

For Immediate Release

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THE POOLE POTTERY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE

*The Poole Pottery Museum and Archive
Wednesday 31 March 2004 at 2pm*



*A 1930 tile panel painted with the map of Poole designed by Edward Bawden
Estimate: £8,000-12,000*

South Kensington - Christie's announces the Poole Pottery Museum and Archive sale, taking place on Wednesday 31 March. Comprising 290 lots that span and showcase 130 years of Poole production since its beginnings in 1873, the sale is expected to realize in excess of £180,000.

Since its inception, Poole Pottery has remained at the forefront of contemporary British ceramic production with an established international following. As the leading Southern England art pottery, Christie's expects a wealth of interest from collectors from the Poole area, the British Isles and from around the world.

In 1873 Jesse Carter, a builder's merchant and ironmonger, bought T.W. Walker's Patent Encaustic and Mosaic Ornamental Brick and Tile Manufactory, beginning Poole Pottery history. By the time he retired in 1901, he left the Pottery in the premier league of British makers of architectural ceramics.

Jesse's son Owen took control of the business for the next two decades, increasing the Company's interest in decorative pottery, with an emphasis on lustre wares and hand-made domestic pottery. In 1914, Poole developed a relationship with Roger Fry's Omega Workshop, connecting the pottery with leading artists such as Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell – the establishment of links with contemporary artists and designers is a tradition that Poole has continued to the present day.

In 1919, Owen died and his brother Charles took over, introducing designer and silversmith Harold Stabler and the potter and designer team of John and Truda Adams to the company. In 1921, the company Carter, Stabler and Adams (CSA) was formed as a subsidiary to the pottery, and revolutionized Poole production, introducing a fundamental shift in Poole ceramic design.

Led by Truda Adams, freehand painting in bright colours with vivid patterns inspired by flowers and the natural world became a central Poole motif, and reflected a growing interest in aspects of Art Deco modernism. This modernist vein has been nurtured throughout the years, ensuring Poole remains at the vanguard of contemporary British ceramic design and practice.

World War II severely curtailed production. Coupled with the death of Harold Stabler in 1945 and with John Adams in ill health, the pottery was barely functioning. Cyril Carter, Charles's son, was determined to rebuild the business and the 1950s saw a production renaissance, led by designers Guy Sydenham, Ruth Pavely and Ann Read. 1960s success was led by designer Robert Jefferson, and the 1970s saw the Pottery celebrate its centenary, stage a major exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum and welcome the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to its factory.

Sale highlights include: an Owen Carter lustre-decorated vase with applied relief modelled reptiles by Lily Gilham, circa 1900 (estimate: £300-500); an Omega Workshop ewer and basin, 1915-16 (estimate: £300-500); a Harold and Phoebe Stabler model of The Bull, 1914 (estimate: £2,000-3,000); a CSA vase designed by Truda Carter and painted by Anne Hatchard, 1930 (estimate: £3,000-5,000); a Truda Carter vase, circa 1930 (estimate:

£2,000-3,000); a model bottle kiln marking the 1973 Centenary (estimate: £1,500-£2,000); a very rare potter at a wheel modelled by Guy Sydenham, circa 1970 (estimate: £3,000-4,000); and a 1930 tile panel painted with the map of Poole designed by Edward Bawden (estimate: £8,000-12,000).

The Pottery Museum and Archive is being offered for sale by administrators Leonard Curtis & Co. - Poole Pottery was placed into administration in June 2003. The Pottery was sold to new owners in November 2003 and the factory outlet shop in January this year. The Museum and Archive was not included in either sale, and the funds from the auction will go towards paying the company's creditors.

The Pottery, now restored to financial health, is flourishing once again and the sale view will exhibit a number of contemporary pieces made by this British Decorative Arts Institution.

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Viewing Times

*Sunday 28 March: 1pm-4pm
Monday 29 March: 9am-7.30pm
Tuesday 30 March: 9am-5pm
Wednesday 31 March: 9am-noon*

Auction

Wednesday 31 March at 2pm

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