

English Ceramic Circle

Newsletter No 9

October 2020

President's Preamble

Welcome to ECC Newsletter No. 9. I hope that you and your families are all well as we live in these 'interesting times'. A big welcome to the 100 new members who have joined the ECC in 2020. This ECC Newsletter is published twice each year, usually in March and September. Previous Newsletters are available on the ECC website.

Sadly, we have had to stop our in- person ECC meetings. However, we are now holding ECC meetings with new research lectures online via Zoom so that they can be viewed by ECC members in the UK and around the world. We are also Zooming additional open meetings regularly for our members, for those from many other ceramic circles, and for people on Facebook and Instagram who have noted an interest in ceramics.

The reaction to these open lectures has been excellent and has led to our gaining many new members. We will continue to Zoom our talks for ECC members after the current shutdown is over.

Videos of all these lectures are being made available to ECC members only on our website with 13 now available. Just click on the 'Videos' tab and input the password: swansea01 (all in lowercase). Do not give out this password to non-members, just suggest that they join the circle! Two of the videos of talks are available to non-members on the website as an incentive to their becoming members, including the one by Kate Malone which attracted some 500 viewers online.

The new programme of ECC and open lectures is on the next page. The London Stonewares Study Day, which had been due to take place in May 2020, has been moved to May 2021 and the visit/meeting at the Lords Cricket ground will now be at a later date. The ECC Annual General Meeting was postponed and will now be held via Zoom on 21st November 2020. Further information will be provided when this programme changes again.

By now you should have received the latest Volume of Transactions, Volume 30 (2019). If not please contact the Membership Secretary, details below. The editors, Jacqui and Anton, are to be congratulated on an excellent publication, despite the considerable difficulties caused by current times.

Membership subscriptions are due for next year on 1st November 2020 except for new members who joined since April 2020. Unless you pay by standing order, you should already have had a reminder from the ECC Treasurer. Please renew promptly to save Alan Walden the large amount of work needed to chase up late payers. If you are a UK taxpayer and have not completed a Gift Aid form for the ECC, please contact Alan (details below), who will send you a form to complete. As a Registered Charity, we receive a payment from the Government equal to 25% of a member's subscription fee which helps us to keep down our subscription rates.

Besides the updated programme of events, this Newsletter includes the sections: 'What a Lot' and 'One to Watch', 'Announcements', and 'Recent and Forthcoming Books on Ceramics'. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, the status of many fairs, auctions and exhibitions openings continues to change. We have therefore not been able to provide the usual list of events. The good news is that most museums have now re-opened and keenly await your visit.

I hope that you enjoy this Newsletter. Stay Safe.

Charles Dawson

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ECC Meeting Dates for 2020/2021

It is currently planned that all the meetings below will be on Zoom. Members will be advised when physical meetings are resumed.

ECC Member meetings are on Zoom on Saturdays starting at 4 PM GMT. Open meetings for ECC Members, members of other ceramic circles, and Facebook & Instagram members with a ceramic interest, are on Thursdays at 6 PM GMT. We will, subject to the speaker's agreement, zoom and record all meetings which will be available for viewing on the ECC website after a short delay. The ECC reserves the right to change speakers, venues and dates as needs arise. A further programme of open meetings between March and December 2021 is being created and will be published on the ECC website.

**OPEN MEETINGS BELOW ARE IN BLUE ECC MEMBERS MEETINGS ARE IN BLACK
SEMINARS ARE IN RED**

Thursday, 29th October 2020 at 6 PM GMT ‘Breaking the chains: Ceramics and the Abolition Movement’ by Ron Fuchs

Thursday, 12th November 2020 at 6 PM GMT ‘The Cambrian Company, Swansea Pottery’s London Warehouse 1806-1808’
by Jonathan Gray

Saturday, 21st November 2020 at 4 PM GMT Annual General Meeting, and ‘London in the 1860s and the Origin of Art Pottery’
by Robin Emmerson

Art Pottery as a distinct category began in London around 1870. Although it can be seen as an offshoot of the earlier category of Art Manufactures, there are more specific reasons why it took off when it did. These relate to a new style of fashionable living within commutable reach of the capital, and the need for decorative objects that would suit such interiors.

