



Maestro of Crystal: The Story of Miroslav Havel and his Role in Waterford Crystal

Written by Brian Havel, Currach Press 2006, ISBN: 978-1856079402

Available in English, 304 Pages including a number of photographs

Category: Glass, History, Biography, Lighting

Interview with Miroslav Havel (voice only):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVxAgQxccJo>

Obituary from the New York Times:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/26/business/26havel.html?_r=2&ref=obituaries&oref=slogin

This biography is written in simple lay-man's terms by Havel's son (not a glassworker) and describes the rather incredible tale of a Czech Glassworker who leaves his homeland for a 3 month stay in Ireland and due to politics and bureaucracy spends the rest of his life there. He arrives as the sole employee of the soon to be resurrected Waterford Glass Company and when he retired in 1986, the company had 3,430 employees and was one of the world's largest producers of fine crystal and chandeliers.

It is an interesting account of the traditional glass training in Czechoslovakia in the pre WWII years as well as a chronicle of the rise of Waterford Crystal and developments in glass during the period. Glass alone was not enough for Mr. Havel however, in the late 1950's he started making glass chandeliers – "from the head"! His work was considered good enough to adorn such noble buildings as Westminster Abbey in London and the Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C.

After Mr. Havel's retirement, Waterford fell on hard times and after a period of uncertainty the company is now part of the Fiskars Group which includes such companies as Wedgwood, Iittala, Royal Doulton and Royal Albert. <https://www.waterford.eu>

Diese Biographie würde in einfacher Sprache von Havels Sohn (kein Glasarbeiter) geschrieben und beschreibt die eher unglaubliche Geschichte eines tschechischen Glasarbeiters, der seine Heimat für einen 3-monatigen Aufenthalt in Irland verlässt und aufgrund der Politik und Bürokratie den Rest seines Lebens dort verbringt. Er kommt als einziger Mitarbeiter der Waterford Glass Company der bald wieder zum Leben erweckt wird, und als er im Jahr 1986 pensioniert wird, hat das Unternehmen 3'430 Mitarbeiter und ist einer der größten Hersteller von feinem Kristall und Kronleuchter der Welt. Seine verschiedenen Tätigkeiten beschlossen u.a.: Glas Designer, Glasschleifer, Glasradierer, Polier, Plastiker und Kronleuchter Bauer.

Christina Perrin