

Indexing Glass CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS: an uneasy amalgamation

It was in March 2015 that your editor suggested that I might compile a cumulative index to all the publications of the Glass Circle (GC). These then comprised:

137 issues of *Glass Circle News (GCN)*, totalling 1390 pages – although there is variation in early issues as to whether the front cover counts as page 1, or page 1 is the reverse of the front cover); eleven issues of the *Journal* (990 pages); *The Centenary Supplement* (24); The collection of excerpts from the first 99 issues of *GCN* (22); *Glass Collectors and their Collections* (64); and *From Palace to Parlour* (120) – 2596 pages altogether.

The first 70 issues of the newsletter, 1977-1997, totalling 510 (roneoed A4) pages, averaging 7.3 pages per issue, already had an index, compiled by Peter Lole. This index made a little over eight pages, double-column. Issues 71-100, 1997-2004, 417 x A4 pages averaging 13.9 pages per issue, also had an index by Lole, of seven pages. The idea was that I should combine these two original indexes, and add to them my own indexes to the subsequent newsletters and the other publications.

In fact I first compiled an index for the *GCN* from no. 101 to the (then) latest issue, no. 137 (total 492 pages) in the software indexing program my late husband had designed for me. Issues no. There were many problems, not all deriving from my own ignorance of the world of glass and its collectors.

Together the editor and I settled what should be the scope of the new, cumulative index. Christie's, Sotheby's, auctions and sales, now over, were not to be entered, but anything of particular interest mentioned in those reports might be. I was to omit notices and announcements of exhibitions, lectures and symposia if they referred to events now past, unless there were significant references to the topics or names of artists.

There were regular features that occurred frequently, but were topical and generally not worth including, such as the diary, announcements of coming events, editorials and short news items. We decided to omit under authors' names short articles signed only with initials, and letters – unless they made significance reference to topics that were in the index already.

But to omit some such regular features denied credit to frequent contributors. The solution was found by including entries such as:

Fox, Henry

on auctions, sales and fairs [regular reports]

"Clippings" [regular reports]

Lole, F. Peter

"Limpid Reflections" [regular series]

From about issue no. 122, illustrations appeared profusely through the newsletters. Usually I distinguish page references to illustrations by italicising them in the index, but in this case they were too fully integrated in the text to be worth distinguishing.

It was never going to be an easy task. It's notoriously more difficult to index multi-author texts, because different authors may use different terms for the same thing. My failure to recognise such synonyms, or to differentiate between glassblowing / glassmaking / glass production, or tell whether glassblowers (glassblowers, glass blowers) = glassworkers (glass-workers, glassworkers) might well lead to inconsistencies.

These are some of the queries with which I continually bombarded your editor. Perhaps they might form the basis of a light-hearted quiz at a GC meeting!

Can I take it that all Jacobite engraved glass is commemorative?
Is Glass Excise Tax the same as duty on glass?
Can I take Bohemian crystal/Bohemian glass, and lead crystal/lead glass as pairs of synonymous terms?
Are glasshouses and glassworks synonymous terms?
Moulds – can be either for pressing or blowing into?
Are press-moulding, moulded glass and pressed glass all the same?
Should colours be separate from coloured glass?
Is etching (on glass) always acid-etching, or is acid-etching a subgroup of etching?
Is Jacobean the same as Jacobite?
salts = salt cellars = salt shakers?
I am confused about the relationship between copper red / copper ruby / ruby glass.

Your editor had to answer all my queries without the benefit of having the newsletter issues to hand, as she had delivered the full set (recently completed, missing copies having been retrieved) to me to work on. Her replies included: "I think glass terms *are* often inconsistent"; "Flint is another tricky one. Sometimes it means lead glass. Sometimes they talk about the metal – that's also lead glass"; and "I see there are lots of potential grey areas".

There were problems with the issue numbering. Newsletters for April and July 1983 are both numbered 26; I gave references to those issues as 26A and 26J.

