

## THE PAVILIONS OF HARROGATE DECORATIVE, ANTIQUES & ART FAIR

Railway Road, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate HG2 8NZ  
29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021

### Faience Plaque Recalls Role Played by Women Artists in Arts & Crafts Movement

An important faience plaque painted by Catherine Sparkes, a major contributor to the development of Faience pottery for Doulton Lambeth, will be going on sale at The Pavilions of Harrogate Decorative Antiques & Fine Art Fair at The Great Yorkshire Showground, from 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

Belonging to Tom Parry of Chester's Farm Antiques from the Midlands, the plaque is described as a fine example of the quality of work being produced by women artists in the 1870's. Catherine Adelaide Sparkes (1842-1910) played an important role in the history of the Doulton Lambeth Art Pottery and women's art of the late 19th century.



The earthenware charger is painted with an Arts and Crafts style border, with a scene showing entitled *The Cowslip Ball* and depicting children constructing a cowslip ball made from cowslip flowers bound tightly together into a ball. The charger is signed by Sparkes with her monogram and is dated 1877 on the painting, her full name on the back with the title of the scene. The charger measures 52.5cm in diameter and will be on sale at £675.00.

Catherine Sparkes was the wife of John Sparkes, who as a young art teacher had been a key figure in the development of the Doulton Lambeth Art pottery, and also fostered the talents of potters such as George Tinworth and Robert Wallace Martin. At the time this charger was painted, John Sparkes had recently been appointed Headmaster at the National Art Training School in South Kensington. He had also designed many items for Doulton in the pottery's early years, and the life of the Lambeth School of Art and Doulton had become symbiotic. Catherine had been a student of Sparkes at the Lambeth School of Art, and worked as a freelance artist and designer, producing book illustrations and stage sets as well as working for Doulton. Her husband helped to introduce the idea of faience pottery to Doulton, and in 1876 Catherine painted a large faience tile panel showing the *Pilgrim Fathers*, which was exhibited by Doulton on their stand at the Philadelphia Exhibition.

Catherine died in 1891, 16 years before her husband, and he bequeathed his whole estate in Surrey to a fund for the Royal Academy devoted to women artists and students. Both as a devoted husband and a teacher of the many talented women who worked for Doulton, Sparkes knew how difficult it was for women of his time to follow an artistic career. When this charger was painted, Doulton faience was still in relative infancy, although experiments had been going on for a few years. Earthenware blanks had been purchased first from Pinder, Bourne & Co in Burslem, Staffordshire and then from 1877 from Doulton in the same town.

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The Pavilions of Harrogate Decorative Antiques & Fine Art Fair features many more pieces including a fine collection of English furniture belonging to Harrogate dealers Elaine Phillips Antiques. Proprietor Louise Phillips, currently Chairman of the BADA, will be showing several eye-catching pieces including an unusual 19<sup>th</sup> century ladder-back armchair decorated with rural scenes painted on each ladder (£650); a late 18<sup>th</sup> century Italian carved pediment with fine foliate carving and decorated with silver-leaf, 104cms wide (£1,450) and an impressive set of four Carolean period walnut side chairs, circa 1860 (£2,500).

Also on sale will be collection of rare German studio pottery belong to East Yorkshire specialist Michael Lines of John Newton Antiques. While East German lava pottery is not rare, pieces from John Newton Antiques come from many of the finest post-war German studio art potters and are now much sought after by collectors. Among pieces for sale will be an impressive cobalt glazed wine jug with graffito decoration made in the Höhr Grenzhausen studios of Elfriede Balzar Kopp (1904-1983) and dating from around 1970. It will be priced at £345.00.

This will be the second antiques fair of the year for the The Pavilions at the Great Yorkshire Showground following a very successful reopening in June. 'Collectors are back in force,' says fair organiser Sue Ede.



*Italian carved pediment from Elaine Phillips Antiques*

'The fair is very popular because we provide such a wide range of pieces, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from classic and traditional art, antiques and jewellery to Mid-Century Modern and decorative designer pieces.'

With a vast range of high-quality pieces for sale, at prices from £20 to £20,000, the fair has something for everyone. Several Yorkshire dealers always take part, including several from Harrogate.

The Pavilions of Harrogate Fair brings together many dealers from the north of England. Jack Shaw and Highland antiques sells fine English and Scottish silver; Mark Buckley offers 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century traditional furniture; Melody Antiques offer English country furniture and Ellis Fine Art has oil paintings and fine furniture.

From Harrogate, Walker Galleries and Sutcliffe Galleries and show fine paintings, From Ludlow, Rowles Fine Art offer paintings and sculpture; and from Gloucestershire, Paul Burnett Antiques & Interiors show a range of decorative furnishings and unusual collector's items. Also showing will be the jewellery specialists Plaza and Shapiro & Co; and porcelain specialists Bottlebrook Antiques.

Public Admission is £5.00.

Open Times: Friday - Sunday 11am-5.00pm

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

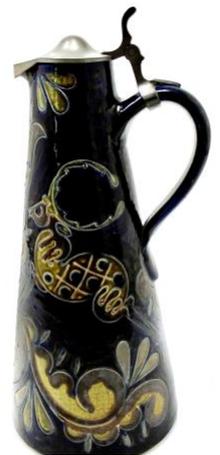
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Duncan Phillips, Somerset TA19 0LR.

Tel: UK 01460 359782. [Duncan@antiquespr.com](mailto:Duncan@antiquespr.com) \ [www.antiquespr.com](http://www.antiquespr.com)



*German wine jug circa 1970. From John Newton Antiques*