Thursday, 3rd December 2020 at 6 PM GMT ‘Chelsea – The Triangle and Raised Anchor Period’ by Paul Crane

Saturday, 12th December 2020 at 4 PM GMT ‘Unpublished Leach’ by Simon Olding

To mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Bernard Leach Pottery at St. Ives, Simon (the Director of the Crafts Study Centre in Farnham) will discuss items from the newly acquired Alan Bell archive.

‘New Links between Nicholas Sprimont’s Silver and Chelsea Porcelain’
by Sally Kevill-Davies:

The influence of Nicholas Sprimont’s silver on the porcelain made in his Chelsea factory is examined, with new links between the two different materials explored

Saturday, 23rd January 2021 at 4 PM GMT ‘Isleworth Raw Materials - Evidence from the Isleworth and Hounslow Potteries’
by Ray Howard and J Victor Owen

Thursday, 11th February 2021 at 6 PM GMT ‘Parish Scavenger’s Tale’ by Jacqui Pearce

Thursday, 25th February 2021 at 6 PM GMT ‘Thompson’s The Seasons and material culture’
by Sandro Jung

Thursday, 11th March 2021 at 6 PM GMT

‘John Bennett, the Englishman who inspired the American Art Pottery Movement’
by Jill Fenichell

Saturday, 20th March 2021 at 4 PM GMT

‘Building Britain’s Canals and Railways – a Potters Response’ by Paul Atterbury
‘Gerald Coke and James Giles’ by Paul Crane

Saturday, 17th April 2021 at 4 PM GMT

AGM and Miscellany Session, plus
A Bristol Porcelain Figure in the Schreiber Collection’
The source of some Sadler printed tiles’
Both papers by Roger Massey

Saturday, 15th May 2021 Open Seminar – Booking will be required – details to be advised
London Stoneware covering five centuries of stoneware – confirmed speakers include:
Jacqui Pearce; Chris Green; Phil Mernick, Robin Emmerson, Alex Warner, and Jonathan Gray

Sept/Oct 2021 Open Seminar – Booking will be required – details to be advised
Thomas Baxter – Father and Son, to mark the 200th anniversary of Thomas Baxter Junior’s death on 18th April 1821. The Programme will cover his time in London, his connection with Emma Hamilton, and his work in Worcester and Swansea

Saturday, 20th November 2021 at 4 PM GMT

‘William Hogarth Revisited’ by Lars Tharp
‘Sevres Mania’ by Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth

Saturday, 11th December 2021 at 4 PM GMT

‘New thoughts on a Charles Gouyn Toilet Set’
by Sally Kevill-Davies
‘The Second Duchess of Portland’s China Collection’ by Felicity Marno
‘New aspects of Caughley Porcelain’
by Gaye Blake-Roberts MBE.

New ECC Committee Member



We are delighted to welcome **Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth** to become a member of the ECC Committee. Caroline is an art historian who specialises in European decorative arts, material culture and the histories of collecting (1600-1900). She grew up close to the Belleek porcelain factory, where she discovered her love of ceramics. She completed her PhD at the University of Leeds in 2019.

She is now the 17th & 18th Century Curator of Ceramics & Glass at the Victoria & Albert Museum and Lecturer in the History of Design Masters at the Museum and at the Royal College of Art. She is a Visiting Research Fellow in the History of Art at Leeds University. Caroline also sits on the Board of the French Porcelain Society and is a founding member of the Society for the History of Collecting.

What a Lot!

This regular section describes an interesting lot from a forthcoming auction.



Worcester beaker vase, circa 1754 (both sides)

This rare and early vase of 'Scratch Cross' type and of waisted, cylindrical form is finely painted with the 'Bird and Snail' pattern, the bird perched on a gnarled branch peers down towards an unfortunate snail on the grass below, the reverse with a smaller vignette of flowering bamboo sprouting from rocks and an insect in flight, 14.8cm high.

