

# SGT NEWS



*Compiled and published by FMJ International Publications Ltd on behalf of the Society of Glass Technology*

## UPHOLDING AN HONOURABLE SGT TRADITION

### AROUND THE SECTIONS

All UK Local Sections have held their Annual General Meetings in recent weeks. There are few changes to officers to report.

London retains John Lomax as chairman and Marc Brew as secretary; Midlands is unchanged with Roy Nickels and George Mattocks; North West retains Peter Dean and David Martlew, although Donald Keenan resumes his former job as treasurer; Scotland retains Alan Rennie and Brian MacLaren; and Yorkshire has one change - Alan Croxall of Beatson Clark plc replaces Tony Wadsworth as chairman - while Rosemary Sales remains secretary. No news had been received from the North East at the time of going to press.

### STRONG ART AND CRAFT RESPONSE

The Glass Sellers Award is made alternate years for glass art and craft and for glass science and technology. This year, almost 50 art and craft entries were received, representing a wide variety of techniques and many diverse types of work. Judging will take place shortly and an announcement made within SGT News as soon as possible.

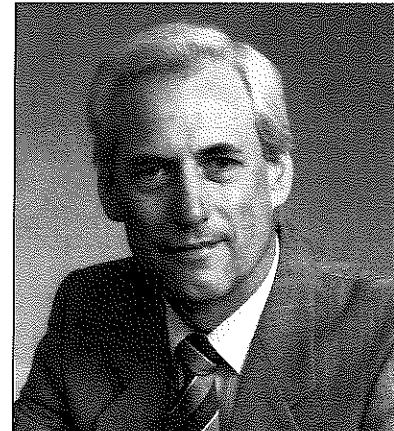
The competition is open to persons resident in the UK, the Award itself comprising an inscribed trophy and a cash prize of £1000. Submissions for next year's science and technology Award will be required by May 1993.

When elected the SGT's honorary secretary in May 1987, Bill Simpson became only the eighth to hold this office. He is already the fourth longest serving, behind Professor W E S Turner, Professor R W Douglas and Mr T S Busby who, between the three, held the position for 63 years.

Bill Simpson was born in South Yorkshire and educated at Retford Grammar School, before joining Glass Bulbs Ltd at nearby Harworth as an apprentice glass technologist. With a break for National Service in the Royal Air Force, he continued working at a variety of projects and spent the last four years of his time as technical superintendent/glass technologist.

In 1968 he joined Appleby Calumite Ltd and was appointed technical director in 1972. Twelve years later, he was also made a director of the Luxembourg company Calumite SA. Then, in 1987, Bill and his wife Anne started their own company, Glassworks Services Ltd, which trades in a wide range of raw materials for glass manufacture and hot glass handling equipment.

It was in 1951 that Bill attended his first SGT meeting, with the Yorkshire Section. He joined in 1960 and was elected to the Fellowship in 1980. Before his election as honorary secretary he had served on Council, the Board of Fellows and the



Yorkshire Section committee. He has also been active in the Institute of Industrial Managers, serving as education officer, vice chairman and chairman of the Doncaster branch, also representing that branch at national level.

### HERBERT A BATESON

It was incorrectly announced in SGT News No 3 1992 that Herbert Bateson's obituary had been published in the April 1992 issue of Glass Technology. Herbert Bateson was the SGT's 19th president (or 20th depending on how you count it; Professor Turner had served two terms of office) in 1950-1952 and while it is true that he provided the flowers for the opening of the Frank Wood Library in 1939, the obituary mentioned is of Harold Bateson. Herbert's obituary, written by Professor Turner, was published in the December 1961 issue of Glass Technology.



## UPDATED MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

# SOCIETY STALWARTS HONOURED

Two long-serving Society personalities received honorary fellowships at the SGT's Annual Spring Meeting last May. Derek Hawksworth, recently the subject of a 'Staff Profile' feature in SGT News was one deserving recipient. The second, Norman Nichols, is profiled here.

