

# ANTIQUES TRADE gazette

THE ART MARKET WEEKLY



Diamond flowerhead brooch by Bulgari  
T: +44 (0)20 7493 8904  
[www.hancocks-london.com](http://www.hancocks-london.com)

**Hancocks**  
LONDON  
SINCE 1849

## £1.56m purchase saves the Minton archive for Stoke

■ Massive paper archive from two centuries of Potteries history 'in its rightful place'

**Anne Crane**  
reports

**AFTER lengthy and complex negotiations, the paper archive of the Staffordshire pottery firm of Minton's has been saved for the nation.**

It follows the similar purchase by the V&A in October last year of the Wedgwood Museum Collection, a £15.75m archive of British ceramics history threatened with sale following a pension wrangle involving the Wedgwood Museum Trust.

Through another campaign, the Art Fund raised the £1.56m to purchase the Minton archive from Waterford Wedgwood Royal Doulton on March 31.

Most of this was provided by a £1.16m grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund with numerous other donations making up the rest.

Ownership was immediately handed to Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council Archives who will manage and catalogue it, loaning material to the Wedgwood Museum in Barlaston and the city's Potteries Museum for display.

"For years the Art Fund has fought to protect the Minton archive, keeping it in its rightful place in Staffordshire and bringing it into safe public ownership", said Stephen Deuchar, the Art Fund's director. "We're delighted that an archive that incorporates major works of art amidst a treasure trove of industrial history has finally been saved."

Minton's Ltd, which was founded by Thomas Minton in 1793 and ceased operating in the 1990s, was one of the best-known producers of tablewares,



**Above:** one of the 20 pieces from the Brace type Nantgarw service sold for £20,000 at Campbells of Worthing on March 24.

### Dessert service is a sweet success

A 20-piece Nantgarw dessert service sold for £20,000 at **Campbells** of Worthing on March 24 (plus 17.5% buyer's premium). It was being sold on behalf of a titled lady.

The shape and decoration of these wares are of the Brace Service type with a crisply moulded C-scroll border. While most of the items bear the impressed mark *Nant-Garw* CW, the decoration of a central bouquet of flowers, including a variegated

tulip within a border of a single finch, fruit and flowers, was probably completed in London c.1818-20.

Plates decorated in similar style are attributed to the Bradley workshop, a firm of London china and glass retailers and china decorators. Single plates of this type can command in the region of £1500 at auction so the estimate of £6000-8000 for this

**continued on page 2**

**art  
antiques  
london**

12th - 18th June 2015

Preview 11th June  
Albert Memorial West Lawn,  
Kensington Gardens, London  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7389 6555  
[www.haughton.com](http://www.haughton.com)



35TH ANNUAL  
**BALTIMORE**  
SUMMER ANTIQUES SHOW  
**AUGUST 20-23**

Featuring  
Over 500  
International  
Exhibitors

**BaltimoreSummershow.com**

A PALM BEACH SHOW GROUP EVENT



**Koopman Rare Art**  
Robert Garrard  
London 1852

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7242 7624  
[www.koopmanrareart.com](http://www.koopmanrareart.com)





**Left:** *Si tous les gars du monde*, a 13in (34cm) diameter mirror in polychrome talosel with gilt mirror glass. This unique piece was created c.1960 by Line Vautrin for her own use. It is estimated at €80,000-100,000 in Christie's May 20 auction.

**Far left:** a 6¼in (16cm) long silvered bronze and part-enamelled box created in 1943-45. The decoration to the top takes the form of a rebus that can be read as *le t'aimé aujourd'hui plus qu'hier et moins que demain* (today I love you more than yesterday and less than tomorrow). It is estimated at €8000-12,000 in the May 20 sale.

## Line in Parisian chic on offer from designer's family

ALTHOUGH she achieved international acclaim, what could be more Parisian than the work of Line Vautrin? The creative talents of the French designer (1913-7) were awakened as a small child in her father's metal foundry. She went on to produce her costume jewellery, small objects and above all her famous boxes and mirrors in a workshop in the French capital from

the 1930s, selling them in her boutiques. Vautrin's distinctive creations – fantastic, eclectic, often playful – are highly collectable, seen everywhere in shops and antiques fairs and regularly at auction.

