



# Glass decoration with a colourful history

**G**lass engraving in various forms has existed for centuries. Of all the different techniques, wheel engraved brilliant cutting by hand produces exquisite and visually striking forms of mirror and glass decoration; creating a depth of cut that reflects and refracts light in a beautiful prismatic effect.

## History

Introduced to England in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, the process involves the hand held movement of flat glass over various shaped and sized engraving wheels held in a stationary lathe to create a cut design. This is followed by smoothing of the cuts on a hardwood disc with a pumice paste, and finally polishing on a cork or felt wheel with a cerium paste.

All of the cut work carried out by Ellison Art Glass, UK is hand crafted employing this technique – no

automated machinery can imitate the subtlety required in the complex designs.

## Sandblasting

Sandblasting can be applied for many uses, either combined with a brilliant cut design or as an artistic feature in its own right. Producing an opaque acid-like finish to clear glass for obscured windows and screens; a satin finish to the front of mirrors; or a dark finish when hand silvered; it can be used for intricate carved artwork on glass of any type, size and thickness.

## Gilding and painting

A brilliant cutting can further be enhanced by the use of gilding with gold and silver leaf into the polished cut design, adding a beautiful and opulent dimension to any mirror.

Specialist glass paints can be applied

to the company's silvering, brilliant cut and gilding work, creating designs by masking off certain defined areas of the glass. The combination of techniques and skills results in the creation of a range of design and finish possibilities.

## About

Ellison Art Glass specialises in the manufacture of handcrafted decorative mirrors and glass, created by skilled workers, using quality materials, employing traditional techniques of cutting, antique silvering, sandblasting and gilding.

It can replicate damaged or missing panels on original period glass, restore authentic Venetian mirrors, or produce bespoke mirror and glass solutions for interior and architectural projects. ■

Ellison Art Glass, UK.  
Website: [www.ellisonartglass.com](http://www.ellisonartglass.com)