

Redlynch & District Local History Society

The Tintometer Works in Salisbury

By Alex Belbin

Tintometer Ltd was founded by Joseph Lovibond (right) in 1885 in order to assess the quality of his beer. He became a pioneer in assessment of colour measurement by using carefully calibrated colour references.



He was born in 1833 a son of the brewer John Lovibond of London. He ran away from home aged 13 working on a windjammer. He eventually jumped ship in Australia and became a gold miner. On his return to Britain he joined the family business, acquiring the St Ann's St Brewery and Malt House in Salisbury.

Joseph developed the use of colour matching to assess his beer, and over time expanded the range of his colour glass slides to cover oils in particular. He standardised the glass, colours, the depth of fluid and the light source, all of which affected the assessment. Over the years, colourimetry has been used for a multitude of applications across industries including measurement of the temperature in blast furnaces, flares, and the colour of salmon. The company is based at Amesbury and has off shoots at Wadebridge and Wellingborough.



www.lovibond.com

Alex gave a most entertaining and informative talk including demonstrations of how colour can appear to alter under various conditions.

Our next talk is "Archiving Salisbury Cathedral" by Emily Naish at 7:30pm on Tuesday 5th March at Morgan's Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall.