

OUR SPEAKER on **Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 1:30pm**

will be

Scott Anderson

who will talk to us about:

The Art of Cameo Glass: From Portland Vase to Emile Gallé



Trained as an archaeologist at Leicester University and was a professional archaeologist for ten years before his interests shifted to the world of art, antiques and auctioneering. In 1994 he joined the team at Southampton Solent University lecturing on the only BA(Hons) degree course of its kind to look at the commercial art world. Now, as a Senior Lecturer, he teaches courses on the history and theory of interior design and visual culture. He has lectured to many adult

audiences for a variety of University Extra-mural departments and the WEA. For the last few years he has also worked as a consultant valuer for the BBC television programme *Flog It*.

The Portland Vase arrived in Britain by 1783. In 1810 it was placed on loan in the British Museum where it remains today as one of the most intriguing and popular examples of Ancient Roman cameo glass anywhere in the world. Its origins are surrounded in mystery but its ability to inspire subsequent generations of glass makers is obvious. This unique vase was the starting point for a whole range of British cameo glass in the later 19th century that exemplified technical virtuosity and creative artistry as techniques that had been lost for hundreds of years were rediscovered in the glasshouses of Stourbridge, in the heart of England's industrial Midlands. Many of these creations were executed in the prevailing Classical-revival style of the times, but as the 19th century drew to a close fashions changed as did the geographical focus of cameo glass production.

The glass factory of Emile Gallé in Nancy, in eastern France, became the new centre for cameo glass in the new style of Art Nouveau. It is these Art Nouveau pieces that make most of the headlines in the auction rooms of the world today, with high prices paid for unique pieces, but the best of the British examples do not lag far behind. This lavishly illustrated talk looks at the origins of cameo glass and considers the best of British and French pieces, their designers and techniques of production.

Want to find out more? For further information visit the Society's website

at www.theartsocietywindsor.org.uk, or email us at info@theartsocietywindsor.org.uk We meet live on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Windsor, SL4 2RN N.B. Please consult our website re each lecture which we will update regularly.