George Ravenscroft Encyclopedia Article

George Ravenscroft

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George Ravenscroft

1618-1681

English glass maker who developed lead glass, also known as flint glass. For several centuries, Venice had dominated the glass industry; in 1674, however, Ravenscroft discovered that by adding lead, he could create a glass that was not only more durable, but more brilliant and aesthetically pleasing than Venetian glass. Today Ravenscroft's discovery is known as lead crystal.