



ONLINE RESEARCH MEETING, 15 NOVEMBER 2025

10:00 – 11:25 Session 1

Chair: David Marsh

- 10:00-10:10 Welcome and Introduction
Sally Cottam/Ana Franjic, AHG
- 10:10-10:35 Ancient Glass in the Macquarrie University History Museum: Collecting and University Museums in a Colonial Context
Thomas Derrick, Macquarie University, Sydney
- 10:35-11:00 “So little done, so much to do”. Pending tasks regarding the glass finds from Baelo Claudia (Tarifa, Spain)
José Alberto Retamosa, Universidad de Granada
- 11:00-11:25 Recent research into Romano-British bangles: re-assessing typology, distribution, manufacture and use of a specific Roman Iron Age Scottish glass bangle type (Type 1)
Tatiana Ivleva, Newcastle University
- 11:25-11:35 Discussion
- 11:35-11:45 Coffee and tea break

11:35 – 13:00 Session 2

Chair: Ian Freestone

- 11:45-12:10 The Roman window glass from Fishbourne Palace
Kim Devereux-West, Durham University
- 12:10-12:35 Analysis of the Roman glass from Binchester, County Durham
Alice Main, Lincoln College, Oxford
- 12:35-13:00 The Analysis of Glass from the Roman Villa, Warkton, Kettering
Emily Harris-Taylor, Cranfield University
- 13:00-13:10 Discussion
- 13:10-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-14:30 **AGM of the Association for the History of Glass**



ONLINE RESEARCH MEETING, 15 NOVEMBER 2025

14:30 – 17:00 Session 3

Chair: Simon Spier

- 14:30-14:55 Glass from Tayma (North-West Arabia): An Investigation of Contexts and Material
Antonia Seifert, German Archaeological Institute (DAI), Orient Department
- 14:55-15:20 Restoring Vibrance: Conservation of an early English cut glass chandelier
Dana Norris, Victoria and Albert Museum
- 15:20-15:45 The origin of the Hedwig beakers, an enigmatic medieval glass group
Ian Freestone, Martina Bertini, Kelsi Kaviani & Andrew Meek, AHG, UCL, British Museum
- 15:45-16:15 **Fragment Forum: Informal presentation and discussion of individual pieces**
- 16:15-16:30 Discussion and Closing Remarks



An Autumn Miscellany: Current Research in Ancient and Historical Glass

AHG Autumn Research Meeting
15 November 2025,
online event

ABSTRACTS

THOMAS DERRICK
(MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY,
SYDNEY)

**ANCIENT GLASS
IN THE
MACQUARRIE
UNIVERSITY
HISTORY
MUSEUM:
COLLECTING AND
UNIVERSITY
MUSEUMS IN A
COLONIAL
CONTEXT**

The presentation will focus on the ongoing research (2023-2026) of the Ancient Glass Project at Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia). The project aims to research and publish a collection of 220 glass artefacts (many of which are complete vessels) in the Macquarie University History Museum (MUHM). Direct purchases formed the collection from the antiquities market alongside donations (much of which were also sourced from the same market). This presentation explores what these trends say about identity building and connections in Australia with the classical Mediterranean. It adds information about, and invites comparison to, ancient glass collections in other parts of Australia and New Zealand/Aotearoa. I will also detail the ongoing investigation into the chemical composition of the collection, which has been analysed using portable X-Ray fluorescence (pXRF). The MUHM also holds a significant collection of 60 facsimile handblown/core-formed Roman and Hellenistic glass vessels with artificial patination. Research into the *chaînes opératoires* of their makers (they all came from one source and seem to be made by the same hand) has been done by close observation and experimental archaeology. Due to the under-publication of facsimiles, it is hoped that this helps with future studies and evaluation of non-authentic ancient glass.

The Roman city of Baelo Claudia, located on the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula near the Strait of Gibraltar, has attracted archaeological interest since the nineteenth century. However, most of the glass artefacts recovered from the site remain uncatalogued and unstudied, with only a few assemblages having been properly examined. Addressing this gap requires the revision of historical excavation inventories produced by different institutions, together with the study of materials preserved in several museum collections. This paper reassesses the current state of knowledge concerning the glass assemblages from the Early Imperial and Late Roman phases of Baelo Claudia. It also introduces the initial framework of a project aimed at completing the documentation, study, and dissemination of all glass materials recovered from the site in the coming years.

