

Louis Comfort Tiffany

Designer (1848 – 1933)



Tiffany was the son of Charles Louis Tiffany, founder of Tiffany and Company, and Harriet Avery Young. He attended several military academies before beginning his artistic training as a painter, studying under GEORGE INNESS and SAMUEL COLMAN in New York, and with Leon Bailly in Paris.

His interest in glassmaking began about 1875 and he worked at several glasshouses in Brooklyn until 1878. The next year he joined with Colman, Candace Wheeler and LOCKWOOD DE FOREST to form Louis Comfort Tiffany and Associated American Artists. Tiffany's leadership and talent, as well as his father's money and connections, led this business to thrive.

A desire to concentrate on art in glass led to the breakup of the firm in 1885, and Tiffany established his own glassmaking firm later that year. In 1893, Tiffany built a factory in Queens, and his company introduced the term *Favrile* (from the old French word for handmade) to describe his first production of blown glass. At its peak his factory employed more than 300 artisans.

Tiffany's first commercially produced lamps date from around 1895. Much of his company's production was in making stained glass windows and lamps, but his company designed a complete range of interior decorations. At the Exposition Universelle (1900) in Paris he won a gold medal with his stained glass windows.

Louis married Mary Woodbridge Goddard in 1872 and they had four children. After the death of his wife, he married Louise Wakeman Knox in 1886, and had another four children. One daughter, Dorothy, who, as Dorothy Burlingham, later became a noted psychoanalyst and was the lifelong friend and partner of Anna Freud.

Tiffany died in 1933, a Centurion for 63 years.