Chapter Nine

Lorrainers arrive

Towards the end of the sixteenth century three branches of the Tyzack family left evidence of moving to England. It was certainly a favourable time for the move. We have reviewed the religious background to their move. The economic background for the broadglass industry in Lorraine was poor and encouraged a search for greener pastures. And, as will transpire, the financial rewards for glass makers in England were considerable. So it was not surprising to find a Calvinist merchant adventurer from Antwerp looking around for an enterprise to bring to Protestant England.

At the time there was economic unrest in his region but it was not confined to Antwerp. War in the Baltic, had interrupted the flow of grain from that area, and prices throughout the region were rising rapidly, particularly after the bad harvest of 1565. In August 1566 reaction boiled over and there were the "Iconoclastic Riots". Compromise was reached locally by, allowing Protestant preachers to continue to preach in those churches where they were already found. Philip of Spain, had no time for this namby-pamby approach in the Netherlands. He decided to crush the revolt. At Philip's orders, the duke of Alva assembled an army of nine-thousand men in Milan.

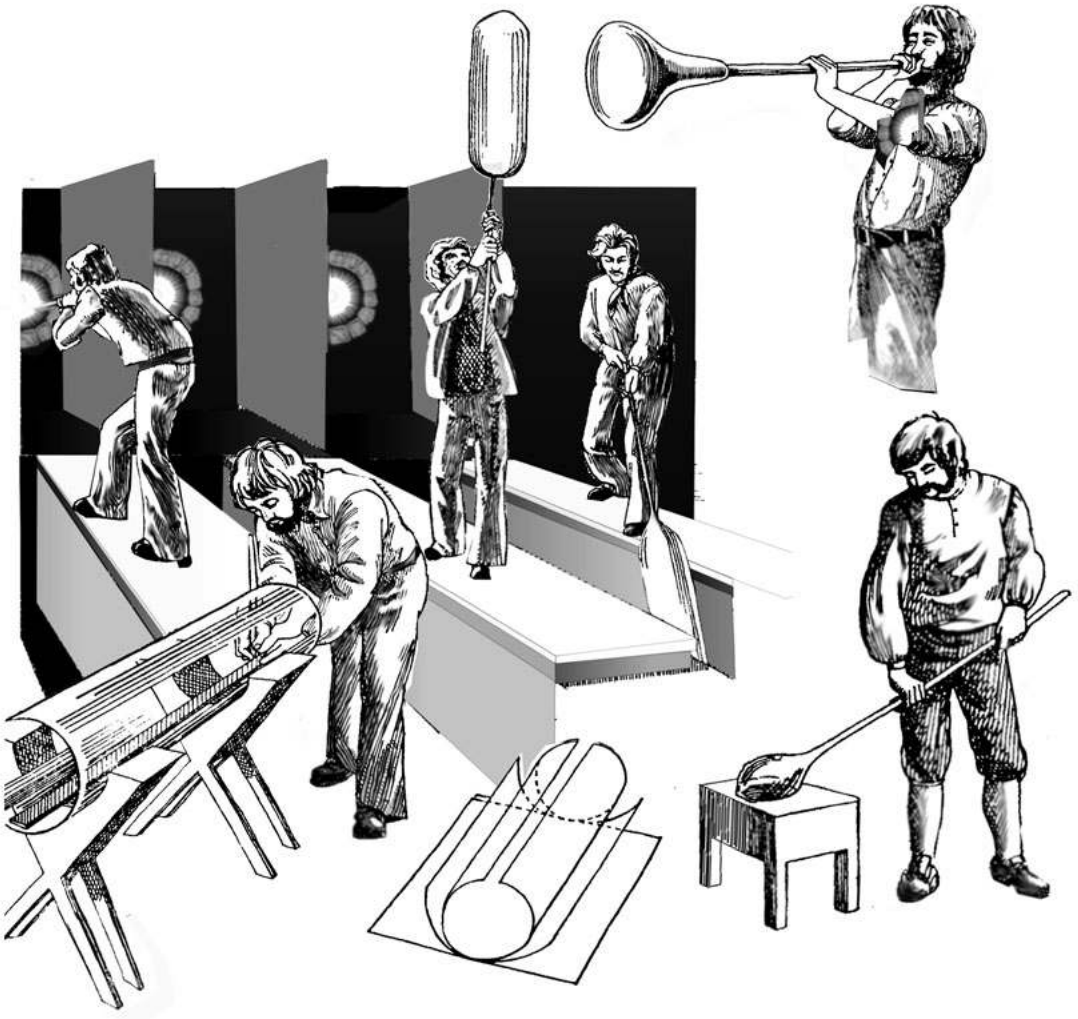
Alva duly set out and marched them from Milan to the Netherlands, via the Spanish Road by the eastern border of France. The Huguenot leaders in France were suspicious of his intentions and fearing a surprise attack on them, tried unsuccessfully, to kidnap the king, Charles IX. The attempt failed but the events resulted in war. Duke Alva was on a different mission. By August 1567 he reached the Netherlands, there to fulfil his secret orders from Philip of Spain, which were to combine all the states into one kingdom.