Next month **Christie's** Paris rooms will offer something special in the Vautrin line: more than 200 examples of her work that have come direct from her

family, consigned by her daughter Marie-Laure Bonnaud Vautrin. The May 20 sale includes pieces from across the Vautrin range including a number of hitherto unpublished items such as the mirror shown **above**, which she created for her own use in the 1960s and was always kept in her home. [christies.com](http://christies.com)

## Sabrier selection brings 30 years of research to market

ERIOUS horological collectors will click to action when more than 200 lots of watches, watch movements and clocks from the research collection of the horological expert, author and auction specialist Jean-Claude Sabrier are offered for sale next month.

Bidders will find pieces of interest and quality, with a notable provenance, when they go under the hammer at Drouot in Paris on May 2 in a dedicated auction staged by **Chayette et Cheval**.

Sabrier, who died last year, was born in 1938 and came from a family of jewellers. He started out as a general antiques dealer in Normandy but became increasingly interested in horology and in 1980 joined forces with the Parisian auctioneer Hervé Chayette to hold dedicated horological auctions in Paris several times a year – an unprecedented move in the French capital at the time. This makes Chayette et Cheval a particularly appropriate choice to hold the sale, and Maitre Chayette will be on the rostrum to sell his former colleague's collection.

Sabrier moved to Antiquorum in 1988 to act as an expert and researcher for the Geneva watch auctioneers. His final role was with the Swatch group, advising them on the development of their matrimonial collections.

Alongside these roles, Sabrier had a full career researching various different precision watchmakers and producing exhibitions and publications devoted to their work.

His particular interests were Louis Berthoud, the Le Roy family of



**Below right:** Jean-Claude Sabrier's special interest in the Le Roy family means there are a number of watches and movements by them in the May 2 Chayette et Cheval sale. One of the potential stars, with an estimate of €30,000-50,000, is this *petite ronde*, a small marine watch made by Pierre III Le Roy, c.1774, for which Pierre recycled a movement by his father Julien Le Roy. Signed *Julien Le Roy inventi et fecit* and *A Paris 4732*, the movement is one of only three known examples of such watches. It has a Sully-Debauffe escapement as modified by Julien and Pierre Le Roy, is now fitted with a contemporary dial not original to the movement and is contained in a contemporary but also not original plain gold case. It is mounted in a counter-weighted cylindrical box gimballed into a mahogany case that is a recent reconstruction modelled on the only complete, original, example in the Beyer Museum, Zurich.

**Left:** a handful of early clocks feature in the May 2 sale. This 5½in (14cm) high, late 16th century, French gilt-brass striking wall clock with alarm is rare for being weight-driven rather than spring-driven and finely engraved to the case with foliate decoration set around grotesque heads. It also features Corinthian column angles and has a cross and *HS* to the back over the initials *AG*, possibly for the owner or perhaps for André Gay, a clockmaker from Grenoble. It is estimated at €15,000-20,000.



watchmakers and latterly the work of Abraham Louis Breguet. The Chayette et Cheval sale covers all Sabrier's areas of interest with a catalogue structured around these research axes. The result is a mix of pieces he has owned for 20-30 years and more recent acquisitions. They range from complete watches and clocks to many uncased movements and dials, and from the 16th century to complex multi-functional wristwatches made in the last few years.

"Quality and technical interest drove him," says Anthony Turner, who knew Sabrier well and is acting as consultant

expert for the auction. "It's a sale where there could be something for everybody."

He reckons there will be bidders who knew Sabrier and want a memento but added that "for serious watch collectors there are 15 or 20 lots that are going to attract 15 or 20 people". These will include the small marine watch shown **above**, made by Pierre III Le Roy using his father's movement, and known as the *petite ronde*. But at the other end of the scale are plenty of watch movements estimated at less than €1000.

Sabrier was working on Breguet at the time of his death, researching his

subscription watches, subscription style watches by his contemporaries and 19th century imitations bearing his name. As a result there are around 20 watches covering these different categories in the sale, estimated at various price points.

Timed to be held just before the main horological auctions in Geneva, a selection of highlights from the sale will be on show in the Swiss city at Antiquorum's showroom from April 21-22, prior to the views in Paris (by appointment at Chayette et Cheval or at Drouot on May 4-5).

[chayette-cheval.com](http://chayette-cheval.com)