

ANTIQUES

FOR EVERYONE SUMMER

ART, DECORATIVE & INTERIORS

Press Information 2016
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The History of Birmingham's Pen Trade On Display at the Summer Antiques for Everyone Fair

21 - 24 July 2016

Halls 18-19, NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT

The history of Birmingham's highly successful pen trade will feature in a special exhibition going on display at the summer Antiques for Everyone fair at the NEC, Birmingham from 21 - 24 July 2016.

This fascinating exhibition will be presented by Birmingham's Pen Museum and will celebrate the lives of the manufacturers and workers whose expertise placed the city at the centre of the trade in the 19th century. At the height of pen manufacture, seventy-five percent of every hand-written item in the world was done with a Birmingham-made pen.

The exhibition will also feature a selection of pieces from the Writing Equipment Society that will include a rare silver repoussé snail engraved eyedropper pen hall marked for 1907/8 by Alfred George Harley, Pencil Case Maker of 26 Spencer Street in the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter. While many pens are engraved, either with the owner's name or as an advertising piece, this Waterman pen from June 1917 was presented to a William S. Silver from 'The Orphans of New York'. The intriguing story of this unusual piece will be explained as part of the Pen Display.

Antiques for Everyone brings together dealers and collectors from across the antiques market. Featuring exhibits totalling more than £10 million, this is a major event for collectors, art enthusiasts, interior decorators and anyone with an interest in the fine and decorative arts.

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*A display of pen nibs from
The Pen Museum*



Exhibits from The Pen Museum



*Box of pen nibs - exhibits
from The Pen Museum*

Below: The Albert Works - Birmingham



The fair offers more than 200 specialist dealers, divided between two separate sections, with prices ranging from less than £20 to more than £20,000.

‘The fair is recognised as an important event attracting both trade and private buyers from the UK and abroad,’ explains Fair Director Mary Claire Boyd from Clarion Events. ‘Visitors are enticed by the wonderful selection and diverse range of pieces available to buy, giving them the opportunity to delve into a treasure trove of inspiring craftsmanship and fabulous design.’

American buyers are also regular visitors, finding plenty of attractively priced items, from fine English furniture, early pottery and silver to 20th century decorative art and sculpture. The summer period also means the fair is a compulsive stop for many Italians, French, Germans and Scandinavian visitors to the UK. Designer 20th century Swedish ceramics, glass and furniture are all on sale, so too Russian and German silver and jewellery, French clocks and Austrian bronze sculpture.

The fair is designed to have a wide appeal, for both novice and experienced connoisseurs, occasional collectors and anyone seeking inspiration for home design and decoration. Exhibits are vetted by specialist panels of experts for date and condition and to ensure all items for sale are correctly labelled.

Pen Manufacturing in Birmingham

Birmingham’s Pen Museum is based in the famous Jewellery Quarter and celebrates the city’s thriving pen industry in the 19th century. The history of pen making begins in 1780 when Samuel Harrison of Birmingham produced one of the first handmade steel pens for the industrialist Joseph Priestly. By 1822 John Mitchell became established as one of the earliest manufacturers to have mass-produced pens using hand presses. In the 1830’s, Joseph Gillott, Josiah Mason and John & William Mitchell became major manufacturers in the area.

By the 1860’s there was about 100 companies involved in the trade, although twelve of the larger ones dominated the local area. Employing large numbers of women in purpose built factories these were centred in and around the Jewellery Quarter. By the 1880’s Birmingham was exporting pens to Three Quarters of the world. By 1913 the factories were producing around 1½ billion pen nibs in a 100,000 different varieties. In 1918 the Pen Workers Union was formed and also in that year the Pen Makers Association formed. In 1945 a change to wartime production of spring ammunition clips for bullets. The 1950’s saw the decline of the trade with the competition from fountain and ballpoint pens.

The Pen Museum will be mounting a display to celebrate this rich and fascinating heritage. In addition, a number of dealers will be offering for sale pens and writing accessories.

Antiques for Everyone Celebrity Talks

As usual, Antiques for Everyone hosts a series of talks presented by well-known experts from the antiques world, including authors and TV experts. These are presented free of charge to visitors as a daily added attraction.

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For July 2016, BBC Antiques Roadshow experts, Judith Miller, Will Farmer and new speaker Marc Allum, will be speaking, sharing their advice and top tips on what's hot in the current market.

Judith Miller Thursday 3pm; Friday-Sunday 1pm.

Will Farmer Friday-Sunday 4pm.

Marc Allum Saturday 3pm.

