

LECTURE: John P. Smith:
Country House lighting in 18th century Britain:
The ascendancy of Glass
Thursday, 10th November, 2016



Early in the 18th century glass started to take over from metal and wood as the preferred material for the body of light fittings, thanks to advances in glassmaking in late 17th century England.

After dark, fire light was the only form of illumination other than candles, tallow for the poor and beeswax for the rich, and much ingenuity went into the manufacture of their holders.

Houses could be illuminated at night in three ways: - from the centre of the room by chandeliers, from the walls by girandoles, and on tables by candlesticks and candelabra. Large glass chandeliers were extraordinarily expensive and often hired for special events, but most houses would have had glass lanterns.

This lecture will cover the chronological introduction of increasingly complex designs and the use of cutting, first with water, then with steam power, as decoration.

It will cover only the use of candles and not the use of oils in lamps, such as Argand lamps, which were introduced at the very end of the 18th century. The use of oil, gas and electricity in the 19th century will be the subject of a later lecture.

John P Smith is Chairman of The Glass Circle, Fellow at The Corning Museum of Glass, and latterly a vice-president of The European Society for Light and Glass. He is the author of three publications concerning lighting: *Osler, for Royalty and Rajah*; *The Art of Enlightenment*; *Mallett Glass*, as well as numerous articles.

- Meeting Place:** **The Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT**
 (Gradidge Room, first floor – please give notice if you need help with mobility)
- Co-Hosts:** *Maurice and Margaret McLain, David Giles and Lawrence Trickey*
- Time:** The lecture will start promptly at **19.15**. Coffee and light refreshments are provided from 18.30.
 The meeting will finish by 21.00

Queen Square lies between Southampton Row and Gt. Ormond St. It can be reached by Underground using either Russell Sq. (Piccadilly) or Holborn (Piccadilly and Central). Buses 68, 91, 168 and 188 run along Southampton Row and 19, 38, 55 and 505 along Theobald's Rd. Access by car is one-way only: take the first turning to the left off Theobald's Rd (after the junction with Southampton Row) into Old Gloucester St which continues into Queen Sq. The Artworkers' Guild is half way along on the left. The congestion charge finishes at 6.00. Cars may readily be parked in the square after 6.30 free of charge.

Next Meetings: Tuesday 13 December, Thursday 16 March 2017

Please return this slip by 8th November to: Anne Lutyens-Stobbs, 8 Millers Croft, Gt Baddow, Chelmsford, CM2 8JL, tel. (01245) 604518 or email: annelh60@hotmail.com.

NB As Numbers are restricted we need to know if you will be attending the meeting, also for catering or unforeseen changes.

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.....will attend the lecture by **John P Smith** on
Thursday 10th November 2016, at £10 pp.

I/we will bring..... Guests (£15.00 each) and enclose a cheque made payable to *The Glass Circle* for £..... (If you wish to be a future co-host please tick the box and enclose a cheque for £15.00).

Contact 'phone/email for queries/emergencies.....