



The  
**Glass**  
Society

*Talk on Zoom*

# Simon Cottle

*A Clear Passion: Cecil Higgins and the Glass at The Higgins Museum, Bedford*

7pm GMT, Thursday 19 March 2026  
to follow the Annual General Meeting

A visit to The Higgins in Bedford is a true delight—and an essential destination for anyone devoted to the art of glass. From early Venetian masterpieces to a rich range of English glass spanning the 17th to the 20th centuries, the museum houses one of the most varied and distinguished glass collections in the UK. Highlights include rare works by George Ravenscroft, alongside contemporary pieces by Sam Herman.

Founded by Cecil Higgins (1856-1941), the son of a wealthy Bedford brewer, the collection is further enriched by exceptional examples



from the American master of Art Nouveau Louis Comfort Tiffany, French cameo glass and the work of the renowned 20th century makers Whitefriars of London. Displayed in galleries alongside extraordinary furniture, ceramics, and paintings, The Higgins presents some of the most important decorative arts in Britain.

In this short talk, Simon highlights a selection of these glass treasures offering an engaging introduction to the collection designed to whet the appetite.

*Picture credit: The Higgins Museum, A Tiffany favrile glass vase, circa 1900*

The login details for the online talk will be sent out to members shortly and the talk will be posted on the website <http://www.theglassociety.org>.