

Stained Glass Sundials

Including Etched Glass, Plastic, Mosaic and Ceramic Sundials

By John L. Carmichael (author) and Dave Bell (webmaster)

Website last updated 30 June, 2005

(For optimum viewing, set View to Full Screen and monitor resolution to 1024 or 1280.)

[Home](#), [Image Archive](#), [Technical Information](#), [References](#), [Commissioning a Sundial](#)



Imagine a traditional stained glass window with a beautiful design on it that includes a sundial face. A metal rod or sheet protrudes from the window on the outside of the building and casts a shadow on the sundial face design. You can read the correct time from inside or outside! This website also includes separate sections on etched glass sundials, mosaic sundials, and ceramic sundials, because these materials are somewhat similar to stained glass since they are usually assembled in pieces and permit the use of beautiful durable colors in the designs.

Stained glass sundials can be beautiful works of art that are also functional timepieces which keep the precise time. They are that rare marriage of art and science that inspires wonder among scientists, artists, and the public most of all. Sadly, few were made and many have been lost or destroyed. Some remain in their original locations but many now reside in museums and private collections. We found the majority of examples in England, continental Europe and North America. We haven't located any stained glass sundials in the rest of the world.

The art and science of their fabrication nearly died out in the 19th century, but today's stained glass craftsman



Sundial of the Month
"The Wheaton-Smith Oval Dial"
by Simon Wheaton-Smith
USA

can build them almost as easily as a normal window if they have a little help with their sundial drawings. To function as accurate precision timepieces, these sundials must be custom-designed for specific locations. Both the face and shadow caster are different for different locations. A qualified sundial designer who understands all the mathematics involved, must determine the sundial part of the design in order for a stained glass sundial to function properly!

2005

The main purpose of this not-for-profit website is to reawaken interest in glass, mosaic and ceramic sundials with the hope that more of these jewels of art and science will soon be constructed. We want to stimulate and promote working relationships between glass artisans, sundial designers, and the public by bringing these people together through the links on this site. With generous help from many people, we collected, categorized and restored all available and suitable glass and ceramic sundial images for safekeeping and display in our image archive; and we included all the available information about them. You'll also find detailed technical and references pages. We created this website in July 2003 and we'll try to keep it updated with new information and photos you send us. Thank you. David Bell (dbell@TheBells.net) and John Carmichael (jlcarmichael@comcast.net)

Dedication

We dedicate this website jointly to Mr. Christopher St J H Daniel and Hans Behrendt, English and German dialists who resurrected the notion of making modern stained glass sundials. Through their unrelenting efforts to inform the public with numerous publications covering their extensive investigations to document stained glass sundials, their hard work resulted in the creation of some of the world's first modern examples, and the restoration of several valuable historical sundial windows. This website would not be possible without their invaluable information, photographs and inspiration. Thank you Chris and Hans!

This page has received 384 visits, since 08 June 2005



MEMBER OF PROJECT HONEY POT
Spam Harvester Protection Network
provided by Unspam

[Fight Spam! Click Here!](#)