

THE *National*
FINE ART & ANTIQUES FAIR

**VETTING
RULES & REGULATIONS
2010**

Our aim is to produce a Fair of a standard consistently higher than those of this nature elsewhere, to safeguard the public in their purchases as required by law and to give exhibitors a clear guide on the standard required.

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO READ THE RULES, REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES

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Datelines and Exceptions

Oil Paintings, Watercolours, Drawings, Sculptures and Fine Art must be original, by known and recognised artists. Prints acceptable only if executed by the artist	No Dateline
Outdoor Sculpture, Ornaments & Furniture	Pre 1950
Oriental Items, Antique Light Fittings, Books, Gardenalia, Kitchenalia, specialist Art Nouveau & Art Deco pieces, signed pieces by Royal Worcester, Royal Crown Derby Porcelain and Coalport.	Pre 1940
Jewellery including Wrist Watches, Pens/Pencils & Ladies Vanities	Pre 1970
Oriental Rugs (Contemporary allowed but must not exceed 30% of the total stock exhibited)	Pre 1950
Silver	Pre 1970
Base Metals	Pre 1900
All other items including Furniture	Pre 1914

INTRODUCTION

The following regulations form part of the contract, and every exhibitor is obliged to read them carefully, and by signing the contract agrees to abide by them.

The purpose of these rules is to uphold the standard of exhibits and to safeguard the public in their purchases. Exhibitors must produce an attractive display of fine quality pieces in as good a condition as is commensurate with their age. Vettors will vet in accordance with the datelines looking for quality, authenticity and intrinsic merit although a specific guide to what is acceptable is listed on the following pages.

Labels must be completed by commencement of vetting and subsequent daily vetting and clearly visible. All restoration must be clearly indicated on labelling and invoices. Exhibitors are responsible for the contents of their own labels and the onus is upon themselves to ensure that they are correct. Items not labelled are eligible to be vetted off.

Contents of labels should include:

- Description of Item
- Country of origin
- Material from which it is made
- Restoration details
- Date of manufacture
- Price - in plain UK pound sterling figures
- Paintings and Watercolours – name, dates of artists (if known) and medium

All items are required to be accurately and fully described and justified.

The Ruling by Trading Standards concerning labelling of very small items such as Jewellery allow a list describing each item by number to be affixed to the side of a showcase on full public display if individual labels are too difficult to produce.

Labelling & Prices for Objects in Glass Cabinets – Exhibitors must ensure that such items are clearly labelled, and the label is clearly visible from outside, showing the price. Alternatively, a catalogue/price list must be displayed on the side of the cabinet, or be clearly visible adjacent to the cabinet.

All such items must be within the prescribed datelines, or of modern construction and clearly marked **“DISPLAY ONLY - NOT FOR SALE”**. No modern copies of period design will be allowed for display only purposes. Lighting and carpets/rugs must comply with vetting criteria even though listed as **‘NOT FOR SALE’**. Stand lighting for illumination purposes can be provided by contractors.

Exhibitors are requested to behave in a professional manner whilst participating in this Fair. Conduct which is aggressive, either verbally or physically, towards any member of staff including the organisational team and their appointed contractors, the Vetting Committees, Security, Traffic, Catering etc, and also towards any other exhibitor, will **NOT** be tolerated and an exhibitor may be excluded from future fairs or asked to leave the fair forthwith.

GENERAL RULES

All exhibits must be in a fairworthy condition and exhibitors are encouraged to consider how items will be displayed to ensure that a high standard is maintained throughout the fair. Presentation should be commensurate with high quality of the Fair. Framing, mounting, plinths and anything which enables the object to be displayed to its best advantage will be encouraged.

The Vetting Committee will have very broad powers to reject items incongruous with a stand's general "look", and to "thin out" an over-cluttered stand.

All decisions of the Vetting Committees are taken in the interest of The National Fine Art & Antiques Fair. The acceptance or refusal of all objects is entirely at the discretion of the Vetting Committees, and every exhibitor must agree to be bound by the Committees' decisions.

The opinion of a Vetting Committee on an object is rendered solely to The National Fine Art & Antiques Fair Committee for the purpose of information and assistance in connection with the admission of an object to the Fair, and may not be used or relied upon by any other person or for any other purposes whatsoever. The opinion is given to the best of the Vetting Committee's knowledge, and neither the Vetting Committee, nor their appointed agents accept any liability whatsoever for the validity of the opinion.

Vetting Procedure

The Organisers have appointed Vetting Committees for each discipline, under individual Chairmen. Vetting will commence at 14:00 hours on the day previous to opening, and at 10:00 hours on subsequent days.

