

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE REVEL GLASSWORKS (after Raymond Moyroud, 1982)

The Revel family, which gave its name to the land, was an old and famous one. It is mentioned in deeds as early as 1070 and references can be found at Brion, Chasselay and Roybon in particular. One ancestor, Hugues de Revel, was elected Grand Master of the Knights of Malta in 1260. In 1274 he attended the Second Council of Lyons, called to examine the affairs of the Holy Land, reunion with the Greeks and moral reform. He died in 1278. His name and his arms are in the Crusades Room of Versailles Museum. Guillemette de Revel was abbess of Laval-Bressieux in 1280 and Jean Revel, knight, was appointed to arbitrate in a dispute between the Dauphin and the Count of Savoy in 1292. The Revel coat of arms was a black wing on a gold background.



Revel glassworks was situated to the north of the lake bearing the same name, in the territory of Saint Pierre de Bressieux, which was a dependency of the powerful barons of Bressieux.

It must have been located approximately where the Rocher chalet is now situated. When this was built in the early 1900s, a glassmaker's furnace that still stood there had to be demolished. It was situated a few dozen metres in front of the present building, beside the path that leads to the lake.

Near the buildings can be found many bits of old glass, pieces of furnaces and crucibles, and archaeological remains, confirming this was a seventh glassworks in this part of the Chambaran forest.

The first deed of which we are aware concerning the Revel glassworks, and which does not concern its foundation, is a recognizance by the brothers Jean and Pierre de Revel dated 16 June 1474, of their glassworks situated in the mandate of Bressieux in the Chambaran forest to the benefit of Aymar de Grolée, Lord of Bressieux, known as "The Fox". According to a donation dated 20 August 1443 made at the time of his will, the nobleman Pierre de Revel was the father of these two gentlemen glassmakers. In this deed, he "grants to the priest of Saint Pierre three setiers of corn, one setier of wheat, one setier of rye and one setier of oats for a mass to be said every week, on the day of his death, and to be buried in Saint Pierre church. If the priest or parishioners of this place do not agree to this last condition, he wishes his donation to go to the monks of Marnans". His heirs, Jean, Anthoine and Pierre de Revel, his sons, are made responsible for the allowance.

On 7 August 1485, Aymar de Grolée granted a long-term lease to the noble Pierre de Revel from Varacieux on a farm consisting of woodland, a lake and land, with all the houses and glassworks situated within the farm. A century later, on 11 January 1582, a new recognizance was granted to Aymar-François II de Mévouillon, then Lord of Bressieux, by Jean Reynaud, glassmaker at Revel.

This manufacture seems to have prevailed until the mid-nineteenth century.

It is also told that monks developed fish farming on the lake.

The Rocher family took over at the end of the 19th century and created the "Chambaran Natural Parc" in 1986, introducing deer, boars and other game.

The Shiphandling Training Centre, known as "Port Revel" was created in 1967 by Sogreah as a tenant of the lake. This centre is now a world leader in its field.