

The Tatton Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair

Marvel at priceless furnishings before buying a few pieces for your own home

FEATURE **KATE LAUER** PHOTOGRAPHS **LYDIA EVANS**

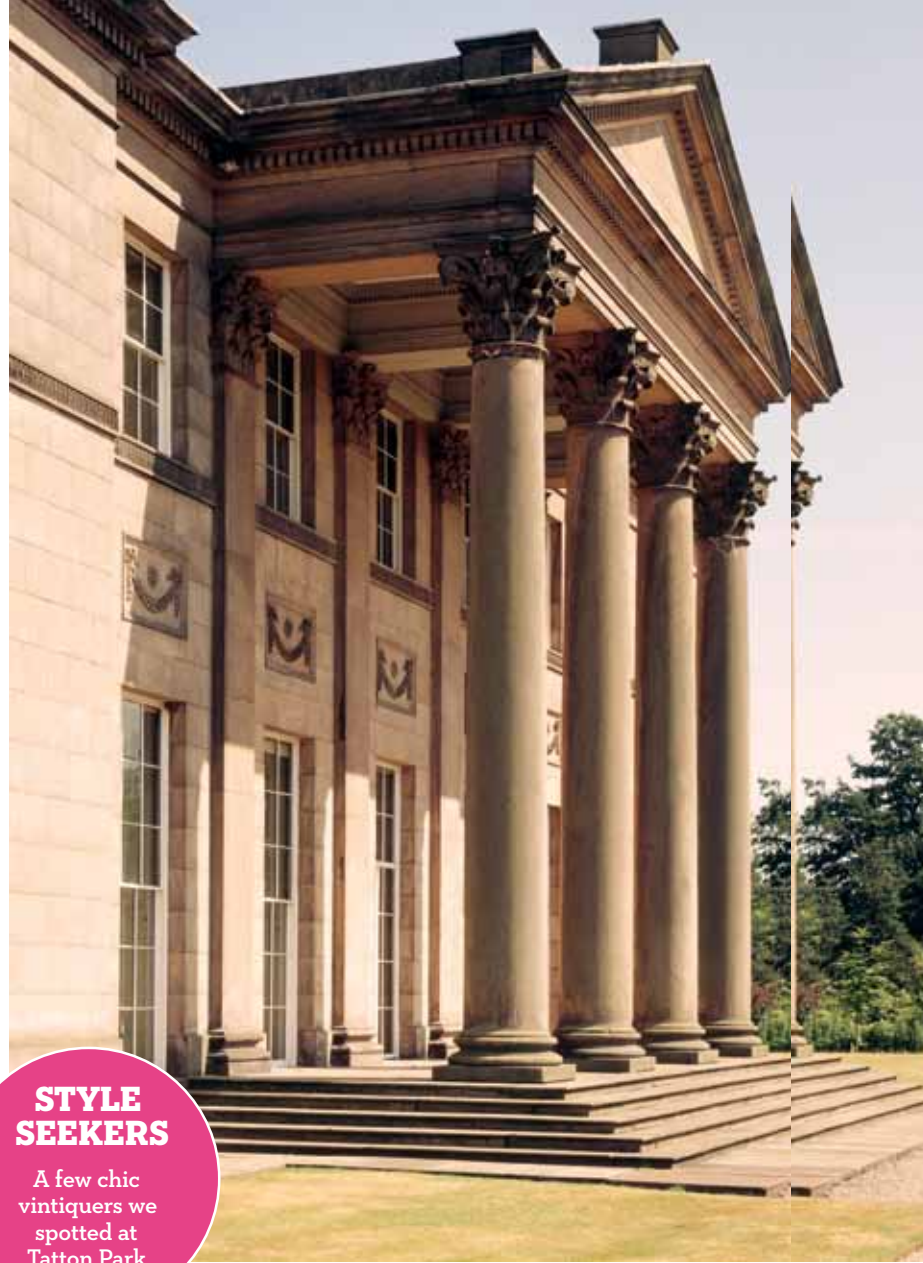
The wonderfully named Wilbraham Egerton (1781-1856), onetime master of Tatton Park in Cheshire, would no doubt have been delighted by the arrival on his doorstep three times a year of more than 45 antiques dealers from across the country. A lover of beautiful things (see page 61), he filled his home with paintings by van Dyck, shelves full of books and cabinets of fine ceramics – all on display today as part of the National Trust collections. The property was under the ownership of the Egerton family for 400 years before the Trust took over in 1958, and the slow drive through 1,000 acres of deer park towards the neoclassical mansion instills a feeling of tranquility.

