

# JASSO *Newsletter*

September 2002

Issue No 8

## *Chairwoman's Message*

Dear Members,

September again and the beginning of a new Academic Year. I hope you all found some sunny days during the last two months; we were certainly lucky in having a beautiful afternoon for the garden party at West Hanney.

During the coming term there will be an opportunity to visit the Christ Church silver and to learn more about it. There will be a one-day (Saturday) workshop at the end of November on threading beads, given by a professional in that field, and we shall hold our biennial exhibition at the Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock mid-October to mid-November. Finally, there will be the Christmas party. Details of these events can be found further on in the Newsletter.

The workshop at Peach Croft Farm has been in full swing now for nine months, and I think the general feeling is that it is a great improvement on the previous one. The added space and the tranquil surroundings make working there a great pleasure. There are improvements that would be welcomed of course, and the suggestions book is well used! The committee considers these suggestions sympathetically, and is doing its best to satisfy demand and reinvest in the workshop – you may already be using the new vices, kiln, shears and files. The highest priority at the moment is to install some means of lessening the noise level for silversmiths, and the possibility of acoustic tiles is being investigated. Meanwhile, keep wearing the earmuffs!

*Rosemary Zeeman*

Editor's Note:

This will be the last Newsletter in this current format – the Committee will look at other ways of keeping all members informed.



## JASSO Workshop

### One-Day Bead Threading Course

at JASSO Peach Croft Workshop

**Saturday 23\* November 2002**

**or Saturday 30\* November 2002**

10.0am to 5.00pm

\* date to be confirmed



Taught by bead threading professional Stefany Tomalin. Students will learn several methods of threading beads, knotting and attaching various types of clasps to a professional standard. Included in the price are materials for the small-scale samples of each technique worked on which you can take home.

The cost of the Day Course will be £35 plus JASSO workshop fees.

Open to all members of the Society. Please reserve places as soon as possible, enclosing a cheque for £35 made out to JASSO and send with an sae to Rosemary Zeeman.

## JASSO website

The JASSO website is at:

<http://pages.zoom.co.uk/leveridge/jasso.html>

JASSO also has an advert site under the Newsquest local interest section:  
[www.communigate.co.uk/oxford/jassooxford/index.phtml](http://www.communigate.co.uk/oxford/jassooxford/index.phtml)

Contact me on e-mail with any info or queries: [leveridge.att@zoom.co.uk](mailto:leveridge.att@zoom.co.uk)



## N.B. Invigilation

It is hoped that all exhibitors will be able to invigilate at least one session at the Woodstock Museum – please sign up as soon as possible using the large chart on display in the workshop.

## Jewellery and Silver on the Internet

*by Emma Matthey*

I have been looking around the Internet for more interesting information. I have gone for a bit of a jewellery bias this time, which at least gives scope for some great pictures.

I hope you enjoy the following:

<http://www.cooksongold.com> - Cookson Precious metals' improved site. As well as being able to order all your goodies from Exchange Findings this site has technical articles and FAQs. Learn all about it here.

<http://www.modernsilver.com/may.html> - Modern Silver Magazine, an on line glossy with articles about makers, lots of photos and book reviews.

<http://www.whoswhoingoldandsilver.com/> - The Goldsmiths Company Directory. Lots of high quality pictures from many well known UK makers.

<http://www.gold.org> The World Gold Council.

<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/> - An American magazine with lots of tips and projects to follow.

<http://www.pearls.co.uk> - for every thing you have ever wanted to know about pearls

Some very useful information on rolling mills is provided on the website of UK manufacturer Durston - [www.durston.com](http://www.durston.com). A printout of their "Rolling Mill Guide" is available in the JASSO workshop.

An excellent step-by-step guide to a ring making project is provided by San Francisco jeweller Abrasha - [www.abrasha.com\\_process\\_mr4.htm](http://www.abrasha.com_process_mr4.htm)

To get the feel of what a small commercial casting workshop is like, go here - <http://www.racecarjewelry.com/page03.html>

For some very detailed information on granulation try this excellent site - [www.spirig.com/portal/jewellery/granulation/](http://www.spirig.com/portal/jewellery/granulation/)

And finally, the 10 Downing Street silver commissions are fully discussed and illustrated at - <http://www.silvertrust.co.uk/>

# The 2002 JASSO Summer School: 5th, 6th and 7th July, 2002

## **BACKGROUND**

This was the fourth JASSO Summer School and the first to be held in the new JASSO Workshop at Peach Croft Farm, Radley.

## **FORMAT**

Eleven members took part under the leadership of a new tutor, Brian Marshall, and there were three different projects from which the participants made their choices. Fortunately everyone was able to make the project of their first choice.

The projects offered included:

- a peened bowl (raised from the inside),
- a seamed beaker, with a curved form,
- a silver tumbler cup.

