

Dear Collector,
2000

July

Jonathan and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all and we hope that you will enjoy being a founder member of what we intend to make a very interesting, fascinating and rewarding club for our collectors'.

Some of you will already know of Jonathan's background and of course, his love of glass. But included in this first newsletter is a précis of Jonathan's former years, photographs of some of his early designs and the story of how his work has progressed, to earn him the reputation of a world class designer/glassmaker and cameo engraver.

We specialise in the ancient techniques of cameo and gräal, and Jonathan has spent the last fifteen years studying and refining these highly skilled techniques and some examples of his exquisite work, past and present are also included.

For those of you who are familiar with 'cameo' you may know of George and Thomas Woodall-two of the most famous and talented Stourbridge cameo masters of the late 19th and early 20th century. An exhibition of their work is currently on display at Broadfield House Glass Museum. Charles Hajdamach, Senior Museums Keeper of the museum and Chris Perry, the great great grandson of George Woodall and author of the book, 'The Cameo Glass of Thomas and George Woodall', invited Jonathan to produce some pieces of cameo to accompany this exhibition, 'Legends in Glass'. A trip to this stunning exhibition is well worth a visit. Details are enclosed.

Our new 'leading edge' design, glassmaking studio and showroom in Ironbridge is almost complete. The shop is 'Now Open' and we hope to be glassmaking and on show to the public very soon. Please come and see us. When you come to visit us please ensure that you have your membership card and the complimentary visitor pass enclosed with you. A phone call prior to your planned visit is advisable to ensure that Jonathan or myself will be here to greet you. We will be having an official collectors' Open Day later in the year, where we hope to see you, if not before. Details will follow in a little while.

Originality, innovation and high quality are our aims, producing some of the most exquisite pieces of decorative glassware ever seen. Jonathan's skill and expertise in this area enables him to produce simple, delicately cased cameo pieces, with beautiful intricate patterns, but very competitively priced, and also his breathtaking, complicated, detailed designs, which involve many long hours of painstaking carving and engraving through several layers of colour, gold and silver leaf, which can only be produced by the highly skilled, dedicated and most patient of artists.

Enclosed are details of a small selection of limited editions based on the pieces in the 'Legends in Glass' exhibition. All of the pieces in the exhibition have been sold, but due to so many requests we have decided to produce a small edition of the designs in different shapes. Due to the complexity of these pieces the design and colour will vary, but this will only add to the individuality and uniqueness of each piece, which we are sure you will appreciate.

Finally, we hope that you will find the complimentary collectors' folder useful, in which you can keep all your newsletters safe and together.

Now I will leave you in peace to read your first newsletter, enjoy the contents and photographs and we hope that you will enjoy following the story of our new company and watch the growth and development of something wonderful, and the beginning of a new era in the history of decorative glassware, as we continue 'In pursuit of excellence'. Happy collecting!

Best wishes,

Alison & Jonathan Harris.