A fascinating collection of caddy spoons goes on display at the UK’s largest and most prestigious antiques fair of the spring season, Antiques for Everyone at the NEC, Birmingham, 9th - 12th April 2015.

*Further information on this important exhibition follows at the end of this release. High-Res images are available.*

With an expected 15,000 visitors over four busy days, Antiques for Everyone features more than 250 specialist dealers offering for sale a huge variety of desirable, rare and unique exhibits at prices from less than £10 to more than £50,000. All items are for sale and vetted to strict criteria designed to ensure buyers can make their purchases in confidence.

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'It's one of the major events of the season for art and antiques buyers,' explains organiser Dan Leyland. 'As always, we welcome collectors, trade buyers, interior decorators and anyone interested in art and antiques from across the world. The fair offers everything from 20th century Mid-Century Modern to period furniture, ancient antiquities, ceramics, sculpture, folk art, paintings and so much more. In four days treasures are discovered, bargains struck and a great deal of business always achieved.'

The fair enjoys a reputation for its enormous variety, the exhibitors occupying two distinct areas. Section One showcases room-set and gallery style stands where pieces are presented in stylish settings, emphasising their unique appeal. Section One, after last year’s popular removal of exhibit datelines, also offers specialist dealers with traditional and contemporary art, sculpture, jewellery, silver, ceramics, glass and other collector's items.

Section Two provides a mix of eclectic dealers with specialists in everything from Art Deco lighting to folk art, ancient Egyptian works of art, treen, Scottish Arts & Crafts, early toys and dolls, costume jewellery, vintage costume and much more.

At recent fairs, trends have revealed a greater emphasis on Chinese and Japanese pieces as the boom in Asian and Oriental art continues.

‘The NEC is a great venue for our customers,’ explains Steve Sly from Stagshead Antiques, who specialise in Asian art and have enjoyed highly successful recent fairs with customers from across the world.

Mid-Century Modern is also a rising area, with the number of specialist exhibitors increasing and the range of post-war furniture, lighting, ceramics, sculpture and designer pieces growing at every fair. For younger collectors, inspired by the 1950’s and 60’s, there are plenty of inspirational purchases.

Specialist Dealers
Among the fair’s many well-known exhibitors will be specialists in Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau and Art Deco. These include James Strang with Scottish and Continental pieces, Deco Dave with lighting and ceramics, James Miles and Sandy Stanley with ceramics and glass, Hickmet Fine Art with sculpture and glass by Emile Galle, Rene Lalique, Ferdinand Priess and Demetre Chiparus while Marion David Decorative Arts has silver and collectables.

Silver and jewellery specialists show a huge range of pieces from the 17th to mid-20th century; Acorn Antiques, Highland Antiques, Mary Cooke, Jack Shaw, S. & A. Marsh, Elizabeth Nicolson and John Bull are among the dealers. Jewellery specialists include Trivette, Shapiro & Co, Plaza, T.Robert, Anderson Jones and Howell's from Lancashire, among many others.

Specialist ceramics and glass dealers make the fair an essential call for collectors and connoisseurs. Early English pottery features on the stand of Bottlebrook Antiques, Roger de Ville, Blue & White from Catherine Hunt while David & Sally March, Philip Carrol 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.

English formal furniture is strongly represented by a number of well-known names, including Melody Antiques, S.& S.Timms Antiques, Mark Buckley Antiques, Mark Seabrook Antiques, Cantelo Antiques, Andrew Lovatt and Tim Saltwell.

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There are many more specialists. Brian Watson, Jeanette Hayhurst, Scarab, Joscelyn Vereker and Prisma show English and Continental glass, Garth Vincent Antiques show a fascinating range of 17th, 18th and 19th century arms and armour; Wigs on the Green specialise in rare portrait miniatures, John Shepherd and Erna Hiscock show folk art and early samplers, Hazlehurst Antiques specialise in 19th century French bronze statuary, Alan Walker specialises in banjo and stick barometers while Steve Kember presents fully restored music boxes.

Art is strongly represented by galleries with everything from fine 18th century portraits to contemporary illustrators. These include Callaghan Fine Paintings, Rowles Fine Art, Cambridge Fine Art, Granta Fine Art, Saunders Fine Art, Benton Fine Art, Plumb's Fine Art, Graham Reed, Art World, Graham Bentley Watercolours, Art of the Imagination and Baron Fine Art.

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PUBLIC VISITOR INFORMATION
Clarion Events Tel: UK 0207 3847748.

Venue: Halls 17-19, 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.
Public Open Times: Thurs-Sat 11am-6pm / Sun 11am-5pm

Email: antiquesnec@clarionevents.com
www.antiquesforeveryone.co.uk
Exhibitor Candice Horley with a customer.

Mike Melody with an 18th century oak coffer sold from his stand at the last Antiques for Everyone.

Author and TV expert Judith Miller gives one of her popular talks on collecting.

A rare Royal Worcester lemonade set designed by R.W. Binns, dated 1885, from Hurstlyn Antiques. £865.