During vetting, the exhibitor must retire from his stand ensuring that they do not remain within the vicinity of the stand to allow the vetting committee to vet with total confidentiality. No discussion of any kind about the vetting will be conducted with any member of the Vetting Committee during or after the vetting.

Appeals must be in writing before 16:00 hours on vetting day, and by 10:45 hours on subsequent days. Due to the limited time available appeals will be limited to a maximum of 3 per stand. Appeals will be dealt with by the Appeals Chairman, who will hear reasons for rejection from the Chairman of the relevant Committee, and reason for re-instatement from the exhibitor concerned. The Appeals Chairman may also, at his discretion, consult any other person he may choose. The resulting decision of the Appeals Chairman will be final.

Major items of furniture, and centre-pieces of displays, unless they have been vetted off, cannot be removed from a stand between vetting and end of first day (nor moved from stand to stand).

All stands must be free of night sheets and keys for cabinets left with the Organisers office during vetting. All exhibits must be clearly labelled by 13:30 hours on vetting day. Insufficient or inappropriate labelling, or non-labelling in time for vetting will lead to rejection, at the discretion of the Vetting Committee.

The following details must be clearly and accurately indicated on each item:

Date, country, factory, material and price in plain UK pound sterling figures. The extent of any major restoration or later additions should be shown on the label. Reasonable details of an item's history and any other result of research should be prominently shown. Jewellery and very small items should be listed on a separate form with all details and prices and then visibly displayed for visitors to peruse. (If rejected, there will be a rejection label attached. If the item is to be re-labelled, a note to the effect will be attached to the label).

Restoration

A reasonable amount of restoration is permitted in accordance with the age of the item, and general acceptability in the category concerned. Restoration must be in keeping with the original character of the piece, allowing evidence of antiquity. Items must not be restored to a level that obscures evidence of age or the extent of serious damage. **No Marriages of any kind will be allowed. Any Item having additions, subtractions, later enrichments or any alterations which change it's original character, size, or enhance it's value will not be permitted.**

It is at the discretion of the vetting committee as to what degree of restoration is allowed.

Removal of rejected items

In the event that the exhibitor fails or refuses to move any item rejected by the Vetting Committee before opening hours on the day in question, the Company may itself remove such articles at the exhibitors own risk and shall not be under any liability for any damage or loss during or after removal. Any item rejected by the vetting committee will not be accepted to any future Clarion Events Birmingham Ltd Fairs.

Endangered Species

The UK is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Dealers are advised to check with the government web-site www.ukcites.gov.uk for current information on the sale and export of fauna or flora made of or incorporating (irrespective of percentage) material such as ivory, whalebone, tortoiseshell, rhinoceros horn, rosewood and lignum vitae etc.

The web site also gives guidance notes on export licence applications.

As these regulations are under constant review dealers are advised to check before each fair.

REGULATIONS FOR VETTING OF EXHIBITS

ANTIQUUE LIGHTING

- All electric wiring must comply with current safety standards regarding earthing or the wiring must be removed completely. **All lights fitted with a flex and plug must bear a PAT test certificate.**
- All items must be accurately labelled and include country of origin and approximate date of manufacture and original method of illumination e.g. oil, gas or electricity.
- Antique Lighting of poor quality or in bad condition will be deemed unfairworthy and rejected.
- Sympathetic conversion to electricity from oil or gas use will be permitted but any major changes to the original construction of the light will not be acceptable.
- Oil lamps: Bases and oil reservoirs should be original and glass shades should preferably be of the same period as the bases. New shades of appropriate design will be allowed but must be labelled “modern”.
- Gas and electric fittings: All exhibits should be as originally constructed apart from any necessary conversion to meet electrical standards or the use of any shade carriers required. Single old shades supported on modern shade carriers and labelled “hanging lights” or “pendants” will not be allowed. (The shades however may be sold separately). Reproduction glass shades of appropriate design will be permitted on old fittings but these must be labelled “modern”. American table lamps of dubious age will be rejected.
- Chandeliers: not more than 30% of lustres should be replaced on any one fitting, also they should not be embellished by the addition of extra beads or drops.
- Candlesticks and candelabra even if later adapted for electricity will be vetted by the appropriate Metals Committee.
- Vases converted to table lamps will be vetted by the appropriate Ceramics Committee.
- Bronze or spelter figure lamps will be vetted by the Bronze and European Sculpture Committee.
- Conversions not historically used for lighting will not be permitted.