The treasures acquired by generations of Egertons may not be within reach but The Tatton Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair offers up plenty of tempting alternatives. The fair has been catering to its well-heeled clientele since the 1960s and is a particularly good place to find something to hang on the wall, with stalls displaying contemporary art, Victorian oils, antiquarian maps and even the odd Lowry. There's a good chance of finding that oriental rug you've been longing for or a handsome old barometer to add gravitas to your hallway, but the quirky and the curious are there to be stumbled across too: you could easily return home with two Aston Martin car seats for £795 or a 1930s railway station telephone for £260.

You'll no doubt have worked up an appetite after all that shopping, so head to the Stables Restaurant for a rich venison casserole – something old Wills would no doubt have appreciated too.

IN BRIEF

The Tatton Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair is held three times a year. The next fair is on 7th-9th September. Entry is normally £5 but show this page at the entrance to receive free entry for one person. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QN. 01278 784912; cooperevents.com/tatton_park



STYLE SEEKERS
A few chic vintiquers we spotted at Tatton Park



Bob Hill bought this Victorian coal scuttle to go with one he already owns. 'I got the price down from £290 to £225.'



POOCH OF THE DAY

Short of any real-life dogs this month, we snapped these cute Yorkie brooches (£69 from Brieve Antiques) by jewellery maker Lea Stein, who developed a method of bonding layers of plastic with delicate fabrics in the 1960s. Perfect for pooch lovers, her canine works liven up any lapel. For more on Stein see our August 2011 issue.



The ginger jar that kick-started Margaret Cliffe's collection was an heirloom. She paid £130 for this one.



Peter Campbell was pleased to have found this 19th-century French clock, for £420. 'I've been searching for something for my Regency fireplace in the lounge and this will fit perfectly,' he says.

MARK FIENNES/NTPL

September fair dates

Please check before travelling as fairs can be cancelled or postponed after we go to press

1st-2nd Builth Wells International Antiques and Collectors Fair, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells, Powys. £5-£10. 01584 873634; continuityfairs.co.uk

2nd The Royal Horticultural Hall Antiques Fair, Royal Horticultural Hall, Lindley Hall, Elverton Street, Victoria, London. £4. 020 7254 4054; adamsantiquesfairs.com

2nd Little Vintage Lover Fair, Sussex Barn, Burnham Market, Norfolk. £2. littlevintageloverfair.co.uk

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2nd The Vintage Wedding Fair, The Adelphi Hotel, Ranelagh Place, Liverpool. £5. 0113 345 8699; vintageweddingfair.co.uk

3rd Donington Antiques Market, Donington Park, Castle Donington, Derby, Derbyshire. £2. 01298 27493; arthurswallowfairs.co.uk

4th-5th IACF Ardingly International Antiques and Collectors Fair, South of England Showground, Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. £20, Tuesday (also allows entry on Wednesday); £5, Wednesday. 01636 702326; iacf.co.uk

7th-9th Petersfield Antiques Fair, Festival Hall, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hants. £3. 01825 744074; penman-fairs.co.uk

7th-9th Antiques in the Park, Kedleston Hall, Derby, Derbyshire. £5-£7. 01332 830444; jaguarfairs.com

8th Village Vintage & Handmade Market, North Bradley Peace Memorial Hall, Trowbridge. £1. 01225 766866; delightfullyvintageevents.blogspot.com

9th The London Vintage Fashion, Textiles & Accessories Fair, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London. £10, before 10am; £5, after 10am. 020 8543 5075; pa-antiques.co.uk

9th Vintage Market, Dorchester Curiosity Centre, Grove Trading Estate, Dorchester. Free. 01300 320400; theenglisheventcompany.co.uk

10th The IACF Swinderby International Antiques and Collectors Fair, RAF Swinderby, nr Lincoln. £10, before 10am; £5, after 10am. 01636 702326; iacf.co.uk

15th Norwich Original Flea Market, St Andrew's Halls, Norwich, Norfolk. £1. 01603 630763; cloistersfair.com

15th Saltaire Vintage Home & Fashion Fair (part of Saltaire Festival), Victoria Hall, Saltaire, West Yorkshire. £2. 07985 181120; roseandbrownvintage.co.uk

15th Crikey! It's Vintage, Thistle Hotel, Exeter. £2. 07585 118574; crikeyitsvintage.co.uk

15th-16th IACF Shepton Mallet International Antiques and Collectors Fair, Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet. £10, Friday (allows entry on Sat & Sun); £5, Saturday and Sunday. 01636 702326; iacf.co.uk

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STALL STORIES

Twinkling at you from its display case, the silver overlay porcelain on John Newton's stall tugs at the magpie inside. John has been dealing in porcelain for 40 years but, since he started importing these lustrous beauties 18 months ago, collectors have flocked to their charms. 'I've loved decorative things since I was a toddler,' says John. 'When a lady I deal with in New Jersey passed up a large batch of this stuff, I happily took it on.'