Exhibitor Brian Saunders, Saunders Fine Art

Heidi Allison from Staghead Antiques

Hickmet Antiques in Section One

Barclay Antiques make a sale on their stand in Section Two
The Society of Caddy Spoon Collectors

The Society was founded in 1963 by a group of interested collectors and dealers who wished to pursue their interest in caddy spoons and together expand their knowledge of this fascinating subject. Prime movers included Eric Delieb, author of several books on silver, John Norie, author of the definitive book on caddy spoons, published in 1985 and followed by a supplement, and the auctioneer and pioneer broadcaster on the subject of antiques – Arthur Negus.

Today, with over 70 members, the Society is relatively small, but is international in its composition: about 20% of the membership reside overseas including the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and parts of Europe. There are many more collectors and most silver dealers find it worthwhile to stock caddy spoons.

The Society has a popular website, www.caddyspoonsociety.org.uk. It was set up to help publicise the activities of the Society, to give information about the spoons themselves, and to answer enquiries about specific aspects of collecting. Serious collectors are able to apply to join via the site.

In 1965 the Society successfully staged its first exhibition, at Goldsmiths Hall, London. An illustrated catalogue was produced to record the many spoons shown. A further exhibition was mounted at the Penman January Fair, Kensington in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium.

The Society has from time to time commissioned caddy spoons from leading designer silversmiths, usually to commemorate Royal 'milestones' and other important events such as the Millennium, the Norie Bequest and recently the Society's 50th birthday. Silversmiths engaged include Gerald Benney, Alex Styles, Michael Softley and latterly Malcolm Appleby OBE, in collaboration with Jane Short, the enameller.

The Society meets several times a year for visits and functions, together with an Annual General Meeting. On these occasions specimens recently acquired are admired and recorded. Articles in a full-colour Annual Journal are published early in the year.

In April 2015 at the Spring 'Antiques for Everyone' Fair, held each year at the National Exhibition Centre, the Society will be mounting an important Exhibition, 'The Story of the Caddy Spoon c1775 to 2015'. This celebration of the 50th Anniversary of our first Exhibition will be marked by the publication of an illustrated catalogue, produced by members of the Society, which itself is intended to prove a useful work of reference.


While tea was popular in China as long ago as the 7th century A.D, it was to take another 1000 years before it started to arrive at great expense for rich European connoisseurs. It was kept under lock and key in a box known as a Caddy, a name derived from the Malay 'Kati'. Although other tea paraphernalia existed, it was not until the 1770s that a purpose made utensil was devised to transport tea from the caddy to the teapot.

This Exhibition at Antiques for Everyone traces the development of these beautiful and collectable objects from their introduction in the 1770s to the present day. The wide range of designs and materials used will be displayed and it is intended that examples that are widely available to the collector are accompanied by some rare specimens.

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The majority of the spoons shown will be made of silver – sometimes embellished with gilding, enamel, niello and plique a jour decoration. Others will be Old Sheffield Plate and other plated pieces. Examples in porcelain, gold, ivory, pottery, glass, treen, mother of pearl, tortoiseshell and other materials will also be on display.

This is a collectable field and the attractions of a spoon may be a reflection of its beauty and/or rarity. Thus a plain spoon by a Scottish provincial maker will be highly desirable.

While the majority of the spoons shown will be British, befitting our tea drinking heritage, other countries in Europe and beyond will be represented.

The evolution of styles and shape will be indicated, from the early shell bowl forms utilising Oriental influences, through designs mirroring the flatware designs and fashions of the day. Fanciful shapes, such as the Eagle’s Wing and Jockey Cap can be observed.

Famous silversmiths and craftsmen of each period, devoted time and energy to the production of these small objects. As the 20th century loomed, caddy spoon design followed the Artistic Movements of the period from Art Nouveau to Arts & Crafts and Art Deco. Famous names like Omar Ramsden, Liberty, A.E. Jones and H.G. Murphy all designed spoons in Britain, while Georg Jensen (Denmark) and David Andersen (Norway) were famed on the continent. In the U.S.A. Tiffany and Gorham produced a stream of high quality spoons.

Traditional forms of caddy spoons continued to be made and regional differences are exampled by decorative pre-Revolution spoons from Russia.

In the post-war years caddy spoons continued to attract attention from silversmiths, sometimes for commemorative purposes. Thus fine work can be observed from Stuart Devlin, Alex Styles and Gerald Benney, among others. The Society of Caddy Spoon Collectors has commissioned several spoons during the last 40 years, the most recent designed by Malcolm Appleby and enamelled by Jane Short.

Today there is ample evidence that the art of the designer-silversmith is flourishing. The fact that many of us now use tea bags and the utilitarian function of the caddy spoon has decreased, has not led to its demise. The caddy spoon remains a delightful, small expression of craftsmanship and inventiveness. Examples by contemporary silversmiths will be on view.

Research is ongoing, and some examples of attribution and re-attribution of makers since our first exhibition in 1965 will be shown.

Illustrated catalogues describing the Caddy Spoons on show will be available at the Fair.

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