

London Ceramic Circle at Morley College

Programme for 44th Annual Seminar

Ceramic Table Wares through the Ages



26th & 27th October 2013

Saturday 26th October 2013

10.00	John Sandon, LCC President	Welcome and Introduction
10.10	John Sandon	The Life to Death Journey of a Plate
11.10	COFFEE	
11.45	Pat Halfpenny	The Minnie Holdaway Memorial Lecture Of Soup and Love, the first is the best - the evolution of the Soup Tureen
12.45	LUNCH	
14.00	Anton Gabszewicz	Is this the Real Thing? European Ceramic Fakes, Copies & Alterations
15.00	Jonathan Gray	Wonderful Welsh Services
16.00	TEA	
16.35	Nick Panes	The Marketing of Tablewares
17.35	WINE & CHEESE PARTY	
18.30	EXIT	

Sunday 27th October 2013

10.00	David Oakey	Services for Kings and Queens
11.00	COFFEE	
11.40	Ivan Day	The Edible Edifice
12.40	LUNCH	
14.00	Jacqui Pearce	Pots for the table – an archaeological perspective
15.00	Maurice Hillis	British Ceramic Dinnerwares of the 18th Century
16.00	John Sandon, LCC President	Closing Address
16.15	TEA	
17.00	EXIT	

Front cover, French dessert table c 1770 by Ivan Day at Hillwood Museum, Washington DC 2009, using elements of the Rohan Sèvres dessert service

John Sandon
LCC President
Saturday 10.10

The Life to Death Journey of a Plate

John will take us on a fascinating journey through the Life to Death of a plate, following a plate through the hands of the potter, glazer, painter, gilder, and photographing it after every firing. We watch some present day craftsmen manufacturing a plate being made from start to finish... and then ending up on eBay!

John Sandon is an acclaimed expert and prolific author on ceramics and glass. He is best known as a regular expert on the BBC's Antiques Roadshow, which he joined in 1985. For John, ceramics is as much a hobby as a profession. As a schoolboy, he helped his father, Henry Sandon to excavate the site of the Worcester factory. He subsequently went to work at Phillips in London where he quickly established himself as a porcelain specialist.

Since 1988 he has been the International Director of European Ceramics and Glass at Bonhams auctioneers in London. He is a world authority on European porcelain, and has written many books and articles on the subject. John is the President of the London Ceramic Circle at Morley College.

Pat Halfpenny
Saturday 11.45

**The Minnie Holdaway Memorial Lecture: Of Soup and Love,
the first is the best - the evolution of the Soup Tureen**

‘Of Soup and Love, the First is the Best’ is an old English proverb dating from the early years of the 17th century. The sentiment may be a little overstated but it suggests that soup was considered a fundamental necessity for life. Indeed soup has long been a staple food, but its origins and development are unclear. In early history it seems to have been a simple meal cooked in a single vessel over the open hearth. It was often taken directly from the communal pot. From these humble origins, soup evolved to become a major part of lavish dinners and Royal banquets.

This talk will focus on tureens produced by many of the great European and British porcelain and earthenware manufacturers, and they will be set in a context that includes highly prized silver and gilt examples that will help us understand the evolution of high style in the 18th- and early 19th-centuries. Looking at grand gilded baroque examples, fanciful rococo porcelain, and elegant neoclassical forms, some of the changes in social life and dining practices are discussed which created the environment in which tureens were first introduced, rose to great prominence, declined, and found new purpose in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Pat Halfpenny began her career in 1967 at the City Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent where she served as Keeper of Ceramics from 1980-1995. Her research, lectures, and publications have established her as a recognized authority on Staffordshire pottery, particularly that of the 18th century. In 1995 she became Curator of Ceramics & Glass at Winterthur Museum, Delaware, USA. Among 20,000+ ceramic objects in her care was The Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens at Winterthur, for which a catalogue published in 2000. In 1998 she became Director of Museum Collections and retired from Winterthur in 2009. Her latest published work is as co-author of *Success to America: English Creamware for the American Market*, featuring the S Robert Teitelman Collection at Winterthur (2010). As an independent ceramic researcher, Pat continues to curate, write, lecture, and contribute to websites about ceramics.

Anton Gabszewicz
Saturday 14.00

Is this the real thing? European Ceramic Fakes, Copies & Alterations

As 18th-century ceramics have become more desirable, attracting new collectors and enthusiasts, this has led to many copies and fakes. Frequently this takes the form of redecoration where a genuine object has been ‘enhanced’. Some manufacturers have done this without the intent to deceive, the objects being clearly marked, others have not been so honest. This lecture will be a résumé of these wares dating from the 19th century to the present. Some of these are extremely clever and difficult to identify, while others, as you will see, are more obvious.

Anton Gabszewicz is the former Director and Head of European Ceramics at Christie’s, London and course organiser for Christie’s Education. He has been an international specialist in English and European Ceramics for over 40 years. He appeared on the very first BBC ‘Antiques Roadshow’ and continued to appear on the show for over 10 years. He has published many books including:

- *Made at New Canton: Bow Porcelain from the Collection of the London Borough of Newham*
- *Bow Porcelain: The Collection Formed by Geoffrey Freeman,*
- *A Selection from the Nigel Morgan Collection of English Porcelain* (co-author Errol Manners) and
- *Isleworth Porcelain* (co-author Roderick Jellicoe).

