



Winter 2007

A Message from the Chairman

I take over the Chairmanship of a society in rude health. Aileen Dawson's seven-year term as Chairman has seen the FPS grow into an ever more vibrant and successful society. Under her direction we have held our first two symposia and seen the Journal evolve into a volume of acknowledged excellence. I am sure that you all join me in thanking Aileen for all her work and inspiration.

The society's activities have also prospered greatly, so another huge loss to the Committee is the departure of Debo Gage. This leaves us with the task of replacing the irreplaceable, but we are fortunate in having persuaded Nette Megens and Sonja Djenadija to take up the challenge. They are currently busy planning an initial trip to Paris in the spring.

After many years of sterling service on the committee Pamela Roditi, who, amongst much else, created the Newsletter has also decided to stand down.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Marilyn Caron-Delion who faced her final illness with such bravery and had served for an equally long time on the Committee as Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Debo's swansong was a wonderful and superbly planned trip to Berlin to visit the exhibition 'Raffinesse & Eleganz', the collection of Richard Baron Cohen at the Charlottenburg Palace. In Berlin and Potsdam we were fortunate to have the best conceivable guide in Samuel Wittwer who curated the exhibition and devoted two days to our instruction and enjoyment and allowed us access to such rarely-seen jewels as Frederick the Great's circular library in Sanssouci.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking Joanna Gwilt for having edited the *Newsletter* with such verve and dedication for the last three years having taken the job over from me. Mia Jackson has nobly stepped into the breach. You will all be delighted to know that we have not allowed Jo to escape and that she has agreed to undertake the organisation of our next symposium planned for 2009.

The most exciting development since I took over the role of Chairman is the enormously generous gift of £10,000 which is intended to finance the participation on our trips of younger scholars. This

will directly promote our stated aim of furthering the study and understanding of French porcelain and greatly increase our enjoyment in so doing.

Errol Manners
Chairman

From The Editor of the Newsletter

After three years as editor of the FPS *Newsletter* this will be my final edition. I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to all those who have been so supportive and made my time as editor such a pleasure and a rewarding task. In particular, I would like to thank members who have reported on events so enthusiastically. As from the next edition the *Newsletter* will be in the capable hands of Mia Jackson.

Joanna Gwilt
joannagwilt@aol.com

For future editions please send news of events, acquisitions, discoveries, publications, etc. to:

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Members who would like to receive an email version of the *Newsletter* (without pictures for ease of transfer) should send an email address to the Editor. A full-colour illustrated version of each *Newsletter* is available on our website.

From the Membership Secretary

This is a plea to all members to ensure that renewal of membership is made as promptly as possible. Enclosed with the printed version of the *Newsletter* will be a membership renewal form.

In addition, would the member who supplied a Bankers Order form dated 30 May 2007, complete with RBS bank account number and address of a branch in Oxford, signed illegibly with no covering note or means of identification please kindly identify themselves to the membership secretary so that your application can be processed. Thank you.

The French Porcelain Society Committee Members 2008

President: Dr Rosalind Savill CBE, FSA, FBA, *Director, The Wallace Collection, London*

Chairman: Errol Manners, *London*

Secretary: Claire Johnsen, *U.K.*

Treasurer: Georgina McPherson, *London*

Membership Secretary: Susan Newell, *London*

Events Organisers: Nette Megens and Sonja Djenadija, *London*

Symposium Organiser: Joanna Gwilt, *London*

North American Representative: Letitia Roberts, *New York*

French Representative: Manuela Finaz de Villaine, *Paris*

Journal Editor: Oliver Fairclough, *Keeper of Art, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff*

Journal Co-Editor: John Whitehead, *France*

Web Coordinator: Kate Henson, *London*

Lecture Coordinator: Charles Truman, *London*

Newsletter Editor: Mia Jackson

Founder: Lady Davson, *U.K.*

The French Porcelain Society's Website

www.frenchporcelainsociety.com

The French Porcelain Society invites applications for a research grant on any aspect of French porcelain. Candidates should apply to the Secretary with an outline of the project, a C.V. and two references.

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REPORTS ON RECENT FRENCH PORCELAIN SOCIETY EVENTS

Visit to Woburn Abbey & Waddesdon Manor, 18 June 2007

Woburn Abbey

Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire, home of the Russell family for nearly 450 years, was the first of two venues for the much anticipated FPS 2007 Summer Outing. On arrival at Woburn, we were treated to coffee and biscuits along with early admission to the great house.

Home to the 15th Duke of Bedford and his family, Woburn Abbey contains exceptional collections of fine and decorative arts, with many world-class paintings, including works by Van Dyck, Reynolds, and over twenty

Venetian views by Canaletto. Of prime interest to FPS members was the collection of fine Sèvres porcelain displayed throughout the house and particularly that displayed in cases in the crypt.

John Russell, 4th Duke of Bedford (1710-1771), arrived in Paris in September 1762 as the English Ambassador. For his work in negotiating the Treaty of Paris, in 1763 Louis XV presented the Duchess of Bedford with service of Sèvres porcelain. Now known as the 'Bedford Service' or 'Ambassadorial Service', it is decorated with fantastic birds and flowers on a *bleu lapis vermiculé* ground. The 'Bedford Service' is the only complete 18th-century Sèvres service to retain so many of its original biscuit figures.

According to the marks on the porcelain, we saw that the individual pieces were produced

over a three year period, and that the service was compiled from stock held at the time at the Sèvres manufactory. The service includes both familiar and rare shapes, such as the *seau crénelé* or *verrière*, the soup tureens made originally with silver liners, the *pots à crème* or *pots à jus* with covers and stands and the *salières triple* used to serve various spices and flavoured garlic and celery salts.

Rosalind Savill kindly provided a comprehensive account of the collection of Sèvres at Woburn and enchanted us with tales of the 'Bedford Service' and other prized pieces in the Porcelain Vault. One of our favourites was the *vase Coronet* (1761-62) decorated by Dodin on a *bleu nouveau* ground. Equally impressive was the *sucrier à la Belle Poule* (1779). One of only two known of this shape, this delicious confection takes a standard Sèvres sugar bowl form and adds cockerel handles and a mast flying a pennant to become a first-rate sailing ship. The *sucrier* commemorates an early skirmish between England and France in the American Revolutionary War. On 17 June 1778 off the Cornish coast, the British frigate "Arethusa" engaged the French frigate "La Belle Poule" in a hard fought battle. In the end both sides claimed victory.

Following our initial visit to the crypt, we were divided into smaller groups for guided tours of the many well-appointed and historically significant rooms on the ground floor. We were able to view the 4th Duke's Bedroom with its 17th-century tapestries, the Yellow Drawing Room with its French-influenced ceiling and doors and the State Rooms including 'Queen Victoria's Bedroom', the Saloon and Dining Room with the walls adorned with the aforementioned Canalettos. FPS members expressed great interest in the contents of the Blue Drawing Room. Here were the Sèvres *vase à Colonne de Paris* (1780) and *vase à Chaines* (1770) - both beautifully decorated and gilded on a *bleu nouveau* ground.

Our visit came to a tasty conclusion with lunch in the Flying Duchess Pavilion and a

chance to meet with old friends and new prior to our afternoon visit to Waddesdon Manor.

Jorge Luis González

Waddesdon Manor

On arrival at Waddesdon Manor, we were warmly greeted and were privileged to receive a private visit.

Built between 1874 and 1889 Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild intended Waddesdon to display his outstanding collection of art treasures and entertain the fashionable society. In the collections today are important 18th-century French decorative arts, textiles and pieces of furniture, alongside magnificent English portraits and Dutch Old Master paintings, and, of course, one of the finest collections of Sèvres porcelain.

Having first admired the magnificent musical automaton in the shape of an elephant, made by the French clock maker Martinet in 1774 and the Meissen porcelain goat with suckling kid by Kändler, made for Augustus the Strong's Japanese Palace in Dresden in 1732, our first contact with Sèvres porcelain was in the Red Drawing Room. Here we met the very large *vase pot-pourri à têtes de bouc* painted by Dodin in 1763 with details from the *Rendez-vous de Chasse* by Carel van Falens on a *bleu nouveau* ground. The only other vase of this shape, painted on a *rose marbré* ground is in the Huntington Library.

In the same room were two pairs of *vase Carrache* of two different sizes, painted by Jean Baptiste Etienne Genest with heads in grisaille within medallions on a *bleu nouveau* ground. The only other examples of this rare shape are a pair of vases in the Jones Collection in the V&A and another single one in the Philadelphia Museum of Art and a pair in The Detroit Institute of Arts.

The Grey Drawing Room is heaven for lovers of Sèvres pink ground. Here we found a pair of 1760 *vases à oreilles* (1st size) painted with putti on clouds and flowers. On a 1730s commode by Crescent was displayed a 1763

garniture of three vases with a pair of *vases pot-pourri à feuilles de myrthe* flanking a *pot-pourri Hébert* each painted by Dodin after Boucher. In addition, there was also a pair of *vases à côtes* painted with battle scenes on a pink ground enriched with blue and gold trellis work and astonishing peacock feathers on the stem. Also on display were a pair of 1762 *rose marbré* ground *vases hollandais* of the 2nd size decorated with harbour scenes by Morin in oval panels surrounded by blue scrolls and trellis work set against a pink ground. Carlin furniture decorated with Sèvres porcelain plaques was also well represented in this room.

It was difficult to leave the West Gallery where many of us fell deeply in love with the two pairs of *vases à oreilles* (1st size), one pair dated 1755-1756 with a *bleu lapis caillouté* ground, the other dated 1761 with a green and blue ground. Both pairs are decorated with large and very expressive birds painted by Louis Denis Armand *l'ainé*. The 1761 pair originally formed a garniture with the *pot-pourri à vaisseau* now in the Wallace Collection (C256).

The production of Sèvres porcelain of the last years of the 1760s was well represented by the five vases on the mantelpiece of the Baron's Room. These vases decorated with a *bleu Fallot* ground, painted in grisaille by Genest and inlaid with flowers on the blue ground are from a set of fifteen vases bought by Louis XV in December 1769. The others are now in the Wallace collection, the Musée du Louvre, the Musée Condé at Chantilly and the Werner Collection now in Ranger's House.

On our way to meet Selma Schwartz, we passed through the Sèvres Rooms displaying three important Sèvres dessert services. The earliest is the *bleu Fallot* ground dessert service presented in 1766 by Louis XV to Prince Starhemberg, the then Austrian ambassador to France. Next is a 1767 dessert service with a *bleu céleste* ground and birds, some painted by Armand *l'ainé*, acquired by Count Razoumovsky in 1767. The service was recently lent to the Sèvres Museum and

is second Sèvres services, after the Richmond service, to depict scenes taken from ornithological engravings published by the Englishman George Edwards. The third dinner and dessert service painted with roses, cornflowers, pansies and foliate garlands, has an even more prestigious provenance: it was ordered by Marie Antoinette in 1781 and is characteristic of her taste at the time.