ARTS & CRAFTS

- Refinishing of furniture should be sympathetically carried out, using good natural wax finish. Pieces should ideally not be stripped and re-coloured or overly French-polished.
- Items must be genuinely in the Arts & Crafts style and not be general Victorian or Edwardian furnishings re-coloured or re-styled to be sold as such.
- Items must not be labelled as the product of particular designers, makers, workshops or regional schools, unless there is available and substantial proof to verify this.
- The original finish and patination of metalwork is preferable to highly polished examples. Metalwork on furniture must be original.
- Lighting will also be vetted by the appropriate committee, but shades should be sympathetic to the style. Unless there is available and substantial proof, labels attributable to individual designers, makers, workshops or regional schools will not be allowed.
- Arts & Crafts textiles and carpets should be in good condition and not “tender” or faded. They must be from the original period and not later copies or adaptations.
- Replacement glass liners to metalwork are not allowed.
- Minor restoration to ceramics allowed, as long as clearly labelled.
- Where possible, country or continent of manufacture and date of same should be clearly labelled.

BASE METALS

- Base metal – brass, copper, bronzeware, pewter, iron & steel
- Overall false patination will not be accepted. However, sympathetic restorative work such as re-gilding, re-silvering etc is acceptable if the article was finished in the same way originally.
- The pastiche or articles of an ambiguous nature are not allowed. For example certain candlesticks were copied in the 1920's and although they would pass the dateline in Section 2, they cannot be allowed as they are outwardly exact copies of an earlier period.
- Ideally the circa date on a label should be as close to the date of manufacture as possible.
- Alternatively to label a piece as *early*, *middle* or the *late* part of a century is just as acceptable.
- To date an article as simply 'Georgian' or 'Victorian' is not accurate enough.

CLOCKS, BAROMETERS & SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

Clocks & Barometers

- No totally replaced movements or replaced dials will be allowed.
- All dials if not re-silvered, should be clean & legible.
- Replaced hands must be in keeping and labelled as such.
- Re-gilding only acceptable if of highest quality and labelled as such.
- Enamelling can be repaired but not totally replaced.
- All clocks and barometers must be in full working order and guaranteed for at least 1 year. If for any reason a clock is not in good working order, it should be labeled as such and it will be at the vetting committee's discretion as to the fairworthiness of the item.

Scientific Instruments

- No later Indian or copies of instruments allowed. Telescopes, binoculars etc. must be in working order.
- All measuring, weighing or calculating instruments must be invoiced as collectors items only or words to that effect. (Trade Descriptions Act – Fitness of Purpose).
- Each element of globes on stands must be vetted by the respective committee i.e. Globes on wooden stands would be vetted by Furniture and the Instrument Vetting Committees.
- Globes on silver stands would be vetted by Silver and Instrument Vettors. Any globes with gores or horizon rings replaced with photocopies will be rejected.
- All restoration must be fully described.
- Any sand glasses with replacement frames will be rejected. Tickets must have good descriptions and be dated '19th Century Scientific Instrument' or 'Measuring Instrument' – will not alone be acceptable.

EUROPEAN CERAMICS

- Datelines – please refer to page 3 in relation to the specific datelines for the Fair you are attending. Datelines will be strictly adhered to.
- Marriages in any form are not allowed.
- Items for display only must be clearly marked 'DISPLAY ONLY - NOT FOR SALE' and be within the appropriate dateline, i.e. flower vases for decoration purposes.
- All restorations must be precisely marked, re-gilded, re-painted or any replacement parts, must be mentioned on the label and listed on invoices (This is most important in order to comply with the Trade Descriptions Act which if not, can lead to court action).
- All items sold during the Fair must be properly invoiced in accordance with Trading Standards requirements. Invoices must also state Country of Origin (also factory if possible), date of manufacture and restoration.

- Dating should be more explicit than just 18th or 19th century, i.e. 3rd quarter of 19th century. All ceramics must have been produced prior to the relevant dateline.
- All ceramics must have been produced prior to the relevant dateline with the exception of the following Moorcroft items:-
 - Walter Moorcroft flambé items will be allowed due to their quality
 - Patterns allowed providing they have the impressed factory mark with facsimile signature are: Spring Flowers, Orchids, Clematis, Anemone, Fuchsia, Columbine, Hibiscus, Lilies.
- Exhibitors must have ALL items fully LABELLED before vetting in Sections One and Two, i.e. Date, factory, restoration if any. All items labelled to include manufacturer, date and restoration, if any. Items which are not labelled are eligible to be vetted off.
- Rejected items must be removed permanently from the Fair.
- Badly damaged ceramics will be rejected. Over restored pieces not up to showroom standard will be considered unfairworthy and will be rejected.
- No unvetted stock should be offered for sale under any circumstances whatsoever.
- Vases converted to table lamps will be vetted by the appropriate Ceramics Committee.
- No ceramics of mass inferior manufacture from the 20th Century will be permitted.

