

ADFAS Antiques Roadshow opportunity



The speaker at our 10th Anniversary Evening to be held on 8th July in the delightful surroundings of Bury Court at Bentley, is Lars Tharp, well known broadcaster, and a specialist in European Ceramics and Oriental Works of Art. Since 1985 he has appeared regularly on television as Ceramics expert on the BBC Antiques Roadshow and on many other programmes. Born in Copenhagen, Lars was educated in England and read Archaeology at Cambridge. He joined Sotheby's as a junior cataloguer and became a Director and auctioneer of the company before setting up his own consultancy in 1993. He is also a Trustee of the Museum of Worcester Porcelain and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

If you have anything of particular interest in the fields of ceramics or oriental works of art he will be happy to talk to you before his talk - Life on the Antiques Roadshow. It would be helpful if you would send the Secretary (Laura Rose, Elm Cottage, Chawton, Alton, GU34 1SA) a photograph with a covering letter and the Committee will contact members to ensure a selection of varying items are available.

An invitation for tickets (at a cost of £15) for this event will be available in the May Newsletter, but please ensure you have the date in your diary – this 10th Anniversary meeting will be a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Study Day

The Bloomsbury Decorative Arts

Wednesday, 12th March, at Mill Court near Alton

The focus of the day will be Charleston, the home and country meeting place in East Sussex well known due to the writers, painters and intellectuals known as the Bloomsbury Group who were associated with it. The interior was painted by the artists Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, who lived there, and together with their collection forms a unique example of their decorative style.

For further details please contact:

Kathy Ogilvie Thompson 01420 23125



Roger Fry Interior 1921

Taking the High Road to the Bowes Museum

John Bowes was a successful businessman who travelled to Paris in 1847 to explore his interest in the arts. It was here he bought a theatre, as one does, and met Parisian actress Joséphine Coffin-Chevallier whom he married in 1852. Joséphine was a talented painter who was interested in a whole range of art forms including pictures, ceramics, furniture and textiles. The couple decided to create a world-class museum in John's ancestral home of Barnard Castle in Teesdale, in order to introduce the wider world of art to the local people.

The prospect was daunting for nothing matched the scale or grandeur of this colossal proposal in their lifetime. Plans were drawn up to give the North East a magnificent building, a home fitting for all their treasures.

The Bowes' enthusiasm was immeasurable and Joséphine laid the foundation stone in 1869. As the building grew, so did their collection and an astounding 15,000 objects were purchased between 1862 and 1874.

When Josephine died in 1874, John's motivation took an enormous blow and he virtually ceased collecting. Fortunately the building continued but John never saw its completion as he died in 1885.

Trustees oversaw the project and The Bowes Museum finally opened in 1892 and attracted nearly 63,000 visitors in its first year; nowadays some 90,000 visitors seek it out annually.

The displays span three floors of a magnificent building and contain an outstanding collection of fine and decorative arts including paintings by Canaletto and Goya and Sèvres porcelain. The best-loved object is the 230 year-old Silver Swan, a life size automaton in English silver, which is still in working order and operated on a daily basis.

The aim of our visit, as a part of our trip to Scotland in April, is to learn more of the Bowes story and discover the fascinating collections.

Contact Lissa Wilson (01420 543892) if you are interested in this trip.

Alton College Scholarships



Our Foundation Students at Alton College for 2007-8 are Tamasine McNabb (left) and Megan Williams who both attended Alton College for their previous studies in the International Baccalaureate and at A Level.

Having just completed their first term of their Art Foundation course, both Megan and Tamasine have enjoyed undertaking numerous creative projects and learning a number of exciting new techniques to employ in their work. Staff on the course are eager to provide a wide skill-set to students, who have been encouraged to work with a range of different media and facilities, including monoprinting, photography and 3D.

Megan and Tamasine are now in the process of preparing portfolios of their work for forthcoming university interviews. Megan is hoping to go on to study graphic design, while Tamasine is planning on following a 3D route doing a degree in interior design. They are both looking forward to beginning work in the spring term when the focus of their work will lie within their respective specialisms.

Heritage Volunteers



Chawton House Library has been the focus of our efforts for a number of years and requires many volunteers. As a seasonal thank you, our band of helpers were invited to a Christmas party at the house and in the historic Great Hall, wine flowed and elegant canapés were consumed.

If you are interested in joining us you may like to know that early in the year Sweepers are needed, not with a dustpan and brush, but to encourage visitors on tours to keep together! Some help is also needed at literary seminars, whilst their popular open days require up to 30 volunteers from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in two shifts.

If you would like to find out more about Chawton House Library do have a look at their web site: <http://www.chawton.org/>

Rosie Sirl

Shakespeare through the artists' eye



Romeo and Juliet, Oil on canvas, Sir Frank Dicksee 1884
Southampton Art Gallery

The Study Day on 5th November at The Wickham Institute, Binsted, was presented by Vivien Hefferman assisted by her son, John, a Member of the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, who read extracts from the plays under discussion.

