

Venetian & other terms related to Renaissance Glass history

Angelo Barovier= Venetian *Maestri* credited with the invention of *crystallo*, *calcedonio*, and *lattimo* glass

Capitolare de Fiolariis: 1271 charter of glassworkers guild presented to Venetian govt. Those who go off to work elsewhere (or their families) face large fines.

Calcedonio= multicolored glass made to imitate stone (chalcedony, jasper, agate)

Conciatore= Worker responsible for preparing each batch of glass, through heating, skimming and reheating stages

Cullet= broken glass, which would be added to a new batch of glass (waste not, want not)

Cristallo: colorless, thin walled glass, the best of which had no bubbles, waves or other occlusions. It cools rapidly, and must be worked quickly

Facon de Venise= “In the style of Venice”, meaning Renaissance glassware produced elsewhere in Europe in imitation of Venetian products

Fattore = clerk responsible for the business dealings & paperwork of the glasshouse

Filigree= opaque glass threads encased in clear glass

Fiolario =glassmaker (**fiolo** = glass bottles)

Forme = stamps or moulds used to impart certain shapes or patterns. Glass can be blown into moulds

Frit= the product of the initial stage of mixing silica and the fluxing agent to produce glass, which was then ground into a powder for melting into glass

Glass painters = those who added the enameled decoration to glassware; the piece was then returned to original shop for refiring

Lattimo= somewhat translucent opaque white glass, to imitate porcelain (truly opaque white glass long in existence)

Latticino= twisted filigree canes

Maestri=glass masters, the highest skilled men who actually worked the melted glass. The *Maestri di crystallo* were arguably the highest skilled subgroup.

Millefiore= Slices of multicolored decorated glass canes embedded in glass object. “1000 flowers”

Murano= Venetian island, where all glass furnaces were located (b. late 13th C)

Stizador = semi-skilled laborer responsible for firing and maintaining proper furnace conditions. Also called Furlani.

Period observations on Murano:

Glassmen made a variety of objects: cups, phials, pitchers, globular bottles, dishes, saucers, mirrors, animals, trees, ships...they were all on sale at Murano, where there are the most famous of the glass factories. (Agricola, *De Re Metallica*, 1556, p. 592, as quoted in McCray, p 69.)

They began to turn to materials into various colours and numberless forms. Thence come cups, beakers...caldrons, ewers, candlesticks...beads...(Sabellico, *Opera Omnia*, Book III, 1500, as quoted in McCray, p 69.)

15th C charter for glassworkers of Lorraine (France)

The said masters and glassworkers, because of their craft, are and must be privileged, and enjoy divers good rights, liberties, franchises and prerogatives...and are held and reputed in such franchises as chevaliers, esquires and noblemen of the duchy of Lorraine...[they & their heirs] working in the same craft shall be held free, quit and exempt from all income and land taxes, aids and subsidies, military service...obligation to provide fodder and from chevaucher and all licences, exactions, subventions...which might in the future be imposed... (p 19-20)