

Metz and Luxembourg 9-12 March 2023

Our Arts Society's trip with Travel Editions under the experienced guidance of Professor Anne Anderson.



*The Arts Society Arrive in Metz
Anne Anderson in pink*

Day 1: Via taxi, UK train, Eurostar, TGV and coaches our group made its way to Metz (pronounced Mess) in France, where we stayed in the Novotel Hotel Centre. A 2 hour delay in Paris was an opportunity for a jolly French lunch, broken French and English and our first glimpses of Art Nouveau (the Metro).

First lecture by Anne that evening on *The Glass of Galle and Lalique*.

Day 2: Coach trip through a grey and damp landscape to the Saint-Louis Crystal Museum, a formal royal factory,

the oldest manufacturer of glass in the world,

dating back to 1586, with more than 2000 crystal glass items on display, And we saw them all in all their glorious colours and shapes. A little balcony allowed a view of the factory floor – the great glass workshop - where the crystal is processed, starting with melting the crystal mixture at 1450 C. Constant heated furnaces, constant movement with red-glowing balls of molten crystal, which are quickly manipulated into beautiful objects as crystal hardens at room temperature. Men running with liquid crystal to form long crystal rods, used for items such as chandeliers. And who knew that cut crystal is partially a by-product to reduce the tax on an item as these pieces were taxed by weight in the past. Examples of crystal in the museum:



Paris Art Nouveau subway



Galle vase

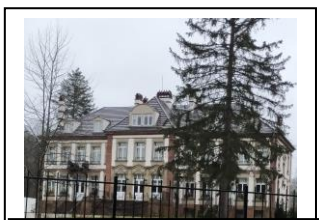


Blue crystal

Lalique

Then on to Musee Lalique at Wingen-sur-Moder, which houses a superb collection of more than 650 works that charts the career and techniques used by Renee Lalique and later his son Marc Lalique. Although the Lalique factory has

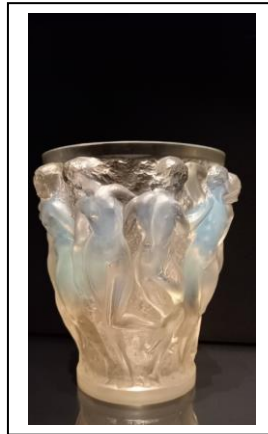
been modernised over the years, the artisans' techniques remain unchanged: material is worked by hand, it is moulded, the molten crystal (it was Marc who introduced crystal objects) is pressed or blown. Once cooled, it is cut, sanded and polished. This is the Lalique artisans' trademark: the famous satin-polished finish of the crystal, which generates an effect that combines light and shadow. The opaline (milk glass) finish is achieved by adding tin oxide or bone ash (calcium phosphate) to the molten glass mixture. Examples of Lalique:



*Lalique's mansion is now
being refurbished into a
hotel*



The shop became an active gathering point with many of us indulging in a bit of the magic that is Lalique.



Second lecture that evening by Anne on Art Nouveau in Metz and Luxembourg.

Our first view of Luxembourg



Day 3: Full day Luxembourg exploring the Art and Art Nouveau of this city

A sunny day at last. Only an hour's drive the city of Luxembourg, where our coach driver got stuck in a narrow, car-lined road as roadworks prevented an exit. We left him to it, sympathising, and went on our way to meet our pre-requisite Luxembourg guide Joe Peiffer, who not only showed us the lovely art Nouveau buildings but gave us a general tour of the city, followed by a visit under Anne's guidance to the local art museum.



The elegant lines of a couple of Art Nouveau houses



Trying to get a glimpse of a 1908 Villa with decorative painting



Luxembourg



Our pick up point, the Golden Lady (1923)

She holds out a laurel crown over two soldiers. The statue represents resistance and patriotism in WWI.



A mixture of Art Nouveau (Jugendstil) and Art Deco

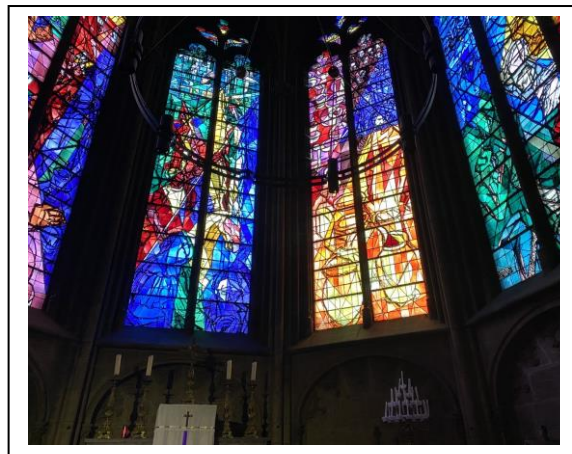
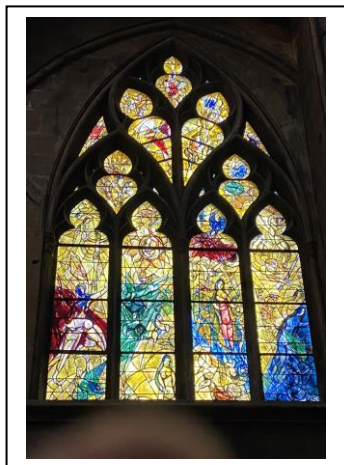
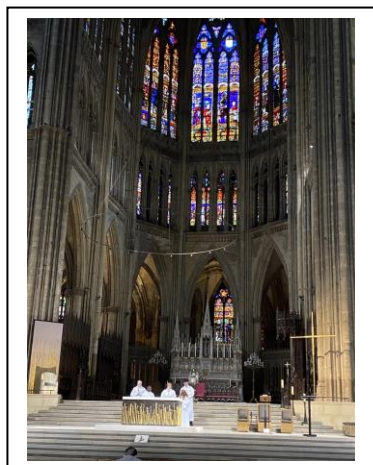


A small, stained glass window in the museum

The day was rounded off by a nice dinner with wine in a local restaurant.

Day 4: Our last morning in Metz

Metz has flip-flopped between France and Germany over the centuries, but is now firmly part of north-East France. The city has several churches and a cathedral which we visited mainly to admire its lovely, colourful **Chagall** windows, although the other stained glass windows were worth seeing.



Anne followed up with a visit to the small ancient Church of St Maximin, an oasis of peace and light, to show us the 15 delightful windows designed by the multi-talented poet **Jean Cocteau** for whom artistry came first.



The images are whimsical and not every window shows religious content. But note the blue dove in the window on the right.

After lunch and a browse in the flea market or/and the Villeroy & Boch shop we climbed once again on the TGV to start the long trip back to London's St Pancras.

Time to reflect on an extraordinary, fully packed weekend with ART at its centre. It would not have been the same without Anne Anderson, whose enthusiasm and incredible knowledge brought everything we saw, to life.



A special thanks must go to Carlyne Hazlehurst, our Programme Secretary, who came up with this brilliant idea to ask Travel Editions to offer our Society 15 places on their tour before opening up to the general public.

