



# CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

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## **"Enlightenment in the Staffordshire Potteries"**

**Phyllis Simons Memorial Lecture by**

**Nicholas Dawes, Senior Vice President of Special  
Collections, Heritage Auctions, New York City**

On Monday, November 11, Nicholas Dawes will address the CCSC on the Age of Enlightenment and how it played out in the Staffordshire Potteries. The 'Age of Enlightenment' is commonly portrayed through the eyes of architects, scientists, fine artists or philosophers, and centered on luminary cities of northern Europe, but the cluster of small towns around Stoke-on-Trent in the English Midlands held their own in this important era. The Staffordshire Potteries created and nurtured a unique brand of enlightenment, evident in artistic and technical virtuosity, and embodied in the works and values of men like Josiah Wedgwood I. Nick Dawes traces the movement's evolution from the mid-Georgian years into the dawn of the Victorian era.



*Staffordshire 'Historical Blue' Pearl-Glazed Earthenware Platter, James & Ralph Clews, Cobridge, England, circa 1824-25, transfer-printed in underglaze blue with 'The Landing of Gen[eral] Lafayette at Castle Garden in New York, 16th August 1824'. L. 17". (View taken from October 1824 print by Samuel Maverick, New York).*

Nicholas Dawes grew up in the Staffordshire Potteries and moved to New York in 1979 where, in addition to his role with Heritage Auctions, he is Chairman and CEO of Salmagundi, New York's oldest art club, founded in 1871. He has worked as an auctioneer, appraiser, author, antiques dealer and faculty member at Parsons School of Design, is a former head of Ceramics and Glass at Phillips Auctioneers, and a former specialist and auctioneer at Sotheby's. Nick is the author of four standard works on decorative arts and is considered this country's leading authority on the work of René Lalique. He is familiar to many through regular appearances as an expert appraiser for PBS 'Antiques Roadshow' since the first series in 1996.

The lecture will take place at 1:15 p.m. on Monday, November 11 at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut 06870. Tea will follow the lecture, and guests are welcome. For information, go to [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org) or call 203.912.7226.

### Exhibit of Chinese Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Through January 5, 2020, "Another World Lies Beyond: Chinese Art and the Divine" will be on display at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The exhibit features more than 140 works, most from The Met's own collection, but includes a striking 7' tall painting of the bodhisattva Guanyin on loan. Imagery of the divine is displayed in many mediums: scroll paintings, rubbings, woodblock prints, sculpted wood, bronze statuary, jade carvings, ceramics, lacquerware and weavings. The exhibit is a must-see for devotees of Chinese art. Go to [metmuseum.org](http://metmuseum.org) for more information.



Wedgwood 'Queen's Ware' (Creamware) Oval Soup Tureen, Cover and Stand, Etruria, Staffordshire, circa 1780-1800. H. 10 1/4", L. 16 1/4". Painted in sepia with various neoclassical-style borders.

## New Museum to Open in St. Petersburg, Florida, December 2019

A new museum, The Museum of the American Arts and Crafts Movement, is currently scheduled to open on December 10 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The museum's construction and opening have been much delayed; however, once open, it will house 2,000 objects from the early 20th century, the collection of Rodolfo "Rudy" Ciccarello and considered to be the most important private collection in the world.

The museum, at 355 Fourth St. N, will encompass a store, a café, a restaurant, a research library, an auditorium, a graphic studio, an education studio, an event space and a park, in addition to galleries displaying pieces of American Arts and Crafts. Winter visitors to the Tampa Bay area will have a major new museum to investigate!

## Auction Houses Offer an Online Method to Consign

As described in an article in the New York Times on September 24, both Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses now offer online facilities for would-be sellers to upload items for consignment via computer. The article described several items consigned in this manner that received multi-million dollar sale prices at auction, among them a Ming dynasty ewer sold by Sotheby's for \$3.1 million in 2018.

Apparently, buyers for Chinese works of art are more numerous than sellers, and the online facility has helped to increase the latter group and feed the demand for precious art works from China. Consult the website for Christie's ([christies.com](http://christies.com)) and Sotheby's ([sothebys.com](http://sothebys.com)) if this means of consignment is of interest.



*Pair of Wedgwood Black Basalt Oil Lamps and Covers: 'Reading' and 'Vestal,' probably early 19th Century. H. 8 1/2" [or 9"]. The female figures are thought to have been modeled by William Keeling, circa 1773, but these oil lamps were a popular model made as late as the 1920s.*

## Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

November 4: "The King's Peas," Curator Talk and Book Launch by Meredith Chilton, former chief curator, Gardiner Museum. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Gardiner Museum, Toronto. For information and reservations, go to [gardinermuseum.on.ca/events/](http://gardinermuseum.on.ca/events/).

November 6: "Eva Zeisel: Designing in the Air," collection viewing and workshop. Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 2 East 91st Street, New York, New York. Tickets (\$15/\$8) at [cooperhewitt.org/event/](http://cooperhewitt.org/event/).

November 11: "Enlightenment in the Staffordshire Potteries," Phyllis Simons Memorial Lecture, by Nicholas Dawes, Senior Vice President of Special Collections, Heritage Auctions, New York, New York. CCSC, 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information at [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org) or at 203.912.7226.

November 14: "New American Scenery: Transferware for the 21st Century." Lecture by Paul Scott, Cumbrian-based ceramic artist, author, curator, gardener, Cumbria, England. Pottery and Porcelain Club of Rhode Island, 11:00 a.m., Museum of Art of the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island. Contact [daisy.schnepel@verizon.net](mailto:daisy.schnepel@verizon.net) for more information.

November 21: "Jingdezhen to Salem: Asian Export Porcelain at the New PEM." Lecture by Lan Morgan, Assistant Curator, Exhibitions and Research, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts. Ceramics Study Club of Boston, 1:00 p.m., King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. For information and to register, go to [chinastudentsclub.org](http://chinastudentsclub.org).

December 6: "Fit for a King: Augustus the Strong's Porcelain in the Arnhold Collection." Lecture by Charlotte Vignon, Curator of Decorative Arts, The Frick Collection. 2:00 p.m., The Frick Collection, 1 East 70th Street, New York, New York. Tickets (\$100/\$90) at [frick.org/programs/lectures](http://frick.org/programs/lectures).

December 9: "The Art of Libation in Classical Athens." Lecture by Milette Gaifman, Associate Professor of Greek Art and Archeology, Department of Classics and History of Art, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. CCSC, 1:15 p.m., The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information at [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org) or at 203.912.7226.



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