

**London Ceramic Circle at Morley College**  
**Programme for the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar**  
*Porcelain & Pottery through the Ages*



**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2016**



**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016**

10.00	John Sandon LCC President	Welcome and Introduction
10.10	Patricia Ferguson	<b>The Minnie Holdaway Memorial Lecture:</b> 400 years of British Collecting in Ten Ceramic Masterpieces, 1550-1950
11.10	COFFEE	
11.45	Anton Gabszewicz	Some Innovations and Inter-factory comparisons in British Porcelain c 1745-1800
12.45	LUNCH	
14.00	John Sandon	Awakening of Worcester Porcelain 1852-1895
15.00	Nick Panes	Style from the East - China on English Pots
16.00	TEA	
16.30	Hans van Lemmen	The enduring legacy of blue-and-white tiles
17.30	WINE & CHEESE PARTY	
18.30	EXIT	

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2016**

10.00	Maurice Hillis	Ten Thousand Years of Pot Decoration.
11.00	COFFEE	
11.45	Jacqui Pearce	Pottery from King John to Queen Anne
12.45	LUNCH	
14.00	Ben Miller	The history, people and wares of the Burgess and Leigh Pottery 1851-today
15.00	Felicity Marno	Regency Brilliance and Victorian Virtuosity
16.00	John Sandon	Closing Address
16.15	TEA	
17.00	EXIT	

**Patricia Ferguson**  
**Saturday 10.10**

**The Minnie Holdaway Memorial Lecture: 400 years of British Collecting in Ten Ceramic Masterpieces, 1550-1950**

With more than 80,000 ceramic items displayed in over 250 historic houses throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the National Trust possesses one of the greatest and most diverse collections of ceramics in the world. Acquired over 400 years, each of these remarkable objects has a story to tell: of exploration and international commerce, technical innovation and fashion, extravagant collectors and family pride.

In this talk Patricia has selected ten masterworks that provide a comprehensive overview of this great resource. Instead of being arranged conventionally by material, place of origin or date, they are ordered by the time these objects began to appear in British households. The result is a history that encompasses every aspect of social life in which ceramics played a central role. This talk focuses on just ten of these stories as an introduction to the 2016 Seminar: 'Porcelain & Pottery through the Ages'.

**Patricia Ferguson** is the National Trust's Adviser on Ceramics and has been researching their collection since 2003. She has an MA from the School of Oriental Studies, London University. In addition to *400 years of British Collecting in Ten Ceramic Masterpieces, 1550-1950* (Philip Wilson Publishing: London, 2016), she is the curator and author of *Garnitures: Vase Sets from National Trust Houses*, (V&A Publishing, London, 2016) and curator of the corresponding Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 11 October 2016 – 30 April 2017.

**Anton Gabszewicz**

**Saturday 11.45**

**Some Innovations and Inter-factory comparisons in British Porcelain c 1745-1800**

We can only understand the development of style and the peculiar whims of taste with hindsight. 'Where London leads the provinces follow' is only partially true. This lecture examines the very different approaches taken by these factories during the period, the age of the Industrial Revolution.

We look at the relatively short lives and in some cases failure of the London factories, most notably Limehouse and Vauxhall and the very different and successful factories of Bow and Chelsea. In the provinces, the Lund's short lived factory at Bristol, Littler's varied production at Longton Hall and later West Pans, and the uneven fortunes of the Liverpool factories make an interesting comparison with the lasting success of Worcester and Derby.

**Anton Gabszewicz** is the former Director and Head of European Ceramics at Christie's, London 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. His books include:

- 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)
- 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. He has been an accredited NADFAS lecturer since 2003.

**John Sandon**  
**Saturday 14.00**

**The Awakening of Worcester, 1852-1900**

Worcester's display at the Great Exhibition was woeful. The merged factories of Flights and Chamberlains never got along and in 1851 the cracks really showed. New blood and new inspiration were desperately needed. To the rescue came Mr W H Kerr and Mr R W Binns whose retail backgrounds meant they knew what the public really wanted to buy.

Thus began what Binns called 'The Awakening'. His incredible contribution to British ceramic art culminated in Royal Worcester's displays at Vienna in 1876 and at Chicago in 1891. Worcester had come from nowhere to become a world leader once more in ornamental porcelain.

Even Meissen made 'Worcester Ware' copied from the work of Binns' protégé, Thomas Bott. Together with James Hadley and George Owen, their work ranks among the greatest ceramic artistry of all time. This talk flies the flag for Victorian Royal Worcester and focuses on some of the masterpieces that will be revealed when the covers come off in a newly designed gallery space at the Museum of Royal Worcester.

