



CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

NEWSLETTER VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER 7 APRIL 2018

2018 SEMINAR:

The Most Beautiful, Useful and Uncommon: Sir Hans Sloane's Botanical Treasures on Chelsea Porcelain



Chelsea Plate, c. 1755-7, painted with *Dodecatheon Meadia*,
red anchor mark, 21.6 cm. Private Collection

By Sally Kevill-Davies, Independent Scholar, Researcher and Writer

On Monday, April 9, the CCSC will hold its annual Seminar from 9:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich. In the Seminar's three lectures, Ms. Kevill-Davies will take us to the very beginnings of porcelain in England:

"Triumph and Disaster: Nicholas Sprimont's Chelsea Porcelain Manufactory (1745-69)." Probably the first porcelain manufactory in England, the Chelsea Factory in London was the creation of Nicholas Sprimont (1716-1771), a Huguenot goldsmith from Liège, Belgium. His factory's ceramics, with contributions from his innovative painter and sculptor Joseph Willems, were the choice of high society in both London and the great country houses of

England.

“A New World Flowering on Chelsea Porcelain: Transatlantic Botanical Exchanges and the Chelsea ‘Hans Sloane’ Wares.” The Chelsea porcelain botanical wares, associated with the name of Sir Hans Sloane, are among the most popular of the factory’s products today and were a huge success during the mid-1750s when they were produced. Drawings by Georg Ehret of the plants, later engraved and then copied by the Chelsea factory artists, are explored.

“Visions of Arcadia and America: The English Aristocracy, the Landscape Garden and Chelsea Botanical Porcelain.” The Enlightenment passion for nature resulted in a new fashion in landscaping, an idealized vision of nature. There was also a new fascination with recently discovered American trees and shrubs. This phenomenon was translated into wares painted with images of the imported plant life, particularly those used at “polite” desserts.

A delicious box lunch will be served between the second and third lectures. All those who haven't already signed up for the Seminar should contact Marilyn Chou immediately at 203-863-9655 or at marylin.chou@gmail.com for information on attending. Don't miss this splendid event, a highlight of the CCSC season!

Interesting Auction News

In Salisbury, England at the end of February, an old teapot with its lid missing and with a repaired handle sold at auction for 575,000 pounds with fees, or about \$806,000. A top price for a piece in not perfect condition! What led the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to pursue purchasing the pot was the recently discovered knowledge that it had been made in South Carolina in the late 1760s. This date precedes the earliest known American wares thought to have been made, those from Philadelphia made between 1770 and 1772. The potter, John Bartlam, was Staffordshire-trained and produced blue-and-white decorated soft paste porcelain at the Cain Hoy factory in South Carolina. The pot, in fact, bears decoration of two sandhill cranes beneath a Sabal palm tree, both indigenous to South Carolina. Look for its eventual appearance at the Met in New York!

The CCSC Board Invites Your Involvement!

As former president Janice Rabinowitz stated at the March CCSC meeting, the board welcomes involvement from members and is actively seeking volunteers for various board positions for next year. Please consider joining the group that makes it all happen! Communicate your interest to Janice at the April meeting or contact her at atjrabi32@gmail.com.

Gardiner Museum of Toronto Announces New Chief Curator

The Gardiner Museum of Toronto, the sole North American ceramics museum, recently announced the appointment of a new chief curator, and he turns out to be a familiar face to many CCSC members, Sequoia Miller. Mr. Miller lectured to the CCSC in December 2016 on "Ceramic Sculpture in Post-War American Art." In that connection, he very generously gave a fascinating gallery tour at the Yale University Art Gallery of the exhibit he had curated there. Mr. Miller is the most recent recipient of the CCSC research grant, and the CCSC congratulates him on his appointment!



A Chelsea Etui, London, c. 1765, porcelain, 4 ¼" high, top in form of bust of man.
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. 64.10168a

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

April 1: "Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art: The Birth of a New Museum." Lecture by Sandra K. Edwards, Deputy Director of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m., the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information and reservations at atgreenwichdecorativeartssociety@gmail.com.

April 9: The Most Beautiful, Useful and Uncommon: Sir Hans Sloane's Botanical Treasures on Chelsea Porcelain. Seminar: Three lectures by Sally Kevill-Davies, independent scholar, researcher and writer, London, England. CCSC, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut 06870. For information, call 203.863.9655 or email marylin.chou@gmail.com.

April 15: Sally Kevill-Davies will speak on Chelsea Porcelain figures. San Francisco Ceramic Circle, 9:45 a.m., Gunn Theater, Legion of Honor, San Francisco, California. Information at www.patricianantiques.com/sfcc.

April 17: "The First Emperor, the Chinese Empire and the Wider World: Art and Material Culture of the Qin Dynasty." Lecture: Jason Sun, Brooke Russell Astor Curator of Chinese Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art. Bard Graduate Center, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., 38 West 86th Street, New York, New York. Information and sign up at bgc.bard.edu/events and at 212.501.3010.

April 18: "Chelsea Botanical Porcelain and the Rise of the Landscape Garden." Lecture by Sally Kevill-Davies, independent scholar, London, England. Ceramics Study Club of Boston, 1:00 p.m. at King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Information at ceramicsstudyclub.org.

April 19: "Chelsea Botanical Porcelain and the Rise of the Landscape Garden." Lecture by Sally Kevill-Davies, independent scholar, London, England. Pottery and Porcelain Club, 2:00 p.m. Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island. For information and to register, potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com.

April 26-27: Winterthur Presents: Ceramics Up Close: Hands-On Study Days. Winterthur, Delaware. Information and registration at www.winterthur.org, or at 800.448.3883.

May 2: "New Discoveries in American Majolica." Lecture by Laura Microulis, Research Associate, Bard Graduate Center. Bard Graduate Center, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., 38 West 86th Street, New York, New York. Information and sign up at bgc.bard.edu/events and at 212.501.3010.

May 14: "A Delectable Dessert: A Late 18th-Century Dessert Table at the Gardiner Museum." Lecture by Meredith Chilton, independent consultant and researcher, former chief curator, the Gardiner Museum, Toronto. Canada. CCSC, 1:15 p.m., the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. For information, call 203.912.7226 or visit ctcsc.org.

May 19: Connoisseurship and Artful Deceptions: Understanding 18-Century English Ceramics. Day-long decorative arts forum at Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, Massachusetts. For information and to register, go to www.historic-deerfield.org/event.

May 24: "It's About the Clay: The American 20th-Century Studio Pottery Movement." Annual meeting, tea and lecture by Martha Vida, Executive Director, The Marks Project, Riverside, Connecticut. Ceramics Study Club of Boston, 1:00 p.m. at King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Information at ceramicsstudyclub.org.



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