

November 2020

NEWSLETTER

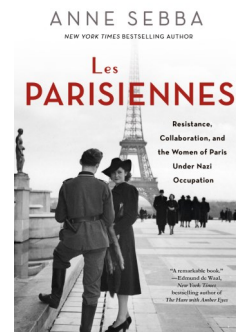
The Arts Society of West Suffolk



Next Zoom Lecture: Tuesday 3rd November 2020 10.45am Les Parisiennes

Speaker Anne Sebba is a biographer, lecturer, journalist and former Reuters foreign correspondent. She read History at King's College, London, and her first job was at the BBC World Services in the Arabic Department. Her latest book is about Paris from 1939-49 through women's eyes, *Les Parisiennes*, and she has written nine other critically acclaimed books of non-fiction, mostly about iconic women. Anne makes regular television appearances, has presented radio documentaries and gives talks on cruises and to numerous institutions.

What did it feel like to be a woman living in Paris from 1939 to 1949? These were years of fear, power, aggression, courage, deprivation and secrets until - finally - renewal and retribution. Even in the darkest moments of Occupation, glamour was ever present. French women wore lipstick. Why?



Cracking Glass: We were extremely pleased at the number of members who watched Mark Hill's Zoom lecture in October. Many people know Mark from his frequent expert appearances on the BBC Antiques Roadshow, but he is also an author, publisher, Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars and the City of London, and a leading dealer in post-war Czech and 20th century decorative glass. He has lectured at renowned venues across the world.

Mark led us through a beautifully illustrated history of glass from the 1920s with examples from the four major glass companies, Whitefriars, Wedgwood, Caithness and Dartington.



Earlier Stourbridge glass had been highly valued in classical, colourless forms intricately cut to reflect and refract candlelight. In the 1920s companies introduced more geometric shapes with Art Deco style becoming popular in the 1930s. Glass designers began to be influenced by Scandinavian glass, which reflected the landscape in restrained forms in colourless or grey hues. By the 1950s cool, coloured curves appeared and in the 60s and 70s texture was incorporated, together with vibrant colour. Glass became more affordable



with a new look for a wider audience brightening up homes after the war. The key personalities creating this glass were Frank Thrower for Dartington, Domhnall O'Broin for Caithness, Geoffrey Baxter for Whitefriars and Ronald Stennett-Wilson for Kings Lynn Glass (this factory later became Wedgwood Glass and continues today as Langham Glass). None of these designers were from Stourbridge but all had origins in the Royal College of Art.

Examples of 'Good, Better, Best' from these factories and designers are:

Whitefriars 1680-1980: Blown Soda Vase 1962 £30; Bark Vase 1966 £30-£150; Banjo Vase 1967 £600-£900

Caithness Glass 1958-1961: Barrel Vase 1961 £5-£10; Ring Vases 1961 £60-£90; Scaraben Decanter Set £300+

Kings Lynn Glass 1967 sold to Wedgwood Glass 1969: Top Hat Vases 1967 £20-£40; Brancaster Candleholder 1967 Small £25-£30. Large £80; Ariel 'Studio' Vase 1974-1976 £300.

Dartington Glass 1967 onwards: FT1 Commemorative Tankard 1967-1992 £30; FT4 Decanter 1967-1971 £30; FT58 Greek Key Vases 1967-1980 £20-£350.

Mark also gave us useful advice on how to avoid buying any of the many glass fakes in circulation today. Be aware of the correct colour tones for the piece, avoid extra dimpling or grooves, fake textures and moulded pontils. There are still bargains around but only for the sharp eyed!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The business of the 2019/2020 AGM will be held by post.

You will receive AGM reports, voting paper and a prepaid envelope, together with guidance on both voting and questions.

To conclude, we will meet on Zoom on 8th December to confirm the results.



MONTHLY MEETINGS AND TALKS will continue to take place via Zoom at present but will return to their usual format as soon as regulations allow and it is safe to do so. If you would be interested in joining a periodic Zoom session for members to chat with the committee or amongst themselves over a remote coffee, please do get in touch.



Website: www.theartsociety-westsuffolk.org.uk

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