**John Sandon** is an acclaimed international 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 English and European porcelain, and has written over a dozen books and articles on these subjects. John is the President of the London Ceramic Circle at Morley College.

**Nick Panes**

**Saturday 15.00**

**Style from the East - China on English Pots**

Whilst supply of Chinese export porcelain gradually increased during the first part of the 17th century, the dislocation of exports during the final turbulent years of the Ming dynasty led to a shortage of supply in England and in other European countries. However the advent of the Qing dynasty and particularly the long and stable Kangxi reign saw an increase in output and the decision by the English East India Company to import Chinese wares for the first time. This talk documents the profound effect of Chinese imports on the designs on English earthenwares and the new English porcelain industry.

**Nick Panes** started collecting antique English ceramics in 1990 and his main interest has been porcelain, initially Regency period but subsequently concentrating on 18<sup>th</sup> century wares, and more recently Chinese blue and white porcelain from 1735 and earlier. However he still researches English ceramics and continues to lecture and publish on topics associated with English wares.

He has served on the committee of the London Ceramic Circle at Morley College and as treasurer of the English Ceramic Circle where he was a Trustee for 10 years (and formerly webmaster). He was also treasurer of the Nonsuch Ceramic Circle in Surrey. He has lectured on a wide variety of ceramic topics and has written a number of papers on ceramic topics which have been published by the English Ceramic Circle and the Northern Ceramic Society.

In 2009 he published: *British Porcelain Sauceboats of the 18th Century* and his new book, *English Potter – American Patriot? Extracts from the extraordinary life of Richard Champion* including an illustrated selection of fine Champion's Bristol porcelain was published in March 2016.



**Hans van Lemmen**

**Saturday 16.00**

### **The enduring legacy of blue-and-white tiles**

Tiles painted or printed with cobalt blue decorations on a white ground have been an important and continuous part of ceramic history since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Blue-and-white Chinese porcelain influenced tile making in the Middle East and Europe where it became an important part of great ceramic traditions such as Iznik in the Ottoman Empire, maiolica in Spain, Italy, and Portugal and delftware in Holland and Britain.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century blue-and-white tiles were also printed in great numbers in Stoke-on-Trent and other English pottery centres and enjoyed a heyday with the craze for blue-and-white ceramics as part of the Aesthetic Movement in the 1870s that had such a great effect on Victorian tile design.

The allure of blue-and-white tiles has persisted until the present day as can still be seen in the work of modern tile artists in Britain and abroad. This talk will look at how blue-and-white tiles were made and decorated from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards, their main production centres, factories and designers as well as the wide range of intriguing imagery depicted on them and how blue-and-white tiles were used in a diverse range of architectural settings.

**Hans van Lemmen** taught art and design history at Leeds Polytechnic and Leeds Metropolitan University. His interest in tiles grew out of a study of Victorian architecture in Leeds in the 1970s and he is now an established author, collector and lecturer on the history of tiles. He is president of the Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society and his latest book *5000 Years of Tiles* was published by the British Museum Press in 2013. He is currently working on a publication dealing with decorative tiles made by the Leeds firm Burmantofts.

**Maurice Hillis**  
**Sunday 10.00**

### **Ten Thousand Years of Pot Decoration**

This talk presents a comprehensive survey of the various techniques of decoration employed by potters over the many ages that man has made pots. This will extend from the earliest periods, when such simple methods as impressing or incising the clay were used, up to the present day, when novel methods such as 3D printing are being added to the decorative repertoire. As well as examining the technical aspects of the various techniques, the talk will seek to place ceramic decoration in a cultural and economic context and to show the influence that such factors have in determining how a pot looks.

The various methods of decoration will be exemplified and illustrated by a selection of pots from a wide range of periods and many different cultures but giving a particular emphasis to English pottery and porcelain. The selected pots will demonstrate not only the progressive development of ceramic decorative techniques but also the many unexpected concordance of ideas that can occur at different times and places.

**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.

Maurice was Chairman of The Northern Ceramic Society from 2001 to 2013 and is now NCS President. In 2011 He published the definitive history of the Liverpool porcelain factories: *Liverpool Porcelain 1756-1804*, which is considered the Bible for Liverpool porcelain. The American Ceramic Circle named it as their book of the year in 2012.