He has also published many articles on English Porcelain and is an internationally respected authority, especially on Bow Porcelain. He has lectured extensively around the world, including USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. He regularly writes for and lectures at The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, (now AAL) in London.

Jonathan Gray **Saturday 15.00**

Wonderful Welsh Services

The talk examines pottery services made at Swansea between 1790 and 1810, based on various archive records, including the Christies sales of 1808. Fine porcelain services are discussed from both Swansea and Nantgarw covering the period 1814-1826.

These services were made for a broad market - from simple brown border patterns made at Swansea in the first decade of the 19th century to luxurious services made for royalty and decorated in London in the finest manner, often in imitation of Sevres.

Decoration varied, as did the price. The Swansea pottery was painted by Thomas Pardoe and William Weston Young amongst others; the Swansea porcelain by Thomas Baxter, David Evans, William Pollard and Henry Morris. At Nantgarw, Pardoe and Young reappear painting fine wares for the local market, whilst the best London decorators, including Robbins and Randall.

Jonathan Gray studied Economics at Swansea University graduating in 1989. His passion for Swansea's ceramics started during his time in Wales. Jonathan was then working during his holidays for Dr Geoffrey Godden, who kindly shared his papers on the 1808 Christie's sales and encouraged him to start work on the project that finally resulted in his book: *The Cambrian Company, 1806-1808*, published in 2012. Jonathan's ceramic interests now focus on the pottery and porcelain factories of South Wales and Bristol, together with their respective ports and triangular /transatlantic trade.

He is a committee member of the English Ceramic Circle and an active member of the Northern Ceramic Society, the American Ceramic Circle, Friends of Nantgarw, Friends of Wedgwood Museum and the Transfer Ware Collectors Club. He has lectured widely in Britain and America and published many papers on Welsh ceramics. Since 1989, Jonathan has worked in the City of London, focussing on risk management and regulatory change.

Nick Panes
Saturday 16.35

The Marketing of Tablewares

This talk will review the different outlets and methods of sale of tablewares in 18th-century England. Nascent English producers who addressed more than just their local market first relied on a network of dealers based in London who, as a result of the import of Chinese porcelains, had set themselves up as wholesalers. London was also a centre of fashion, and intelligence passed back from London to the manufacturers set the scene for producing new designs to suit the market. Not only did dealers and manufacturers sell in their shops in London but auction sales were often held to dispose of stock.

The retail market was not confined to London, and the increasing sophistication of retail outlets led to the development of the china shop from basic premises into one where it was fashionable to be seen. Furthermore, it was not simply the china shop which sold table wares. Some were sold in tea shops, by tea dealers, and in 'toy shops'. Both manufacturers and the shops themselves promoted their product ranges in the press.

Overseas customers were also important to many manufacturers each of whom addressed the export market in different ways. This talk will examine the whole sphere of ceramic marketing including the trends which prompted product design, the advertising and promotional activities, and the different routes to market chosen by individual manufacturers.

Nick Panes is a member of the Committee of the English Ceramic Circle and a former member of the Committee of Morley College Ceramic Circle. He has written several ECC and NCS papers on London china dealers, sauceboats, and early American porcelain. He published: *British Porcelain Sauceboats of the 18th Century* in 2009. He is a regular lecturer on a variety of ceramic topics including the porcelain of Plymouth and Bristol, which is the subject of his next book.

David Oakey
Sunday 10.00

Services for Kings and Queens

With the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2012 and the anniversary of her coronation in 2013, it seems an appropriate moment to examine the history of Royal celebration and its links with the production of tableware ceramics in England. Royal commissions have often been the moments when native producers have pushed their skills to the absolute maximum; this paper shows how these objects are a celebration of Royal history as well as a monument to English expertise and flair in the realm of ceramics. It will also show how it is possible to use these objects to trace a history of the British monarchy from the mid-18th century up to the present reign.

David Oakey studied Art History at University College London and worked at the Royal Collection for seven years, five of which were spent in the Decorative Arts Department as Assistant to the Deputy Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art. During this time he completed a MA in Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors at the Wallace Collection and the University of Buckingham. In March this year he took up a new post as Director of Research for the New York art and antiques dealership Carlton Hobbs.

Ivan Day
Sunday 11.40

The Edible Edifice

In this lecture, British food historian Ivan Day will explore the complex relationship between the sugar paste sculpture and ceramic dessert figures of the Enlightenment period. The first truly successful attempts in Europe at mimicking oriental porcelain occurred in Dresden in the early years of the 18th-century under the patronage of Augustus the Strong. After the establishment of the Meissen manufactory in 1710, a wide range of wares started to emerge from his workshops, including figures and other objects designed for ornamenting the aristocratic dessert table. These prestigious objects, frequently given as gifts by the Saxon Electors to other crowned heads, had evolved from a much older genre of edible table ornaments.

