



CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

URGENT! CHANGE OF VENUE! THE OCTOBER 24 MEETING IS TO BE HELD AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 108 SOUND BEACH AVENUE, OLD GREENWICH! DIRECTIONS TO REACH THE CHURCH CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 3

Old Friends, New Directions: European Ceramics at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

By Thomas Michie

Curator of European Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA



Console table, Alcorta manufactory, tin-glazed earthenware with enamel decoration, about 1761-63. 38 1/2" x 52 1/2" x 39". Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Henry H. and Zoe Oliver Sherman Fund.

Thomas Michie was to have spoken to us last February, but was unable to do so because of a medical emergency. On Monday, October 24, we are delighted to welcome him to the CCSC to speak to us about gallery renovations at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The renovations have created exciting opportunities for improved and expanded displays of the museum's renowned collection of European ceramics, which are gradually being integrated into galleries with paintings, sculpture and furniture. The 2006 bequest of the Edward M. Pflueger Collection transformed the Museum's holdings of Meissen porcelain, as well as the Museum's collection of porcelain figures and faïence from many other Continental factories. Nine large-scale Meissen birds and vases, made originally for the Japanese Palace in Dresden of Augustus the Strong (1670-1733), the Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, stand at the center of a new gallery devoted to 18th century European art. For the first time in a decade, early English porcelain from the collections of Richard Paine of Boston and Jessie and Sigmund Katz of New Orleans take pride of place in a suite of three new galleries devoted to British art, including two reinstalled period rooms. To coincide with the refurbishing of the Dutch gallery, the MFA acquired the G. Ephes Collection of Delft faïence, one of the finest in private hands. Selections are now displayed in the context of Rembrandt and other Dutch masters. Finally, the recent opening of a *Kunstammer* gallery, or cabinet of curiosities, provided a new context for important examples of French and Italian Renaissance ceramics. This talk provides an introduction to the MFA's rich holdings of European porcelain and faïence and the process of designing these improved displays in the renovated galleries.



Ecuelle and oval stand,
Vincennes manufactory, soft-
paste porcelain with enamel and
gilded decoration, 1754-55.
Bowl: 6 x 8 3/8 in. Stand: 12 3/8 x
9 1/4 in. Museum of Fine Arts,
Boston. Gift of Rita and Frits
Markus.

Thomas S. Michie is the Russell B. and Andrée Beauchamp Sterns Senior Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture in the Art of Europe Department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He came to the MFA in 2009 after serving as Curator of Decorative Arts and Design at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2005-2009) and Curator of European and American Decorative Arts at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, R. I. (1984-2004). Since 2010, he has overseen a dozen recent gallery renovations at the MFA and the installation of two British period rooms. He is a co-curator of "Europe in the Age of Casanova," scheduled to open at the MFA in 2017.

Clay Art Center's 9th Annual Fundraiser Honors CCSC's Own Martha Vida

Hand in Hand: A Celebration of Clay & Community, on Thursday, October 20 at the Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, New York will honor Anne and Bill Owen, Harriet Ross and CCSC's former president and long-time board member and whose design talents we currently treasure, Martha Vida. The event, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. will feature tastings from local restaurants, live music, silent and live auctions and time spent with a community of art lovers. It promises to be a fun evening! Proceeds benefit Clay Art Center's programs, youth scholarships, and artists-in-residence. Mark this event on your calendars and visit www.clayartcenter.org for ticket information.

Save the Date for Exciting Symposium at The Frick Collection

On the occasion of the inaugural edition of TEFAF NEW YORK Fall at the Park Avenue Armory in New York from October 21 to 26, the Munich antiques dealer Röbbig - München is sponsoring a Symposium on Tuesday, October 25, "From Invention to Perfection," at The Frick Collection from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., free and open to the public, with the following stellar, internationally renowned lecturers and their topics:

Meredith Chilton, Chief curator of the Gardiner Museum, Toronto: *A Delectable Dessert: The Making of the Late Eighteenth-century Dessert Table at the Gardiner Museum, Toronto*

Professor Dr. Hans Ottomeyer, former president of the German Historical Museum, Berlin: *From Invention to Perfection -- New Styles and Display in the Century of Enlightenment*

Dr. Max Tillmann, independent curator and expert on the arts of 18th century Europe: *Banker, Collector, Amateur, Publisher and Furniture Designer -- the Polyvalent Personality of Jean-Henri Eberts in Late 18th century Paris*

Dr. Julia Weber, director of the porcelain collection, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden: *Challenging the Emperor of China -- Augustus the Strong and his Porcelain Collection in the Japanese Palace in Dresden*

Registration is required: symposium@roebbig.de The symposium will be followed by a cocktail reception at TEFAF booth 14 at the Park Avenue Armory.

Directions to October 24 Meeting Venue

When the Bruce Museum suddenly became unavailable for the CCSC meeting on October 24, Board members quickly found a number of potential alternatives, of which the First Congregational Church of Greenwich located at 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich 06870 was the best. We are very happy that they have invited us to use their Fellowship Hall for Mr. Michie's lecture at 1:15 p.m. on Monday, October 24. Following are directions to find your way there:

From the east or west, take I-95 to Exit 5 (Riverside/Old Greenwich).

