house into a University Department. From the beginning, the best rooms were selected for the Professor's office, the museum and the library.

The library was dedicated to the memory of William Francis John Wood (Frank Wood), who had been the first president of the Society of Glass Technology and president of the Glass Research Delegacy from 1923 until his death in 1934. A commemorative window showing the twin aims of

industry and research was installed.

The library moved into 'Elmfield' in 1938 and a grand opening was arranged for June 12th, 1939, although the building preparation was still not quite complete. The opening ceremony, presided over by Lord Riverdale, chairman of the Advisory Council on Science to the Government, involved a lunch at the Grand Hotel. It is interesting to note that flowers were provided from the garden of Herbert Bateson, whose obituary was published in the April 1992 issue of Glass Technology.

The library continues to maintain its tradition as a repository for glass texts and journals. A few years ago, it had grown to the point where new shelving had to be added and this was provided by the Society of Glass Technology. Its coverage has also been extended to include a number of books on polymers and ceramics. This valuable resource is still available to members of the Society and with some restrictions, on a wider basis.

President:
Mr N M McDonnell,
CEng, MIMechE,
FSGT.

Honorary Secretary:
Mr W Simpson,
FSGT, FICeram,
FIIM, FBIM.

Honorary Treasurer:
Mr M D Thew.

FULL HOUSE IN SHEFFIELD!

Another full house - 338 members and guests - enjoyed the Yorkshire Section's annual dinner and dance on Friday December 6th 1991, at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield. Guest speaker Derek Watts, director of sales at Rockware Glass, kept his audience in a continuous state of laughter. Well known for his acerbic wit, Derek gave a graphic account of the realities of life in the glass industry... the characters and situations described were all too familiar!

Following the speeches, Neil McDonnell presented the Society's award for service plaque to Derek Haley, while Yorkshire Section chairman Tony Wadsworth presented the coveted Dennis Keeton Award to Richard Hulme of Waterstone Glass. This magnificent engraved crystal decanter is donated by King Taudevin & Gregson Ltd in memory of Dennis Keeton, a much respected glass engineer, KTG director and Fellow of the Society. Given for services rendered to the Yorkshire Section, previous recipients are Rosemary Sales, Gordon Brown, Roger Picton and David Parkinson.

Dancing followed well into the night and more than 50 raffle prizes were won.

At the end of the evening 12 months earlier, departing revellers were confronted with deep snow and blizzard conditions outside the Cutlers' Hall. Thankfully, last December the weather behaved, everyone reportedly arriving home safely and in good time.

TONY WADSWORTH



IN PRINT

Proceedings of the 7th international conference on the Physics of Non-Crystalline Solids (Cambridge, August 1991) are now available. Edited by L David Pye, W C LaCourse and H J Stevens, the document has been published on behalf of the Society of Glass Technology by Taylor & Francis. Copies are available priced at £50 for members and £60 for non-members.

WARM, TRADITIONAL MIDLANDS WELCOME

The numbers may be slightly lower than in former years but the Midlands Section annual dinner and dance continues to be one of the highlights of the SGT's social calendar. This year's event - the fifty third - was staged on Friday February 21st at the Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich Spa.

The warmth of the Midlands Section's welcome to members and guests is well known. In accordance with Midlands traditions, the glassware on the tables had been loaned by Stuart Crystal and the menu card prepared by Maurice Wallage. In honour of the chairman of the Section, Roy Nickels, this year's menu was on the subject of Irish glass:



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IRISH GLASS NO 1

"The Midlands Section have a new Chairman. Whilst it is our 33rd in our 59 year span, it is our first that hails from the Emerald Isle. He cut his 'vitreous teeth' producing E-Glass and A-Glass marbles ultimately destined for transformation into saleable glassfibre.

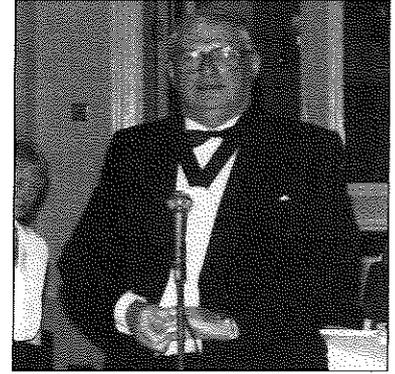
Some 180 years before the epoch of marble making, the term 'Irish glass' referred to the luxury glass made in Ireland between 1780 and about 1835. Glass was made in Ireland before and after those dates but it was the product of

Irish Glasshouses during this period that won worldwide renown and earned Ireland a chapter in the history of world glass.

The beginning date of 1780 is readily arrived at. In that year the English parliament began easing restrictions on Irish industry, including the manufacture of glass, while it continued to levy heavy taxes on the glassmaking industry at home. Irish businessmen with capital noted the advantages given to their country and set about establishing new glasshouses, augmenting those already in existence. In turn, glassworkers in England migrated across the Irish Sea and found ready employment of their skills - in mixing the English lead glass and cutting the unique vessels made from it - in an unencumbered industry.

The transplanted artisans created heavier and heavier vessels, cutting them more and more elaborately in the development of what

Trevor Turner (left), receiving his award for service from Neil McDonnell.



Midlands Section chairman, Roy Nickels.

we today call Irish glass. This 'heavy' characteristic is a means of identifying glassware as being of Irish make but an infallible sign of vessels of Irish origin is the name of an Irish glasshouse impressed on its base. Irish glasshouses used moulds for the base of jugs, decanters, bowls and drinking glasses which carried the tradenames of the glasshouses using them." MEW.

Two Midlands traditions have already been mentioned but there is a third, unique to the Section; the proceedings are controlled by a 'moderator of ordinances' complete with glass gong and in the case of the present moderator, Norman Howell, a bosun's call, to bring the assembly to order.

The speeches that followed maintained the high standard set by the meal. After proposing the Loyal Toast, the chairman introduced his guests and gave the toast to them and their ladies; Marcus Dodds, a long-time friend of Roy Nickels as principal guest, who described himself as a civil servant working for the Secretary of State for Ireland; Neil McDonnell and Bill Simpson, president and honorary secretary of the Society respectively; local section chairmen John Lomax from London, Peter Dean from the North-West and Tony Wadsworth from Yorkshire; and Derek Hawksworth, managing editor of the Society. Marcus Dodds' reply was both erudite and witty, showing a mastery of more Irish accents than we knew existed but with a special ear for the Belfast sound.

SGT STAFF PROFILE

Having joined the Society in 1984, Jill Costello has recently been appointed administration manager.

Jill Costello was born in Manchester in 1952 and after attending North Manchester Grammar School for Girls, graduated in history at Leeds University in 1975. She has worked for the York Archaeological Trust and a Sheffield cutler company, joining the Society in 1984 as meetings and membership assistant, responsible for all matters relating to membership (elections, records, distribution of information etc) and the organisation of conferences.

On January 1st, 1992 she was appointed administration manager, taking on additional responsibilities for the running of the Society, the internal organisation of the office and the maintenance and upkeep of 'Thornton'. Jill's interests are history, archaeology, astronomy and reading. In 1986/87, she completed a part-time MA in medieval history.



Jill Costello, SGT administration manager.

SERVICE RECOGNITION

Following the dinner, an award for service was presented to Trevor Turner by SGT president, Neil McDonnell. He had been nominated by the Midlands Section in recognition of his services, not only to the section but also to the Refractories and Hand-Made Glass technical committees.

Trevor has been continuously in membership of one or more of these committees for many years and has served terms of office as chairman of both the Midlands Section and the Refractories committee.