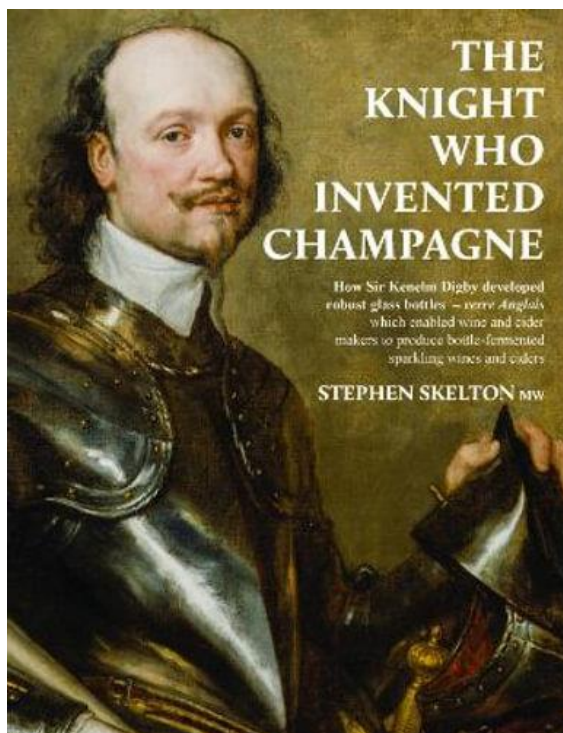


A 'lockdown soon over (maybe)' edition

So that's how it's done



Ok, the bald fact is that Sir Kenelm Digby developed robust glass bottles. But to learn that his father Sir Everard Digby, said to be 'the handsomest gentleman in England', was a Gunpowder Plotter apprehended near Holbeche House just up the road from our new museum, adds a dash of spice to a tale that ultimately sees Everard ghoulishly hung, drawn and quartered. Rather like a comet passing close to earth that has no bearing upon us save for the impact of its proximity, it is human interest tales such as this that elevate mere history beyond the commonplace. And such gems are in abundance in a book that has recently hit the scene.

We do not routinely undertake book reviews in *GlassCuts* but, just like that comet, this one is worthy of exception in grabbing the attention. I must declare an interest as the author has kindly used one of my images (Stourbridge Canal, page 66) but that's neither here nor there; this is one enchanting piece of work that I found difficulty in putting down. *The Knight Who Invented Champagne* is the latest from Stephen Skelton MW and examines the work on the aforementioned Sir Kenelm Digby in

developing those 'robust glass bottles' that enabled wine and cider-makers to produce bottle-fermented sparkling wines and ciders. The author's credentials are impeccable and lengthy so suffice to say that the 'MW' appendage stands for Master of Wine. Believe me, you don't get one of them on your Nectar card; this man knows his stuff and has worked long and hard in the industry to get it.

The title itself is a bit of a tease; Dom Perignon is widely credited with inventing secondary fermentation in the bottle - although there are suggestions of successful attempts in England 30 years beforehand - but this begs the question as to once it is made, how do you store it if the bottle can't handle the pressure? As the author puts it: *'When you make wine you soon realise that the bottle is the most important part of the whole process.'* And therein lies the justification for this brief review; an acknowledgement that beyond the high culture of lead crystal, cameo *et al*, or the practical functionality of 'broad' glass windows and storage bottles, our favourite medium has played a key role in the development of the world's finest wines and hence the career development of our most notable oenophiles and connoisseurs. It is, as they say, 'a good read'. And a very relevant one, too. *The Knight Who Invented Champagne* by Stephen Skelton MW. Published by author, softback, 166pp, copious illustrations mostly colour. Available both in print and eBook format via Amazon.

Work in progress

Our sign (*GlassCuts passim*) is coming along nicely. We'll keep you posted.