## **PREPARATORY WORK**

The Convenor had made a technical drawing for each Project and given this to each of the participants in advance.

He had also negotiated with Blundells a very special price for the silver for all JASSO participants. So, everyone arrived with a drawing and the material from which to make their chosen piece.

## **EQUIPMENT**

The Convenor had also made arrangements for adequate equipment to be borrowed from outside organisations, so that there was enough equipment for everyone.

## **THE COST OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL**

Each participant paid the Tutor £15 per day for tuition and JASSO £6 per day for workshop fees. (Currently West Dean College charge non-residential students £55 per day, so this was less than half their price!)

## **DAILY ROUTINE**

The day started at 9.30am and finished at 5.30pm with an hour for lunch. Members each brought their own sandwiches but coffee/tea was provided. On Saturday, a light lunch was served in the restaurant of the Cheese Shop and Rosemary Zeeman, our Chairman, was kindly able to attend this.

## **WHAT WAS ACHIEVED**

Firstly, everyone enjoyed themselves and learned not only from the tutor but also from each other. It was fascinating how, with everyone starting with the same drawing and the same sized material, the pieces turned out rather differently!

Participants came from different classes from within JASSO and, clearly, enjoyed meeting and working with other JASSO members.

## **THE PEENED BOWL**

All three participants were able to take home a bowl that was nearly ready for hallmarking, two of which were on show at the JASSO Summer Party.

## **THE SEAMED BEAKER**

Two of participants reached the point where their pieces could be sent for hallmarking but the other two still had a little work to be done at the end.

## **THE TUMBLER CUPS**

These all proved to be hard work for the participants, and progress was slower than had been planned. This was mainly due to the fact that the diameter of the raw material disc turned out to be enough for a larger tumbler cup than the drawing called for. Raising the thicker sidewalls was very hard work.

A special follow-up programme has been taking place on Tuesday mornings since and has included a visit to a silversmith in Devizes who has made 50+ tumbler cups. It was a very useful visit which was followed in the afternoon by a second visit to see a collection of 50+ antique tumbler cups, of all shapes and sizes.

## **SUMMARY**

This was a very happy, instructive and valuable experience and showed the potential for our new Workshop.

Many of the participants have asked me since . . . “when is the next one” !

*Ian Miller, Course Convenor*

# Events Calendar

## JASSO Events

- 17 October 2002 **JASSO Exhibition – Private View**
- 18 Oct – 16 Nov 2002 **JASSO Exhibition 2002**
- 25 October 2002 **JASSO Visit - Christ Church Silver**  
Venue: Christ Church Cathedral Oxford 4.00 pm  
Book via Philippa Grace on 01865 558464
- 23\* November  
or 30\* November **One-Day Bead Threading Course**  
Venue: JASSO Workshop - 10 am to 5 pm \*Date to be confirmed  
See information on Page 2
- 14 December 2002 **JASSO Christmas Party**  
Venue: Hertford College, Oxford 12.30 pm See information on Page 8



## Other Events

### **The King's Table: George III's Silver for Hanover**

*The Gilbert Collection, Somerset House, London*

*Until 31 December 2002; open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

Featuring the Royal Silver Dinner Service ordered in Paris by George III (1760-1820) for his electoral palace in Hanover. This sumptuous service has never before been seen in Britain. A Rothschild family trust recently acquired the service, and after its debut at the Gilbert Collection, the service will go on public display in 2003 at Waddesdon Manor. This magnificent group of eighty objects are all engraved with the king's cypher and royal crown. The coolers, candelabra, sauceboats, and tureens were designed by Robert-Joseph Auguste, the preeminent Parisian goldsmith (1723-1805). The exhibition is presented in two parts: a double-sided buffet showing a massed display of the magnificent silver in five cases linked with the emblem of George III of Hanover; and a display devised by Paul Dyson of a table covered by a huge damask cloth upon which is an eighteenth century placement showing where each piece of silver would have stood. Forty pieces of flatware, also made in Hanover by the court goldsmith Franz Peter Bunsen, who extended the service for George III, will be reunited with the service for this display.

### **All That Glistens Is Not Gold**

*Perth Museum and Art Gallery, 78 George Street, Perth PH1 5LB*

*Mon-Sat from 10 am to 5pm. Admission free*

A semi-permanent display of ecclesiastical, domestic, presentation and contemporary silver made in Perth & Kinross. With the exception of a few Church loans, the items on display are from Perth Museum and Art Gallery's silver collection, which spans from the early 17th to the 21st centuries.

See also Book Review of Perth Silver: A Guide to Perth Silver and Silversmiths.