Having completed – with trepidation – the index to *GCN* 100-137, I went on to compile an index to the eleven *GC* journals (total 989 pages including prelims and blanks). I thought it would be useful to have a separate index to these, as well as later merging that one with the index to all the other publications. The journals (average 90 pages a journal) had very long articles on single topics, which were indexed in much less detail than the plentiful short pieces on a variety of topics in the newsletters. The journal index listed chiefly authors, article titles (under authors' names), and main topics, without close indexing of details within the articles. It made 670 lines, averaging 60 lines per journal; whereas the one to 37 newsletters with an average of 19 pages per issue, averaged 59 lines of index per newsletter.

I then assayed the merge of my new index to newsletters 100-138 with the existing indexes to 1-70 and 71-100. It had been hoped that a disc might be found with at least the second index on it, so that I might have merged them electronically (although this procedure would have brought with it a whole host of further problems); but no disc could be found, and I had to retype the new entries into my digital file, copying them and adjusting to conform to my own format.

The two original indexes made 1.6 % of the 927 pages of the text they referred to. Three % is generally regarded as the minimum satisfactory length for an index. Notes at the head of the two early indexes explained what had been omitted: regular events, AGMs, outings, authors of articles other than Glass Circle papers, sales and trade fairs.

There were problems of consistency in style. In the earlier indexes, every entry was given a capital initial letter. My indexing practice is to use upper case only for proper nouns. Capitalisation of initial letters for all words had also been used for article and book titles. The modern style is *not* to capitalise every main word's first letter, and the editor and I agreed to capitalise only the first word and proper nouns in article titles, but for book titles, to follow the style and spelling of the book in question.

The format of the earlier indexes, too, was different from mine. They were classified, having long sections under major category headings, such as:

Archaeological Reports; Books Reviewed or Mentioned (this one in two sections, one listing authors, the other titles); Collections of glass; Commemorative Engraved Glass; Exhibitions; Glass (1.5 columns long); Glass Circle papers, again with authors and titles listed separately; Lectures and Symposia; Obituaries. None of the entries in these long classified sections was duplicated under its own name in the indexes; one could only find, for instance, Hanoverian by looking under C for Commemorative Engraved Glass, or Hookah Base by looking under G for Glass. I copied the individual entries in the earlier indexes into my new index just as they were (except for lower-case initial letters), but dispersed many of the collated, grouped entries under their own initial letters, alphabetically.

These first two indexes had no subheadings, which meant that some entries had extremely long strings of page references: Broadfield House had 33, Jacobite engraved glass 32. With the references from my index to 100-137 added, some massively long entries resulted. I tried to reduce long strings by sorting them into subheadings or specific aspect: Broadfield House Glass Museum, Stourbridge acquired subheadings – 'British Glass between the Wars' exh.; 'Collectomania' exh.; expansion and reopening, 1994; Friends of; GC visits to; Glass Roots project; new facility; opened; paperweights; sculpture; threat to close; website. It became necessary to separate engraved glass / engravers / engraving into three sequences, however tenuous the distinction.

Some subheadings grew, and grew, and were indeed duplicated in reverse – viz, portraits under Jacobite glass, and Jacobite under portraits. Cross-references were called into play, and proliferated through the index. The lengthy entry, engraving on glass concluded with *see also* Dreiser, Peter; Dutch glass; inscriptions; lettering; stipple; wheel engraving.

Some of the classified headings of the original indexes I retained, such as archaeological reports, also adding the references found there to already existing entries for the items: Kimmeridge and Nailsea, for instance, made many other appearances through the sequence of GC publications. Collections of Glass, listed together in the 1-100 indexes, I dispersed under collectors' names. Many entries were now duplicated, appearing both under their own names and in group lists. For the lists of books, I replaced authors' names in the full alphabetical sequence, with titles as subheads under authors, also giving the titles if appropriate under the topic treated. I added one classified heading, Glass Circle outings, collecting the references myself. Some were long ago, indeed, but the reports sufficiently full of interest to reward indicating.

Each index included a classified heading, obituaries. The newsletters also included notices of deaths, tributes and appreciations, which I added also under the individuals' names if they already had entries in the index. We devised a fuller, single classified heading to include them all: death notifications, appreciations and obituaries.

