

Thomas Joyce

September 2010

## Matthew Turnbull Ltd - Cornhill Glass Works Sunderland 1859-1953

Thomas Joyce, Hi Siegmars,

it is only in the past few years that **Matthew Turnbull** has come to our attention to be considered to be one of the important glass houses of The English Pressed Glass Industry. I attach file on information on Matthew-Turnbull which I have been researching for the past six months. I am in the process of loading the file up on my site.

Regards, Thomas

**Matthew Turnbull** was born in **1825** and died on the 22th of November **1893**. He was 68 years old. He married his wife Ann Graham in 1851 and after her death in 1858 he married Hannah Burdes in 1866. He is buried at the Marley Plott's Cemetery Sunderland. His only son **Thomas Graham Turnbull** was born on the 14th of February **1853** (1853-1937) and took control of the firm after his death in **1893**. He lived at 7 View Forth Terrace Fulwell. Matthew Turnbull lived at 11 Fulwell Village with his wife Hannah and they had 2 servants.

Matthew Turnbull Ltd started business in **1859** at **Carr's Hill, in Sunderland** and moved to a new site in **1863** at the **Cornhill Glass works**.

In **1861 Matthew Turnbull Ltd** was employing **15 people** in the Glassworks - 7 men, 7 boys, 1 woman. Inside the next ten years the business expanded so that by **1871** Matthew Turnbull Ltd were employing **77 people** in the glassworks - 30 men, 42 boys and 5 women.

**1893-1937** Thomas Graham Turnbull was now in charge of the business and it expanded and was prosperous.

**1937-1944** When Thomas Graham Turnbull died in 1937 his sister **Anne Graham Race** (1886?-1944) took over the company.

**1944-1953** Mr. **John Howard** and his wife, granddaughter of Matthew Turnbull took over the running of the company during the last 11 years of its life.

I consider Mathew Turnbull Ltd progressive and invocated in their design work. Take a look at this Adobe Acrobat Documents from "**Pressglas Korrespondenz**". [www.pressglas-korrespondenz.de/aktuelles/pdf/pk-2010-2w-joyce-turnbull-korb.pdf](http://www.pressglas-korrespondenz.de/aktuelles/pdf/pk-2010-2w-joyce-turnbull-korb.pdf)

Mathew Turnbull Ltd published a **pattern book** in **1929**. The company designed and manufactured Royal commemoratives. One piece - **The Queen Elizabeth II Coronation** [1953] **bowl** is on display at the Sunderland Museum glass collection. This was made before the factory closed in **1953**.

During the firms time in business they registered the following designs number - that is **15 design registration numbers between 1879 and 1898**. Obviously more will surface in time.

### Registration Number Date & Year

338093-P7 .....	11 August 1879
111661.....	19 October 1888
117815.....	21 January 1889
119318.....	9 February 1889
127515.....	2 June 1889
127516.....	2 June 1889
143884.....	11 Febuary 1890
145008.....	28 Febuary 1890
169410.....	9 April 1891
208367.....	1 March 1893
213374.....	10 June 1893
219638.....	4 October 1893
233062.....	30 May 1894
245720.....	10 December 1894
250515.....	2 March 1895

They were dependant on **F. W. Woolworth & Co. Ltd** for their survival and lost the contract in **1953** and ceased trading:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woolworths\\_Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woolworths_Group)

This is the **last known advertisement for Matthew Turnbull Ltd** which appeared in the **Pottery Gazette and Glass Trade Review** in **1951**. They never attended the 1951 British Industries Fair.

We can see from the advertisement that they produced **ornate domestic pressed glass ware for everyday use**. This advertising may include all the patters that they were manufacturing before they closed down. We can see pattern No. **105** in the advertisement. This was introduced to the market place in **1928**. It is similar to the **Bagley's Glass Registration Number 698049 May 1923** (Queen's Choice). It is an interesting pattern that was made in a Quart Jug - Round Dish - Oval Dish - Salad Bowl - Plain Vase - Celery Vase - Sugar Basin with Foot - Flat Base Sugar Basin - Creamer with Foot - Flat Base Creamer. There were 10 different items made with the same pattern. I finally found an Registration Number for my Thistle Butter Dish. Anyhow if pattern number 105 was produced in 10 different items this means that pattern number **504** may have a similar number of items.