These sugar and almond paste objects first appeared in Europe in the late medieval period and were frequently used to commemorate important occasions such as Papal dinners, coronations and wedding feasts. Since they were extremely fragile and transient in nature, no surviving examples of these ephemeral objects have survived. Nevertheless, a rich horde of images, tools and equipment does exist and we can only marvel at the extraordinary lengths that the artists who worked in this medium went to please their noble patrons.

Ivan Day has an international reputation for research on British and European culinary history. He is a scholar, broadcaster and writer, and a gifted professional cook and confectioner. He is noted for his re-creations of meals and table settings. His work has been exhibited in many museums, including the Paul Getty Research Institute, Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Museum of London, Fairfax House, the Bowes Museum and the Rothschild Collection. He is an enthusiastic educator and has lectured widely throughout Britain and the USA. He has written: *Perfumery with Herbs* (1979), *Royal Sugar Sculpture: 600 Years of Splendour* (2002), *Cooking in Europe 1650-1850* (Daily Life Through History Series) (2008), and *Ice Cream: A History* (Shire Library) (2011). Ivan also runs unique practical courses on period cookery, in an historic kitchen in his own home, a 17th-century farmhouse in the Lake District. Ivan's website is at: www.historicfood.com

Jacqui Pearce
Sunday 14.00

Pots for the table – an archaeological perspective

When and how did the many and varied types of vessel now used at the table come into being? And how did the complex inter-relationships between potter and consumer, fashion and necessity shape the way that forms evolved over the centuries? This paper explores the development of ceramics used at the table from an archaeological perspective, starting in the early medieval period and following an increasingly rapid succession of changes through to the 18th century.

The connections between forms that are specifically designed and made for the table and those that are more diverse in their usage will be examined, looking at how and when a wide range of ceramic vessels intended for dining first came to gain wide acceptance. The mechanisms and triggers for change and the means by which these changes were incorporated into society are many and varied. Using examples from a broad spectrum of archaeological investigations spanning some 900 years, the move away from non-ceramic materials for serving and dining will be viewed alongside the introduction of an ever increasing repertoire of specialised ceramic forms created for the table.

These innovations frequently entered the repertoire of potters as a form of social emulation, a response to customs that filtered down through society from the highest levels. By focusing on individual excavated assemblages from consumer and production sites, this brief examination will aim to put current usage into its wider historical perspective as seen through the lens of archaeology.

Jacqui Pearce is a Specialist in Medieval and Later Pottery with Museum of London Archaeology. She has over 30 years experience in working on archaeological ceramics, especially those of the London region, spanning the late Saxon to Victorian periods. She is the author of numerous monographs and articles and has a wide network of international connections, serving as Assistant then Co-Editor of the journal *Medieval Ceramics* for ten years. She is currently Joint Editor of *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, an Accredited Session Lecturer for Birkbeck College, University of London, and is on the Committee of the English Ceramic Circle.

Maurice Hillis
Sunday 15.00

British Ceramic Dinnerwares of the 18th Century

This lecture will discuss the range of ceramic wares off which people ate their meals in the 18th century. The types of wares used by people of different social status will be examined, as will the use of competing materials to ceramics.

The importation of Chinese porcelain dinner wares will be considered and the influence that such pieces had on the output of British potters will be assessed.

The range of British ceramics examined will include slipwares, white salt glaze stonewares, tin-glazed earthenwares, creamwares and a variety of porcelain wares from different factories.

Maurice Hillis has been researching and writing about ceramic history for over 30 years. His ceramic interests are extremely varied and he has published widely on 18th and 19th-century English pottery and porcelain. He has lectured extensively on ceramics in the UK and North America.

In 2001 he was elected Chairman of The Northern Ceramic Society and he retired from that office earlier this year. The Committee of the NCS have now appointed him NCS President. In 2011 Maurice published the definitive history of the Liverpool porcelain factories: *Liverpool Porcelain 1756-1804*, which was very well received and is now considered the Bible for Liverpool porcelain. The American Ceramic Circle named it as their book of the year.

THE LONDON CERAMIC CIRCLE AT MORLEY COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Would you like to meet with enthusiastic ceramic collectors and attend lectures to extend your knowledge?

The Circle, founded in 1969, is dedicated to the study of British and International Ceramics (both porcelain and earthenware) and its development up to the present day. We enjoy lectures, visits to places of ceramic interest, and a two-day Seminar in October each year.

Before lectures, members and the speaker gather in the College Canteen for coffee and to chat about pots, and share their experiences. Whether you are just starting out, or are experienced in Ceramics, you will be made very welcome! You 'may try before you buy' - attend up to two meetings before committing to annual membership which costs £15 (SINGLE), £20 (JOINT) and £10 (STUDENTS).

Call Charles Dawson on 07887 540 469 for the date of the next meeting or view the Programme on the website: www.londonceramiccircle.com

Lectures are at 7 PM on Friday evenings (15 throughout the year) at **Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HT.**

The College is 12 minutes walk from Waterloo Station, 4 minutes walk from Lambeth North Underground Station and on Bus Routes: 1, 3, C10, 12, 45, 53, 63, 68,109, 159, 168, 171, 172, 176, and

