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NEWSLETTER

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## Thanks Due to Our Gracious Leader

Do you remember the delightful teas we enjoyed last year? Our President, Frances O'Neil, is responsible for providing our members and guests with all the elements that made them so enjoyable -- the setting up, with appropriate seasonal decor; the tea and coffee, the delicious confections, and the cleaning up. Thank you, Fran, from the Board and the membership, for your generosity!

### "Josiah Wedgwood - Potter, Pioneer and Philanthropist"

by Gaye Blake Roberts MBE, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Research Institute, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, formerly Curator of the Wedgwood Museum, Barlaston, Staffordshire

Sponsored by Natalie Robinson

On November 9 at 2:00 p.m. EST, Gaye Blake Roberts MBE, will deliver a lecture via Zoom that will delve into the history of Josiah Wedgwood I (1730-1795) and his renowned manufactory.

Josiah Wedgwood I was born into the most exciting era of English history, a period of change and development dominated by the Age of Enlightenment, which embraced both the agrarian and industrial revolutions. The lecture will explore the influences and importance of fashion, taste, commerce and culture on Wedgwood ceramics of the 18th century. It also will examine the importance of Josiah Wedgwood as a leading manufacturer of ceramics during the birth of the consumer society. The talk will look at the many different facets of Josiah's life from his humble beginnings as the twelfth and youngest child of a third-generation potter, through to his wares being used in every court in Europe. It also will look at the important connections he made, the artists he employed and his great scientific achievements, and it will cover his reputation not just as a renowned potter, but as a scientist, an employer and as a friend and family man. Josiah Wedgwood was an extraordinary man, both of and ahead of his time, which this lecture will hope to illustrate.

Born in Stone, Staffordshire, Gaye Blake Roberts DUniv. FMA. FRSA was educated at Wellington High School in Shropshire. In 1971, she joined the Department of Ceramics

and Glass at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, during which time she was given special leave to assist in the formation of the Coalport China Works Museum, part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Shropshire.

In 1979, Miss Blake Roberts joined Josiah Wedgwood & Sons Limited, Barlaston, Staffordshire, as Curator of the Wedgwood Museum. During her time at Wedgwood, the museum underwent several changes, including the development of a new building housing exhibition galleries and research facilities, which won the very prestigious Art Fund Prize of Museum of the Year in 2009.

Miss Blake Roberts has lectured extensively on the history of Wedgwood and the English ceramics industry, not only throughout Britain and Europe, but also during several tours in Australia, Japan and the United States,

Miss Blake Roberts has written prolifically, contributing to catalogues for major exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts and the City Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent, as well as in 1995 when she was a co-curator of a major exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and was the co-author of its catalogue, *The Genius of Wedgwood*. More recently she has written *Wedgwood Jasper ware* (2011), *Wedgwood – The illustrated history* (2014) and *Wedgwood: A story of Creation and Innovation*, published by Rizzoli in 2017.

Miss Blake Roberts is the Chair of the College of Fellows at Keele University, Staffordshire; Vice President of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Shropshire; Chair of the Raven Mason Trust; and is actively involved as a board member several organizations. She retired from the Wedgwood Museum in February 2020 and is currently Senior Research Fellow attached to the Research Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Nov 9, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Josiah Wedgwood – Potter, Pioneer and Philanthropist: by Gaye Blake Roberts  
MBE

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DTqUc5GSX2r9kmBV5sjmQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DTqUc5GSX2r9kmBV5sjmQ)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



Vase and cover. Cream coloured earthenware 'Queen's Ware' with applied decoration.  
Circa 1765.  
V&A/Wedgwood Collection, World of Wedgwood,  
Barlaston

## Advice on Signing in For November's Zoom Lecture

Any member wishing to participate in CCC lectures via Zoom webinar next month and for the remainder of the season must have his or her own Zoom account and Zoom password. Once you have your own account, and after clicking on the Zoom link sent to you, you may be asked for your email address and zip code or your own Zoom passcode, not the passcode for that particular lecture. After you've entered the appropriate information, you'll be ushered into the waiting room and admitted by the Zoom administrator for the meeting.

So: 1. Open a personal Zoom account and keep your password handy when ready to click on the lecture's Zoom link;  
2. Start the process at about 1:50 p.m., in order to allow time for the signing in process.

## Addition and Correction for CCC Directory

Please add the following member's information to your CCC Directory:

Jane Brooks  
6 Jofran Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830  
jpb06830 203.340.9526

The correct telephone number for Susan Hut is 203.253.7430. Thank you.

## Very Important! Join Facebook and Instagram!

Yes, the time has come for even the most reluctant to join the social media world of Facebook and Instagram in order to help promote the Connecticut Ceramics Circle to the wider world!

Really, it isn't painful! And your editor can attest to enjoying, not only the posts of

our own organization so skillfully placed by board member Linda Green, but the posts of many museums, antiques organizations and publications, as well as artists. Especially now, when mobility is so restricted, it's like a visit to several different parts of the world every day.

Setting up an account with each of these entities is very simple to do: just put "facebook.com" and then "instagram.com" in your search bar, and, once on their site, create an account with a username and password of your choosing. Then, when you are in Facebook or Instagram, search for "Connecticut Ceramics Circle" and follow us.

When you see our posts in your feed, please "like" us, make comments, and urge your friends to do the same. If you click on the hashtags (#) below our posting in Instagram, you'll find yourself on other interesting institutions' accounts, which you might also enjoy following. It's a win-win situation for you as a member and for the CCC as a group, so thank you for your help!



Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795) painted by George Stubbs (1724 - 1806)  
Painted on a ceramic plaque  
V&A/Wedgwood Collection, World of Wedgwood

## Save the Date: Thursday, November 19 Zoom Lecture from the Pottery and Porcelain Club of Rhode Island

On Thursday, November 19 at 11:00 a.m., Martin Eidelberg, Rutgers University Professor Emeritus and Ceramics Expert, will speak about "American Ceramics 1900: Nationalism and Internationalism" to the Pottery and Porcelain Club of Rhode Island. CCC members will be invited to attend via Zoom, and the link will be sent in advance of the date.

## A Passion for Porcelain: Essays in Honor of Meredith Chilton

A new book, edited by Karine Tsoumis and Vanessa Sigalas, and the Gardiner Museum in association with Arnoldsche was published in April 2020 to honor retiring founding curator of the Gardiner Museum, Meredith Chilton CBE.

*A Passion for Porcelain: Essays in Honor of Meredith Chilton* consists of papers by leading scholars from an international symposium at the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, Toronto. The papers discuss porcelain as artistic rivalry and gift exchange, as an object of fashion and scientific curiosity, and as a symbol of status and power. A wonderful exploration of multiple aspects of porcelain!

Available from ACC Art Books at \$50 at ACC Art Books, 6 West 18th Street, Suite 4B, New York, NY 10011 [ussales@accartbooks.com](mailto:ussales@accartbooks.com). Hardback, 208pp. ISBN 9783897905849.

## Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

Museums that are now open with safe viewing practices in place:

Asia Society, New York City (as of 10/27)

Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, Massachusetts

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City

The Museum of Arts and Design, New York City

The Museum of the City of New York

The Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut

Winterthur, Winterthur, Delaware

For sources of knowledge and entertainment, have you explored the website of Sotheby's, Christie's, Bonham's, Phillips and Doyle's auction houses yet?



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**Our mailing address is:**

c/o Irene Willis, 14 Bryon Road, Old Greenwich, Connecticut 06870