The Exhibition Room hosted a special exhibition of objects made for or relating to Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette with a display of some spectacular porcelain from private collections, among them a garniture of three *vases œufs* painted with chinoiserie scenes by Lécot and a plate from the *service arabesque*.

In the White Drawing Room, between a George III silver service and the recently acquired portrait of Louis XVI in his coronation robe by Antoine François Callet, Selma had displayed on a table some of the most extraordinary Sèvres porcelain.

We had the immense privilege to see side by side three *vases pot-pourri à vaisseau* and five different *vases éléphants*.

One of the first important, and also most expensive, purchases made by Ferdinand de Rothschild at the age of 21 was the 1761 *bleu céleste* ground *vase pot-pourri à vaisseau* painted with a battle scene likely to be by Genest. Holding the mast in her hands, Selma showed us the amazing lattice-work. The second *pot-pourri à vaisseau* vase is painted with a Teniers scene on a *bleu lapis vermiculé* ground by Vieillard and the third, which has a unique neoclassical base, is painted with a harbour scene, attributed to Genest, and decorated with a *petit verd* ground. This was beautifully marked and dated 1761. Only ten vases of this shape are known to exist today.

To our delight, Selma had brought up other vases which are considered to be the work of Genest so that we could compare them; one of the two *vases à côtes* with battle scenes on a pink ground, one vase from the 1769 *bleu Fallot* garniture and a pink and green ground

vase éléphant with a military camp scene. For further comparison there was also a 1766 *vase à bâtons rompus* painted with a military camp scene by Morin.

Comparison was also made between the five different *vases éléphant* displayed on the table: one *bleu lapis vermiculé* ground, two green ground, one pink and green, and one *petit verd* ground.

Armand *l'ainé* was represented by three remarkable examples of his work. One of the two *bleu lapis caillouté* ground *vase à oreilles*, dated 1755-56; a superb *vase hollandais* of the 1st size, painted in 1758-59 with two birds hungrily eyeing a snail in the central panel. This vase is further adorned with finely-tooled and lavish gilding. Selma had also brought the well-known gold-mounted green ground oval snuff-box, the lid of which shows Mimi and Inès, Madame de Pompadour's two dogs and the base of which shows a cockatoo and a parrot on a bow. The side panels depict pheasants and other birds. The plaques are not signed by Armand but Bernard Dragesco and other members all agreed to recognise this beautiful work as that of Armand *l'ainé*.

Finally we tore ourselves away and bade our farewells and gave our heartfelt thanks to Pippa Shirley (Head of Collections), Selma Schwartz (Curator of porcelain) and Mathew Hirst (Assistant Curator) for making our time at Waddesdon Manor one of the most rewarding and happy afternoons spent by the FPS.

Cyrille Froissart

Presentation of FPS Journal III to Geoffrey de Bellaigue

At our November evening lecture 'Hermitage Sèvres' given by our President Dr Rosalind Savill, a surprise presentation of a bound copy of the FPS *Journal III* was made to Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue by Oliver Fairclough.

Activities of The FPS in North America

On 5th November at Sotheby's in New York, FPS members joined by local members of the American Ceramic Circle, attended a special pre-sale viewing of the magnificent Empire ormolu-mounted Sèvres porcelain *Guéridon 'Table des Palais Royaux'*. Commissioned by Napoléon I, it is signed *Robert 1816*, and inscribed *Manufre Royale de Sèvres 1816*.

Christina Prescott-Walker, Head of the European Ceramics Department, kindly organised the event and spoke to us about the table's interesting history and its historical context, as well as the other known tables of this rare group.

At first sight, the table's large circular top, appeared to many as if it must have been created from a number of individual plaques. Astonishingly, the top is one complete disc, one metre in diameter, of the most extraordinarily painted and beautifully tooled gilt porcelain. Raised on a four-part porcelain pedestal, that conceals a metal structure, it rests on a gilt-bronze square base. This supports the weight of the top bordered in gilt-bronze executed by Pierre-Philippe Thomire.

The *Table des Palais Royaux* was the last of the five great tables of its kind made by the Sèvres factory in the early 19th century. Most tables in this style were made with smaller plaques. Of the 28 large porcelain discs produced in order to create the *Table des Palais Royaux* and its four counterparts only nine survived the initial firing.

The first table was the '*Table de Saisons*', commissioned by Napoléon I in 1803 and completed in 1806. It is decorated with Apollo in his chariot surrounded by four semicircular reserves. Five plaques were produced before one attained sufficient quality to be used. Originally intended for the Château at Rambouillet, by 1810 it was recorded as being in the Château de Fontainebleau, where it remains today.

In 1806 Napoleon commissioned four additional tables to further glorify his reign. The '*Table des Grands Capitaines*' with a large cameo-style portrait of Alexander the Great in the centre surrounded by twelve smaller cameo-style portraits of Imperial commanders from antiquity, was completed in 1812. It remained unsold in the Sèvres *salle des ventes*, and finally, having been made aware that King George IV had coveted the table for years, Louis XVIII presented it to him. It was delivered to Carlton House on 3 May, 1817 and remains in the Royal Collection among the furnishings at Buckingham Palace. (See G. de Bellaigue, 'A Royal Keepsake, the Table of the Grand Commanders,' *Journal of the Furniture History Society*, Vol. XXXV (1999), pp. 112-41).