There appear to be four recorded examples of this remarkable vase. One from the Rous Lench Collection, later in the Sir Jeremy Lever and Crane Collections was sold by Bonhams, 7 March 2007, lot 21 and 31 March 2010, lot 60, respectively. The present lot being almost identical with the addition of a flying insect painted on the reverse comes with provenance from the collection of A J Smith. Two smaller examples are in the Ashmolean Museum, one illustrated by H Rissik Marshall, *Coloured Worcester Porcelain* (1954), pl.25, no.563. A matching water bottle and basin also from Rous Lench was gifted to the Museum of Royal Worcester.

Three bell-shaped mugs with the same decoration are recorded, each inscribed on the base 'ExL 1754'. One of these from the Grant Dixon Collection was at Ampleforth Abbey. The second is in the Victoria and Albert Museum and the third is at Colonial Williamsburg. These mugs were instrumental in dating of early 'Scratch Cross' class and by association it is possible to rather confidently place the present lot around 1754.

Although not painted with this pattern, a closely related vase, clearly painted by the same hand from the R David Butti Collection was sold by Bonhams, 10 May 2006, lot 33. In each case, the painting is very finely executed, with great care given to the detailing and composition. The vase will be offered with an estimate of £7,000-9,000 in an outstanding sale of Worcester Porcelain: The John Alchin and Ralph Kenber Collections, at Bonhams Knightsbridge, London on 15th December 2020.

<https://www.bonhams.com>

One to Watch – Lara Scobie

This regular section spotlights a potter who is going places.



Lara Scobie is an Edinburgh based ceramic artist specialising in individual slip-cast vessels and bowls made in porcelain and parian clay. Focusing on the dynamic between form and pattern her work explores the cohesive integration of drawing, surface, mark making and volume. Lara's simple, considered, forms are constructed from soft slabs of clay with delicate rims and edges. The off-center ellipses of the individual forms echo line-drawings and decoration applied to the painted surfaces.

A graduate of Camberwell Art College in London, Lara has a postgraduate degree in ceramics from Edinburgh College of Art. She has exhibited extensively and has received many awards for her work including Premier winner of The Fletcher Challenge in New Zealand.

Lara says: 'Working with clay is as exciting and terrifying as a roller coaster ride, presenting as many challenges as rewards. To understand this soft malleable material — really just a lump of wet earth — takes time, but with considered handling and measured judgement it can be manipulated into dynamic and expressive form. This transformation goes through many stages as the clay is first shaped, then hardened and dried, before being finally and inexorably altered by the alchemy of firing to a new ceramic form — hard, durable and permanent.'

<https://www.larascobie-ceramics.com> <https://www.contemporaryceramics.uk>



Contact Details for ECC Committee Members

To contact a specific Committee Member either use the **Contact Page** on the ECC Website or write to them at the ECC postal address: BM Box 7246, London WC1N 3XX.

Charles Dawson	President	Jacqui Pearce	ECC Editor
Mark Francis	Marketing Manager & Webmaster	Rosemary Pemberton	Visits Organiser
Jonathan Gray	Meetings Secretary	Alan Walden	Treasurer
Patricia Macleod	Membership Secretary	Jo Whitehead	Publications Manager
Stephen McManus	Librarian	Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth	

Announcements

Three ECC members died recently who made great contributions to our world of ceramics.

Maurice Hillis' book *Liverpool Porcelain 1756–1804* was the culmination of over 30 years of research and is the Bible for ceramicists. The book offered clarity and guidance on a very complex subject that had long confused collectors and ceramics scholars alike. Maurice was a ceramics historian and collector who lectured and published widely on 18th- and 19th-century English ceramics. He was the President of the Northern Ceramic Society and a good friend to the ECC and to many other circles.

He wrote the ECC papers and was recorded in 12 other ECC papers.

The Liverpool China Manufactory of Wm. Reid & Co and

The Analysis of Shards from the Brownlow Hill Site in Liverpool.

Margaret McFarlane was a renowned ceramic researcher and expert on delft pottery. She maintained a legendary ceramic filing system which she used to provide assistance to many other authors.

She wrote one paper for ECC Transactions and was recorded in 9 other ECC papers.