[http://www.pkc.gov.uk/ah/perth\\_museum.htm](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/ah/perth_museum.htm)

*Members are advised to check the details of events before attending.*

# *Events Calendar* continued

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## **Goldsmiths' Fair**

*Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane*

*30 September - 6 October 2002*

*11am to 7pm Monday to Friday, 11am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday admission £5 (including catalogue)*

Goldsmiths' Fair, the leading annual selling exhibition of contemporary jewellery and silverware, offers visitors the rare opportunity to view and purchase the work of over 80 of Britain's most talented and creative designers and makers. Innovative design and the highest quality of craftsmanship characterise the work on display - much of it is not readily available through normal retail channels.

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## **Chelsea Crafts Fair 2002**

*Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Road, London SW3 5EE*

*15 to 20 and 22 to 27 October 2002*

*Tuesday to Friday 10.00am - 8.00pm Saturday and Sunday 10.00am - 6.00pm*

*Admission (illustrated catalogue included in the price of admission) £7 single visit*

“Internationally recognised as Europe's leading event for quality, ingenuity and individuality” – organised by the Crafts Council.

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## **Christmas Crafts**

*The Oxfordshire Museum, Oxford*

*22 November 2002 to 5 January 2003*

*Admission free*

Annual selling exhibition of the Oxfordshire Craft Guild.

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## **Abingdon Craft Festival**

*Old Abbey Buildings*

*17 - 27 October 2002*

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## **Maestros de Plata: William Spratling and the Mexican Silver Renaissance**

*The San Antonio Museum of Art*

*October 6, 2002 - January 5, 2003 (touring thereafter)*

“When William Spratling and other silver designers moved to Taxco, Mexico in the late 1920s, they revolutionized the art of silvermaking.” Major exhibition of Mexican silver with more than 400 objects includes works by William Spratling, Héctor Aguilar, Emilia Castillo, Sigi Pineda, and many more.

The catalogue to accompany Maestros de Plata is published by Harry N. Abrams and will be available for the exhibition's opening at the San Antonio Museum of Art. This major publication on modern Mexican silver includes essays by Penny Morrill and other Mexican history and art authorities on the economics of the silver industry; its cultural and historical context; hallmarking and silversmithing techniques; and the envisioned future for Mexican silver.

### Visit by Jane Short

The first week-end lecture and workshop at Peachcroft Farm was held on March 2nd – 3rd 2002, and was given by the distinguished enameller, Jane Short.

The lecture, on Saturday morning, was attended by about 30 people. Jane Short had brought a number of pieces of her work, both finished and in the process of construction, and these were laid out on the bench, before the lecture. She then proceeded to show a series of slides of enamelled objects, beginning with historical Museum pieces, followed by students work and leading on to her own work. She talked easily about each piece, about her love of colour, her own objectives, her commissions, technique and difficulties. It was a splendid array of magnificent work

The most prestigious was, probably, the large enamelled and engraved dish with which she won the Millennium Prize at Goldsmith's Hall.



The JASSO workshop group had a sandwich lunch in Mrs Wells' café, and then reassembled for the afternoon session. Jane Short talked of her present commission, and said she would do a test piece of enamelling for it. First there was the colour chart of deep blue through purple to yellow. She then ground some enamel finely and packed a strip, mixing the colours on a palette before grading them on the work. She talked of enamelling technique, and her own experience of the best way of working. This was often not the way she had been taught, and she thought many of the recommendations had been passed on from person to person with little practical experience. It was very rewarding to hear not only of her successes, but also of her difficulties.

On Sunday morning she gave a demonstration of engraving and then divided the group into engravers and enamellers. She then discussed individual problems with

experienced people, and guided others. Her whole approach was practical, and stimulating, and everyone gained some insight into techniques from her.

Time had been spent beforehand arranging blinds, screen and projector in the workshop, for this first event, and everything went very smoothly, and our thanks go those involved. Our particular thanks go to Rosemary Zeeman who not only arranged the weekend, supervised it all, but also accommodated the Short family in Woodstock, for the week-end. It was a good 'first' for the new workshop.



*P.A.L.G.*

### JASSO Garden Party

This year Louise and John Mollo generously hosted the party at the Dower House in West Hanney. The sun shone and everyone enjoyed their delightful garden. There were lots of flowers in the borders, the hedges, orchard and vegetable garden looked immaculate and the Millennium Fountain cooled the air. We heard that all this garden had been created in the last four years. The Church, which was formerly part of the Priory of Newton Longueville, forms a backdrop to the garden, and it is thought that the house was originally the Priory Guest House. John produced an interesting model of how the house would have looked when it was first constructed in mediaeval times. Members brought some delicious home cooking for tea, and Louise produced a surprise of home-made ice cream, made with fruit from the garden. One member said this was the nearest thing to ambrosia she had ever tasted! It was a very successful occasion and our thanks go the Mollo's.