JOSÉ ALBERTO
RETAMOSA
(UNIVERSITY OF
GRANADA)

**“SO LITTLE DONE,
SO MUCH TO
DO”. PENDING
TASKS
REGARDING THE
GLASS FINDS
FROM BAELO
CLAUDIA (TARIFA,
SPAIN)**

TATIANA IVLEVA
(NEWCASTLE
UNIVERSITY)

**RECENT RESEARCH
INTO ROMANO-
BRITISH BANGLES:
RE-ASSESSING
TYPOLOGY,
DISTRIBUTION,
MANUFACTURE
AND USE OF A
SPECIFIC ROMAN
IRON AGE
SCOTTISH GLASS
BANGLE TYPE (TYPE
1)**

The paper focuses on a specialised Roman Iron Age Scottish artefact known as a Type 1 glass bangle. In Britain these ring-shaped adornments made of coloured glass were produced in three types and used from the mid-first to late second century AD. While Type 2 and Type 3 have a wide distribution in Britain, with the majority clustering in NE England and SE Scotland, Type 1 bangles have only been found in Scotland, never crossing the line of Hadrian's Wall. Apart from the limited distribution, bangles of this type exhibit other unusual features that set them apart from the more widespread and more numerous Type 2 and Type 3 bangles. First briefly discussed in 1938 by Howard Kilbride-Jones (Kilbride-Jones, H.E. 1938: 'Glass armlets in Britain', PSAS 72, 366–9), the bangles of this type have never been a focus of a specialised study. The presentation aims to highlight their special nature in a wider context of Late Iron Age Scotland. Alongside providing new updated information on the Type 1 distribution in Scotland, the paper presents new typological division of Type 1 bangles, discusses their manufacturing method and, based on the analysis of use-wear patterns, tackles the issue of their use that went beyond simple armlets.

This paper introduces the AHRC Northern Bridge funded PhD project 'Windows in Ancient Glass Recycling at Fishbourne Roman Palace'. It presents a preliminary analysis of the window glass from Fishbourne and discusses the experimental build of a Roman style glassworking furnace. Additionally, it outlines the forthcoming work, including the chemical analysis of the Fishbourne glass and the recreation of the window panes using the reconstructed furnace.

KIM DEVEREUX-WEST
(DURHAM UNIVERSITY)

**AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE ROMAN
WINDOW GLASS AT
FISHBOURNE**

ALICE MAIN
(LINCOLN
COLLEGE, OXFORD
(FORMERLY
DURHAM
UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHAEOLOGY))

**ANALYSIS OF THE
ROMAN GLASS
FROM
BINCHESTER,
COUNTY
DURHAM**

This paper is designed to, in brief, review the results of materials analysis conducted on the glass material from Binchester Roman Fort as part of my MA dissertation at Durham University under the supervision of Dr Kamal Badreshany. The main purpose of this study was to demonstrate the efficacy of a dual XRF (X-ray fluorescence) and ICP-MS (Inductively-coupled plasma mass spectrometry) analysis protocol. The novel addition to this relatively common method of analysis was the pre analysis process of fusing the samples into beads before XRF analysis. This homogenized the sample which allowed for a potentially more “complete” picture of the geochemical composition of the glass material than the more commonly used system of setting glass material in a resin block.

The secondary purpose of this study was to understand if vessel glass material could be used to understand some of the socio-economic differences between the inhabitants of forts on the Romano-British frontier, and those living in the extramural settlements outside of the forts commonly known as vici/vicus. The results will be discussed in brief along with my current conclusions. This project was intended to act as a ‘pilot’ study for a much larger PhD project, which would have allowed for the further development/expansion of the dataset to include more sites and other techniques such as EMPA. This has changed somewhat, for reasons that will be outlined.

The study investigates Roman glass artefacts excavated from Warkton Villa, Kettering, aiming to shed light on manufacturing techniques, raw material origins, and the patterns of glass circulation in Late Antique Roman Britain. It seeks to address questions regarding technological transmission, material economy, and cultural hybridity in rural elite settings.

EMILY HARRIS-
TAYLOR
(CRANFIELD
UNIVERSITY)

A comprehensive compositional analysis was conducted using Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) alongside detailed microscopic examination. This dual approach enabled both quantitative and qualitative assessment of the glass samples, focusing on elemental composition, trace element variation, and microstructural features.

**THE ANALYSIS OF
GLASS FROM THE
ROMAN VILLA,
WARKTON,
KETTERING**

The assemblage was found to be dominated by natron-fluxed silicate glass, characteristic of traditional Roman recipes from the Eastern Mediterranean. However, significant variation in trace elements and microscopic inclusions pointed to episodes of recycling and secondary production, most likely taking place in provincial workshops. Additional evidence, such as residual colourants, surface weathering, and unique textural attributes, suggested post-depositional alteration and small-scale craft modification, indicating local technological adaptation within the broader context of imperial exchange networks.

