



SGT - Alastair Pilkington Award

Bill Brookes

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Presented by the Society of Glass Technology

in memory of

Sir Alastair Pilkington FRS

inventor of the Float Glass Process

the most significant advance in glass technology

of the twentieth century



e-Poster presented at THE GLASS REFLECTIONS CONFERENCE





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“Furious activity is no substitute for analytical thought”

Sir Alastair Pilkington

Quoted in New Scientist (1972), 55, 429.

The **SGT - Alastair Pilkington Award** is designed to encourage and recognise excellent work in glass research achieved by someone who has come into the field of glass studies relatively recently. It is awarded every two years at a meeting of the European Glass Society (the ESG.)

Sir Alastair Pilkington provides a role model for all in the glass community - young or mature, established practitioners or folk who have but recently joined the glass field.

He is the ideal role model for this early career award; not only was he the inventor of the famous Float Glass Process which has transformed the manufacture of all flat glass products world-wide, but he was himself in the early stages of his career when he achieved this stunning innovation.



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Sir Alastair Pilkington entered the glass arena in 1947 after the trauma of the second World War

Within four years he had made the inventive step which would transform flat glassmaking the world over

Within four more years he had turned the brilliant invention into hard-nosed commercial reality

He was awarded FRS in 1969 and was Knighted in 1970

. Sir Alastair inspired his team, working with the men on the shop floor and earning their ungrudging respect

His dogged determination and hard work kept the float project moving forward against all the odds

His personal integrity and indomitable spirit won the day in the Board Room and secured the huge finance needed

He mentored, developed and encouraged those around him





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Sir Alastair Pilkington embraced every aspect of glass studies - the science, the engineering, and design aspects were central to his achievement.

The art and beauty of glass, the history of its development, the archaeology, conservation and display of glass artefacts, all were important to him.

The Pilkington Glass Museum reflected his desire to share these interests with a wider public.



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The Award was first presented on 4th June 2012, at the Opening Ceremony of the ESG Conference in Maastricht. It was presented by Mrs Ros Christian, who is Sir Alastair Pilkington's daughter.

The winner was Dr John Maro of Corning Inc.

He had conducted fundamental research in glass science, bio-materials, photonics and optical communications systems. This led to the development of extremely strong and very durable glass for computer touch screens, now familiar as "Gorilla® Glass".



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In partnership with the Mushroom Trust, the Society of Glass Technology now makes this biennial Award in memory of Sir Alastair Pilkington, a towering figure in the glass community of the twentieth century.

It is open to researchers in any field of glass interest (including art, history, design, science, archaeology or conservation of glass) who have worked in that field for less than seven years.

For details of the Award and how to submit material for consideration please visit the website of the Society of Glass Technology at:

<www.sgt.org>



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