

There is a certain joy in staring at a stained glass window....

Staining glass with the purpose of constructing art is an art medium brought to life by light - it is a form of art that is brought to life by the atmosphere. By painting or “staining” glass the artist’s intended effect is to almost literally paint the light. Artists have been staining glass for centuries.

To view stained glass properly, it must be seen from the inside of the structure it is part of.

St. Luke’s spectacular stained glass windows are among the finest of their kind. Many were manufactured and installed as far back as 1911, following the 1906 Earthquake and the rebuild of St. Luke’s. Documents show our windows being made by two manufacturers, J. Whippel & Co., Ltd., and the most note worthy “masters of stained glass”, Heaton, Butler & Bayne.

During the 19th Century the Gothic revival supported the stained glass business. Many artists, architects and designers of the day viewed the Gothic style as God’s own architecture. These artisans believed that stained glass was essential in the revival of gothic buildings, especially church buildings.

Windows of the period are full of feeling, and images of worship and the divine. Producers truly believed that their work was for the glory of God. It was important to them that “the beauty of things reflect the hand of God like a mirror”.

Heaton, Butler & Bayne were prolific stained glass designers and manufacturers in the Victorian, Gothic style. In 1855 HB&B met in Warwick England. 1862 was a turning point in the history and artistry of stained glass when the 3 partnered, establishing a manufacturing facility and showroom at Garrick St., Covent Garden, London.

HB&B became a giant in stained glass manufacturing. R.T. Bayne was the lead artist – and with his design team, they were supported by the best glass painters and glaziers (aka assemblers) of the day. They were known for their “rainbow” glass painting and shading techniques, as well as for Bayne’s renderings of eyes, heads, hands, feet, and the visual creases and draping of cloth and clothing. Grace, beauty and sadness are depicted in their images.

Their mastery was recognized at International Exhibitions as early as 1862 and numerous awards, medals and commissions followed throughout the company’s history. In the late 1880s, Clement Heaton developed a new process using “flux pigment” resulting in an expanded color palate for staining glass. His discovery resulted in a palate of 131

colors, vs. only 10 colors that were available prior, dating as far back as the middle-ages.

As their work became well known, demand for their products increased and they expanded into stone sculptures and wall paintings. Flux pigment technology was eventually sold by HB&B to other studios in Europe and the USA. HB&B expanded their scope to include the US market, establishing a sales office on 5th Avenue in New York City. By this time, all 3 founding members had brought their sons into the business.

The next generation was lead by the son of Kato and Gertrude, Basil Bayne. Basil was born in 1897 and started at HB&B at age 17. Working in what he called the manipulated glass medium, he was dedicated to “transforming and expounding the beauty of light and form for the benefit of others”. In 1930 he developed and patented a resin bonding / fusion process that allowed stain glass windows to be produced without any visual led lines. As a result, mosaic stained glass designs were made possible. This was said by experts to be the first major manufacturing change in stained glass window production in 12 centuries.

The firm continued to be one of the world’s premiere stained glass producers, employing the best designers and craftsmen up until the mid 1900s. HB&B closed their doors in 1953, after nearly 100 years of commercial operation. Visually,

examples of their fine work come alive daily in the beautiful sanctuary that is St. Luke's Church.

*** Background and supporting material for this document was inspired and informed by the documentary film: *STAINED GLASS MASTERS: Heaton, Butler and Bayne*; Directed, Written and Produced by Karl Krogstad. We thank Mr. Krogstad for educating us.**

Come, see, enjoy. We welcome you!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

1755 Clay Street

San Francisco, CA 94109

(415)673-7327

Sunday Worship services are held at 8 and 10 a.m.

Wednesday Healing Worship is at 7:30 a.m.

A coffee hour follows each service.