“Apollo” Reconsidered

Kate Foster was one of London's pre-eminent dealers in European ceramics. At Sotheby's she worked under Jim Kiddell. Her book *Scent Bottles* was the first to separate examples of scent bottles from the “Girl in a Swing” factory from those of Chelsea. She founded the French Porcelain Society in 1984 and was proud to be the great-great-great grand-daughter of William Wilberforce. Becoming Lady Davson in 1998, she still liked to be known as Kate.

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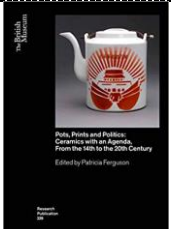
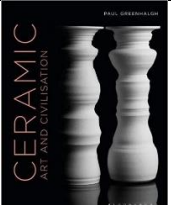


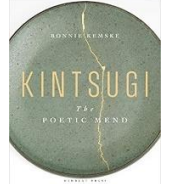
Chelsea Scent Bottles ‘Girl in a Swing’ and Another Group.

Recent and Forthcoming Books on Ceramics

The inclusion of a book in the list does not imply that the ECC recommends it. These books cover the world of ceramics since we know from a previous membership survey that our members are interested in ceramics generally. There are currently few books being published about English ceramics. We welcome information from authors and publishers for future newsletters. These books are all available from Amazon unless stated otherwise.

	<p>Grayson Perry by Jacky Klein In this major monograph on Grayson Perry, now updated and expanded, writer and art historian Jacky Klein explores the artist's work through his major themes and subjects. This is complemented by intimate and perceptive commentaries by Perry on individual pieces, giving unique access to his imaginative world and creative processes. This edition has updates throughout and includes two new chapters.</p>
	<p>Birds, Bugs and Butterflies: Lady Betty Cobbe's 'Peacock' China: A Biography of an Irish Service of Worcester Porcelain by Alec Cobbe Cobbe discovered family papers listing the purchase of this service. He describes the buying of one of the largest services of first period Worcester on record by Thomas and Lady Betty Cobbe for Newbridge House Co. Dublin. Bought in stages from 1763 as the family travelled from Dublin to Bath each year, this book celebrates the reassembly of over 160 pieces of the service and their return to Newbridge.</p>
	<p>Bernard Leach - Life and Work (Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art) by Emmanuel Cooper This biography provides for the first time a vivid and detailed account of Leach's life and its relation to his art. Cooper, himself a potter of international reputation, explores Leach's working methods, the seams of his pottery, his writings and philosophy, his recognition in Japan and Britain, and his continuing legacy, bringing into sharp focus a complex man who captured in his work as a potter the "still center" that eluded him in his personal life.</p>
	<p>The Michiana Potters: Art, Community, and Collaboration in the Midwest by Meredith A. E. McGriff Michiana potters examines the communal traditions and aesthetics that have developed in this region. The book identifies shared methods and styles, in addition to demonstrating its methodology. McGriff concludes that these styles and methods form a communal bond that links the processes of creating and sharing pottery in Michiana.</p>
	<p>The Voice of Clay: 365 Quotes About Clay by Wendy Walter The influence of Clay in our lives is more than most realize. Used by scientists, biologists, geologists, builders and, of course, potters, it weaves together a tapestry of disciplines that would not normally be perceived as connected. Described in these quotes, this sacred material reveals to us how science, spirituality, religion, crafts, art of all kinds, philosophy and psychology are effective in collaboration.</p>
	<p>The Rise of the Pottery Industry in the USA as of 1891 by D C Robinson The first European settlers found the American natives proficient in the manufacture of earthen vessels. In 1649 there were small potteries in Virginia, which carried on a thriving business in their communities and the first Dutch settlers in New York brought with them a practical knowledge of potting, equal in quality to that produced in Delft. This book provides an interesting picture of early USA pottery.</p>
	<p>Ewenny Potteries, Potters and Pots by Gwyneth Evans The Ewenny Potteries of Glamorgan in South Wales have produced fine wares for 250 years. This book provides an account of the area's potteries, potters and the wares they produced, covering the history of the founders – the Jenkins family of the 1800s down to the present day descendants - Alun and Jayne - who continue the work. The book is available for £45 + £5 pp from Gwyneth Evans, Rorke's Drift, 3 Dorlangoch, Brecon LD3 7RH. gwyneth.evans5@btinternet.co.uk or telephone: 01874 622352</p>

