

THE FRENCH PORCELAIN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER MAY

FPS Living Room Lectures



This Saturday 16 May, John Whitehead will talk about Sèvres and marchands-merciers. More information on our [website](#).

Image: Sèvres porcelain, marble and gilt bronze clock, c.1770, probably supplied by the marchand-mercier Simon-Philippe Poirier

With so many of us spending more time at home during the lockdown, we have launched a weekly online series, Living Room Lectures, free for anyone interested in learning about European ceramics. Every Saturday at 7pm (BST), a ceramics expert will share his or her knowledge on a wide range of topics.

In our first lecture on 2 May Errol Manners discussed princely collections of European and Mexican redwares, he was followed on 9 May by Sebastian Kuhn, who shared his insight into the collections of three eighteenth-century Baden princesses.

This initiative has been a wonderful success, bringing in new members from the UK, North America and Europe. Our next speaker on 16 May will be John Whitehead, on Sèvres and Parisian marchands-merciers.

Warmest welcome to you all!

Ceramics as Sculpture:

The French Porcelain Society Journal, 2020



La Baigneuse, after Falconet, c.1758–66
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Inv. no. 50.211.138a

The new *French Porcelain Society Journal* on ceramics as sculpture should be with you this autumn. Topics include the ceramic sculpture of Luca della Robbia, sculpture at Sèvres in the 18th and 19th centuries, a Wedgwood black basalt bust, Buen Retiro porcelain, Clodion's *Eriogone*, François Barbin at Villeroy and Paris, the grand *Zwettlertafelaufsatz* made for a Cistercian religious in 1768, the rococo and sacred sculpture of J.J. Kaendler, Tanagra figures, and Gio Ponti's work for Richard-Ginori.

In the meantime, a reminder for members that all of the Society's monographs are available to [download online](#).

Happy reading!

Report: Trip to Vienna in October 2019

Fifteen members enjoyed a visit to important collections with special porcelain finds in and around the former imperial capital. From a private tour of Schloss Esterházy and the Wunderkammer at Burg Forchtenstein, to privileged access at Vienna's Hofburg and the Museum für Angewandte Kunst, our members studied pieces by Meissen, Du Paquier and Sèvres. At the Augarten Palace, Claudia Lehner-Jobst offered an exclusive guided tour of its Porcelain Exhibition. They even had time to pop into



Frankenthal birdcage

nearby Bratislava for a tour of its castle
and a cup of hot chocolate!

Read the full report on our [website](#).

Report: Visit to Besançon in February 2020



FPS members opposite the Musée des beaux-arts et d'archéologie de Besançon

John Whitehead organised a visit to see the stunning exhibition *Une des provinces du Rococo. La Chine rêvée de François Boucher*, at the Musée des beaux-arts et d'archéologie de Besançon. In the morning, FPS members visited the city's Citadel and old quarter including a tour of the Musée du Temps. In the afternoon, curator Yohan Rimaud offered a guided visit of the exhibition at the MBAdeB, which exquisitely showcases the genius of François Boucher. A highlight was examples of luxury porcelain produced at Vincennes and Sèvres displayed next to their original print sources.

Read the full report on our [website](#).

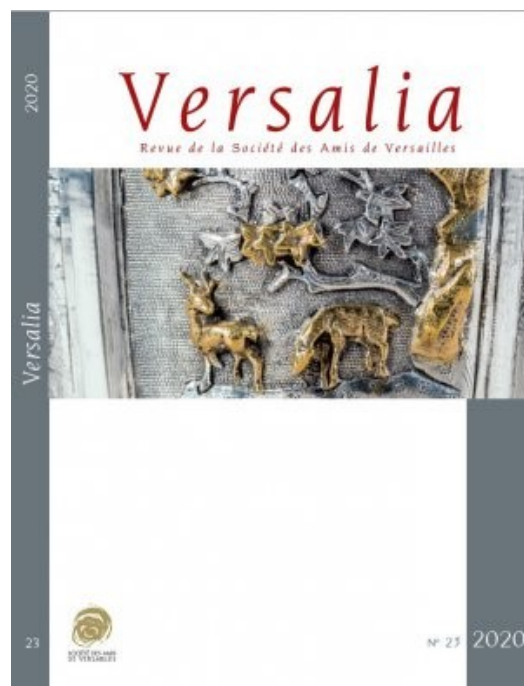
Publication: 'Versalia'

"De Versailles à Paris : la collection de porcelaines du comte
et de la comtesse de Provence"

An interesting article documenting the taste for French Porcelain of the comte and comtesse de Provence (later Louis XVIII) along with the complete inventory was recently published in the 23rd edition of *Versalia, Revue de la Société des Amis de Versailles*.

"De Versailles à Paris : la collection de porcelaines du comte et de la comtesse de Provence", *Versalia, Revue de la Société des Amis de Versailles*, n° 23, 2020, p. 71-88.

Get your copy [here](#).



Versailles Presents a New Porcelain Room

From December 2019, items from the château's collection of Vincennes and Sèvres porcelain services are on display in a dedicated exhibition space at the Palace of Versailles. The Porcelain Room may only be visited by guided tour, and thanks to the generosity of Marie-Laure de Rochebrune, conservateur en chef du département du mobilier et des objets d'art, and art historian Vincent Bastien plans for a visit of the French Porcelain Society will be revived as soon as possible.



View of the Porcelain Room at the Palace of Versailles

For more details please visit our [website](#).

Exhibition: 'Royal Blue – William and Mary's Finest Delftware'

Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL, 1 June - 22 November 2020



Delftware pyramids, 17th century

Kunstmuseum Den Haag

FPS member and curator Suzanne Lambooy is delighted to give a positive update on the exhibition 'Royal Blue'. With years of preparation, the show focuses on the period 1689–1702, heyday of Delftware that coincided with the reign of British monarchs William III and Mary II Stuart. Mary commissioned special pieces from De Grieksche A pottery for her own collection, becoming a true ambassador for Delftware.

In addition to important national and international loans, this will be the first opportunity for the [Kunstmuseum](#) to display its recently acquired pair of flower pyramids. Delftware is a traditional craft, paragon of Dutch prosperity in the seventeenth century, and an inspiration for contemporary design. We hope you will soon be able to admire the beauty and versatility of this typically Dutch product!

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