**Jacqui Pearce**  
**Sunday 11.45**

### **Pottery from King John to Queen Anne**

The half-millennium covered by this paper saw tremendous changes in British ceramics, not only in technology, but also in style, usage, availability, marketing and the expectations of consumers. Tracing the development of ceramic traditions and industries, fabrics and forms, from the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> through to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it is possible to gain insights into the role of pottery in the daily lives of those who used it.

Using material that has been excavated archaeologically, the evolution of ceramic types will be examined century by century, looking at the ways in which stylistic inspirations were exchanged between individual industries and how advances in technology brought about transformations within regional traditions.

Also covered is how potters responded to the dictates of taste and fashion, social emulation and the ever-increasing range of functions called for by consumer demand. These ongoing, dynamic changes within the ceramic world are examined against the historical background of the times in which they were made in this chronological overview of the potter's art in medieval and early modern England.

**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. The author of numerous monographs and articles, she has a wide network of international connections, serving as Assistant then Co-Editor of the journal *Medieval Ceramics* for 10 years. She was Joint Editor of *Post-Medieval Archaeology* from 2009 to 2014 and is an Accredited Session Lecturer for Birkbeck College, University of London, and is on the Committee of the English Ceramic Circle.

**Ben Miller**  
**Sunday 14.00**

### **History, people and wares of the Burgess and Leigh Pottery 1851-today**

This talk explores the history of one of Stoke-on-Trent's most traditional pottery manufacturers still in existence today. Burgess & Leigh were a typical Victorian pottery manufacturer. The factory produced fashionable and affordable earthenware for a wide audience at home and abroad.

As a result of this unchanged ordinariness, a study of Burgess & Leigh from its founding to the present day, offers a remarkable insight into what made Stoke-on-Trent 'The Potteries'. What was once a typical 'potbank' is now unique in its survival and continued production. The story of its founding, its factories, the workers and its products reflect the varied fortunes of an industry that shaped a city.

**Ben Miller** has been working with ceramics collections for three and a half years across two museums. He studied American History, politics and Literature as an undergraduate at Keele University between 2006 and 2009 and Heritage Management as a postgraduate at Birmingham University's Ironbridge Institute in 2010. During his postgraduate studies he explored the issue of Stoke-on-Trent's efforts to preserve its industrial heritage in the face of a huge manufacturing decline and increasing levels of apathy.

He started his career as a Museum Assistant at the Wedgwood Museum during which time was able to research a wide variety of topics across the Wedgwood collection and archive. In 2015 he joined the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery as Assistant Curator of Ceramics and has since worked on a number of exhibitions and given talks to a number of SSNs. He has an interest in Staffordshire ceramics, overseas trade, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century design.

**Felicity Marno**  
**Sunday 15.00**

### **Regency Brilliance and Victorian Virtuosity?**

The Regency period in Britain was dominated by the flamboyant Prince of Wales, reflected in the decorative arts. It was a time of extravagance and opulence and the Neo-classical style was transformed into a last brilliant pyrotechnic display before Victorian taste extinguished it.

This lecture will put Regency ceramics into the context of the period and show how the decorative elements developed from the preceding Neo-classical style, referencing the wares of leading manufacturers of the time. The sea-change in taste which occurred in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century will be discussed and notable pieces and makers shown.

**Felicity Marno** studied Chemistry and Fine Arts at universities in Sydney and has the Diploma from the Study Centre for Fine and Decorative Arts, London. In 1980 she founded Stockspring Antiques where she is a Director, specialising in antique ceramics.

She has co-curated and been joint author of the catalogues of several academic exhibitions, including *Tea, Trade and Tea Canisters*, and, with the English Ceramic Circle, *The Ceramics of Vauxhall* (2007). In 2015 she co-curated the important loan exhibition *Sir Hans Sloane's Plants on Chelsea Porcelain*, and co-edited the catalogue.

Felicity was a member of the Committee and is an Honorary Vice-President of the English Ceramic Circle. She contributed a number of papers to the journal *ECC Transactions*. She has lectured in the UK and overseas and was the programme organiser of the ECC Baroque and Rococo seminars in 2011 and 2013 respectively, and the Neo-Classical seminar in 2016.

# NOTES



## **THE LONDON CERAMIC CIRCLE AT MORLEY COLLEGE WARMLY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

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

The Circle 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](http://www.londonceramiccircle.com). Just come along.

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, and a short walk from Lambeth North Underground Station and Elephant & Castle tube stations, and on numerous bus routes.

