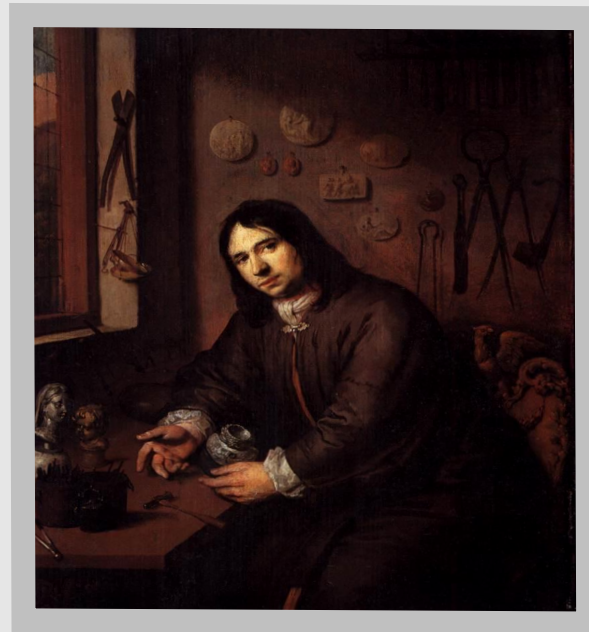


# THE JEWELLER IN ART AND LITERATURE



Portrait of a Silversmith Anonymous Dutch c.1680

## The Goldsmith

### A Poem By Siegfried Sassoon

This job's the best I've done.' He bent his head  
Over the golden vessel that he'd wrought.  
A bird was singing. But the craftsman's thought  
Is a forgotten language, lost and dead.

He sighed and stretch'd brown arms. His friend  
came in  
And stood beside him in the morning sun.  
The goldwork glitter'd.... 'That's the best I've done.  
'And now I've got a necklace to begin.'

This was at Gnosso, in the isle of Crete...  
A girl was selling flowers along the street.

*Look at the painting and read the poem to consider the following questions...*

*What can you understand about the goldsmith's character from the poem?*

*Gnosso is an Ancient Palace in Crete, Greece. What does this tell us about the trade?*

*Look at the tools in the painting what would they be used for?*

*Can you spot the scales hanging in the window? Why are they important to the jeweller?*