

The Golden Age of English Glass 1650-1775 [Dwight P. Lanmon FSA]

(Antique collectors' Club, Woodbridge, Suffolk, UK. ISBN 978-1-85149-656-3 ©May 2011)

As a former director of The Corning Museum of Glass and with 50 years experience in antique glass Dwight P. Lanmon wrote this book which may be considered as one of the most interesting books on English glass spanning the most critical period 1650 – 1775 in the development of the English glass industry for the last 25 years.

The book differs from its predecessors because of its *comprehensive survey of objects* discussed in depth based on extensive research and experience.

After a short history of glassmaking in England, including tools used by glassblowers, and a survey of drinking in England the author systematically builds up the book on English glassware of lead glass, gadrooning, drinking glasses with heavy-baluster stems, diamond-point engraving, wheel-engraved English glass, panel-moulded stems, Jacobite glass, glasses with internal spirals in their stems, gilding on glass, glass candlesticks, “branches” and chandeliers, window glass, plate glass and mirrors, English black-glass bottles and chemical analyses of the glasses. Many Notes, an extended Bibliography, and an Index complete the book.

The heart of the book is built up around the important glass and bottle collection from John H. Bryan illustrating in full colour one hundred and forty eight (148) items. Many of the objects in the book are of great rarity, importance, and beautiful photographed.

The history of English glass (1650-1775) and the collection is very well researched and written, easy to read and understand, magnificently illustrated by one hundred and ninety two (192) figures such as paintings, engravings, the techniques used for glassmaking and decorating, etc. The chapter on English black-glass bottles illustrates the evolution of English “wine” bottles from the beginning (c.1650) up to 1809 with bottles sealed and dated for each decade starting with the famous and extremely rare “Thomas Bydder / 1674 / Thistle Boon” bottle. In order to better understand what the objects meant, the author expanded upon the surrounding social, technological, and historical milieu for each object and reevaluates the history of glassmaking in England during the period 1650-1775, lead glass included.

The book is a luxury edition (373 pages, 319 ill., 30.5 x 24.5 x 3.8 cm, 2.6 kilos), hardback, attractive dust jacket, made of high quality paper inside, well bound, and excellent printing. The price of £50.00 (c.EUR 65.00) is very reasonable for its quality.

I highly recommend this book, which should be in each library of the serious glass collector.

The Golden Age of English Glass 1650-1775 by Dwight P. Lanmon, FSA is published by The Antique Collectors' Club, Woodbridge, Suffolk, UK. (£50.00). To order a copy please call 01394 389977 or visit at www.antiquecollectorsclub.com

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