Forthcoming exhibition



Penlee House is a museum and art gallery located in Penzance, Cornwall and is home to numerous paintings by members of the Newlyn School, including many by Stanhope Forbes, Norman Garstin, Walter Langley and Lamorna Birch. It also features other forms of artistic expression, including glass.

This extract is from their website www.penleehouse.org.uk/exhibition/laura-knight/

'A major retrospective exhibition coming in 2021 (17th May 2021 - 16th September - Ed) will celebrate the career of one of Britain's best-loved artists. Dame Laura Knight (1877-1970) was one of the twentieth century's most prolific British artists. Over her long career, Knight painted scenes in Cornwall, Yorkshire and Worcestershire. She became fascinated by performers, especially in the circus, and developed a talent for capturing the extraordinary within the everyday. Laura Knight's career spanned 80 years and encompassed a huge variety of subjects, techniques and styles. Her achievements included being the first woman elected to the Royal Academy since 1769 and being made a Dame in 1929. The exhibition will bring together over 60 works by the artist, exploring different themes she became fascinated with over her life. Her stunning landscapes in Cornwall, Yorkshire and Worcestershire will be shown alongside her paintings of circus performers and Gypsies'.

So where does this tie in with us? Well, Sarah Hall (Collections Officer Dudley Museums Service) has kindly arranged to loan some glass items to the exhibition, for which we will be credited. Thus do the tendrils of the Stourbridge Glass collection continue to spread.



And there's more ...

Here's a *verbatim* news release from Dudley MBC that explains all. Due to timings we were unable to include this in the last edition so by the time you read this the programme will have been broadcast. But there's always the 'catch up' facility and if I know Auntie Beeb it will be 'doing the rounds' for some time to come. Anyway, in case you missed it ...

Three historic pieces from Dudley Museums' glass collection will feature on national television this weekend. BBC Antiques Roadshow will showcase glass from the Elia Grahame collection on Sunday (16 May) at 8pm. The episode will include a jug, candlestick and vase, which were gifted to Dudley Council.

A crizzled jug is considered to be one of the first examples of lead being used in glass making. Although the appearance confirms that the technique was not perfected at this point, its production paved the way for others.

The glass is very significant to Stourbridge as it was some of the earliest examples of lead being put into glass, which paved the way for cut crystal that the town is now famous for. Jane Lamine, Business Operations Manager at Dudley Council, took the pieces from the Dudley Glass on behalf of the British Glass Foundation, who now manage the collection. The episode was filmed at Stonor Park in August last year.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said: 'We are so proud of our enviable glass collection here in Dudley borough and of course Stourbridge is world famous for the finest in cut crystal. We are delighted to have been able to share these three pieces on Antiques Roadshow, which are rarely put on display due to their fragility'.

In order to protect the fragile pieces, they are not currently on display at any of the Dudley Museums. People can find out more about the Dudley Glass collection at www.dudley.gov.uk/things-to-do/museums and www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/home/white-house-cone/



Making it better

Our friends at Canal & River Trust <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk> are currently undertaking improvements on the ramp from the towpath at Glasshouse Bridge, which in turn affords access from the canal to the museum and Red House Cone. Here's the latest image of work in progress.



Moving on and a new arrival

Our recent part-time appointee Anna Muggeridge has since been offered a full-time position at Worcester University and will be leaving us shortly. Although only with BGF for a short time Anna had already begun to make a positive impact on our operations.

We will be saddened to see her leave and wish her well in her new role. Her successor will be Louise Deakin who will be joining us w.e.f. 17th June 2021. We welcome Louise aboard and will be pleased to introduce her to our readership in due course.

In memoriam

We are saddened to learn of the recent death of John Westmoreland following a period of illness. John was a BGF benefactor and supporter and we have been bequeathed a substantial part of his collection of uranium glass. BGF is greatly saddened by his loss and offers sincere condolences to widow Magda, family and friends. RIP.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

Funding and maintaining a revenue stream is an ongoing requirement, and one that has never been more crucial. We greatly value your gifts and donations; thank you.