	<p>Peter Powning: A Retrospective by John Leroux "I start with an original object, break it, and transform parts of the piece into other materials. These pieces gather meaning and explanation as I work with them." Powning is simultaneously referred to as a sculptor and a ceramist, incorporating and combining elements from one medium into another. His work challenges the viewer to reconsider the object, its form, and its function.</p>
 <p>Good Earth the pots and passion of Walter Ostrom</p>	<p>Good Earth: The Pots and Passion of Walter Ostrom by Walter Ostrom. Published in November 2020 Ostrom has been described as an “innovative traditionalist,” a disruptive force shaking up ceramic conventions while simultaneously enriching them. His work, from his embrace of conceptual art in the 1970s to his current exploration of the vast history, hybridization, and social foundation of ceramics, marks him as a major force in the development of contemporary ceramics.</p>
	<p>Ceramics of Iran by Oliver Watson This book illustrates the rich and varied ceramic tradition of Iran, featuring a broad selection of objects from a distinguished collections of Iranian art. This volume brings together over 1,000 years of Persian Islamic pottery with 500 illustrations, authoritative technical treatises, and insightful commentary. It assembles a collection of rarely seen treasures from the Persian world and presents a collective history of its renowned ceramic tradition.</p>
 <p>picasso ceramics</p>	<p>Picasso: Ceramics Hardcover by Michael Juul Holm, Helle Crenzien, and Kirsten Degel Picasso's experiments with various ceramic materials, oxides and glazes produced a huge body of work: some 4,000 ceramic objects bearing the motifs of animals, fauns and women evoked through Picasso's whimsical, elegant handling of shape and line. This major body of work in ceramics forms a less-known but original part of the oeuvre of an artist who was reinventing himself and his forms.</p>
	<p>Pottery and Porcelain Restoration: A Practical Guide by Roger Hawkins This book is a practical guide for amateurs to the craft of the professional restorer. With 360 photographs, it explains the simplest, safest and ethical techniques that are recommended today and - essentially - do not further damage your pieces. Written with clear practical detail, it explains the full process and gives unique insight into the delicate job of the ceramic restorer.</p>
	<p>Carve Your Clay: Techniques to bring the pottery surface to life by Hilda Carr This book takes you through creative techniques that produce amazing, dynamic results, including inlay, piercing, sgraffito, etching, relief carving, wire cutting, and more. 20 projects feature the author's signature style, each with clear step-by-step photography and easy-to-follow instruction to achieve beautiful results. Carve Your Clay will educate and inspire you.</p>
	<p>Making Polymer Clay Beads by Carol Blackburn Making Polymer Clay Beads offers beginning and veteran artists a comprehensive resource for crafting unique beads of all colours and shapes at home. From selecting the right equipment and working with raw clay to making dozens of different shapes and adding colourful effects, this all-in-one guide will aid you at every stage of your artistic journey. Step-by-step instructions and full-colour photographs enable the reader to craft a wide variety of beads to be used in making handmade jewelry and decorations.</p>
	<p>The Clay Canvas: Creative Painting on Functional Ceramics by Irene Wittig Painting on ceramics is a creative and practical art accessible to everyone. This book explains each step of the ceramic process. Clear instructions are combined with suggestions for finding inspiration. Colour photographs illustrate professional results that you can achieve on tiles, vases, dinnerware and small murals. Indeed, any clay surface can become a canvas for self-expression.</p>

