

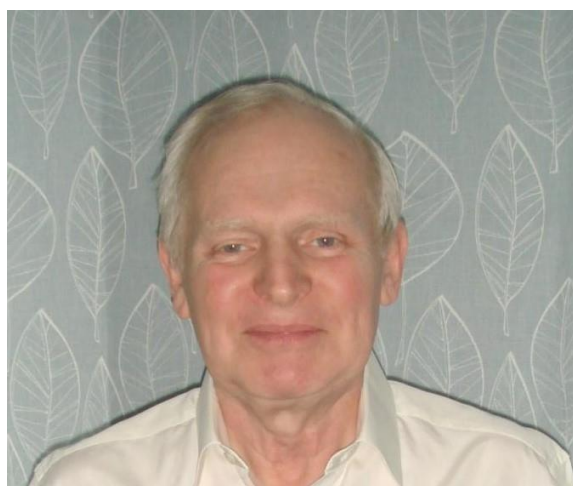
ENGLISH CERAMICS CIRCLE

Newsletter, No. 11

Welcome to our new look ECC Newsletter and my first as its editor. If you have any comments or ideas for the newsletter, you can now contact me directly at newsletter@englishceramiccircle.net. I hope you enjoy issue 11 of the ECC Newsletter and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible very soon. Best wishes,
Thomas Smith - Newsletter Editor

CHARLES DAWSON RETIREMENT

It is with sadness that the ECC Committee has accepted the early retirement of Charles Dawson as President. Charles, who has had health issues over the summer but is now at home and on the road to recovery, wanted to focus on regaining his strength and finishing his book on the Flights and Barrs at Worcester. Charles has contributed significantly to the Circle, first as Editor of Transactions, where he produced eight volumes and managed to get our publications up to date. This was a Herculean task. Further, he secured, via Patricia, most of Dr Geoffrey Godden's slide talks (which the ECC digitised and are available to members, see [Geoffrey Godden Slide Set - English Ceramic Circle](#) - see the website) and also obtained part of the Godden archive, which the Committee decided to deposit at the Stoke on Trent City Archives. When Charles started as President, his main ambition was to increase membership. The ECC today, driven by our decision to adopt Zoom at the beginning of the pandemic, is bigger than ever, with membership approaching 600 (more if you count joint membership). Charles led the development of the new website, secured an exhibition for the ECC at the NEC antiques fair, and was the driving force behind offering new additional levels of membership for those who can afford to make an additional contribution. As a result of this additional funding from some members (for which we are very grateful) and cost savings through not meeting in London through Covid-19, the Circle was able to launch the 2021 Circle Ceramic Research grant. Charles was also responsible for introducing newsletters (this



is the 11th) and, with the meetings secretary, the move to a new London venue which should see its first meeting in November 2021. Charles is making good progress on regaining his fitness and he is determined to honour his commitment to speak at the ECC Thomas Baxter seminar now scheduled for 5th May 2022. This will give the membership the opportunity to thank him for his many years of service in a more public way. Charles was due to retire from the Presidency was due to retire from the Presidency at the AGM in 2022 under the six-year rule the Circle introduced in 2016 – so his decision to retire early effectively brings forward one of a number of Committee changes by about six months.

NEW PRESIDENT - JONATHAN GRAY

The Committee has appointed me as successor to Charles Dawson. Whilst I would have wished the circumstances to be different, I am both humbled and excited by their support. The Committee's appointment is subject to confirmation by members at the AGM in March or April 2022, in line with the ECC Constitution. Many of you will know me as Meetings Secretary for the ECC and one of the faces on Zoom calls. For those of you less familiar, I work for a London based bank and in my spare time am an Honorary Research Fellow at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales (Cardiff), where I am writing a book on Horace Elliott, a now broadly forgotten London Art Potter active 1880-1934. In 2012, I published on the Swansea Pottery's London Warehouse and the Christie's sales (1806-1808).