The second table was intended to depict the Emperor and the Empress Joséphine in the centre surrounded by members of the Imperial family. However it was never completed. The '*Table des Maréchaux*' was the third, and it has a central portrait of Napoléon surrounded by twelve of his marshals. It was finished in 1810 and sent to the Tuileries. During the fall of the Empire, it was returned to Sèvres, where miraculously it survived, and since 1929 it has been part of the collection at the Château de Malmaison.

The fourth table was to depict classical sculpture from the collection at the *Musée de Napoleon*, later to become the Musée du Louvre. Although this table was not completed during Napoléon's reign (1805-14), the project was revived by Louis XVIII in 1817 and the decoration modified to show views of rooms at the Louvre, rather than individual statues. The table was completed in 1819 and in 1825 it was presented by Charles X to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. Alas, its current owner and whereabouts are unknown.

The table of our particular interest here - the *Table des Palais Royaux* - was completed in 1817 and in 1825 it was given by Charles X to Francis I, King of the Two Sicilies. Originally depicting nine palaces important to Napoléon and the Empire, three of the eight

satellite reserves depicted palaces outside of France. However, with the fall of the Empire, the decoration was modified to show only palaces within France. The gilding also was reworked in the small roundels encircling the central view of the Tuileries to replace the Imperial eagles with interlaced LLs. Even the central reserve, which is signed *Robert 1816* for the landscape painter Jean-François Robert, did not escape some redecoration. On close inspection the over-painting of the clothes on some of the small figures can be discerned. The outer border of the table is inscribed in gilding *Manufre. Royal de Sèvres 1816*. It was not established if the underside of the table top has a further factory mark.

For the members of the FPS and ACC at this special evening it was a much enjoyed and greatly appreciated opportunity to see for ourselves this well preserved and extraordinary Sèvres porcelain table.

On the day of the sale Tish Roberts, who attended the auction, kindly reported that the table was sold to an anonymous bidder on the telephone for \$5,500,000 (\$6,201,000 with the buyer's premium) setting a world record for Sèvres porcelain and indeed for a single piece of European porcelain from any factory or country. Now, on with the quest to rediscover the missing fourth table presented by Charles X to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg!

Jorge Luis González with Tish Roberts

It is hoped that in mid January FPS members will be given a private tour of the newly refurbished Wrightsman Galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with Associate Curator, Jeffrey Munger. Further details will be issued shortly to US members. For non-US members who would like to attend please contact Tish Roberts.

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FORTHCOMING FRENCH PORCELAIN SOCIETY EVENTS

Spring 2008 Series of Evening Lectures

To be held at Bonham's lecture theatre, 101 New Bond Street, London, W1

24 January 2008, 6pm

Maureen Cassidy-Geiger:

Fragile Diplomacy: Meissen Gifts for European Courts, c. 1710-1763

Fragile Diplomacy is the apt title of the current exhibition at the Bard Graduate Centre in New York (until 10 Feb. 2008) which concerns the exchange of diplomatic gifts in 18th-century Europe. Porcelain from the royal manufactory founded at Meissen in 1710 was the unique gift of the Saxon electors who reigned for 60 years as kings of Poland. Tastes and preferences varied from country to country, as did the reciprocal gifts and favours made in return. Maureen Cassidy-Geiger will discuss the gift-giving tradition at the Saxon court before and after the founding of the Meissen manufactory

28 February 2008, 6pm

Reino Liefkes will speak about the plans for the first phase of the redevelopment of the Ceramic Galleries of the Victoria and Albert Museum opening in September 2009, and Kit Maxwell on the first temporary exhibition on French porcelain in the new galleries.

27 March 2008, 6pm

Errol Manners; *Villeroy Porcelain*

Anne Howarth; *Two boxes in the Gilbert Collection*

A further series is planned for Autumn 2008. Members are welcome to submit papers (either for a full 45 minutes or for a shorter 20 minutes) for that season or for Spring 2009, on new research, ongoing projects or anything else that they feel would be of interest to the membership.

Would-be speakers should contact Charles Truman at Gurr Johns, 16 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5LU

Hold the Date:

Four-Day Visit to Paris & Versailles 9 – 12 April 2008

The FPS is planning an exciting 4-day trip to Paris and Versailles that will include visits to the forthcoming Marie-Antoinette Exhibition at the Grand Palais and also to the Private Apartments of the Château de Versailles.

Further details will be issued to members in the New Year.

AGM, Lecture and Dinner

13 June 2008, 6:30pm

The Wallace Collection, Manchester Square, London W1U 3BN

This year's lecture is to be given by Antoine d'Albis:

"Stagnation, transition or progress?"

The manufacture de Sèvres in the last 40 years in the context of the past. Emphasizing the importance of the soft-paste ground colours at Vincennes and Sèvres

Annual Summer Outing

Monday 16 June 2008

The annual summer visit will take place on Monday 16 June. Details will be issued to members in the spring and listed in the FPS summer 2008 *Newsletter*.

