

dealers' diary



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reports

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Right:
a c.1800
Welsh
stick-chair
of lobster-
pot form,
in ash and
elm with
arms made
from a
single piece
of timber,
£3800 from
Tim Bowen
Antiques.



The Bowens move home

THE country furniture and folk art dealers **Tim** and **Betsan Bowen** have moved away from home for their winter exhibition this year, setting up instead in the house in Aberglasney Gardens at Llangathen, Carmarthenshire, from November 9-21.

The Bowens are based in the pretty remote location of Ferryside in Carmarthenshire and so, not surprisingly, they sell much of the stock through the catalogue sent out before the opening of these biannual shows, although the buyers tend to allow them to display the items through the show.

"Increasingly we only see our customers when we deliver items or when they can manage to visit us in our off-the-beaten-track location," says Tim.

As usual there is a definite Welsh lilt to the show and most items have a Welsh connection, such as a small North Wales dresser with a canopy rack (£11,500) formerly in the John Parry collection and a c.1850 oil on canvas of a Cardiganshire sloop inscribed *Brothers Cardigan James Thomas Master* (£3800).

Of course there are smaller pieces too, so that, as Betsan says, customers whose houses are already full of larger pieces of furniture "can be tempted by something that fits into their homes easily".

These include candles, boxes and other pieces for under £1000, such as three examples of the Llanelly pottery cockler plate (£580-690) and a Welsh sampler from Carmarthenshire (£890).
www.timbowenantiques.co.uk
www.aberglasney.org

Brum to London dash

■ Earlier than usual date for Olympia means a tight transfer

THIS year's Winter Fine Art & Antiques Fair at Olympia runs a week earlier than normal to coincide with Asian Art in London, hoping to capitalise on the influx of collectors to the capital for that hectic week of sales and exhibitions.

It takes place from November 5-10 (preview November 4), but this makes for a hectic time for the Clarion organising team, and some of the dealers, as it runs immediately after the winter *Antiques for Everyone* fair in Birmingham, and some 25 dealers will be hotfooting it from one to the other on Sunday night – Clarion are helping with transport and logistics to help ease the transfer between the two.

Olympia is a winter staple and, while they will be nothing here to scare any horses or break any moulds, it has been part of the trade's calendar for 23 years and, aside from the popular Decorative fair down in Battersea in January which caters to a slightly different market, there is nothing in London between this and BADA in March in terms of a large, old-school antiques fairs.

While winter Olympia is known as a traditional, and largely English and European-flavoured event, with the amount of Asian interest in the capital at this time, head of exhibitor stand sales **Mary-Claire Boyd** has obviously been keen to get in a few more Asian exhibitors than normal, and this year they are expecting around four or five specialists including **Laura Bordignon Antiques**, French dealer **Peter Marchal** and **Paul Champkins** and **Japanese Gallery**, who are both returning to the fair after a break.

Collie good show at this Scottish palace

THE state rooms of Scone Palace in Perth are about the most atmospheric setting a winter antiques fair could wish for.

They have been home to **Galloway Antiques Fairs'** biannual *Scone Palace Antiques & Fine Art Fair*, which runs next from November 8-10, for 18 years.

Joining the 35 exhibitors for the first time are local picture dealer (and Highland cattle breeder) **Ginny Stacy Marks** from Auchentenny near Perth; **York Minster Antiques** from York selling silver; **Robin Little** and **Carolyn Liddiard** from Hampshire with furniture, bronzes and



Above: Barnaba Fornasetti (b.1950) "Leopardo" commode, lithographically printed and hand coloured wood, marked to the side 1 of 4, 1998. Barnaba is Piero Fornasetti's son and the commode was made in Italy in 1998. It is priced at £19,500 from **Holly Johnson**, who will have a number of Fornasetti pieces at Olympia – this year marks the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth.

Right: a Meiji period Japanese bronze hawk perched on a plum tree stump, signed in a reserve Masatsune chū, 2ft 5in (74cm) high, £16,000 from Laura Bordignon Antiques at Olympia.



Further names were yet to be confirmed at the time of writing, and other exhibitors are planning to bring more Asian material than normal.

But this hardly means Olympia will suddenly be a sea of jades, lacquer and Ming. In fact there are more exhibitors of English period furniture than in the past few years, always a mainstay of this fair but a field that has felt the recession of the past few years more acutely than most.

The floundering housing market resulting in fewer moves impacted upon sales of furniture particularly larger pieces and fairs are more expensive undertaking for furniture dealers than those in other fields, as transporting hefty stock and

paying for large stands to accommodate it are inevitably costly.

But there is now more movement in the housing market, particularly in London, and although still cautious there seems to be a more positive mood in general across the trade since the summer.

Perhaps things are finally looking up, and this must encourage more dealers to chance doing a fair again rather than stay at home and lick their wounds. Smaller, quirky collectors' pieces, too, are an inherent part of Olympia and jewellers often do a good trade in selling Christmas presents to the more organised.

This year there are around 110



copper art jewellery from the 1950s and **Village-on-the-Web** from York with predominantly ceramics and glass.
www.gallowayfairs.co.uk

Above: a pen and black ink drawing on ivory of a collie by Cecil Charles W. Aldin, £1450 from new exhibitor **Ginny Stacy-Marks** at Scone.