	<p>A Guide to Scenes of Daily Life on Athenian Vases by John H. Oakley Painted vases are the richest and most complex images that remain from ancient Greece. This book is the first comprehensive volume to present visual representations of everything from pets and children's games to drunken revelry and funerary rituals. This guide is an essential and much-needed reference for scholars and an ideal sourcebook for classics and art history.</p>
	<p>Ceramics Masterclass: Creative Techniques of 100 Great Artists by Louisa Taylor Ceramics Masterclass is an introduction to the rich history and practice of ceramics examining 100 beautiful and inventive artworks by the world's greatest artists, exploring how they were made, what they do well, and how and what we can learn from them. You will learn how to command functional forms, sculpt lively works of art and experiment with material.</p>
	<p>Pots, Prints and Politics: Ceramics with an Agenda, from the 14th to the 20th Century by Patricia Ferguson (Editor). Published in April 2021 This book examines how European and Asian ceramics traditionally associated with the domestic sphere have been used by potters to challenge convention and tackle serious issues. Using the British Museum's ceramics and prints collections, the authors have interrogated a variety of ceramic objects – from teapots to chamber pots – to discover new meanings still relevant today.</p>
	<p>Ceramic, Art and Civilisation by Paul Greenhalgh. Published in March 2021 This fascinating and human history traces ceramic art and industry from the Ancient Greeks to the Romans and the medieval world; Islamic ceramic cultures, the Italian Renaissance; Chinese and European porcelain production; modernity and Art Nouveau; the rise of the studio potter, Art Deco, International Style and Mid-Century Modern, and finally, the contemporary explosion of ceramic making and the postmodern potter.</p>
	<p>My life as a potter by Mary Fox. Published in March 2021 This full-colour coffee table book recounts Mary Fox's long journey to the peak of her craft. Part memoir, part coming-of-age story and part handbook for ceramicists, Fox's narrative expresses the passion she feels for her work and the joy she has found in living the life of a studio potter. Fox is recognized for creating exquisite forms and distinctive textured glazes.</p>
<p>NO IMAGE AVAILABLE</p>	<p>The Cesnola Collection of Cypriot Art - Terracotta Oil Lamps by Christopher Lightfoot. Published in March 2021 This publication catalogues works in The Metropolitan Museum of Art's renowned Cesnola Collection of Cypriot Art, and focuses on the collection's 453 terracotta oil lamps dating from Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, and Early Byzantine periods. Each lamp is illustrated with text that addresses typology, decoration, and marks on each of these objects.</p>
	<p>Conscious Crafts: Pottery: 20 mindful makes to reconnect head, heart & hands by Lucy Davidson. Published in March 2021 Making is mindfulness made practical, and pottery is a known meditative craft. Mindful Makes: Pottery is a contemporary craft book sharing over 20 simple makes for playful pottery pieces. Davidson shares techniques, steps, and ideas for working with clay—without a wheel or kiln—all fun projects.</p>
	<p>Kintsugi: The Poetic Mend by Bonnie Kemske. Published in February 2021 In Western cultures the aim of traditional ceramic repair has been to make the broken item 'as good as new'. Kintsugi on the other hand, leaves an obvious repair, one that may appear fragile but which actually makes the restored ceramic piece stronger, more beautiful, and more valuable than before. Kemske explores kintsugi, its history as well as modern practices, using interviews with traditional kintsugi masters in Japan.</p>



Easy Homemade Pottery: Make Your Own Stylish Decor Using Polymer and Air-Dry Clay by Francesca Stone. Published in December 2020
 Planters, Vases, Dishes and More, Without a Pottery Studio!
 You can create with polymer and air-dry clay these affordable, easy-to-find clays which present endless possibilities for artisan-quality home décor and gifts. Stone presents simple step-by-step techniques for shaping and decorating clay with just a few household tools. All final pieces can be air-dried or baked in a standard home oven.

FIREDUP4

Spearheaded by Kate Malone MBE, FiredUp4 is a project that brings together ceramic works by 32 makers in an innovative fundraising campaign to provide pottery studios for the charity OnSide Youth Zones. As well as Kate Malone's pineapple piece that symbolises friendship and community, the project includes works by Barnaby Barford, Bouke de Vries, Edmund de Waal, Sara Flynn, Akiko Hirai, Roger Law, Jennifer Lee, John Ward and more.

FiredUp4 will give young people access to clay and to creativity. The project culminates in an online auction of the 33 uniquely crafted pieces hosted by Maak on 19 November 2020. Bidding is live now and the pieces are available to view online. Some are shown below.

For more information: www.FiredUp4.com / For bidding: www.maaklondon.com