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OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lectures:

Wallace Collection

29 January, 1pm

Rosalind Savill: *An introduction to Sèvres porcelain*

Société des Amis du Musée National de Céramique

8 January

Catherine Trouvet: *Les vases à la manufacture de Vincennes – Sèvres des origines à l'Empire*

5 February

Antoine Lebel: *Porcelaines de Chine et armoiries françaises. La vie des personnages qui commandèrent des services à leurs armes en Chine et leur rôle historique dans les différentes Compagnies des Indes*

1 April

Manuela Finaz de Villaine: *Exotisme des Indes orientales à Chantilly au XVIIIe siècle*

6 May

Maria Julia Weber: *La porcelaine au service de la diplomatie: les échanges de présents entre Dresde et Versailles*

Société des Amis du Musée National de Céramique

Place de la Manufacture

92319 Sèvres

France

+ 33 (0)1 41 14 04 20

www.amisdesevres.com

Study day:

4 October 2008

18th-century French Porcelain Study Day,
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The Oxford Ceramics Group plan to hold a study day devoted to 18th-century French porcelain. Speakers will include Rosalind

Savill, Errol Manners, Aileen Dawson and Mia Jackson speaking on Sèvres, Chantilly, Menecy and St Cloud porcelain respectively.

Further details will be given in the FPS Summer 2008 Newsletter.

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EXHIBITIONS

The Bowes Museum, County Durham

Emile Gallé and the Origins of Art Nouveau
Until 20 January 2008

For the winter of 2007 the Bowes Museum will hold an exhibition to explore *Art Nouveau* and its main themes and inspirations. A section on Japan and Japonisme will explore the fashion for all things Japanese that pervaded French art and design in the second half of the 19th century. A section devoted to Emile Gallé will highlight Joséphine Bowes' own commissions and correspondence, and Gallé's development as a decorative artist. As part of the exhibition the five-foot high Sèvres vase de blois will be displayed. The vase entered the factory's salesroom in December 1901 and was listed as being decorated with 'couleurs sous couverte repris en couleurs sur couverte grand feu'. Subsequently, it was presented by the French government in August 1906 to the 'Université de Londres en remerciement de la réception faite aux représentants de l'Université de Paris' and was described as a 'vase de Blois décor de fleurs et oiseaux par Gébleux 2,250 francs'. (Information kindly supplied by Tamara Préaud).

Open daily from 11am – 5pm

Admission £7.00

The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle

County Durham DL12 8NP

www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk

Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury

19 March – 26 October 2008

To celebrate the on-line publication of its extensive collection of 18th-century trade cards and other commercial ephemera, Waddesdon Manor will be holding two complementary exhibitions.

All that glitters: shopping and advertising in 18th-century Paris draws on this collection supported by relevant objects relating to the trade cards.

The Marchands-merciers: Makers of nothing, sellers of everything will focus on the *marchands-merciers* and porcelain. Mounts will be removed from several objects to reveal the original Sèvres price labels and examine the construction of objects made up from different materials.

Open Wednesday – Friday 12:00 – 4pm

Saturday – Sunday 11am – 4pm

Waddesdon Manor

Waddesdon, Nr Aylesbury

Buckinghamshire HP18 0JH

www.waddesdon.org.uk

Wallace Collection

Theatres of Life: Drawings from the Rothschild Collection at Waddesdon Manor
Until 27 January 2008

This splendid exhibition, curated by FPS member Juliet Carey, offers visitors the first opportunity in London to see more than seventy drawings from Waddesdon Manor. Collected mainly in the 19th century by Edmond de Rothschild, the drawings include wonderful works by major French draughtsmen of the eighteenth century.

Exhibition catalogue available

Open daily 10am – 5pm

Free Admission

Masterpieces from the Louvre: The Collection of Louis La Caze

Thursday 14 February – Sunday 18 May 2008

Organised by the Musée du Louvre, the exhibition will feature pictures from the greatest bequest of paintings received by the renowned Paris museum. All were collected by Louis La Caze (1798–1869). Included will be superb 18th-century French paintings by, among others, Watteau, Chardin, Boucher and Fragonard, chosen to complement paintings in the Wallace Collection.

Open daily: Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm

Admission Free

The Wallace Collection

Manchester Square, London, W1U 3BN

www.wallacecollection.org

V&A

Travelling Ceramics Exhibition

March 2008 – April 2009

An exhibition of 120 highlights from the ceramics collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum, London will tour internationally while the new ceramics galleries are under development prior to Phase 1 reopening in September 2009.

14 March -23 June 2008:

The Korea Foundation Cultural Centre, Seoul

8 August-26 October 2008:

Hetjens Museum, Düsseldorf

January-April 2009:

The Gardiner Museum, Toronto

An accompanying book *World Ceramics: Masterpieces from the Victoria and Albert Museum*, edited by Reino Liefkes and Hilary Young is expected in June 2008.

Musée National de Céramique, Sèvres

Le service iconographique antique du cardinal Fesch

Until 14 January 2008

The exhibition examines the service produced by the Sèvres manufactory in 1809 subsequently offered by Napoleon Bonaparte to his uncle, the cardinal Fesch, in 1811.

Exhibition catalogue. (See Publications)

www.musee-ceramique-sevres.fr

www.amisdesevres.com

Sèvres Années 30: La Seduction Des Matières

Until 2 March 2008

Exhibition catalogue. (See Publications)

Galerie de la Manufacture à Sèvres

Musée National de Céramique

Place de la Manufacture, 92310 Sèvres

<http://manufacturedesevres.culture.gouv.fr>

Grand Palais, Paris

Marie-Antoinette

15 March – 16 June 2008

An encyclopaedic exhibition on the life and tastes of Marie-Antoinette will be held at the Grand Palais. Organized by themes, rather than by medium, it will examine all aspects of her life, including her childhood in Vienna, for which many exceptional objects will travel to Paris for the first time. The exhibition will be curated by Xavier Salmon with other specialists including Selma Schwartz who will be responsible for the porcelain as well as the section on Marie-Antoinette's taste for the exotic. A substantial catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

Grand Palais

3, Avenue du Général Eisenhower

75008 Paris

www.rmn.fr/galerienationalesdugrandpalais

Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris

L'aigle et le papillon, symboles des pouvoirs sous Napoléon (1800-1815)

2 April - 5 October 2008

The exhibition will provide an insight into the ornaments chosen by the last French political regime to have ordered the expression of a total, official art, whose impact spread throughout Europe. The exhibition will first be shown at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston until February 2008.

