

handful of glass dust after a loud explosion, with a sensation in your fingers and thumb which would last you for some time. [These were known as 'Prince Rupert's drops' after a cousin of King Charles II. He was a member of the Royal Society, where in 1661 there was a 'glass drop' experiment⁵⁹ as described by Eyres. The ones shown in Figure 3.34 are on display at Clevedon Court, and were photographed by courtesy of the National Trust.]



Figure 3.34: Prince Rupert's drops (approx 2 x actual size)

One French glass blower, only, Louis Amede, was at Nailsea during my time; tall-and ungainly but a good plain workman on sheet cylinders. He never attempted any 'fancy' blowing. There were three French flatteners, two brothers and a cousin, called Desguin. Emile and Jules were the brothers, but Jules went away, and the cousin Oliveur came to take his place. Emile, who was short of stature, spoke English capitally, and he and I struck up a close friendship - he had been in a Hussar Regiment and had fought against the Austrians at Montabello, where he received a sabre scar upon one of his wrists. Space forbids me to gossip any further about a subject which is very interesting to me but I hope to make your acquaintance some Saturday afternoon at Taunton, when I should like to pursue the matter still further should it suit your convenience to hold a conversation with me.”

⁵⁹ Information from National Trust information sheet, Clevedon Court

APPENDIX 11 - Bill from Coathupes and Co. 20th February, 1846.

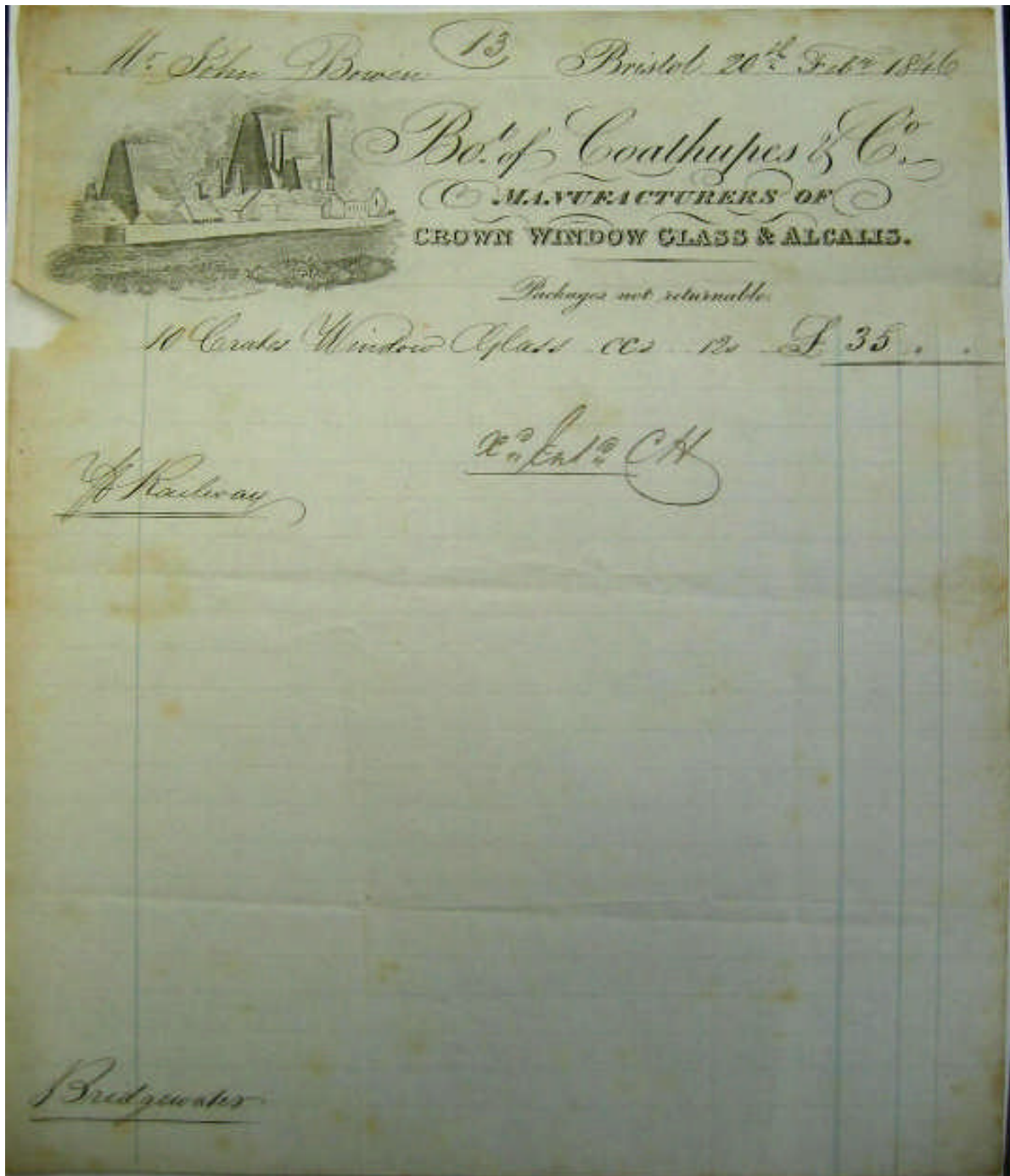


Figure 3.35: Bill from Coathupes & Co., 20th February, 1846

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APPENDIX 12 – Cones compared



Left:

Figure 3.36:Alloa, United Glass Limited

Built 1824, operated until 1973

Approximateley 15m internal diameter

Height about 27.4m*

Brick on Sandstone

8 openings, one of which is rectangular

Scheduled

Right:

Figure 3.37: Amblecote, Dial Glass Cone, Plowden & Thompson

Date stone says “1788”, but probably established in 1704*

Brick construction



Left:

Figure 3.38: Bristol, Prewett Street

Dated to about 1780, but converted to hotel restaurant 1971*

Brick construction

*From Vose, pps.189 – 194



Left:

Figure 3.39: Catcliffe, nr Sheffield

“Dating from about 1740, is claimed to be the oldest surviving example of this type of structure in Europe” *

Archaeology showed it was in use to at least 1900*

Approximately 12m internal diameter

Height: 18.2m*

Brick on sandstone

Approx 6 major openings plus ‘windows’

Believed to be ‘listed’

Right:

Figure 3.40: Wordsley, Red House Cone

Viewed from the canal

Late 1700s to 1939*

Height:30.5m*

Visitor attraction with interpretative displays, etc, and reconstructed circular central ‘furnace’

Brick construction

Now Grade II* listed

[Probably the nearest in size to the two major cones at Nailsea.]



*From Vose, pps.189 – 194