### Flashback - 1841 Census:

Church Street, Deptford, Township of Bishop Wear Mouth, Sunderland, Co. Durham

**Thomas Turnbull Senior** (Grandfather Thomas Graham Turnbull) age 58 Glassmaker was married to Mary age 49. They had 5 children

George, 17, Glassmaker - born about 1824

Matthew, 16, Forge man [Schmied], born 1825

Isabella, 13, born about 1828

James, 6, born about 1835

Mary, 2 born 1837.

We can see that **Matthew Turnbull** was involved in the glass industry at an early age.

When we look at the address (Deptford, Township of Bishop Wear Mouth, Sunderland) from the 1841 Census we know that **The Wear Glass Works** (aka **Wear Flint Glass Co.**) were producing glass at this address. The company was in operation from **1805** (White, Young and Tuer). And was taken over by Booth, Vince and French in **1834** and was absorbed in to the Wear Glass Bottle Co. in **1847**. It closed down in **1892**.

There is a likelihood that **all the Turner family, Thomas Senior, George and Matthew were working in the Wear Glass Works Deptford Sunderland**. Therefore Thomas Senior Turnbull may have been involved in the manufacture of **The Londonderry Table Service** for the **Third Marques's of Londonderry in 1824**. This tableware service consists of over 200 pieces (I have no picture of it) . This Table Service is an expression of the rich heritage of glass design that the glass companies in Sunderland were capable of producing.

#### 1891 Census:

**Matthew Turnbull's son [Thomas Graham]** was married to Elizabeth Ann Morgan and they had four daughters - Meta age 9, Elizabeth age 8, Hannah age 6 and Doherty age 1. They had 4 servants. This is an indication that the **business was prosperous**. They had previously lived with Matthew Turnbull's brother George at 52 High Southwick Sunderland. One of Thomas Graham daughter's (Elizabeth, Hannah or Doherty was involved in operating the business during 1944-1953.

The Turnbull Clan believes that Matthew Turnbull's father Thomas Senior was a **partner in the Wear Flint Glass Works** in Trimon Street Sunderland and he was also a **partner in the Carr Hills Works** in Gateshead. (In **1858** - **Henry Greener** and **James Angus** acquired the Wear Flint glass works in Trimdon Street and traded as Angus & Greener).

[www.turnbullclan.com/tca\\_genealogy/tca\\_all2-o/p376.htm](http://www.turnbullclan.com/tca_genealogy/tca_all2-o/p376.htm)

I will add more information as it becomes available. If you wish to make a contribution in lieu of credit - please e-mail me at [glass@inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org](mailto:glass@inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org).

#### References used:

**Turnbull Clan Genealogy Collection**  
[www.turnbullclan.com/tca\\_genealogy/tca\\_all2-o/p376.htm](http://www.turnbullclan.com/tca_genealogy/tca_all2-o/p376.htm)

Raymond Slack, English Pressed Glass 1830-1900

I wish to thank the librarian in **Trinity College Dublin** Ireland for giving me access to the resources in the li-

brary. See web link below:  
[www.tcd.ie/Library/](http://www.tcd.ie/Library/)

There is a large collection of goods book in the library on English Pressed Glass including the Pottery Gazette and Glass Trade Review which I have use for some references.

