

'World's Largest Egg' on Sale at NEC Easter Antiques Fair

ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE
NEC, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND B40 1NT
16 – 19 April 2009

A giant egg, possibly the largest in the world, laid in the early 17th century by the Great Elephant Bird of Madagascar will be one of the most extraordinary exhibits ever to appear for sale at the Antiques for Everyone fair at the NEC, Birmingham, UK which takes place during Easter week, from Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th April 2009.



Belonging to antique dealer John Shepherd from Kent (shown), the egg is larger than any known egg, with a circumference exceeding a metre, greater in size than a rugby ball, and is more than 350 years old. It is also larger than any other known egg, including dinosaur eggs. The Elephant Bird (*Aepyornis*) was a flightless bird, larger than an ostrich at more than ten feet tall and weighed as much as half a ton, as contemporary accounts and bone fragments reveal. It became extinct in the mid 1600s, hunted out of existence by the inhabitants of Madagascar. The egg will be on sale for £5,000. Says John: "I am delighted to be offering for sale such an unusual antique. Today, collectors and interior decorators eagerly seek elephant bird eggs. They are certainly a major talking point in any home!"



The Elephant Bird

Antiques for Everyone is widely regarded as a major international event for connoisseurs, collectors and trade buyers. The fair features more than 350 dealers from the UK, Europe and America and offers a huge range of exhibits to suit every pocket, from less than £10 to £100,000. It is a major forum and meeting place for the UK antiques trade.

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Antiques for Everyone started in 1986. The fair is divided into two sections, each with distinctive dateline regulations. Section One features a number of leading dealers with inspiring displays of town and country furniture, from the 17th to early 20th century, with all the accompanying decorative accessories, including upholstered furniture, mirrors and lighting. They are joined by dealers specialising in early fine silver, pottery, porcelain, glass, jewellery, textiles, arms and armour. In addition, around thirty galleries show traditional and contemporary paintings and sculpture.

Section Two offers around two hundred and fifty dealers with a vast choice of collectable items. Specialities include large selections of Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau and Art Deco ceramics, silver, lighting and furniture; Roman and Chinese antiquities, Steiff teddy bears, antiquarian maps and engravings, working barometers, tea caddies, early tin-plate toys, scientific instruments, garden statuary, kitchen antiques, decorative brass and copper, needlework samplers and chic costume jewellery.

Most importantly, the Vetting Committee, comprising approximately 150 specialist experts, spend an entire day reviewing exhibits for quality, authenticity and accurate labelling. This ensures that buyers can make their purchases with added confidence. More than 100 members belong to LAPADA (The Association of Art & Antiques Dealers), while others belong to the BADA (British Antique Dealers Association). Antiques for Everyone is organised by Clarion Events Birmingham Ltd and takes place every spring, summer and winter.

PUBLIC VISITOR INFORMATION Tel: UK (0)121-767 2947.

Halls 17-19, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, UK, B40 1NT.

Admission: £12.00, including free car parking.

In Advance: £10.00 for Adults and Senior Citizens from the Box Office Tel: 0844 581 0827.

Public Open Times: Thurs 11am-7pm / Fri-Sat 11am-6pm / Sun 11am-5pm

Organisers: Clarion Events Birmingham Ltd, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham B40 1NT.

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