I have long experience with seminars, having ran the somewhat exclusive Ceramic House Party for a decade, and about 20 years ago, the NCS Keele seminar and two similar conferences “Welsh Ceramics In Context Part 1 and 2” which were published in 2003 and 2005. Prior to that, and very much on a part time basis, I worked for Dr Geoffrey Godden, who somewhat embarrassingly published the first ceramic paper I ever wrote in his ceramic paper I ever wrote in his European Porcelain book. He paid me in eggcups, but that is another story. The whole Committee is excited by the opportunity to build-on the success of Charles' Presidency, and we intend to retain his focus on membership - we would very much like more people to experience more of the ECC. In terms of priorities, the basics don't change - fundamentally we are about having

great research and speakers, producing brilliant publications, running seminars and visits, and encouraging both a passion for ceramics and a friendship amongst our members. We will be surveying members before the AGM next year to gain insight into how best to focus our work to align it with your priorities. One area of focus is the ECCs 100th birthday celebrations in early 2027 – we will start work on this after the next AGM and, through this, try and create a legacy to support the ECC as it starts its second century. If any member has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via president@englishceramiccircle.net or grab me as we restart physical meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Physical meeting at the Foundling Museum, London restart from November 2021 - we will Zoom live where possible. If there are changes, the latest programme can always be found at: www.englishceramiccircle.org.uk

Members' meetings will start at their old time of 2pm. The open Zoom sessions remain at 6pm. The Baxter seminar is a full day. The Committee is very aware that these starting meetings in London at 2pm will make it more difficult for overseas members to join in. We are looking at solutions.

This list is in chronological order and replaces any other the ECC has published:

28th October 2021 (Open)

Tortoise-shell ware made in Boston: a re-examination of the Benjamin Leigh and John Allman partnership - Angelika Kuettner

25th November 2021 (Open)

William De Morgan: a life of Lustre - Sarah Hardy

27th November 2021 (Members)

'Sèvres Mania' - Collecting and creating 'old' Sèvres porcelain in Britain in the 19th Century - Caroline McCaley-Howarth

PUNCH-UP! - with Hogarth & Friends - Lars Tharp

11th December 2021 (Members)

The second Duchess of Portland's China Collection - Felicity Marno

New aspects of Caughley Porcelain - Gaye Blake-Roberts

16th December 2021 (Open)

Dutch ceramic treats – Archaeological evidence of the Dutch trade with 17th century Chesapeake - Bly Straube

15th January 2022 (Members)

Aspects of first period Worcester - Ray Jones English

Ceramics at the Court of Fath Ali Shah Qajar - Fuchsia Hart

27th January 2022 (Open)

The origin of the Toby Jug - Antony Griffiths

24th February 2022 (Open)

A Giles Italianate Service: Fifteen Worcester Plates reveal a decorative Grand Tour - Charlotte Jacob-Hanson

19th March 2022 (Members)

Lady Diana Beauclerk, artist and designer - Diana Edwards

A perfect little place: the ceramics at Beatrix Potter's Hill Top - Rachel Beatrix Potter's Hill Top - Rachel Conroy & Helen Antrobus

31st March 2022 (Open)

Josiah Wedgwood's associations with Liverpool - Gaye Blake-Roberts

9th April 2022 (Members)

Building Britain's Canals and Railways - A Potter's response - Paul Atterbury

Gerald Coke and James Giles - Paul Crane

28th April 2022 (Open)

In search of the Chelsea “chymist” – more on F. J d’Osterman - Nick Panes (with Victor Judge)

5th May 2022 – Seminar being held at the V&A Museum– booking details to be circulated in early 2022

Thomas Baxter, Father & Son - John Sandon, Roger Edmundson, Charles Dawson, Andrew Renton, Martin Myrone, Caroline McCaleyHowarth/Florence Tyler & Jonathan Gray

26th May 2022 (Open)

Dave Yorath at Denby - Oliver Towers

The ECC reserves the right to change speakers, venues and dates as needs arise, Covid-19 or otherwise. If you arise, Covid-19 or otherwise. If you have offered a paper which is not included above, or you believe there is an error, please contact the Meetings Secretary on meetings@englishceramiccircle.net

THE FOUNDLING MUSEUM

A New Venue for ECC Members Meetings - from 27th November 2021



We are moving our regular ECC lectures to a new location at the Foundling Museum at 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ (<https://foundlingmuseum.org.uk>). We will

hold our first meeting there on 27th November 2021 – not in this room but in one of their two modern lecture theatres.

