

International Ceramics Fair

## The International Ceramics Fair and Seminar – The premier event for ceramics enthusiasts



A very rare Bow figure of a cook, standing beside an oven tasting his cooked food, circa 1757, 15cm (6") high. It is modelled after engravings by Christophe Huet of the *Cries of Paris* and will be shown by Brian Haughton Antiques.

Of all the collecting fields, that of ceramics probably boasts the most enthusiastic collectors. Ceramics enthusiasts absorb every aspect and every facet of the history, styles and general output of their chosen factory. Those whose interests lie in this diverse and intriguing field will be the first to admit that theirs is a passion bordering on obsession.

Everyone who is anyone who truly love ceramics will descend on the Park Lane Hotel each year in June for a feast of the finest. That feast is better known as the International Ceramics Fair and Seminar, founded in 1982 by Brian and Anna Haughton. It is one of the world's most enduring and highly regarded specialist fairs and its importance goes beyond the many delights to be found on the stands. It is famous for its 12-part lecture programme, which attracts worldwide interest from those keen to hear about the latest groundbreaking research in this field.

This year's lecture programme features such distinguished figures as Aileen Dawson from the British Museum, talking about

porcelain gifts, acquisitions and bequests to the museum, and Dr. Samuel Wittwer, the leading authority on Meissen from Potsdam in Germany, talking about the revolutionary developments in European porcelain between 1800 and 1840. Other speakers will include Janine Skerry, Curator of Ceramics at Colonial Williamsburg in the United States, who will lecture on salt-glazed stoneware in the museum.

On the stands, you will find that this is a select band, as each exhibitor enjoys a distinguished reputation among museums and collectors. Their reputations are based on organising exhibitions, publishing, lecturing, but above all they base their reputations on the ability to locate, research and provide the market with countless ceramic gems. It is this opportunity to meet such leading experts under one roof that attracts the visitors to this fair.

The fair will feature some well known regulars such as Brian Haughton Antiques, Sampson & Horne with early English pieces and John Whitehead, who specialises in 18th and 19th century French porcelain, but



'Goldfish' by Danny Lane, 20cm (7 1/4") high in kiln formed glass, to be exhibited by John P. Smith.



Deep bowl with incised lines by Rupert Spira, 24cm high and 25cm in diameter (9 1/2" x 10") to be featured on the stand of Adrian Sassoon.



A highly important Sevres "Corbeille Athénienne" from the Dessert Service made for Muhammad (Mehemet was the old name for him) Ali Pascha, viceroy of Egypt (1769 Kavalá – 1848 Cairo) and often cited as the founder of modern Egypt. Ordered in 1832, it was delivered in 1833. Only two ever left the manufactory; the other is in the museum of Capodimonte in Naples. It measures 27cm (11") high and will be shown by Daniela Kumpf.



A very fine and possibly unique Sèvres soft paste 'Déjeuner' consisting of a square tray with openwork border (Plateau carré, première grandeur) and the matching cup and saucer (Gobelet Bouillard). The three pieces are decorated with a daring 'trompe-l'oeil' design imitating a marquetry of hard stone (Egyptian porphyry with oval insets of brocatelle marble and malachite). This type of decoration can be dated circa 1765-1770, and is exceedingly rare, to be shown on the stand of Dragesco-Cramoisan of Paris.

they will be joined this year by some new faces. Christophe Perlès of Paris joins the fair with Continental faience and porcelain and John P. Smith of London, formerly of Mallett and now an independent dealer in antique and contemporary glass will also be exhibiting. He will show examples by acclaimed contemporary glass artists such as Danny Lane and James Denison Pender, as well as stained glass by

Patrick Reyntiens (who has worked with John Piper on

Coventry Cathedral). Another newcomer, Elfriede Langeloh of Weinheim, Germany, will bring faience and fine Meissen porcelain.

Justin Raccanello at Bazaar will offer rare early Italian maiolica, possibly decorated with images inspired by the great



An extremely rare Worcester sucrier and cover, superbly decorated in the London atelier of James Giles with panels of exotic birds and fruit, reserved on a claret ground with fine ciselé gilding and gilt dentil border, 10.8cm (4 1/4") high, to be exhibited by Robyn Robb of London.

Renaissance masters such as Leonardo or Raphael, as well as a wider range of Italian ceramics through to contemporary examples. This year, he will be highlighting the work of Italian potter Luigi Belli.

Adrian Sassoon likes to mix the Continental and the contemporary, offering the most elegant French porcelain, such as 18th century Vincennes and Sèvres alongside contemporary British ceramics and glass providing proof, if it were needed, that the past and present can co-exist very comfortably. His colleague in the contemporary field is Clare Beck (formerly of the Crafts Council) and his merging of contemporary British ceramics and glass includes the work of Kate Malone, Elizabeth Fritsch, Colin Reid and Bruno

Romanelli. He has a special focus this year on the work of ceramicist Rupert Spira.

As there is such an emphasis on learning about ceramics at this fair, it is appropriate that those taking part will include Potterton Books, who have recently acquired the reference library of the legendary collector and international dealer Hanns Weinberg (1900-1976). They will offer a selection of titles relating to the European decorative arts, in particular Continental porcelain.

Pictured here are just some of the many magnificent pieces you can expect to see at this year's fair. They will hopefully give some idea of the sheer quality on show. If you have never been to one of these fairs before, and you love ceramics, you should certainly pencil this even into your diary. If you have been before, you won't need to be told why you should go. □



A large Dutch Delft baluster vase and cover, circa 1670, 63cm (25") high, formed with ten raised ribs and painted in the Chinese 'Transitional' style, to be exhibited by E & H Manners.

**The International Ceramics Fair and Seminar takes place at The Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1 from 14th-17th June from 11am to 7pm daily (open until 6pm on the final day). Admission is £12 which includes a handbook.**