The story of Norman Nichols is closely associated with that of the modern UK glass container industry. His university studies began in Sheffield in 1931, leading to 1st Class Honours graduation in glass technology and mechanical engineering; he was the first student to register this achievement in the glass industry.

Business life began as a lecturer in the Department of Glass Technology at Sheffield University, where Norman Nichols made his first contacts with industry, as a consultant for the Department to glass plants, specialising in furnace surveys.

From Sheffield into industry and a series of senior appointments, starting in 1949 as production manager for Redfearn Glass and leading on to James Joblings (chief engineer), United Glass (chief engineer...he also helped to set up the St Albans research centre) and Jacksons Glass as production director. Two months after assuming the last of these positions, Jacksons was taken over by Rockware Glass, an organisation for whom Norman

Nichols became group production director and group technical director. He retired from the organisation in 1968 but continued as a consultant to Rockware International for a number of years.

A further honour of which he is justifiably proud is a fellowship from the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. The citation to his fellowship of the SGT sums up Norman and his attitude to life:

"One of the youngest fellows when elected, retained the enthusiasm of youth throughout a distinguished career, helping younger colleagues and making major contributions to the industry."

Appropriately, one of these younger colleagues was the current SGT president Neil McDonnell, shown below presenting the award and remarking, "It is unusual for the pupil to give the master his award!"

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Details of the main Society and Local Section meetings are currently being prepared for circulation to members but we are able to give advance notice of the following symposia and clinics during the latter part of 1992.

**September 16th** : Clinic - Keresforth Hall, Barnsley. 'Application of refractories for extended furnace life', a presentation by SEPR, arranged by the Furnace and Refractories Committee.

**October 14th and 15th** : Symposium - Gainsborough House Hotel, Kidderminster. Arranged by the Hand-Made Glass Committee.

**October 19th to 21st** : Symposium - The Royal Institution, London. 'Science and art in glass', arranged by Professor Neville Greaves of the Daresbury Laboratory, with support from the SGT.

**November 25th** : Clinic - Keresforth Hall. 'Glass defects', arranged by the Furnace Committee.

**December 1st** : Symposium - Scientific Societies' Lecture Theatre, Savile Row, London. 'Advances in amorphous state chemistry', arranged jointly by the SGT and the Applied Solid State Chemistry Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Information of these and other meetings may be obtained from Jill Costello at the SGT's Sheffield office. A wall chart programme, to be published in September, gives details of all meetings to be held during the 1992-1993 winter session, as well as general information about the SGT and its Local Sections.

The launch of SGT News is just one element of a drive to increase awareness of the SGT and its activities. A further development was introduced at the recent Glassman America 92 exhibition in New Orleans, where the president and honorary secretary put our new membership packs on display for the first time. Thirteen sheets of information and a newly designed - and much simplified - membership application form are assembled inside a laminated folder with the SGT logo and a new monogram on the cover.

Section 1 (one page), entitled 'Link up to the SGT', is a brief summary of the reasons for the existence of the SGT; Section 2 (two pages) covers the different grades of membership, subscription rates and lists the Local Section chairmen and secretaries; the SGT office and staff are described in Section 3 (two pages); Section 4 (three pages) is concerned with SGT publications - the two journals and three monographs - and the Frank Wood Library; the four pages of Section 5 describe the meetings and technical committees of the SGT and give an account of the organisation's links with the International Commission on Glass and the European Society of Glass Science and Technology (the SGT played a major role in the foundation of both organisations); and finally, Section 6 gives a brief, one page summary of the SGT's origins.

The pack was conceived and the contents produced on desktop publishing equipment by Dr David Martlew, secretary of the North West Section. It is designed so that information can be updated simply by replacing individual pages.



Society of Glass  
Technology, 20  
Hallam Gate Road,  
Sheffield S10 5BT.  
Tel 0742 663168.  
Fax 0742 665252.

Norman Nichols (right) receives an honorary fellowship from Neil McDonnell.

