



Glass Society - free Zoom Lecture

Colin Brain

How Old is this Glass?

Thursday 17th March, 7pm GMT, on Zoom

The age of a glass can be important to a collector in a number of different ways. For some an antique glass is a window into the past and its date informs their muse on what events it may have 'seen', or who might have drunk from it. For others age may be a key determinant of the glass's value to them. But how do we know how old glasses are? Dillon writing in 1907 complained that for early English glass history there was documentation, but no glass, and from the eighteenth century there was plenty of glass, but no documentation. H.J. Powell in 1923 thought that attempting to date them was fruitless because: "The data available for constructing a reliable record of the provenance and succession of English drinking glasses are so few, and, in some cases, so uncertain." Were they right? Against this background Colin's talk will consider what sources

of dating evidence we have available to us, how reliable these are, and discuss a few examples from around the first half of the 18th century where the customary dating is perhaps awry.

Colin has been a glass collector since 1968 and has been actively researching the history of English 17th and 18th-century drinking glasses for more than 50 years.



TO BOOK: Please contact David Willars at gsocfinancial@gmail.com. Please note, places are limited. You will be sent details of how to join the Zoom meeting before the 17th March.

We are continuing to hold meetings on this platform, and will let members know when we feel able to restart meetings in London and elsewhere.