Philip wrote: "*The towns must be punished for their rebelliousness with the loss of their privileges. Squeeze a goodly sum out of the private persons. Obtain a permanent tax from the Estates of the country. It is unsuitable to proclaim a pardon at this time.* ***Make everyone live in constant fear."***

In this mood of terror in Antwerp our merchant, Jean Carré, proposed a new business venture in England. An application from Jean Carré of Arras, and later of Antwerp,

With his homeland being ravaged on the orders of the king of Spain, it is not surprising to find Carré seeking a haven in England.

Broad-glass making was practised in Lorraine. The skill was well developed there. King-pin of Broad-glass making was the blower. He would stand on a raised platform. An assistant gathered a globule onto his blowing pipe from the crucible of molten glass. He blew the globule of glass, called a paraison, into a long cylinder. Swinging the blowpipe aided elongation. The cylinder was slit open with a pair of iron shears while it was still hot. This was laid on a marver or platen which was sprinkled with sand. While still hot, the glass was flattened on the marver.



Since 1400's, and probably before, members of the glassmaking families living in Lorraine had produced window glass. They blew their cylinders, slit them, and laid

came to Cecil. It is in State Papers Domestic, Elizabeth Vol. 43, No. 43 of England, dated 9 August 1567. It begins: -

"Very honourable Lord we beg leave to submit our plan to his Lordship in this letter of our intentions. It concerns the manufacture of glasses of all sorts made before in glassworks like these. Of which we say the first fruits will be for her Majesty with the second for your Lordship. "

With such a juicy bribe to Cecil the temptation was great. For the Queen also it was attractive. There was then a great shortage of money in the exchequer. So the attractions of royalty income from the granting of monopolies, explains how attention was drawn to the matter. But the temptations of avarice were apparently not satisfied. For later, in 1589, George Longe a glassmaker was petitioning Lord Burghley, (as Cecil had become), and claiming:-

"No custom had been paid to the Queen for twenty one years."

However in 1567 the Queen was not to know this dismal result. Carré's request to the Queen continued:

"As also it touches on certain points on the Materials that we use. In that some things that are useless to some persons but to others through their diligence of cultivation grow nearly to equal those consumed. More follows on the topic that was raised by the Lordship of Assavoir. That the subjects of her Majesty who for a long time have done such a job themselves will be discontented if we are granted privileges or a Licence that we, (or others of ours and not local workers), make some of these glasses. For us to find out the truth of this we have toured about Chydingfelde and we have talked with a master of a furnace in that place. The informer had no knowledge of how to make the additional sorts of glasses or whether they had at other times the skills. The response was no to that, and that they had no knowledge of other things that we make only little items like ornaments, bottles and little jobs. That is the truth as things were before....."

This was the beginning of the successful submission. A previous letter, (Volume 43, No. 42), on the same subject had asked for a licence of twenty-one years and gave other details. It proposed to introduce persons who knew how to make glass tableware. It had been rejected apparently on the ground that it would compete with pre-existing indigenous skills. The subsequent successful letter proposed to make window-glass.

Cecil granted this subsequent request, as proposed, with the proviso that the patentees must initiate native Englishmen into the art. (They never fulfilled this later proviso. Lorrainers who came with the knowledge and skills, themselves became Englishmen.)

them flat. By processing their glass in some secret way handed down from father to son they produced the best window glass obtainable.

So Jean Carré, no doubt guided by his Lorrainer partner, Briet, went naturally to Lorraine to seek persons to help him to fulfil his contract. Although Briet was from a glassmaking family, Carré was a merchant. Lorraine proved a good recruiting ground because before the year was out he had attracted at least two Hennezels to contract with him. They also brought some relatives.

Glassmaking Frenchmen came from both Lorraine and from Normandy but our interest is in those who came from Lorraine. Overcapacity with a falling price encouraged the move to England. Whereas medieval glass furnace sites in England numbered only about a dozen, the number in France then was over 150. As the families increased in size so the production increased.