The headnotes of the two previous indexes stated that authors and titles of papers given to the Glass Circle were included in the index, but not others. I added the names of authors of articles a page or more long. The index then included everything still worth including from the original ones, though rearranged; but I did not read through all the first hundred issues looking for entries that should now be added. I made some new entries that I noticed when checking pages, but not systematically through the whole. Issues 100-137 were indexed in closer detail than 1-100, with more index entries per page of newsletter.

Then I added the journals index to the major one. The journals had begun irregular publication in 1972, before the *GCN* in 1977, and there seemed little point in trying to integrate them chronologically with *GNC* issues 101 on. I gave all journal references in the index separate lines of their own.

Finally, there were the four one-off GC publications to add to the index: *The Centenary Supplement*, The collection of excerpts from the first 99 issues of *GCN. From Palace to Parlour* and *Glass Collectors and their Collections*. This last included its own index of two pages, not categorised; I copied that one directly into the cumulated one of all the other publications.

Another issue of *GCN* arrived, no. 138, for July 2015. I added that one. The complete index now made 5464 lines: clearly too large to be distributed in print. It could, and would be put up on the GC website. Then it could be searched, and each time a new issue came out, entries for it could be inserted, making it a continuously cumulated index.

I sent the monster index to the editor, who would have hours of checking and editing to do upon it. The headnote runs:

Index to *Glass Circle News* Issues 1-138, March 1977–July 2015; *The Glass Circle Journal* 1-11; *The Centenary Supplement*; the collection of excerpts from the first 99 issues of *Glass Circle News*; *From Palace to Parlour* and *Glass Collectors and their Collections*.

Note: short forms of article and book titles are used.

Auctions, Fairs, and Sales reports are not indexed; of exhibitions, only major ones are indexed.

Article titles, and titles of talks reported, are given ‘in quotes’ under the names of the speakers; book titles are given *in italics* under the names of the authors, except for multi-author books, listed under their titles, and those published by Corning Museum of Glass, which are listed under that heading.

Newsletters for April and July 1983 are both numbered 26; references to those issues are given as 26A and 26JL

The first page of Issue 115, 2 June 2008, shows Issue number as 114.

Vol. 33 no. 1 is taken as Issue 122.

Issues of *The Glass Circle Journal* are indexed as JL; *The Centenary Supplement* is indexed as CS; the collection of excerpts from the first 99 issues of *Glass Circle News*, issued with the Centenary Supplement, is indexed as Ex; *Glass Collectors and their Collections*, published 1999, is indexed as Col.; *From Palace to Parlour*, published 2003, is indexed as PP. All other page numbers refer to issues of *Glass Circle News*. References are given in the form, Issue number.page number(s), with the Issue numbers followed by stops; page numbers in the same issue separated by commas; Issue numbers separated by semi-colons.

Abbreviations used: exh. for exhibition; GC for Glass Circle.

So the final amalgamation comprises: two indexes with a low level of selection of items for inclusion, covering 1977-2004; more closely detailed items from newsletters of 2005 onwards; and a broad sweep of only major items from the journals and single volumes. Certainly balance is lacking in the allotment of references to topics through the texts.

The longest entry is that for Watts, David C., with his many article and book titles listed below his name, even lacking his editorials and shorter, initialled pieces. Next, in order of length, come Jacobean glass; stained glass; archaeology; bottles; Lole, F. Peter; Charleston Robert; commemorative glasses.

It was interesting work; my initial ignorance of glass and its world is now at least eroded. I have brushed up my knowledge of history, with the exploits of the Dukes of Bedford and Buckingham, the House of Orange and the slave trade, and learnt of the huge variety of perfume containers. I was moved by the account of the fates of glassworkers during the Great War. I enjoyed collating references to paintings that portray drinking scenes, and making subheadings under bottles for bladder, gurglets, ‘Recycling drunk’ and witch within. I was fascinated to find references to coin glassware; Freemasons; friggers; Gilbert and George; the glass

delusion; glass furniture, musical instruments, pens and walking sticks; glass surviving shipwreck; gurglets; historicist glass and singing glasses.

If these items intrigue you too – you will be able in future to find them through the Glass Circle Publications index.

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