In addition to cash donations (see below as to how you can do this), readers are reminded of the opportunity to secure a lasting *memento* in the new museum by way of purchasing one of Allister Malcolm's engraved glass plaques. Details via the usual BGF address.

BGF routinely reviews its donation procedures. Enhancements are announced as and when but in the meantime we continue to accept donations direct by cash, cheque and BACS. **We would respectfully ask that *all* cheques and orders be made payable to BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION.**

For donations by BACS our bank details are:

HSBC Bank
Branch Identifier Code: MIDLGB2108U
Sort code: 40-38-07
Account number: 72076780

BGF recognizes those who wish to donate via *Virgin Money Giving*. Go via the *Virgin Money Giving* QR code listed below or click here: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1005650> **Potential donors are advised that contributions via VMG may invoke commission fees that are beyond the control of BGF.**

Donations made by a UK taxpayer can attract Gift Aid, which is a great supplement to our funds and costs the donor nothing. All we need to claim this is your Gift Aid declaration; contact us for details if you have not already supplied us with relevant particulars.

Please note: In acknowledging the support of donors **GlassCuts** generally will not reveal either the details of the donor or the amount donated unless the donor indicates otherwise or the circumstances are in the public domain or public interest. This does not preclude the possibility of details, including the amount donated and/or the donor's particulars, appearing elsewhere in BGF material.

All donations are greatly appreciated. BGF is entirely philanthropic and its Trustees are unremunerated. BGF policy is that all monies received go directly to the cause. Donations can be as one-off contributions or standing order.

Notes and queries

Whilst we are happy to facilitate this *ad hoc* information exchange on unusual items of interest BGF cannot undertake valuations or offer comment other than that supplied by our correspondents. Submission does not guarantee publication. No responsibility ... etc (*usual caveats apply*)

Answers from previous

[Cheryl Hayes and the Osman family, GC179](#)

Within minutes of this request going out we were contacted by 'Our Man in the states' James Measell who immediately laid his hands straight onto some information and asked to be put in contact with Cheryl. So we did. We'll update you on any outcome.

Then shortly afterwards, and a little nearer to home, Stan Parry, supporter and volunteer, touched base. *'Hi Graham: regarding the request from Cheryl Hayes re John and Thomas Osman; as a volunteer at Broadfield House for about 10 years I suspect the information Cheryl is in possession of was provided from a card index file which is the work of someone whom I cannot remember, and who had reviewed all the glass maker records they could find from census returns and family histories. This archive now resides in Dudley Archives who may do a search if a request is made, as I assume Cheryl resides in Australia. The index is set up in in surname order. Unfortunately a lot of the query files were disposed of as part of the closure and only the exceptional requests were retained, so it is unlikely anything is now extant in relation to paperwork held by Cheryl. That said if I can see images of the paperwork I may be able to do a quick search at Himley Hall when we are allowed back in by DMBC which I believe is some time in June.'*

We were happy to link Stan and Cheryl and are also grateful to those other regular readers who kindly chipped in with snippets, all of which have been passed on to her.

Keep 'em coming!

New teasers

David Brabrook asks: *'I have this little glass jug with Lalique written on the bottom. I would like to find out more information about it and whether it is genuine'.*



Living la vida lockdown, part 20 (soon time for a hug - Ed)

* More *Dispatches From The Attic* and other news from CGS. www.cgs.org.uk

* *Alan J. Poole newsletter* latest edition. alanjpoole@aol.com

* *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London*. Regular updates, forthcoming Zoom presentations and more. info@glass-sellers.co.uk

From the Hot Studio:

Despite the constraints of lockdown 'Our Man in the Hotshop' is still managing to defy the covid odds in winning awards galore and turning out some impressive pieces of work. Take a look at Allister's latest stunning 'Cordial' range on his social media outlets and see what can be achieved even in bad times. And a reminder to all other glass artistes that, as always, if you have created anything special or achieved anything noteworthy in defiance of these troubled days then let us know and we'll see about mentioning a few of the best of the best.