Open Tuesday – Friday 11am – 6m (until 9pm Thursdays), Saturday – Sunday 10am – 6pm

Admission 6,50€

Les Arts Décoratifs

107, rue de Rivoli

75001 Paris

France

www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr

Musée Carnavalet, Paris

Benjamin Franklin, un Américain à Paris

Until 9 March 2008

The exhibition brings together 340 paintings, sculptures and documents, concentrating on the Benjamin Franklin's sojourn in Paris from 1776 to 1785. Particular interest is given to his political and scientific influences on the city and how he became a symbol of republican values and defender of human rights.

Admission 7€

Open daily (except Mondays) 10am – 5:40pm

Musée Carnavalet

23 rue de Sévigné

75003 Paris

www.carnavalet.paris.fr

Chateau de Compiègne, France

**Nicolas II Esterházy 1765 – 1833:
Un Prince hongrois collectionneur**
Until 7 January 2008

This exhibition is the first of a series at Compiègne on the taste of European princes in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Open daily except Tuesdays 10am – 6pm
Admission: 7, 70€
Château de Compiègne
Place du Général de Gaulle
60200 Compiègne
www.musee-chateau-compiegne.fr

Musée national des châteaux de Malmaison

Indispensables Nécessaires
Until 14 January 2008

The exhibition presents more than eighty *nécessaires* dating from the 17th century to the 1930s. Examples include those given to Josephine by Napoleon and one thought to have belonged to Marie-Antoinette. Some examples retain their original French porcelain accessories.

Château de Malmaison
Avenue du château
92 500 Rueil-Malmaison
Open daily except Tuesdays
10am – 12:30, 1:30pm - 5:15pm
Admission: 5€
www.chateau-malmaison.fr

Liechtenstein Museum, Vienna

**The Cohen Collection:
Porcelain from the Great Manufactories
1800–1840**
Until 11 February 2008

This spectacular exhibition in the Neoclassical library of the Palais Liechtenstein will be the second part of the touring exhibition of the Cohen Collection. The exhibits will be complemented by

porcelain from the collections of the Prince von und zu Liechtenstein.

Open Friday - Monday 10am – 5pm
4€
Liechtenstein Museum
Fürstengasse 1
1090 Vienna
Austria
www.liechtensteinmuseum.at

A further venue expected in New York will be listed in the FPS Newsletter Summer 2008. See also Publications: *Raffinesse Eleganz*.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Symbols of Power: Napoleon and the Art of the Empire Style, 1800-1815
Until 27 January 2008

The exhibition examines how Napoleon appropriated emblems of power from antiquity, especially Egypt and Rome, and linked his reign with those of the great civilizations of the past.

With a selection of approximately 190 objects, including furniture, silver, porcelain, bronzes, jewellery, textiles, wallpapers, metalwork and paintings *Symbols of Power* is the first comprehensive survey of the decorative arts of the Empire style, presenting its iconography in virtually every visual medium.

The exhibition will be shown at the musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris from 2 April - 5 October 2008.

Open daily: 10 am - 4:45 pm
Wednesday-Friday 10 am - 9:45 pm
Exhibition Adults: \$23
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Avenue of the Arts
465 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115-5597
www.mfa.org

The Bard Graduate Centre, New York

Fragile Diplomacy: Meissen Porcelain for European courts c. 1710-63

Until 10 February 2008

This special exhibition of rare 18th-century Meissen gifts provides a comprehensive insight into how Meissen porcelain served to cement diplomatic relations. Of particular note to FPS members are the gifts exchanged between France and Germany. Curated by Maureen Cassidy-Geiger, curator of The Arnhold Collection, Dresden/New York, the exhibition displays nearly 300 objects loaned by leading institutions and private collections.

For exhibition catalogue see Publications.

The Bard Graduate Centre
18 West 86th Street
New York
NY 10024, USA
www.bgc.bard.edu

Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Treasures of European Decorative Art and Sculpture

25 August 2007 – end date to be announced

The exhibition will highlight masterpieces from the museum's permanent collection of European decorative arts including ceramics, tapestries, metalwork, marble, and bronze sculpture from Classical Greece to 19th-century France.

Open daily (except Tuesdays) 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
(until 9pm on Thursdays)

Corcoran Gallery of Art
500 Seventeenth Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
www.corcoran.org

Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Marie-Antoinette and the Petit Trianon at Versailles

Until 17 February 2008

This exhibition gives a visual history of the Marie-Antoinette and the Petit Trianon through 88 pieces of the finest furniture, paintings, and sculpture from this château. It marks the first time the contents of the Petit Trianon have been shown together in an exhibition outside of France. It is complemented by watercolours, prints, and drawings of the small château and its innovative landscaping setting. This is the only venue of the exhibition, which is organized by the Musée National of the Château de Versailles and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Open Tuesday -Sunday, 9:30 am.-5 pm
Admission \$15 for adults

Legion of Honor
Lincoln Park
34th Avenue & Clement Street
San Francisco, CA 94121. USA
www.famsf.org/legion

Denver Art Museum, Denver

Artisans & Kings: Selected Treasures from the Louvre

Until 6 January 2008

With an array of over 125 objects from the Louvre the exhibition provides an insight into the relationships between royal patrons and their craftsmen from the time of Louis XIV until the Revolution. Exhibits include porcelain, gilt-bronze, tapestries, furniture, sculpture paintings and drawings.