The findings demonstrate that the glass artefacts from Warkton Villa provide compelling evidence of how rural elite sites in Roman Britain engaged with imported materials and adapted them locally. This case study highlights the permeability of trade boundaries and underscores the active role of local producers in transforming and negotiating Roman material traditions, enriching our understanding of cultural hybridity and technological exchange in the province.

ANTONIA SEIFERT
(GERMAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE (DAI),
ORIENT
DEPARTMENT)

**GLASS FROM
TAYMA (NORTH-
WEST ARABIA):
AN
INVESTIGATION
OF CONTEXTS
AND MATERIAL
FULLER STORY**

Despite decades of research on ancient glass, the northwestern Arabian Peninsula remains marginalized within dominant narratives of technological development—an omission that sustains Orientalist distinctions between productive “centers” and passive “peripheries.” This study examines 154 glass fragments from the DAI–SCTH excavations at Tayma (Tabuk Province, Saudi Arabia, 2004–2017), revealing a diverse assemblage of natronfluxed soda–lime–silica glasses spanning the Lihyanite (5th–2nd centuries BCE) and early Islamic (7th–18th centuries CE) phases. Portable X-ray fluorescence analysis identified compositions tinted naturally blue, yellow-green, colorless, or brown through controlled use of manganese, antimony, and iron. Contextual evidence shows that 97 % of fragments derive from domestic and public buildings, indicating everyday use, disposal, and possible recycling. Chemical similarities to Levantine glasses from Apollonia and Tell Zujaj suggest active participation in regional trade, while the uniformity of compositions and presence of waste materials hint at limited local secondary production. By situating Tayma within interconnected glass traditions, this research challenges established cartographies of innovation and exchange. It urges archaeologists and historians to reconsider Arabia not as a peripheral consumer but as a dynamic node in the broader material networks that shaped the ancient and early Islamic worlds.

Conservation of an early English cut glass chandelier dating between 1760-65 will be explored in this presentation. The chandelier is named after Thomastown in Kilkenny, Ireland where it was originally hung in a chapel after being presented to the church by Sir John Power. It predates the iconic Waterford Glassworks founded in 1783 specialising in intricately cut glass. The church is located 40km northwest of Waterford and was a likely source of inspiration for entrepreneurs George and William Penrose who founded the glasshouse. Based on this provenance, this artwork is of particular importance to the history of British glass making and is a notable object in English and Irish cultural heritage. The chandelier has been in the Victoria and Albert Museum collection since 1931 and has been a centrepiece of Glass Gallery 131 for thirty years. In November 2022 the chandelier was examined, and the decision made to deinstall it for cleaning and remedial treatment. A review of the conservation records revealed that this 260-year-old masterpiece of glass and metal engineering had undergone several restoration campaigns in the past resulting in modifications to the original arrangement. Deinstallation, examination, documentation, and possible treatment approaches will be discussed before moving on to how the object was conserved and reinstated in February 2025.

DANA NORRIS
(VICTORIA AND
ALBERY MUSEUM)

**RESTORING
VIBRANCE:
CONSERVATION
OF AN EARLY
ENGLISH CUT
GLASS
CHANDELIER**

IAN FREESTONE
(UCL, British
Museum, AHG),
with Martina Bertini,
Kelsi Kaviani and
Andrew Meek (UCL;
British Museum)

**THE ORIGIN OF
THE HEDWIG
BEAKERS, AN
ENIGMATIC
MEDIEVAL GLASS
GROUP**

Hedwig beakers are a distinctive and highly referenced group of glass with cut decoration, dating to the late twelfth century and found largely in central Europe. Their origin has long been a topic of debate. Their cut decoration has caused parallels to be drawn with the glass of the Islamic world, while more recently attention has been drawn to iconographic characteristics suggestive of Sicily. Major element analysis, however, has been interpreted to suggest an origin of the glass material in the Levant. The Hedwig beaker in the British Museum collection has been analysed by LA-ICP-MS. The trace element composition allows the elimination of an eastern Mediterranean origin due to the high lithium in the glass but is fully consistent with recent data on Sicilian and southern Italian glass, allowing a reconciliation of the stylistic and scientific evidence in favour of the fabrication of the beakers in the Norman Kingdom of Sicily.