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How much is that stained glass in the window?

Newly-released Stained Glass Appraisal Guide provides first comprehensive look at value of stained glass windows throughout America

EDMOND, Oklahoma -- What is the replacement value of the historic Basilica of the Sacred Heart stained glass window, created in the late 1800s in Notre Dame, Indiana? Or the carefully crafted Tiffany window at the First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs? Or the abstract "Spiritual Awakening," made of glass shaded with air-brushed enamel for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in New Berlin, Wisconsin?

Until now, the answer was usually "priceless" or, at best, a guess.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the religious community and the stained glass and insurance industries, however, the value of many of America's most dramatic stained glass windows have been determined and compiled in *The Stained Glass Appraisal Guide*. The book, available at most books stores or online at PresidentialPress.com and Americanstainedglass.org also provides guidelines for churches and insurance companies to determine the value of windows not featured in the 256-page book.

Researched and produced by stained glass consultant and author Dr. Gary M. Gray, *The Stained Glass Appraisal Guide* is filled with color photos of some of the most dramatic stained glass windows found across America, a brief history of each and their value based on a consensus of a panel representing executives of the leading stained glass studios in America.

"The stained glass industry has long sought a consensus on replacement value of their work but was too competitive to collaborate on such a project alone," said Gray. "And pastors and church lay leaders were increasingly concerned about the replication costs of some of their most prized and valued assets. But it ultimately was the urging of leaders in the insurance industry that led to the creation of this book."

The book also includes guidelines to plan for new stained glass windows as well as instructions on how to restore, protect and insulate aging stained glass.

“Throughout America -- and the world -- there are stained glass windows in imminent danger of fire, accidents, vandalism, burglary and weather,” said Gray. “Among the many tragedies of Hurricane Katrina, for example, was the loss of many beautiful, historic stained glass windows.”

A million-dollar investment

High quality pictorial stained glass currently cost from \$800 to \$1,000 per square foot. At those levels, it takes only 1,000 square feet of stained glass to top the \$1 million mark in artwork.

Gray, who has inspected and appraised stained glass in more than 2,000 churches and synagogues throughout the United States, estimates that from 3,000 to 4,000 congregations in America have stained glass in excess of \$1 million per site.

“The purpose was to create a single resource for church and synagogue leaders as well as the insurance industry that provides a consensus on the replacement value of stained glass,” said Dr Gray. “But we also wanted to create a beautifully illustrated, comprehensive look at these art treasures that are on display to the general public daily.”

The windows featured in the book represent a cross section of the stained glass in Catholic, Protestant churches, and Hebrew synagogues in America.

Most of the windows featured were inspected by the American Consultation on Stained Glass. The remaining windows were provided by Rohlf Studios in New York, Conrad Schmitt Studios in Milwaukee, Judson Stained Glass in California, Reinarts Stained Glass in Minnesota and Salem Stained Glass in North Carolina.

“This guide is a must have for any religious institution that has stained glass or is thinking about commissioning stained glass,” said David Judson, president, Judson Stained Glass. “Religious structures hold some of the best examples of the medium and this guide will help ‘rediscover’ the value of these windows both artistically and financially.”

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Editors / Producers: For more information, review copies, high resolution color images or to arrange interviews, contact Scott White at (972) 490-0903 or scottwhite@bizcompr.com

FACT SHEET

The Stained Glass Appraisal Guide

Authors:	Information compiled by Dr. Gary M. Gray and Carrie Crow
Pages:	256
Publisher:	The Presidential Press, Edmond, Oklahoma
Color photos:	More than 250
Web site:	PresidentialPress.com
Availability:	Books can be purchased online at PresidentialPress.com and Amazon.com. Bulk orders are available by calling 1-800-762-6759. For stained glass consultation, please check AmericanStainedGlass.org.

The process

Approximately 30 stained glass studio executives answered an extensive questionnaire seeking input on sample windows throughout the United States.

The judges included:

- Steve Wilson (Art Glass by Wells)
- Eric Ascalon (Ascalon Studios)
- Ettore C. Botti (Botti Studios of Architectural Arts, Inc.)
- Larry and Ken Casola (Casola Stained Glass)
- Paul Pickel (Conrad Pickel Studio Inc.)
- Gunar Gruenke (Conrad Schmitt Studios)
- Karen S. Armentrout (Cottage Glass)
- Kirk Reber (Creative Glassworks)
- Andrew Paremski (Enterprise Art)
- Troy J. Knight (Glass by Knight)
- Pat Haeger (Haeger Stained Glass)
- Judith and James VanWie (Hiemer & Co. Stained Glass Studio)
- Michael Hope (Hope Stained Glass)
- David Gomm (Imagine Stained Glass)
- John Kebrle (Kebrle Stained Glass)
- Roy Loman (Loman Studios)
- Tim Smith (Moss Stained Glass)
- Jim Perry (Perry Stained Glass)
- Dale Preston (Preston Art Glass Studio)

- John M. Raynal (Raynal Studios)
- Bill Reinarts (Reinarts Stained Glass)
- Peter and Hans Rohlf (Rohlf 's Studio)
- Susan Louise Firpo (SLFirpo Design/Craft)
- Randall Leever (The Boulder Stained Glass Studios)
- Jamie Jones (The Leaded Glass Studio)
- Duncan Tooley (Tooley Art Glass Studio)
- Jack Whitworth (Whitworth Stained Glass)
- Reggie Buehrer (Window Creations)

Use of stained glass in America

There are approximately 400,000 religious buildings in America and the vast majority have some form of inspirational glass.

An estimated 3,000-4,000 congregations in America today have stained glass in excess of \$1 million per site.

High quality pictorial stained glass today is often commissioned at \$800-\$1,000 per square foot.

News media contact

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WHAT THE INDUSTRY IS SAYING ABOUT *THE STAINED GLASS APPRAISAL GUIDE*

“The 2008-2009 Stained Glass Appraisal Guide is an essential and important tool for American religious institutions. For the first time, both the insurance and the stained glass industries have combined to provide this valuable information to assist in the appraisal value and replication costs for your stained glass windows. It is in the best interest of all institutions to make sure their insurance and fine art policies are current.”

— Peter Rohlf, chairman, *Rohlf Studios*

“The day for a long overdue Stained Glass Appraisal Guide has dawned...We hope that people will utilize and refer back to this guide to make educated decisions about preserving stained glass so that gorgeous artistry may shine for future generations.”

— Gunar Gruenke, vice president, *Conrad Schmitt Studios Inc.*

“This guide is a must have for any religious institution that has stained glass or is thinking about commissioning stained glass. Religious structures hold some of the best examples of the medium and this guide will help you ‘rediscover’ the value of your windows both artistically and financially.”

— David Judson, president, *Judson Stained Glass*