The Museum has a ceramic link via ECC member Gerald Coke (1907- 1990), who wrote *In Search of James Giles* and who gave his magnificent collection of Giles-decorated porcelain to the Museum of Royal Worcester. Coke's 12,000 Handel-related items are held at the Foundling Museum – Paul Crane will be speaking about both at the meeting in April 2022. Entry is free if you are attending our meeting, and this also gives you access to the Museum.

You will probably be asked at reception for your name or the meeting you are attending. In line with COVID-19 precautions and in order not to exceed our allowed numbers we will require members who intend to attend the meeting to pre-register. Upon arrival members will be able to confirm their registration and provide contact details for tracing purposes.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2021-2022

Subscription renewals for those not paying on Standing Orders will be sent out in October, with payments requested by 1st November 2021. The general rate of membership, whether single, joint or institutional, remains at £45 a year - or £39 for members paying by Standing Order from a UK Bank Account. These rates remain unchanged and are lower for members under 30 years of age. We don't charge more for overseas membership - and the Treasurer will confirm overseas rates in local currencies and how to renew using PayPal.

The Circle also offers additional levels of membership for those who wish and are able to make an additional contribution. Any additional membership fees are used to support the Circle's additional activities, notably research grants:

Under 30s	£20
General	£45 (£39 by Standing order)
Friend	£100
Sponsor	£250
Benefactor	£1,000+

If you wish to move your subscription onto Standing order, or are interested in making an additional contribution, please contact the Treasurer on:

treasurer@englishceramiccircle.net UK Tax Payers are also encouraged to sign-up to GiftAid, which is a tax rebate paid to the ECC by the UK Government. This is at no cost to the member.

ECC GRAND FUND 2021 - AWARDS

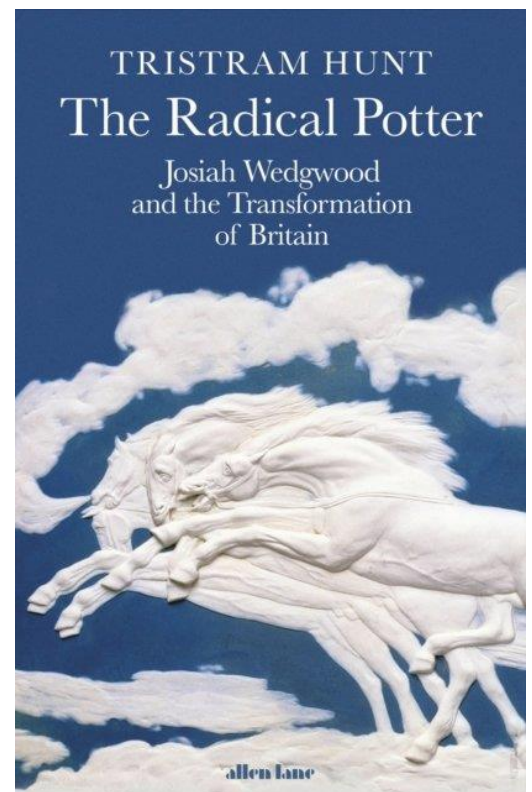
The ECC Committee is delighted to announce the first three grants from the 2021 ECC Ceramic Research programme, which has been made possible by the generous additional membership contributions from some members and monies saved on London room booking since March 2020.

All three recipients, one from England, Scotland and the United States, will present their findings to meetings of the Circle in 2022/2023: Patricia Ferguson – the Rev. Jarvis China Collection at Doddington Hall George Haggarty – West Pans Cobalt research Patricia Matthew – “And Freedom to the Slave”.

MEMBERS’ PUBLICATIONS

1. The Radical Potter, Tristram Hunt

A spectacular new biography of the great designer, entrepreneur, abolitionist and beacon of the Industrial Revolution, from acclaimed historian and Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Tristram Hunt Josiah Wedgwood, perhaps the greatest English potter who ever lived, epitomized the best of his age. From his kilns and workshops in Stoke-on-Trent, he revolutionized the production of ceramics in Georgian Britain by marrying technology with design, manufacturing efficiency and retail flair. He transformed the luxury markets not only of London, Liverpool, Bath and Dublin but of America and the world, and helping to usher in a mass consumer society. Tristram Hunt calls him 'the Steve Jobs of the eighteenth century'. But Wedgwood was radical in his mind and politics as well



