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# ARTISTIC AND MANUFACTURING GLASS HERITAGE IN THE CENTRE-VAL DE LOIRE REGION IN FRANCE

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## Abstract

The *Centre-Val de Loire* region (France) has a rich glass heritage thanks to abundant artistic and manufacturing activities. We can quote the Henri de Navarre (1895-1971) workshop of *Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire* (Loiret - France), glass workshops in Vierzon (Cher – France) from 1861 to 1951, the glassworks of the Loing valley established from 1752 (historic glasswork of *Bagneaux-sur-Loing* and then Corning workshops), the glasswork society of *la Chapelle-Saint-Mesmin* from 1927.

The many museums of this region testify of this past. For example, the *Vierzon* museum with its large collection of whimsies, the Museum of Fine Arts in *Orléans*, and the Museum of Fine Arts in *Chartres*.

This study presents a transversal approach on glass research with physicochemical, technical, sociological and artistic points of view. Selected museum glass pieces are analyzed in composition, and according to the technical processes thanks to the collaboration of the *Verrierie d'Art d'Amboise Patrick Lepage*. Similar glasses are duplicated to study the durability properties in various atmospheric conditions. A second approach is to integrate the cultural and sociological dimension around the traditional and contemporary glass work thanks to records research and their analysis. Artistic dimension is included to this work in a creative and transversal approach art/science/heritage.

**Keywords:** Glass durability Glass structure Heritage

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