

THE COTSWOLDS DECORATIVE, ANTIQUES & ART FAIR

Westonbirt School, Westonbirt, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, GL8 6QG

12th – 14th April 2019



The story of a group of Quakers working in South Wales who produced a range of furniture inspired by the Arts & Crafts movement will be recalled at The Cotswolds Decorative, Antiques & Art Fair at Westonbirt School, near Tetbury from 12th – 14th April 2019.

Exhibitor Martin Lister of InVogue Antiques (*shown here*) will be offering for sale a distinctive oak dining table and set of chairs made by the now famous Brynmawr Furniture Makers in South Wales. Set up in the wake of the Great Depression of 1929, which badly affected Brynmawr, formerly a prosperous mining town, the story of the furniture factory has gone down in history.



In 1928-29 a group of Quakers arrived in the town to encourage industry and employment. In 1930, they were joined by Paul Matt, the son of a German cabinet maker. A trained designer and a man of vision and energy, he raised £6,000 to establish a furniture business. The local workers lacked skills, so Matt designed a range of simple, sturdy furniture. Soon a Quaker school in York ordered 200 chairs and production began.

Matt designed a variety of pieces for the dining room, bedroom, sitting room and study and drew on his experience as a designer in London during the 1920's. During that time, he had worked with followers of the Russell Brothers and he was greatly influenced by the simplicity of their designs which were in keeping with the fashion of the day.

Oak was used as there were excess supplies available in Cardiff and later a high quality laminated Australian walnut was acquired. Finished items were relatively expensive and sold in department stores such as Morgan's in Cardiff and Lewis's in Birmingham and Manchester and at specialist exhibitions across the country.

In 1936 Paul Matt left the company and was succeeded by his assistant, Arthur Basil Reynolds. Importing materials became difficult after the onset of World War II and the demand for high quality furniture rapidly declined forcing the Brynmawr Furniture Company to close its doors in 1940.

Continued.../

Some months after the closure, the War Government commissioned a large number of desks from Brynmawr but it was too late to save the factory. Today, books have been written about Brynmawr furniture and it is becoming widely appreciated and collected.

InVogue Antiques' oak dining table will be priced at £1,750 and the set of chairs at £895. Says Martin Lister: 'I've been selling Brynmawr furniture because it's so well made, simply designed and has a contemporary appeal. Prices are rising and now certainly seems to be a good time to acquire examples that are both practical and aesthetically appealing.'

The Cotswolds Decorative, Antiques & Art Fair features fine art and antiques specialists from across the UK and is the place to buy everything including the most traditional antique pieces to the latest in decorative chic style.

Says organiser Sue Ede: 'This is where people come to decorate and furnish their homes in their own personal style. Mixing and matching antique and contemporary with Mid-Century accessories, fine art, sculpture and furniture from the past centuries. The fair has something for everyone.'

Collectors wanting a special treat will also find specialist jewellers offering fine traditional pieces and a range of 20th century glittering costume accessories.



The Cotswolds Decorative, Antiques & Art Fair takes place in the atmospheric setting of Westonbirt House, now a prestigious school, occupying the Great Hall, Orangery and adjoining rooms. Stylish antiques, superb paintings, decorative delights and all kinds of rare and unusual antique treasures go on sale with prices from less than £20 to more than £20,000. Approximately 40 dealers offer plenty of choice for interior designers and the seasoned and first-time collectors. In addition, there is a range of exquisite personal gifts including antique jewellery, watches, mid-20th century designer jewellery and accessories.

Among the exhibitors taking part will be Deco Dave, specialising in Twentieth century lighting and ceramics; Rug Addiction with Persian and Oriental carpets, Garret & Hurst Sculpture, vintage fashion and costume jewellery specialist Twentieth Century Glamour, fine jewellers Plaza; Roger De Ville with early English pottery; and Paul Burnett Antique Interiors.

Public Admission is £5.00.

Open Times: Friday - Sunday 11.00am-5.00pm

The fair is organised by: Cooper Events, Somerset TA8 1BU. Tel: 01278 784912.

www.cooperevents.com. info@cooperevents.com

Facebook: [coopersantiques.fairs](https://www.facebook.com/coopersantiques.fairs) Twitter: [@CooperAntiques](https://twitter.com/CooperAntiques)