There will also be two talks for pen collectors and anyone with an interest in writing equipment:

Jeremy Collingridge Sunday 2.30pm - Inside the Nip of a Pen Collector

Jeremy is a pen collector and Charles Hanson's Auctions Writing Equipment Specialist.

John Berkeley OBE Friday 2.30pm. The Birmingham Pen Trade - New Opportunities for Collecting

John is Chairman of Brandauer Holdings Limited has been involved with the Birmingham Pen Museum since its inception and is the author of 'From Pens to Particle Physics', a history of Brandauer, the last of the major Victorian penmakers still wholly owned by the descendents of its co-founder.

Antiques for Everyone

Comments from exhibitors at the last Antiques for Everyone event, in April 2016:

'Antiques for Everyone is my favourite antiques fair - it's always busy and productive with thousands of interested people here to buy' - Judith Miller, Miller's Publications, celebrity speaker and Antiques Roadshow expert.

'It's a brilliant fair. We sell to Americans, Chinese and lots of regular collectors and sales have been rising strongly in recent years' - Erna Hiscock, from Hiscock & Shepherd, folk art and sampler specialists from Kent.

'I sell to to American collectors from New York and plenty of UK buyers. It's a fabulous fair' - Paul Kembury, Kembury Clocks, Gloucestershire.

The Exhibitors

Exhibitors come from across the UK to take stands at Antiques for Everyone. With two distinct sections, the fair provides an affordable marketplace for professional specialists across every subject area - from occasional dealers with linen and lace collectables to fine art and furniture specialists with rare and higher priced exhibits at more than £50,000.

English period furniture is always a major attraction. F.E. Anderson & Son take a large stand to showcase English provincial oak and country pieces, including farmhouse dressers, cupboards and tables. Melody Antiques return with a large selection of English and European farmhouse and country furniture. Jeroen Markies specialises in Art Deco furniture, lamps, and decorative items while Scandinavian by Design show mid-20th century designer furniture and lighting. Mark Buckley Antiques, Tim Saltwell Antiques, Twyford Antiques and Andrew Lovatt Antiques sell mostly elegant and practical 'town' furniture from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

Arts & Crafts, Art Deco and Art Nouveau furniture, statuary, figurines, mirrors, lighting, clocks, silver, ceramics, glass and other pieces featuring on a number of stands, notably Hickmet Fine Arts, Marion David Decorative Arts specialising in silver and bronzes, Deco Dave with lighting and James Strang with Scottish furniture and paintings. Buyers looking for period clocks and barometers will find Story Antique Clocks, Kembery Antique Clocks with a variety of English and French examples, while Alan Walker Antiques specialises in barometers. Fine silver features from a number of the country's major dealers, notably Mary Cooke Antiques, Jack Shaw & Co; Cotswold Collectables and S.& A.Marsh Antiques.

Jewellery is especially popular and there are numerous dealers including Henry Nicholls & Sons Antiques, Shapiro & Co, Plaza, T. Robert, D.B.Gems, Scarab, Anderson Jones, S.& A.Thompson and Trivette, among many others.

The fair is also very popular with pottery, porcelain and glass collectors who can buy from no fewer than forty respected dealers. Early English pottery features on the stand of Roger de Ville; while David & Sally March Antiques, Jupiter Antiques, Drove House Antiques, Bottlebrook Antiques, Mark & Sandra Diamond Antiques and Julian Eade all specialise in fine 18th and 19th century porcelain. Andrew Muir shows a superb range of Clarice Cliff and 20th century pieces and Wayne Hopton offers Moorcroft. Jeanette Hayhurst Antiques, Brian Watson Antique Glass, Mark J. West Antiques and M. & D. Moir show glass, ancient and modern.

Art is strongly represented by galleries with everything from 18th century portraits to contemporary illustrators. These include Saunders Fine Art, Cambridge Fine Art, Benton Fine Art and Ashleigh House Fine Art with Victorian and Continental paintings; Art World Gallery and Plumbs Fine Art, specialising in contemporary works; Graham Bentley Watercolours with 19th and 20th century works on paper and Art of the Imagination with contemporary illustrative art and sculpture. Among the many other specialists will be Solo Antiques, with French bronzes; Wigs on the Green with miniature portraits and silhouettes and Paul Eisler Antique Maps.

A comprehensive range of images is available.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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PUBLIC VISITOR INFORMATION

Clarion Events Tel: UK 0207 3847748.

Venue: Halls 18-19, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT. UK

Admission: £15.00, including free car parking.

In Advance: £12.00 for Adults and Senior Citizens from the Box Office Tel: 0844 581 0827. (Under 16's admitted free).

Public Open Times: Thurs-Sat 11am-6pm / Sun 11am-5pm

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