Open daily 10am – 5pm, Fridays until 10pm.
Closed Mondays
\$18
Civic Centre Cultural Complex
13th Avenue, Denver USA
<http://exhibits.denverartmuseum.org>

Louvre Atlanta

Houdon at the Louvre: Portrait Busts and Sculpture

7 June – 7 September 2008

This small exhibition will present approximately 20 works in various media portraying intellectual and political leaders, including busts of Diderot and Voltaire, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, and well-known portraits of Houdon's wife and children.

Tues – Sat 10am – 5pm Sun 12 – 5pm

Closed Monday \$15

High Museum of Art

1280 Peachtree Street, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30309

www.louvreatlanta.org

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OBITUARIES

Marilyn Caron-Delion (1940-2007)

It is with great sadness that the French Porcelain Society records the recent death of one of its most supportive members, Marilyn Caron-Delion, after a long illness. Marilyn served on the committee for a number of years and was an able Treasurer when the Society was expanding its activities. She had considerable business acumen as she sold English porcelain from premises in Kensington Church Street, making many friends in those years. Most recently she contributed generously to the cost of our new membership leaflet which she helped to devise.

Marilyn was proud of her Liverpool roots and kept her contact with that city all her life, but lived for a number of years in France and was a fluent French-speaker. She helped the Society to foster its links with French members, and most recently acted as translator for talks given by the Director the Sèvres factory and his staff on the occasion of the exhibition in summer 2006 of 20th-

century Sèvres at the Wallace Collection. This taxing task she performed with great grace and humour. Her attitude to life owed much to the French outlook and *joie-de-vivre*, which was always her watchword. For several years she helped to plan the annual dinner, injecting into the proceedings a note of gaiety, whilst at the same time being ferociously efficient in keeping meticulous records of past occasions. She will be much missed.

Aileen Dawson

Dr. Manfred Meinz (1931 – 2007)

Former director of Städtisches Museum, Osnabrück

Editor of KERAMOS from 1974 until 2005

With great sadness the FPS reports the death of Dr. Manfred Meinz. Dr. Meinz was a passionate collector of Magdeburg faience, gifting together with his wife Jutta Schoeller-Meinz a collection of rare and beautiful pieces to the Kulturhistorische Museum, Magdeburg.

Amongst his friends he was known as a walking encyclopaedia. His first interest was silver, publishing a well known treatise, *Schönes Silber*, as well as many well-received articles on the subject. His book *Jagdliche Fayencen deutscher Manufakturen* was written together with Konrad Strauss. As well as being editor of the journal his immense scholarship was reflected in the many articles on various areas of ceramics he contributed to KERAMOS.

MEMBERS' NEWS

We would like to offer our congratulations to our following members:

John Mallet recently received the award for the 2007 Art Newspaper/AXA Art prize for Best Exhibition Catalogue published in the UK and Eire. Chosen for its 'sheer intellectual ambition and elegant expression' *Xanto: Pottery, Painter, Poet, Man of the*

Italian Renaissance, is the catalogue of the exhibition held at the Wallace Collection in 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0900785986, £20. www.wallacecollection.org/shop/books

Bernard Dragesco was recently presented by the French Minister of Culture the award of 'l'Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts and Lettres'.

OTHER NEWS

A call for Vincennes flowers

A request to members and member institutions: Waddesdon Manor is looking to borrow a quantity of Vincennes flower heads for their forthcoming exhibition, *The Marchands-merciers: Makers of nothing, sellers of everything* (March – October 2008) Those willing to lend items should contact Selma Schwartz: 01296 653 297 or selma.schwartz@nationaltrust.org.uk Thank you.



The Attingham Trust is an educational charitable trust offering specialised study courses for those professionally engaged in the field of historic houses, their collections and settings, including the history and contents of English Royal Palaces. Since its foundation in 1952 it has enjoyed outstanding success with its high academic standards and considered by heritage bodies to be an excellent opportunity for professional development in the field.

Three courses are run annually. Scholarship assistance is available.

The Study Week

'Treasure Houses of Middle England'
4th-12th June 2008

Closing date for applications 22 January 2008

The Attingham Summer School

4th-22nd July 2008

Closing date for applications 31 January 2008

Royal Collection Studies

31st August – 9th September 2008

Closing date for applications 31 March 2008

Further information and application forms:

www.attinghamtrust.org

attinghamtrust@btinternet.com

attingham2@att.net (North & South America)

MUSEUM NEWS

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The Wrightsman Galleries, closed for the past 18 months in order to install improved lighting and climate control, reopened on 1st November. These galleries include the Wrightsman period rooms, which house many of the Metropolitan's finest 18th-century French decorative arts and a new gallery devoted to Sèvres porcelain and furniture mounted with Sèvres plaques.

Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street
New York, New York 10028-0198
Open daily except Mondays
9:30am – 5:30pm
(until 9pm Fridays and Saturdays)
www.metmuseum.org

Detroit Museum of Art

Following a six-and-a-half year, \$158 million building renovation, the Detroit Museum of Art reopened in November 2007. The collections are now displayed by theme rather than period or style. The new galleries have been designed to 'explore themes that resonate with each visitor's personal experiences, such as spirituality, travel, and the cycles of life'. To enhance visitor interaction, integrated technology within the galleries provides new experiences, such as 'virtual' dining in 18th-century Europe.