He is selling the entire collection of one American family, amassed over two generations and 50 years, from 1905 until the 1950s. There are several hundred pieces in total and, taking a consignment every two or three months, John is now about halfway through. During the heyday of these decorative ceramics, most of which were produced in Europe in the early 20th century, the British never quite took the style to their hearts. Interestingly, he still sells many gorgeous vases, jugs, cups and saucers to American clients. 'They buy online from the States, so things that have come all the way over here go right back across the Atlantic!' johnnewtonantiques.com



Judith Clark was pleased with her buys: some Japanese ivory figures, a chalcedony pendant and these George III spoons, £130.



Tina Hooper plans to use this Buddha mask, made from reclaimed Cambodian teak and secured for £500, to add character to her large conservatory alongside a tribal rug.



Mary Race from Plumley bought this turn-of-the-century oak barrel for £245. She plans to use it as a replacement for the old coal scuttle she's been using as a stick stand.

MARK FIENNES/NTPL

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15th-16th Edinburgh Antiques and Collectors Fair, Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh. £3. 01636 676531; edinburghantiquesfair.co.uk

16th The Clerkenwell Vintage Fashion Fair, The Old Finsbury Town Hall, Rosebery Avenue, London. £4. clerkenwellvintagefashionfair.co.uk

19th-22nd Tribal Perspectives, Gallery 27, Cork Street, Mayfair, London. Free. 020 7221 6650; tribalperspectives.com

FREE ENTRY FOR 1

19th-23rd The Chelsea Antiques Fair, Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Road, London. £5. 01825 744074; penman-fairs.co.uk

19th-23rd LAPADA Art & Antiques Fair, Berkeley Square, Mayfair, London. £15. 020 7823 3511; lapadalondon.com

22nd Judy's Affordable Vintage Fair, Out of the Blue, 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh. £2. judysvintagefair.co.uk

2-FOR-1

23rd Festival of Vintage, Epsom Downs Racecourse, Epsom Downs, Surrey. £7.50. 0113 345 8699; festivalofvintage.co.uk

23rd Antique & Collectors Fair, Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. £1.50. 01764 654555; scotfairs.co.uk

23rd Malvern Flea and Collectors Fair, Three

Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire. £3. 01636 676531; b2bevents.info

24th Cambridgeshire Antique and Collectors Fair, Huntingdon Racecourse, Brampton, Huntingdon. £3. 07725 406272

28th-30th Stafford Bingley Hall Antiques Fair, Bingley Hall, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford. £3-£5. 01274 588505; antiquesfairs.com

29th Vintage Flea and Local Crafts Market, St John's Church Hall, Chipping Sodbury. Free. 01454 885552

29th Antique Tile Fair, St Judes Church Hall, Woodborough Road, Mapperley, Nottingham. £4. 0115 960 8502

29th Vintage & Handmade Fashion & Textile Fair, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall. £1. 01225 469292; vintageandhandmade.co.uk

30th Frock Me! Extravaganza, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, Kensington, London. £4. 020 7254 4054; frockmevintagefashion.com

30th Bath Vintage and Antiques Market, Green Park Station, Bath. Free. 07723 611249; vintageandantiques.co.uk

30th Antiques and Flea Market, The United Counties Showground, Carmarthen. £3.50. 01267 236569; towyevents.co.uk

30th Treacle Market, Marketplace, Chestergate and Castle Street, Macclesfield. Free. treaclemacclesfield.co.uk

Q&A

Who Roger Thornton, a painter, and his wife Sonja.

What An Edwardian silver napkin ring with a grapevine design, which cost £75.

Why 'We've been looking for silver napkin holders to go with our new dinner service. They're all going to be different. We'd like something with a Liberty pattern next.'

Style file Roger has been collecting since the age of 15 and when he moved house in 1988 he sold his entire collection via Christie's and started again. Sonja is a jewellery fan and seeks out Lea Stein (see page 91) pieces such as this red cat she's wearing. 'We like to live with beautiful things,' she says.



Eileen Washer paid £110 to add this art deco jug to her vintage mixology collection.



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