She sub-titled her stimulating talk Murderers, Magicians, Madmen and Monarchs and demonstrated how various artists had treated scenes from Shakespeare plays. She dealt broadly with two main types of painting; one being an illustration of a production and the other being a composition, which the artist had imagined from the text. The superiority of the artist over the mere illustrator was touched upon. Portraits of actors in character also have attracted the talents of famous artists, for example Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth by John Singer Sargent.

Certainly Shakespeare's plays and characters proved to be a rich vein of inspiration for the Pre-Raphaelites. Many will be familiar with Millais' treatment of the drowning Ophelia, but works by artists from other schools such as William Blake's fantasy from "A Midsummer Night's Dream or Landseer's treatment of the same play, with his particular interest in the portrayal of animals may be less so.

It was a great pleasure to visit these unknown delights for the first time and to discover some are available in London Galleries and even closer collections.

Peter Goodrham

Perfect Exhibition Weather or how to spend a rainy day in London

Forty-seven members went up to London in torrential rain and one long traffic jam to visit The Art of Italy at the Queen's Gallery and The Royal Dress Collection at Kensington Palace on 5th December. A ready supply of mince pies from the meeting the night before were available and these helped keep spirits up! We eventually got to The Queens Gallery and saw the most amazing exhibition of Renaissance and Baroque art, acquired mainly by King Charles II.



Judith with the
Head of Holofernes
by Cristofano Allori

Wonderful drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael (The Three Graces) and Michelangelo. Paintings by Caravaggio, Artemisia Gentileschi, Giovanni Bellini.... The list could go on and on. We also saw furniture, statuary, extraordinary jewellery and a couple of Faberge eggs.

After a short coach journey to Kensington Palace and lunch in the beautifully airy Orangery, we descended on the exhibition of Royal dresses, mainly those of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. Particularly interesting were the displays of a tailor's shop and a lady's dress maker's studio with an elaborate explanation of how to dress for Court.

Audio guides were available at both Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace so we were all able to view the exhibitions at our own pace!

Lastly the shopping was done. Then a quick walk through Kensington Gardens to the coach and our wonderful driver, Ray, managed to take us home avoiding all the traffic.

Lissa Wilson



A possible source of nativity illustrations?

A 4th century mosaic from the house of Aion at Paphos, Cyprus, showing the triumphal procession of the baby Dionysus which was shown at the December meeting.

Forthcoming Lectures

8th April 2008

**Thomas Coram, William Hogarth and G F Handel
David Coke**

Three giants of the 18th century, the artist William Hogarth, the composer George Frederick Handel and the mariner Thomas Coram each made a huge and unique contribution to England's oldest surviving incorporated charity. The extraordinary story of their involvement in the creation and development of the Foundling Hospital in Bloomsbury includes the establishment there of London's first permanent public gallery of modern British art, a gallery that survives to this day. The bringing together of art and music in the service of charity is still a remarkably modern and original idea, and it is one now celebrated in the new Foundling Museum.

13th May 2008

**Early English Porcelain 1745-1770
Anton Gabszewicz**

Porcelain manufacture in England began in about 1744 near London at Chelsea and at Bow to the east of the City. Other factories soon sprang up at Limehouse, Bristol, Worcester, Derby and several factories were established in Liverpool in the 1750s. This lecture offers a concise resume of these concerns and their products, pointing out their similarities and differences and how the ceramics of the Far East and the Continent influenced them.

Alton and Petersfield NADFAS Young Arts

During the Autumn half-term a group of 15, with an age range between 6 and 15, took a trip to the Tower of London. They travelled up by train and took the river cruise to the Tower taking in all the landmarks along the way. They saw the spectacular Crown Jewels and marvelled at the Armoury, learnt all about the ravens and the Yeoman of the Guard and were kept busy all day completing a quiz!



Arabella Madge

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Showcase - an occasional series highlighting
an item in the Allen Gallery

A design classic?



Carter, Stabler & Adams are better known today as 'Poole Pottery', the name they adopted in 1963. Poole is a big name in 20th century ceramics; all the more remarkable for being in Dorset, hundreds of miles from the UK's main pottery-making region in and around Stoke-on-Trent.

The company grew out of Carter & Co, makers of tiles, lustred wares and other 'Art Pottery' in the 1920s. At that time Charles Carter brought in Harold and Phoebe Stabler, both accomplished artists and designers, who in turn enlisted another talented couple, John and Truda Adams.

Harold and John became partners in the revamped company with Cyril Carter, Charles' son. The women took less part in the running of the firm, but they were influential in design terms. Truda in particular created what is still seen as the definitive Poole look using contemporary Art Deco elements and a unique range of colours. This is her 'CS' pattern (company code letters), designed around 1940. By this time she had parted from John and married Cyril, so is more often referred to as Truda Carter.

Poole Pottery was in the news in 2006, having been on the brink of complete closure. Sadly, after a history of independence from Stoke-on-Trent some of the company's production is to be moved there. Importantly, though, a design studio and showroom will remain in Poole. So it is to be hoped that strong and innovative design, from which they benefited so much in the 20th century, will help them to flourish again in the 21st.

Neil Hyman, Hampshire Museums