

HAWORTH ART GALLERY

LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY

1812 – 1834 Charles Lewis Tiffany, son of Comfort Tiffany, a farmer who turned to cotton manufacturing. He opened a small retail grocery store and put Charles Lewis in charge of the store at the age of 14 years. He was highly successful in this venture and learned the retail trade well. He later went on to become the owner of the most famous and prestigious jeweller and silversmith in America.

1848 – 1862 Louis Comfort Tiffany was born second child of Charles Lewis Tiffany. He entered Military Academy at the age of 14.

1862 – 1865 Louis Comfort Tiffany graduated from Military Academy age 17. It had not been a happy time for him and spent all his spare time sketching and painting.

1866 – 1868 Travelled to Europe painting and sketching, mainly flowers, domestic and topographical scenes.

1868 – 1870 Returned to New York painting and exhibiting his work. Starts taking an interest in design.

1871 – 1878 Elected an associate member of the National Academy of Design. Marries Mary Woodbridge Goddard. Continues painting and exhibiting. Starts to design stained glass windows.

1879 – 1882 Forms an interior design company with three other designers – 'L.C. Tiffany and Associated Artists'. Interior designs were completed for many famous people including Mark Twain, The Vanderbilt's and the Seventh Regiment Armoury on Park Avenue (which still remains intact). Starts experimenting with mosaics commissioned to do the drop curtain at the Madison Square Theatre, New York.

1883 – 1884 Terminates the 'L.C. Tiffany and Associated Artists' company. His wife Mary dies 1884.

1885 – 1886 Forms the 'Tiffany Glass Company' builds the family mansion in Madison Avenue. Marries Louise Wakeman.

1886 – 1892 Travels extensively through Europe. Undertakes commissions for many Church windows. Experiments with glass tiles. Builds a country estate 'The Briers' in Oyster Bay, New York.

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1892 – 1893 Forms 'The Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company' establishes a glass furnace in Corona, New York.

1893 –1894 Enters exhibits in Columbian Exposition in Chicago and is awarded 54 medals.

1894 – 1897 Applies to the United States patent office to register 'Favrile' as a trademark. Exhibited at the Salon of the Societe Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris. First sales of 'Favrile' glass including lamps, vases and blown glass shades.

1897 – 1900 Published a list of completed Tiffany windows. Exhibited in Paris, Brussels and London.

1900 Participates in Exposition Universelle, Paris 100 pieces – windows, lamps, mosaics and enamels. Forms an enamelling department. Changes the company name from 'Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company' to 'Tiffany Studios'. Participates in Pan American Exposition, Buffalo, New York and St. Petersburg, Russia wins Grand Prize at both.

1902 Death of Charles Lewis Tiffany, Louis Comfort Tiffany's father. Appointed design director of 'Tiffany and Company. Tiffany furnaces established.

1904 Death of his second wife, Louise. Publishes 'A partial list of windows' Completed windows (primarily ecclesiastical).

1905 –1914 – Continues exhibiting and producing glass ornaments including lampshades and bases, candlesticks, desk sets etc. Completes a glass mosaic curtain for the National Theatre, Mexico City. Constructs the mosaic mural dome for the Roman Catholic cathedral in Saint Louis, Missouri consisting of 30 million pieces of glass mosaic.

1914 – 1919 Biography by Charles Kay 'The Art Works of Louis C. Tiffany'. L.C.Tiffany celebrates his 68th birthday (1916). Creates the 'Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation' to subsidise gifted young artists. Retires and roughly divides 'Tiffany Studios' into 'Tiffany Furnaces' and the 'Tiffany Ecclesiastical Department' which continues the production of windows, leaded lamps etc. under the name of 'Tiffany Studios'.

1924 Tiffany Furnaces dissolved.

1932 'Tiffany Studios' declares bankruptcy.

1933 Death of Louis Comfort Tiffany.