

Hideous Antique Beast On Sale at NEC Antiques Fair

ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE
NEC, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND B40 1NT
30 October – 2 November 2008

The most hideous but most collectable of antique stoneware models goes on sale at the Antiques for Everyone fair at the NEC, Birmingham from 30 October – 2 November 2008.

A spoon warmer modelled as a hideous beast will be an eye-catching attraction on the stand of A.D. Antiques, exhibitors from Staffordshire specialising in the pottery of the Martin Brothers factory and other 19th and early 20th century studio ceramics.



The spoon warmer beast dates from around 1885 and will be on sale for £15,000. It is described by Alison Davey of A.D. Antiques as one of the most rare and unusual pieces of Martin Brothers' ware she has ever seen, especially because on this version the beast is showing its gnashing teeth. The model may have been the later inspiration for the cartoon monster 'Taz', based on the Tasmanian Devil, a carnivorous marsupial native to Tasmania. Spoon warmers were in use in chilly Victorian homes to keep utensils warm in readiness for the dining table. Novelty spoon warmers were particularly popular. This hideous beast will be on sale at the fair with a number of additional Martinware pieces including a selection of the famous grotesque owls. Alison Davey can be contacted on Tel: 07811 783 518.

Antiques for Everyone is Britain's largest vetted and datelined antiques fair featuring more than 350 exhibitors from across the UK, Europe and America. It is a major international event for collectors with prices from less than £10 to more than £100,000.

Martinware was the product of the four Martin brothers, Wallace, Walter, Edwin and Charles, who were pioneers in the production of studio pottery, some beautifully formed and expertly

decorated, and others eccentric, such as their famous bird jars. They specialised in salt-glazed stoneware, a strong, non-porous pottery with a distinctive 'orange-peel' texture. Having trained as a sculptor, Wallace Martin started producing pottery in Fulham in 1873. In 1877, the brothers moved to a disused soapworks on the canal in Southall. The family continued making pottery until Wallace's death in 1923. The brothers regarded themselves as artists and each piece of their work is unique.

Among their most well known pieces are the now celebrated 'humanised' owl statues, made from 1873 to 1915. Often described as ugly and even hideous, these owl forms took on a new popularity when the TV expert Henry Sandon alighted on a superb example during an Antiques Roadshow. Suddenly people who had dismissed similar pieces as eccentric and undesirable rushed to proclaim their rediscovered treasures.

Begun in 1986, Antiques for Everyone continues to be one of the world's most popular fairs. It is divided into two distinctive sections governed by dateline restrictions to ensure the fair provides a range of authentic antiques in all areas. Section One offers superb displays from exhibitors specialising in fine furniture and decorative accessories. They are joined by leading galleries from across the country specialising in silver, pottery, porcelain, jewellery, textiles, arms and armour and sculpture.

Section Two offers around three hundred dealers showing a vast choice of collectable items. Specialities include Roman and Chinese antiquities, Steiff teddy bears, French clocks, fine engravings, working barometers, tea caddies, early tin-plate toys, scientific instruments, English Civil War period pistols and helmets, garden statuary, kitchen antiques, decorative brass, copper, needlework samplers, sculpture, textiles, Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau and Art Deco.

Most importantly, a committee comprising approximately 150 specialist experts inspect exhibits for quality and authenticity, ensuring that buyers can make their purchases with confidence. 100-plus are members of LAPADA (The Association of Art & Antiques Dealers while others belong to the BADA (British Antique Dealers Association).

The Antiques for Everyone fairs are organised by Clarion Events Ltd and take place every spring, summer and winter.

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

Fair Location:

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

Admission: £10.00, including free car parking.

In Advance: £8.00 for Adults and Senior Citizens from the Box Office Tel: 0871 945 4527.

Public Open Times 30 October – 2 November:

Thurs 11am-7pm / Fri-Sat 11am-6pm / Sun 11am-5pm

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

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