

'WHY WAS THERE A RENAISSANCE IN BRITISH SILVER POST 1945?'

John Andrew has the answer.

It is one of Britain's best-kept secrets: **the UK is now a centre of excellence for silver designers** and superb craftsmanship. But, why did British silver bloom post World War II? It involves the most unlikely of characters. These include a grumpy king, a 'Controller of a Railway' as per *Thomas the Tank Engine* (in this case the boss of London Transport), government ministers, the Royal Navy's Camouflage Directorate, an artist, an architect, an enthusiastic young Etonian looking for a job and some students. These represent the firework, but who lit the blue touch paper? Enter a daughter of a Viscount (who was twice Viceroy of India) and an American socialite who wants to see modern British silver. The Queen's Equerry directs the ladies to a silversmith's London studio. The American lady makes a comment that leaves the silversmith profoundly disturbed – she accuses him of making modern Scandinavian silver and not modern British. He consults his colleagues. The result is a creative explosion bringing us 'silver, the likes of which has never been seen before'. John Andrew, the Curator of The Pearson Silver Collection can fill in the gaps and show you what the result was..... and still is.