



Court and Livery “Glass” Dinner Speech
24 September 2015

Master: Gwenllian Rhys

Wardens , members of the Court and Livery, visiting Masters, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening and a very warm welcome to you all.

I know it's considered "bad form" to take photographs during a livery dinner, but we're now living in a connected world and one which glass very much facilitates, for where would we be without our digital devices with their glass screens and the fibre optic cabling that enables superfast communication?

And I feel sure we've many guests who would like to instantly communicate their presence in this magnificent Hall. So may I suggest that if you want to take a photograph you do so now – Tweet it, Instagram it, Facebook it, WhatsApp it, whatever is your preference, but then please put your phones away and concentrate on communicating with your fellow guests.

Oh and remember, my Twitter handle is @Glass Seller.

At the Court Meeting held this afternoon Sophie-Jane Kellaghan and Sharon-Lea Hayman were admitted to the Company as Freeman. Will you both please stand.

After graduating from King's College London Sophie-Jane completed a Masters Degree in Real Estate Management at Oxford Brookes University. She is a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and holds a Diploma from the Personal Finance Society. She worked as a property investment adviser with CBRE and Knight Frank before becoming an Associate Partner at St James's Place Wealth Management.

A patron of the Donmar Theatre, Sharon-Lea is a keen photographer, is also involved with the Australian Women's Club and is a supporter of the Clean Break charity.

In addition Katharine Coleman MBE and the Revd Nicholas Gandy were clothed with the Livery. Katharine is a reknowned glass engraver

and Nicholas's profession is rather obvious. I'm delighted to present each with the livery badge of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers.

I would like to take a moment to point out the symbolism contained in the Livery badge which should be worn on the right breast or lapel and I hope you will wear it on all City occasions and at any other time when you think the name and fame of the Company would benefit.

The badge itself bears the coat of the arms awarded by the College of Arms in 2009. The shield in the centre bears the three items that have been on the Company shield since the 17th Century: a stone vessel; a Venetian glass, and a looking-glass or mirror.

Flanking the shield are two Ravens representing the Company's connection with George Ravenscroft, who developed Lead Crystal. The Ravens find footing on the Sun representing enlightenment, and the Globe symbolising the global markets for all glass products.

The Flames on the Crest rise out of a furnace to represent the heat essential to making glass for any application.

The motto is "Discordia Frangimur" which may be translated as "we will be broken by discord".

I trust that you will wear the Livery to your credit and to the credit and advantage of the Company for many years to come.

CLOSING ADDRESS

It's been said that Actuaries are people who even make accountants seem amusing but you, Adrian, are without doubt the exception. Thank you.

The last time Adrian was a guest at a Glass Sellers' Dinner it was in December 2012 and at the start of his Shrieval campaign.

A great deal of water has passed under the bridge in the intervening three years. Your campaign, Adrian, was of course successful and I know how much you and Angela enjoyed your year serving the City.

And last year, I understand, you celebrated your millionth birthday. Only a mathematician would calculate his age using binary.

Adrian, your fellow Actuary, former business partner and good Welshman Huw Wynne-Griffith was sorry to hear that I wouldn't be giving you pizza this evening, but please do accept this gift of hand-crafted glass made by Emma Mackintosh, one of the Finalists of my Glass Commission Competition.

Emma has travelled from Cumbria this evening and I'm delighted to say she isn't the only person connected to glass who has travelled to join us.

In recent years our September Dinner has become known as the Glass Dinner. Corning, the American glass manufacturers and makers of Pyrex, have suggested that we're living in the Glass Age – we're surrounded by it and reliant upon it for so many things – it forms the screens on our various digital devices; it enables lighting fast telecommunications. It provides the sparkle in nail polish and lipstick. It's used in all manner of things from medical devices to boats, from tennis racquets to stair cases. And I'm particularly pleased that this evening we have dining with us some of the 40+ glass artists who submitted over 50 samples for my Glass Commission Competition

which was designed to source the gift given to guests at our Annual Mansion House Banquet.

I don't recall having so many glass artists at a Dinner before and their presence today would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of Art Logistics Limited, specialist fine art shippers, represented here today by Sharon Solomons.

Of our six Finalists, four are dining with us, and I'd like to tell you a little bit about each.

Although illness halted **Jazz Dixon's** early career as a Pharmacy Technician, following the birth of her two children she returned to education and completed a Foundation Degree in Contemporary Crafts this summer. Jazz was also featured in The Worshipful Company of Pewterers' summer show – Pewter Live -and is clearly an artist to watch.

Monette Larsen has a Glass Art Degree from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and an MA from the Royal College of Art. She is currently a Glass tutor at Richmond adult community College.

Emma Mackintosh graduated from St Anne's College, Oxford in 1987 with an MA in Metallurgy and the Science of Materials. Quite how she became interested in glass flamework her CV doesn't say, but one of her chandeliers was selected for this year's British Glass Biennale in Stourbridge.

Faith Mercer's work was also selected for the British Glass Biennale. She worked as an Enamels artist from 1997 to 2009 and during that same period gained NVQ qualifications in Special Needs and practiced as a holistic therapist. She graduated from Wolverhampton School of Art and Design with a First Class Honours in Applied Art and Design in 2014 and has been working in the studio of Colin Reid who has twice won the Glass Sellers Prize at the British Glass Biennale.

Unfortunately, the remaining two finalists are not able to be with us today. They are Bob Crooks – another British Glass Biennale Glass

Sellers Prize Winner and Jochen Holtz who, like Emma, specialises in flamework.

Of the Highly Commended artists, we welcome Tlws Johnson, Marion Labbez, Lesley Pyke, Sarah Manly and Alex R.

Will all the Glass Artists please rise (start applause)

I'd now like to invite Sharon Solomons from Art Logistics to announce the winner of the 2015 Glass Commission Competition.

The winner started his career as an apprentice in scientific lampworking in Germany and came to the UK in 1997 to study for a BA Hons in Glass from Edinburgh College of Art. Following a year's placement at Dartington Crystal he went on to gain an MA in Ceramics and Glass from the Royal College of Art. After a brief foray into wood-working, he now concentrates on lampworking and works out of his studio in Stratford East.

And the winner is JOCHEN HOTZ

Thank you Sharon – unfortunately Jochen isn't able to be with us today (it's his birthday and he's in Germany) but I'd like to show you one of the samples he made for the Competition.

Made from borosilicate glass (commonly known as Pyrex) each glass is individually made. The patterns on each are different and are made from pressing various metal objects and glass-makers' tools into the hot glass. Each one will be stamped with my initials and the year date and on the base will be etched the artist's name and the limited edition number of the glass. It will be packaged in a claret-coloured hessian bag.

You can use it for your shot of espresso or vodka. You might prefer to fill it with muesli and yoghurt or simply pop some flowers in it. The choice is yours- the vessel is multi-purpose and I hope everyone attending the banquet will enjoy using and talking about their

innovative gift as much as I enjoyed the experience of receiving all the samples and getting to know some of the artists.

I'm sure, too, that you'll all be interested to know that the sale of these samples (has raised so far £) and that the proceeds will go toward supporting glass artists.

Finally, may I remind you all that our Annual Banquet will take place on Monday 12 October at Mansion House, the home of the Lord Mayor of the City of London. Our Guest Speaker is Angela Knight CBE and everyone attending will receive one of Jochen Holtz's glasses. This is a glittering and very special occasion and I'm informed by the Clerk that tickets are still available but please don't delay!

In summary, it simply leaves me, therefore, to ask you all to be upstanding and toast that most wonderful of materials – GLASS.