And there's more from Allister who has cleverly created a 'where we are now video'. In his own words: 'It's been a year like no other. Here is a brief update of what has been happening on site at the Glass Museum. Meet the latest members of staff, get a glimpse of the designs for the fit out, learn what stage the project is at and see a beautiful restoration of an old Stuart Crystal sign now ready to be fitted in the foyer. Thank you to all who have supported us and enabled us to get where we are now'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joNPBaT1Pwc>

Just a reminder in these troubled times

If you've got something 'glassy' to say and you want it said to somebody else, consider sending it to us and we'll do our best to help pass the information via *GlassCuts*. Usual address.

And finally, the BGF sad news for the day ...

'I've been renting a flat from a Mr & Mrs Herb but am two months behind on the payments. They say I've got seven days to pay or they'll send the bayleafs round'.

I'll be on my way.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS
Press & Publicity
pp British Glass Foundation
www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Getting involved

Would you like to be part of a vibrant and enthusiastic group of volunteers dedicated to supporting the British Glass Foundation and its work at White House Cone *museum of glass*?

Specialist skills or knowledge are welcome but not essential. We are committed to equal opportunities and full training will be given where necessary. To find out more, contact us via the usual address and we will be delighted to do the rest.

Promotional opportunities

Black Country Radio broadcasts throughout the Black Country on 102.5 FM and also via DAB and on-line around the world. If your event satisfies the criteria of not-for-profit, charitable or philanthropic and is community orientated there is no charge.

Go to www.blackcountryradio.co.uk hover over 'Local' and submit the form you'll find under *Events*. Your announcement will then appear on the *Events Guide*. Allow sufficient notice and the event may be 'voiced' and broadcast live on air during daytime broadcasting. Depending on the number of events, yours might be broadcast several times; there's no guarantee but it should appear at least once. Meanwhile it stays on the *Events Guide* listings on the world-wide web until the day itself. *(Temporarily suspended due to lockdown; back in due course - Ed)*

Keeping in touch with *White House Cone museum of glass*

Museum Director Ollie Buckley

Direct Line: 01384 431760: Mobile: 07483 157242
Email: obuckley@stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk

BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE

Direct Line: 01384 431761: Mobile: 07747 563623
Email: bqf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk or info@whcmog.org.uk

Both by snail-mail at:

White House Cone Museum of Glass, High Street, Wordsley, West Midlands, DY8 4FB



These are the QR codes for the British Glass Foundation (left) and Virgin Money Giving (right).

Scan to browse the work of the BGF or to make a donation. If you are donating by VMG then please note that VMG's own commission fees, over which BGF has no control, may apply.



THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



EUROPEAN UNION
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European Regional
Development Fund 2007-13



... also Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers, Enovert Community Trust, Ibstock Enovert Trust, Clive & Sylvia Richards Charity



BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Growing Places Fund : Garfield Weston : Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust : The Headley Trust : The Charles Hayward Foundation : W.A. Cadbury Charitable Trust : John Ellerman Foundation : The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London : The Pilgrim Trust

... together with many other contributions from other trusts, foundations and individuals. (E&OE)

Full details of BGF partners, supporters and sponsors at: www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter



<https://m.facebook.com/The-White-House-Cone-Museum-of-Glass-1783619608579416/>



<https://twitter.com/whitehousecone>

- fin -

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The coronavirus pandemic is a serious matter and our services have been curtailed. But we are still obliged to comply with the provisions of Data Protection and so we must remind you that *GlassCuts* exists solely for the information of its supporters, our Privacy Statement is outlined in detail on our website and subscribers can withdraw at any time just by telling us to stop.

We also welcome you passing *GlassCuts* on to anyone you feel may be interested in our work. You know the rest but if in any doubt then please communicate with us directly in the first instance via bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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