



*Glass Society talk free on Zoom*

# Alan Thornton

**Glass Paperweights - the three key phases of their history**

7pm, Tuesday 9th February 2021, on Zoom

The techniques needed to make glass paperweights have been known for 2000 years or more, but paperweights have evolved as an art form only over the last 200 years. Our understanding of precisely where, when and how this happened is still incomplete. This talk examines three key elements: the experiments of the early 19th century, leading to flourishing paperweight production in the 'classic period' of the mid 19th century; the growth of the studio movement post 1960; and the emergence of specialist paperweight factories in the later 20th century.

### **Biographical notes**

Dr Alan Thornton studied Physics at University. He worked in multi-disciplinary

research until his mid 30s, after which he joined the Welsh Office in Cardiff as a Senior Civil Servant. He left in 2002 to pursue his own interests, one of these being collecting and researching glass

paperweights. Particular interests of his are trying to attribute antique European paperweights of uncertain origin, and investigating Old English paperweights with a view to establishing how many different manufacturers were involved. He was the Editor of the Paperweight Collectors Circle Newsletter from 2006 to 2014, runs a website about paperweights, and is a regular speaker at the Annual Convention of the Paperweight Collectors Association of America, Inc.



**TO BOOK:** Please contact David Willars at [gsocfinancial@gmail.com](mailto:gsocfinancial@gmail.com). Please note, places are limited. You will be sent details of how to join the Zoom meeting before the 9th February.

We expect to continue to hold meetings on this platform during 2021, and will let members know when we feel able to restart meetings in London and elsewhere.