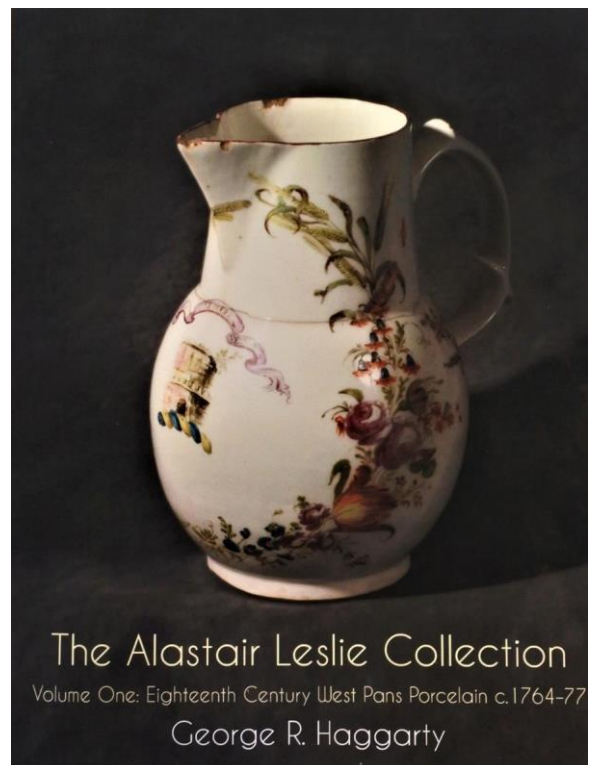
as in his designs. He campaigned for free trade and religious toleration, read pioneering papers to the Royal Society and was a member of the celebrated Lunar Society of Birmingham. Most significantly, he created the ceramic 'Emancipation Badge', depicting a slave in chains and inscribed 'Am I Not a Man and a Brother?' that became the symbol of the abolitionist movement. Tristram Hunt's hugely enjoyable new biography, strongly based on Wedgwood's notebooks, letters and the words of his contemporaries, brilliantly captures the energy and originality of Wedgwood and his extraordinary contribution to the transformation of eighteenth-century Britain.

Tristram Hunt's book can be purchased from all good bookshops and online

2. The Alastair Leslie Collection, by George Haggarty

Alastair Leslie writes, "As a collector of 18th and early 19th century Scottish pottery, I noticed in auction catalogues examples of Scottish 18th Century porcelain. This had been produced between c.1764 – 1777, by William and Jane Littler at West Pans, situated between Musselburgh and Prestonpans. My interest aroused, I looked for a Scottish public collection where I could study, research, and learn more, but was astounded to find not only that no comprehensive collection existed, but that interest was negligible. In fact, within living memory the National Museums Scotland declined an offer to purchase Scotland declined an offer to purchase a small but extremely important collection belonging to

the Duke of Buccleuch. While other aspects of 18th Century Scottish Art such as architecture, painting, silver, furniture etc. have been studied and collected, porcelain which is highly appreciated in England had all but been ignored in Scotland. In England, the Scottish product has been considered grossly inferior and dismissed with comments such as 'that is poor quality, it may be Scottish'. Before jumping to such conclusions, I must suggest that you study figs 101 and 102. Connoisseurs of caddy spoons may need to be reminded that the porcelain example from West Pans, fig 94 is thought to predate any known silver examples and that the bin ladle, fig 99 is thought to be Britain's only



extant porcelain example. I have much to learn, but it is an ongoing pleasure. Twenty-five years ago, I was fortunate to meet George Haggarty at a pottery sale. He is an acknowledged leading authority on West Pans. From then on with his help and encouragement I have managed to build up this collection of over 100 examples. I am delighted that he has now catalogued the collection. It will be bequeathed to the Museum of Edinburgh which is a few miles up the river from its origin and surely it's ideal home."

George Haggarty's book can be purchased on Amazon or by connecting him directly.

3. Online Publications by Gordon Elliott



The Holy Grail and Other Totemic Ceramic Artefacts



Several publications by the former Potteries Museum Director, Dr Gordon Elliot, have been published online and are designed to be read on a computer or smart device. They include such titles as, The Design Process in British Ceramic Manufacture 1750-1850, Traditions and Trends in British Ceramic Collecting, Material Values in Art & Design and The Holy Grail and other & Design and The Holy Grail and other Totemic Ceramic Artefacts. For more information and to access these titles visit Clay Lake Productions online.