

James Peake:

Glass beads in early Anglo-Saxon England: Production and Origins

Thursday, 24th May 2018



Our understanding of the production of glass artefacts in early medieval England between the 5th and 7th centuries is limited. Scientific analysis of a large number of glass beads excavated from the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery complex at RAF Lakenheath (Eriswell), Suffolk, has provided new insights into the ways in which glass was procured and used in early medieval beadmaking. The results have revealed a number of distinct types of glass produced in the 'Roman' glassmaking tradition, which are likely to have their origins in the Near East. Here, large quantities of glass were mass-produced from raw materials by glassmaking institutions situated along the Levantine coast. The results suggest that many of the beads recovered from Anglo-Saxon graves were produced locally using a supply of recycled Roman glass, which was remelted and coloured. However, a large number of beads also appear to have been produced using a supply of freshly produced glass imported from the Near East. Through this, it has been possible to shed light on which glass artefacts are likely to have been made in England, and which are likely to have been imported.

Jim Peake is the Ceramics & Glass specialist at Chiswick Auctions in West London. He trained in Conservation at Cardiff University, before completing a PhD in Archaeological Science in 2013 funded jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the United States Armed Forces. This talk summarises the results of his doctoral research.

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:

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: Thursday 28 June, Thursday 18 October

NB We need to know if you will attend the meeting for numbers restrictions, for catering or unforeseen changes.

Please notify Anne Lutyens-Stobbs, 8 Millers Croft, Gt Baddow, Chelmsford, CM2 8JL, tel. (01245) 604518 or email: annelh60@hotmail.com **by 22 May**

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will attend the lecture by on **Thursday 24 May 2018, 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.....