Open daily except Mondays and Tuesdays
10am – 5pm (until 10pm Fridays)
Admission: \$8

Detroit Institute of Arts
5200 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48202. USA
www.dia.org

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Plaque depicting Bernard Palissy
French, Sèvres, 1846
Hard-paste porcelain with a gilt-bronze,
enamel and biscuit porcelain frame.
Plaque painted by Nicolas-Marie Moriot; the
enamels painted by Jacob Meyer-Heine after
designs by Alexandre Laemlein; the biscuit
figures modeled by Jean-Baptiste-Jules
Klagmann; the gilt-bronze frame by Armande
Feuchère.

49.1 cm x 44.5 cm (19 5/16 in. x 17 1/2 in.)
The Isaacson-Draper Foundation Gift, 2007
(2007.221)

This framed Sèvres plaque is one of the most ambitious and original works of art produced in the Renaissance-revival style of mid-19th - century France. Both the plaque and the elaborate design of the frame pay homage to the flourishing of the decorative arts that took place during the French Renaissance. The plaque portrays Bernard Palissy, the only potter of this period whose name was known in the 19th century, burning the furniture in his house in order to fire his kiln. The oval enamel plaques that decorate the frame depict various events from the life of Palissy, and their grisaille decoration evokes Limoges enamels of the 16th century. Painted by Jacob Meyer-Heine, the plaques were the product of the recently-established enamel workshop at Sèvres of which Meyer-Heine was appointed head in 1840.

Jeffrey Munger

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

World Ceramics: Masterpieces from the Victoria and Albert Museum
Edited by Reino Liefkes and Hilary Young
V&A Publications. Expected June 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Theatres of Life: Drawings from the Rothschild Collection at Waddesdon Manor
Juliet Carey
Paul Holberton Publishing (Exhib. Cat.)
ISBN: 978-1903470725
£25.00

*Sèvres, une histoire céramique:
Années Folles Art Déco, le renouveau*
Marc Domage
Editions courtes et longues (Exhib. Cat.)
ISBN: 978-2-35290-032-0
35 €
<http://manufacturedesevres.culture.gouv.fr>

La Céramique à travers les âges
Alain Prévot
Editions Jean-Paul Gisserot, 2007
ISBN: 978-2877479585
29,50€

Comment reconnaître une porcelaine de Sèvres du XVIIIe Siècle
Violaine Jeammet
Éditions de la Réunion des musées nationaux
ISBN 978-2711849871
15€

Comment reconnaître une porcelaine de Saint-Cloud
Christine Lahaussais
Éditions de la Réunion des musées nationaux
ISBN 978-2711851877
15€

Les Grands Services de Sèvres: Le Service 'Iconographique Antique' du Cardinal Fesch

Hervé de la Verie
Éditions de la Réunion des musées nationaux
(Exhib. Cat.)
ISBN 978-2711853731
15€

Indispensables Necessaries

Exhibition catalogue
Musée national des châteaux de Malmaison et
de Bois-Préau (Exhib. Cat.)
ISBN: 978-2711853595
28€

Fragile Diplomacy: Meissen Porcelain for European courts c. 1710-63

Maureen Cassidy-Geiger
Exhibition catalogue: contributors include
Jeffrey Munger, Selma Schwartz and
Samuel Wittwer
Yale University Press (Exhib. Cat.)
ISBN: 978-0300126815
\$65

Raffinesse Eleganz.

Samuel Wittwer
Exhibition catalogue
Schloss Charlottenburg (Exhib. Cat.)
Text in German.
ISBN: 978-3777434650
£47

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ARTICLES

Aileen Dawson

'Mennecy porcelain figures, groups, plaques
and busts c. 1750-c.1770: an examination of
their range and chronology', *Bulletin des
Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire*, no. 75,
2004, pp. 27-39.

Antoine d'Albis

'Procèdes de fabrication de la porcelaine
tendre de Vincennes, d'après les livres de
Hellot, *Bulletin des Musées Royaux d'Art et
d'Histoire*, no. 75, 2004, pp. 9-25

Jean-Paul Bouillon

'Un service inédit de Marie Bracquemond'
L'Objet d'Art, June 2007, No. 425, pp. 70-77

***Sèvres, Revue de la Société des amis du
muse national de céramique***

No. 16 2007 :

'Saint-Cloud ou King-Te-Tchen?'

Antoine d'Albis
pp. 46 – 50

'La porcelaine au service de la diplomatie :
les échanges de présents entre Dresde et
Versailles'

Julia Weber
pp. 51 – 61

' 'Il fiume Nilo con i suoi putti intorno...' Un
gravure et un biscuit de Giovanni Volpato,
inspirés du marbre du Vatican'

Giuliana Santuccio
pp. 62 - 67

'Un fable de Jean de La Fontaine illustrée sur
un gobelet en pâte tendre '

Anne Cécile Sourisseau
pp. 68 – 74

'La manufacture de porcelaine de Zürich'

Helen Bieri Thomson et Hanspeter Lanz
pp. 78 – 87

'Choix de vases de Sèvres des collections du
Mobilier national'

Tamara Préaud et T. Nishahara-Moene
pp. 88 – 102

'Les Bonheur du marché de l'art'

Anne Lajoix
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