Farther afield

Ithough also only in its third year, Masterpiece London has quickly established itself as a major destination for top-tier antiques collectors and those in pursuit of other fine things,

Masterpiece

from classic cars to superlative wines. Works on view will include rare Ming Dynasty porcelain from Jorge Welsh, antique jewelry

from A La Vieille Russie, and Egyptian antiquities from newcomer Merrin Gallery. Past attendees include such glitterati



as Prince Harry, Oprah Winfrey, and Sir David Tang. The fair's gala, this year benefiting CLIC Sargent, a leading children's cancer charity, is a highlight of the social calendar.

Simon Phillips, of Ronald Phillips Ltd. and a former chairman of the Grosvenor House Fair, co-founded Masterpiece with several other dealers who were determined to create a fair on a scale far beyond that of Grosvenor House, both in physical size and in scope. Phillips explains that the antiques trade has shifted dramatically since his father set up shop in the very same year that Elizabeth II assumed the throne. He explains that in his father's era there was a sale virtually every day somewhere in England. The catalogues weren't illustrated then so the

public depended on dealers to sift through the auctions for them. Since then, the auction houses' success in attracting retail clients and the subsequent onslaught of online trading have transformed the business.

In Phillips's opinion, his company's ability to reach its own diamond jubilee has entailed a shift in focus toward purchasing only extraordinary pieces and in find-

ing new ways to present them. He explains that he prefers to buy one great thing rather than five or ten less important objects. He is especially thrilled to bring to Masterpiece a rare set of four George I japanned girandoles attributed to Giles Grendey. According to Phillips, "it is possible that this set, with finely painted chinoiserie scenes is unique within English furniture as no other sets of four are known. Grendey was based in Clerkenwell in London and enjoyed enormous success as a cabinet and chair maker supplying furniture to many prominent houses."These and other treasures from the gallery will be presented in a lavishly illustrated anniversary catalogue available for purchase at the fair.

With a similar insistence on quality but an altogether different aesthetic, European folk art specialist Robert Young

> pays tribute to the upcoming Olympics with a marvelous set of twelve enormous Copeland Spode plaques depicting sporting events and created circa 1876-1877 as a special commission for Thomas Russell, Esq. for his home in Glasgow. At least half of these are or have been Olympic events.

> Masterpiece London · Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London . June 28 to July 4 · masterpiece fair.com



Abraham (1850-1920) and Lucian Besche (d. 1901), 1876-1877. Courtesy of Robert Young

www.themagazineantiques.com



on Phillips at the

London headquarters of Ronald Phillips Ltd.

girandoles attributed to

Two of a set of four

Giles Grendey (1693-1780), English, c. 1720.

Two of twelve plaques illustrating different

painted by Robert Taylor

Courtesy of Ronald

sporting pursuits. Copeland Spode, hand-

Antiques, London,