At the end of the ramp, turn right onto US 1 (also known as Boston Post Road and East Putnam Avenue).

At the first light on US 1, turn right onto Sound Beach Avenue.

Follow Sound Beach Avenue past the first rotary.

Bear right and take the first left onto Forrest Avenue.

Take the first driveway on the right into the church parking lot.

The telephone number is (203) 637-1791. We look forward to seeing you there!

American Ceramic Circle Symposium, Hartford, CT, November 3-6

This fall, the annual ACC Symposium will be hosted in Connecticut by the Wadsworth Atheneum, the longest continuously running public museum in America and not a very long trip from Fairfield County at all! There will be pre-Symposium visits to museums and a studio on Thursday, November 3 and post-Symposium visits will occur on Sunday, November 6. During the Symposium on Friday and Saturday, November 4-5, participants will have the opportunity to discover the Wadsworth Atheneum's beautifully newly installed collections. Distinguished speakers from the US and abroad will discuss topics as varied as "A Force of Nature": John Pierpont Morgan's Collection of Italian Maiolica" and "Copying and Counterfeiting in China's Porcelain Capital from the 14th Century to the Present." Visit www.americanceramiccircle.org for more information about and to sign up for this stimulating weekend in Hartford and beyond!

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

September 17: "Deciphering the Obelisk: Obsession Helps Break the Hieroglyphic Code." Speaker: Professor Bob Brier, senior research fellow at Long Island University. Archeological Association of Greenwich, 2:00 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. Non-member admission \$20. Information (203) 663-4654.

September 23: "Much Improved in Fashion, Neatness and Utility - Philadelphia Made Ceramics 1700-1810." Lecture and workshop at Stenton, Philadelphia, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Registration, information and directions via email at programs@stenton.org or at www.Stenton.org and at (215) 320-7312.

October 7: Auction of English Pottery and Porcelain, Skinner Boston. Previews October 5 and 6. Information from Stuart Slavid at sslavid@skinnerinc.org or at (508) 970-3278.

October 8-10: Clay Way Studio Tour: Annual Litchfield County Clay Artists' Trail. Litchfield County, CT. For more information and map: www.clayway.net or (203) 528-5828.

October 15: "Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Oplontis: New Archaeological Research in the Shadow of Vesuvius." Speaker: Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow, professor and chair, Department of Classical Studies, Brandeis University. Archeological Association of Greenwich. See September 17 for time, location, cost and information details.

October 17: "Visitors to Versailles 1692-1789." Speaker: Danielle Kisluk-Grosheide, curator of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Metropolitan Museum of Art. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. For reservations, email greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com.

October 20: "Hand in Hand: A Celebration of Clay & Community." Ninth annual fundraiser, Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. For reservations and tickets, go to www.clayartcenter.org.

October 22: "Displaying Ceramics in New Museums of Islamic Art." Speaker: Walter Denny, Ph. D., professor of art history and mideastern studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Pottery and Porcelain Club, 2:00 p.m., Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, Benefit Street, Providence, RI. Information at www.potteryandporcelainclub.org

October 24: "Old Friends, New Directions: European Ceramics from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston." Speaker: Thomas Michie, Russell B. and Andréé Beauchamp Sterns Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA. Connecticut Ceramics Study Circle, 1:15 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870. Information at (203) 531-6831 and www.ctcsc.org.

October 25: Symposium, "From Invention to Perfection." Four lectures at The Frick Collection, 10 East 60th Street, New York, NY. No cost, registration required at symposium@roebbig.de.

November 1: Deadline for abstracts of papers to be presented at a two-day conference on "Private Collecting and Public Display: Art Markets and Museums," March 30-31, 2017, at the University of Leeds Centre for the Study of the Art and Antiques Market, U. K. Proposals to case@leedsac.uk.

November 3-6: Symposium, American Ceramic Circle at the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT. Information and registration at www.americanceramiccircle.org.

November 7: "Georgia O'Keeffe and the Women Artists, Photographers and Collectors of the Stieglitz Circle." Lecture: Lisa M. Messinger, independent scholar and retired curator of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. For reservations, email greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com.

November 12: "Archaeology, Climate Change and Human Society, or How the Past Can Help Us Understand the Present." Speaker: Andrew M. T. Moore, President of the Archaeological Institute of America. Archeological Association of Greenwich. See September 17 listing for time, location, cost and information details.

November 12: "Ceramics and the Art Nouveau and Art Deco Movements." Speaker: Nicholas M. Dawes, vice-president of Special Collections, Heritage Auction Galleries. Pottery and Porcelain Club, 2:00 p.m.. Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, Benefit Street, Providence, RI. Information at www.potteryandporcelainclub.org.

November 14: "Global by Design: Chinese Ceramics from the R. Albuquerque Collection." Speaker: Denise Leidy, former Brooke Russell Astor Curator of Chinese Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and now the Ruth and Bruce Dayton Curator at the Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT. Connecticut Ceramics Study Circle, 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. Information at (203) 531-6831 or at www.ctcsc.org.



*Dish with Red Glaze, Ming Chenghua,
Rockefeller Collection, New York*

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