*P.A.L.G.*



### **Moving Metal** **Adolph Seites**

Translated from the German by Judith and Winfried Berger (first published as *Metall-Treiben* in 1995)

Publisher: Blue Moon Press

ISBN 0-9707664-9-1

US\$ 32.95

<http://www.blumoonpress.org>



Available for the first time in English, this book provides a firm grounding in the techniques of chasing and repoussé. It covers tools and techniques plus design approaches and ranges across a wide field, including large sculptural uses of repoussé. Many useful ideas are included, though some are not necessarily applicable to work in precious metals.

This translation retains the lineart and half-tones from the German edition and the publishers have not taken the chance to update the photography – you may agree with me that the examples and projects illustrated will not be to everyone's taste! The book also lacks an index and a bibliography.

Widely sought after, this book now fills a major gap in the literature for the crafts and makes a worthwhile investment for any library.

***Following requests, this book has been purchased for the JASSO library.***

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### **Elegant Eating** **edited by** **Philippa Glanville and Hilary Young**

V & A Publications

ISBN 1851773371

Hb £30

Well known in the silver world as former head of the Metalwork Dept at the V & A, Philippa

Glanville has turned her skills as a social historian to this treatment of the history of eating. A fascinating and wide-ranging exploration of cultural history, the book covers such topics as Elizabethan possetts, Italian baroque ice sculptures, Georgian novelty tablewares and Victorian display. Whilst not a specialist work, this will have much to interest the silver enthusiast in its treatment of porringers, cutlery and salt cellars, and in placing into historical context the objects we collect and craft.



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### **Perth Silver: a Guide to Perth Silver and Silversmiths**

**Robin H. Rodger and Fiona Slattery**

Perth Museum and Art Gallery  
2001

50pp

ISBN: 0-907495-17-6



A must for those interested in the ever popular field of Scottish Provincial Silver. The booklet includes a brief introduction to the history of Perth Silver with its distinctive double headed eagle hallmark. There follows a comprehensive Directory of Silversmiths and Goldsmiths, Apprentices, Jewellers and Lapidaries in Perth and Kinross 1174–2000. Includes mono illustrations of silver items at Perth Museum and Art Gallery as well as illustrations of identified Perth silversmiths' hallmarks.

Booklet available for £6 (incl UK P & P) from:

Fiona Slattery

Fine & Applied Arts Officer

Education & Children's Services

Perth Museum and Art Gallery

78 George Street

Perth PH1 5LB

(cheques payable to Perth & Kinross Council)

## Notices

**JASSO 2002  
Exhibition**  
**Important reminder:  
the enclosed  
Official Entry Forms  
must be returned by  
1 October 2002. Due  
to the administration  
required, the  
exhibition organizers  
cannot accept any late  
entries.**

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Hertford College, Oxford  
*Saturday 14 December 2002*  
*12.30 am to 3.00pm*

The JASSO Christmas party will this year repeat the highly successful format of last year. Lunch will take the traditional form of a "bring and share" cold finger buffet. Members are very welcome to bring prizes for the Raffle.



Tickets: £3.00 to include glass of wine.

*Please make a note of this date and try to keep it free!*

## Stop Press

We are very sad to report the death of Jo Butcher, one of our members who lived at Chieveley, Newbury.

## JASSO Terms

Autumn Term 2002  
*Please check term dates with your tutor.*

## Workshop Tickets

Members are reminded that Workshop Ticket Prices have now risen to **£3.00**.

## Private View

If you require extra Private View invitation cards, please collect them from the Workshop or contact Hon. Sec.

## Assay News



## Golden Jubilee Hallmark

The special hallmark for the Golden Jubilee will cease to be struck after 31 December 2002 – so get your items in early!

## Casting Classes

Jeff Wallis has plans to run a casting class this term. Details have yet to be determined, but if you are interested in taking a casting class – open to beginners and those with previous experience – please put your name forward to Jeff.

## JASSO Classes

### Monday 0945–1245

Tutor: Jeff Wallis

### Monday 1330–1630

Tutor: Jeff Wallis

### Tuesday 0930–1700

Open Workshop

### Wednesday 1000–1300

Tutor: Rosemary Zeeman

### Wednesday 1400–1700

Tutor: Rosemary Zeeman

### Wednesday 1830–2130

Tutor: Jeff Wallis

### Thursday 1000–1300

Tutor: Geoff Harding

### Thursday 1330–1630

Tutor: Jeff Wallis

### Friday 1000–1700

Tutor: Doug Lincoln

*A number of classes have vacancies - please enquire with the tutors or contact Hon. Sec.*

# JASSO

Old Stable Block,  
Peach Croft Farm,  
Twelve Acre Drive,  
Abingdon OX14 2HP

## Jasso Committee 2002–2003

Geoffrey Harding *President*  
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*Chairwoman*  
Philippa Grace *Secretary*  
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