#### **Pottery Gazette and Glass Trade Review in 1970 became Tableware International.**

[www.ukmagz.co.uk/magdetail.php?magid=1512](http://www.ukmagz.co.uk/magdetail.php?magid=1512)

I also had some help from [www.london-gazette.co.uk](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk)

The best reference book on Davidson Glass with 1 page on Mathew Turnbull Ltd is Chris and Val Stewart, Davidson Glass A History - available from [www.cloudglass.com](http://www.cloudglass.com)

<http://www.thistlewoods.net/Matthew-Turnbull.html>

Angela Bowey, Derek & Betty Parsons, Bagley Glass [www.glassmessages.com/index.php?topic=19293.0](http://www.glassmessages.com/index.php?topic=19293.0)

Glassmaking on Wearside. [Newcastle upon Tyne] [Sandyford House, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1ED]: Tyne and Wear County Council, 1979

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[www.inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org](http://www.inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org)

#### **Advertisement Turnbull Pottery Gazette and Glass Trade Review 1951**

##### **Matthew Turnbull Ltd. Cornhill Glass Works Sunderland**

Established 1859 - Telephone 436

Dear Buyer,

After a lapse of many years we have great pleasure in announcing that we shall be exhibiting at the **British Industries Fair** [1951].

If you are looking for something new from our **extensive range, in addition to our old and tried lines**, may we suggest that you pay us a visit at Earls Court, or the Works, or alternatively ask our Representative to call.

**Export still holds priority**, but the delivery question for Home Trade is becoming a little easier, and we feel confident we can give you increasing satisfaction on this direction.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours faithfully,  
p. p. Matthew Turnbull, Ltd.  
John Howard, Managing Director

#### Siehe unter anderem auch:

**PK 2008-3 Smith, SG, A Clear Blue Mathew Turnbull Hen Dish, Rd.No. 117815 - Cornhill Glass Works, Southwick, Sunderland, 1890s**

**PK 2010-2 Joyce, Thistlewood, SG, Blue May Basket „Duchess“ / „Fleur de Lys“: Matthew Turnbull & Co. Ltd., Cornhill Glass Works, Sunderland, 1900?**  
<http://www.thistlewoods.net/Matthew-Turnbull.html>

**PK 1999-5 Billek, Englisches Pressglas von Greener um 1880 (Zeittafel)**

- PK 2003-3 Billek, Englisches Pressglas mit Pflanzenmotiven aus den 1880-er Jahren (Greener ...)
- PK 2009-1 SG, Teller mit Pseudoschliff, Ranken und Sablée, Henry Greener, Sunderland, 1869
- PK 2009-3 Berg, SG, Prunkteller „QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE“, Henry Greener & Co., 1887
- PK 2010-1 Joyce, Wessendorf, Hott, SG, Sahnekännchen - Milk Jug - „QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE 1837 1887“, Butterschale mit Dekor aus Punkten, Krone mit den Jahren „1837“ und „1887“, George Davidson & Co., Gateshead-on-Tyne, England, 1887
- PK 2010-2 Joyce, SG, Thomas Joyce, Dublin, Irland: [Englisches Pressglas 1880-1980 - Inchicore Pressed Glass Works Private Museum, www.inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org](http://www.inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org)
- PK 2010-2 Joyce, SG, Rosa Schale mit Wellen und Fischen, Rudolfova huť, Tschechoslowakei, 1958
- PK 2020-3 Joyce, SG, Max & Jacques Guggenheim Ltd, London, Gläser von Libochovice, um 1930

Abb. 2010-3/031

Advertisement Matthew Turnbull Ltd. Cornhill Glass Works Sunderland, Pottery Gazette and Glass Trade Review 1951  
Library of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

# Matthew Turnbull Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1859
Cornhill Glass Works  
SUNDERLAND
TELEPHONE 4361



480



121B



123



520



490



113

*Dear Buyer,*

*After a lapse of many years we have great pleasure in announcing that we shall be exhibiting at the British Industries Fair.*

*If you are looking for something new from our extensive range, in addition to our old and tried lines, may we suggest that you pay us a visit at Earls Court, or the Works, or alternatively ask our Representative to call.*

*Export still holds priority, but the delivery question for Home Trade is becoming a little easier, and we feel confident we can give you increasing satisfaction in this direction.*

*We look forward to seeing you.*

*Yours faithfully,*  
 p.p. MATTHEW TURNBULL, LTD.,



*Managing Director.*



486



105



123



504



496



105

THISTLE BUTTER



105



484



504

FLOWER BLOCK



120