Jean Carré paid Pierre Bongar, his chief workman, eighteen shillings per day in his glasshouse. At that time a carpenter, a mason or a plumber received one shilling a day. So the journey to England, to make glass, made them rich.

In April 1568 Balthazar de Hennezes and Thomas de Hennezes of Lorraine obtained their agreement from Carré and John Chevalier, to make glass in England for nine years. They agreed also to bring four other workmen with them. When they came they brought their relatives. Various other French names crop up in parish registers of the time, namely Henzey, Tyzack, Caquerey, Gerrat, Pero, Petowe, Vaillant, Potier, and Tittery (various spellings).

Carré himself built glasshouses at Fernfold in Sussex for Normandy and Lorraine glass (window glass) and one in London for crystal glass that was for small or drinking glasses.

Broad or window glass needed forest areas because of the amount of timber needed. Sussex fitted the bill. They could build a small glasshouse for about £15. Wood to keep the glasshouse working cost the same amount each month. Thus, wooded sites were used. Glassmakers blazed their nomadic way through the countryside. So, although the glassmakers themselves would often finance the cost of building the furnace they normally teamed up in their ventures with local landowners. These landowners would supply the wood on credit and glass output repaid the loan.

So far no records have been found to show where the Hennezels' first glasshouse was, however Fernfold in Sussex seems a likely place. The Frenchmen at Fernfold were required to transfer their art to the natives. The original agreement signed by Carré obliged the transfer of technology to Englishmen. Family oaths sworn by all members of the glassmaking families, prevented the Lorrainers from doing so, although Carré had given his undertaking.

Alas although many writers on glass history have heralded Balthazar as the man who introduced the technology of grand-verre to England, he stayed only a short while. Finding that Anthony Becku, the partner of Carré, shared in the benefits, enraged the Hennezels. It persuaded them that their share was less than they thought. Insistence on training was also like a red rag to a bull. In response the Hennezels immediately, "*departed owt of the realme and would no further meddle in the said works*". [1] After falling out with his masters, Balthazar went home to Lorraine. We have proof of his return. On the 29th June 1570, we have a record that shows he was in Lorraine and also shows his parentage. Balthazar certainly returned to France for elsewhere there is the record of his murder. He had the added incentive of claiming his inheritance. He does not appear to have had any fears over his religion.

29th June 1570

"In front of Estienne Ponard, Provost and royal notary of the Provostry and Lord of the manor of Passavant in the Vosge, came Balthasar de Hennezel, esquire, dweller in the glassworks of Grammont in Vosge, who declared possession of that fief, and faith and homage to the king because of his village, property and Lordship of the manor of Passavant. Payments were due from him because of the death of the late Nicolas de Tisac, esquire, who when living, had been Lord of Ligecourt, ***his grand father****. The tithe of 15 sheaves for the one aforesaid Passavant; the lands at Vogecourt, acquired by him as heir of the late Charles de Tisac, esquire" [2].)*

That some Frenchmen did not go back home was probably due to the general state of religious intolerance in France. In Christophe's case he stayed from fear of justice. Who knows perhaps he did not know the Duke had pardoned him? Perhaps he did not trust him! The forest glassmakers were nomadic anyway. The only thing different about England would have been the language.

John Tyzack alias Burré

The first definite reference is to Jan du Tisac who shows on 7th October 1576[3]. He made profession of his faith, was admitted to the Lord's Supper and was said to be a resident of Bouquehaut, later called Buckholt, Hampshire. Jan Buré is similarly recorded one year later, in 1577. Then in 1581, in the Wisborough Register is an entry in 1581 of David, (or Daniel), son of Mr Burye (alias Tyzack), glassmaker and stranger, baptised Kirdford[4]. Personally I have been unable to find this entry but it would suggest John Tyzack was married twice, because in 1585 he married Mary Bungar.

---

1 Loseley House, Loseley MSS., 18th August 1569, folio 3/108
2 *Archives Vosges, L 626*
3 Registre de l'Eglise Wallonne de Southampton
4 A.W. Cornelius Hallen, Scottish An tiquary, page 150, Vol. VII, No. XXVIII

After his marriage to Mary in 1585, the baptisms of his daughters Rachel and Mary are easy to find. They show in the Kirdford registers of St. Nicholas's, on 8th September 1588 and on 29th August 1590 respectively. During that period the register was being properly kept up. John most certainly had other children but no others have been found. A short note in the Kirdford Register gives the game away.

The scribe has written on one page of the Kirdford register, during the period of our interest that *"All those under wrytten were left out in some of the years above wryton and we had in remembrance and set Down in Anno Dom. 1585 for since the years of our lord 1580 unto this year 1585 was no register at all kept in the years of Thomas ????? vicar.*"
The writing in the parish register 1588 was almost unreadable but we know whom we have to blame for that. In the period 1585-1593 the vicar's name was Daniel Gardner. If it was Daniel who wrote the entry, his flowery hand made reading particularly difficult to decipher. One's own name stands out in a list. It is not so with Daniel's calligraphy. Let's not be too tough on Daniel, unlike his predecessor, he did at least complete the register!

It seems likely that a son, Paul, may have been born during such an unrecorded period.

There are remains or records of at least eight glasshouses at Kirdford. Before that the Strudwicks were making glass at Idehurst in Kirdford. In 1557, Henry Strudwick leaves to his sons Robert and William, the Mansion House and his "Glass House" there with his ovens, irons, and other tools.

We find John also as John Tyzacke, gunner, in the Ewhurst muster, 1583 -4. This was the John Tyzack alias Burré, who in Lorraine was called Jean de Tisac, Sire of Béru. These are short forms of Belrupt. He is shown on the French pedigree. Consequently John Tyzack of Sussex is almost certainly the Jean de Thysac of Belrupt, son of Charles. He probably came because of religious problems that later resulted from the Edicts of Charles III, duke of Lorraine, in 1585 and 1587.

Use of aliases was common in the Lorrainers. Why is not clear. One is tempted to think of hit men being sent after them. There is no evidence that the Lorrainers were pursued although the Venetians from Murano were said to have been. Lorrainers definitely kept some contacts with Lorraine. References to them appear in returns of ownership and similar documents made back in Lorraine, years after they left. In addition to the alias Burré, which Tyzacks from Belrupt used, Tyzacks from Lichecourt used Liscourt. Thiétrys used Coiffy and in England, Rusher or Rush, a reference to la Rochère. Bigos used Clarboy, probably a reference to Clairbois.

John's marriage to Mary Bungar was well in keeping with the traditions of the glassmakers. Mary was from another glassmaking family although one from

Normandy. Mary was a spinster from London; no doubt her astute brother Isaac Bungar was frequently in London as well as in Sussex. Isaac Bungar appears in the records a few years later.

On April 1621, the Commissioners and the Company of Glaziers accused Isaac Bungard (from Normandy), of trying, with others, to engross the whole trade in glass, so as to have the prices at his own command. He also appears in June of the same year when he prayed the Privy Council to throw open the manufacture of glass to all. Again in 1624, our glass champion Isaac Bungard petitioned the House of Commons against the exclusive patent of Sir Robert Mansell. Bungard's problem arose from the prohibition against making glass by the use of wood for the heating of furnaces. Consequently glassmakers were forced to use coal. Mansell had a patent on the use of coal for heating glass, although the Lorrainers disputed his prior art. Mansell moved, in 1615, to enforce his patent and the prohibition against Bungard. Bungard got an extension because Mansell could not supply all the demand. By 1618 the reluctant Bungard finally stopped making glass in the Weald.

State papers preserve a statement in Mansell's own words. In it the Admiral gives his reply to the claims against him. Glass he said was formerly made with wood to the great consumption of timber; and a patent having been granted for the substitution of sea coal, he bought the patent, and after erecting works in London, the Isle of Purbeck, Milford Haven and on the Trent, which failed, he was successful in establishing the manufacture at Newcastle.

Bungard he claimed, tried to ruin his works by corrupting his clay, by enticing away his workers, so that he was obliged to bring over others from abroad, and by raising the price of Scotch coal. The patent he added was complained of as a grievance in last Parliament. It was continued until Sir Robert's return from sea service, when he, suing for a new patent, obtained it by recommendation of Council; and he now requested Parliament to ratify it. It gave a great saving of wood. It gave employment to shipping in transport of materials and glass, employing four thousand natives in the manufacture. It provided the article better and cheaper than before.

Parliament was petitioned in response, perhaps by Isaac Bungard, that others practised the invention before the patentees. The petitioner also claimed that the patent was injurious to the poor glassmakers and that it enhanced the price of glass to the consumers. We do not know what the outcome was but on 6th December 1626 the Privy Council, (to whom the King had referred Bungar), ordered that the patent should stand. They thought it of dangerous consequence that the patents should be tested by Common Law. They ordered that all proceedings be stayed (stopped).