FURNITURE

- Restoration - Amount permitted in accordance with age and rarity.
- Alterations - Conversions are only acceptable if the item is changed from an obsolete purpose to a modern purpose, at the discretion of the Vetting Committee, and always providing the alteration is sympathetically executed and indicated on the label - e.g. Linen Press changed to Wardrobe, and converted Commodes.
- Replaced Feet & Handles - Acceptable if so labelled and in-keeping with the piece.
- Veneers, Cross-banding & Inlays - Replacement up to 25% are acceptable, at the discretion of the Vetting Committee, but not whole tops. Later cross-banding and inlays intended to enhance the value of the piece will not be permitted. Any acceptable replacements etc to be labelled clearly.
- Items of furniture with associated tops are not acceptable.
- Re-gilding - Acceptable if back/underside has an area left visibly old.
- Re-painting/Re-decoration - Poor quality or redecorated items are not acceptable. However, genuine examples of period paint decorated pieces will be allowed provided that the decoration is still in the original style with no added enhancement or embellishment. Any restoration to paint work must be professional and of high quality. The basic original surface and colour must be apparent even if latterly obscured by historic retouching. All pieces must retain their original character.
- Upholstered Items – Must have part of the framework left open for inspection. Photos showing original finish/decoration before restoration would greatly help to “pass” the item. Chairs with loose joints will be rejected.
- Blind Panels - Altered to take glazing or grilles will not normally be accepted.
- Replacement Leather or Marble Tops - Replacement marble and leather tops allowed only if the piece had them originally and must be labelled accordingly.
- Later Carving - Is not acceptable.
- Items made in two or more parts - Must not be screwed together nor filled with items preventing the Committee from examining the pieces separately.

- Tantalus and Spirit Boxes Replacement glass will be permitted as long as it is of suitable quality, appropriate and clearly labelled “modern replacement”.
- Replacement Glass in Mirrors - Modern replacement plates in mirrors must be so labelled. No picture frames as mirrors.
- Photos showing original state of the item before restoration would greatly help the vetters to pass the item.
- Access must be given to all drawers and cupboards.
- Would all exhibitors please note – mass-produced copies of period furniture made throughout the 20th Century maybe considered not in the best interests of the Fair.

GLASS

General

- No damaged glass is allowed unless the glass is of such age and rarity that it is still deemed an important or unique item. All cracked glass, excessive trimming of feet and rims, and cloudiness are deemed to be unfairworthy
- Later engraving on glasses will be considered on its individual merits and relevance to the original glass. Later engraving intended to falsify and deceive in order to increase the value of the glass, will be vetted off.
- No items of mass inferior production will be permitted including late cut glass from the late 19th and early 20th century.
- Items for decoration only must comply with the Vetting Regulations.
- Post-war design will be permitted but must be of a high artistic design standard.
- Items must be signed by a major manufacturer and/or artist and must have been made within ten years of its initial design date.
- Any later re-issues of older ranges, for example by factories such as Venini or Iittala, cannot be exhibited.
- Studio Glass is currently outside the dateline of this fair, but dealers wishing to exhibit exceptional items by the acknowledged top echelon of British and International glass artists, should submit those items for pre-vetting for a decision by the Organisers and the Chair of the Glass Vetting Committee.

Hock Glass

- In recent years the production of coloured and cased and cut hock glasses has increased hugely with the bulk of the new production coming from glass factories in Eastern Europe. The vetting committee are aware of this production and wish to provide a safeguard for the buying public, the dealers and the Fair Organiser’s, by introducing the following guideline:
- Clear, cased or coloured hock glasses which are not attributed to a major manufacturer will NOT BE PERMITTED.

Items Not Allowed

- Pressed glass which is unattributable to a maker is unacceptable and will be vetted off.
- Witch balls are not permitted
- Decanters with missing stoppers, and any other items missing a vital element.

Items Allowed

- Items which will be allowed are: wineglasses with coloured bowls and clear stems, green glass weights and ‘dumps’.

Restoration and Replacements

- Reasonable restoration will be permitted at the discretion of the Committee including trimmed wine glasses etc. providing it is clearly labelled.
- Trimming that changes the proportions or functions of an item will not be allowed. Any dealer with an excessive proportion of trimmed wineglasses in relation to his other stock may be required to reduce the number of trimmed items.
- Decanters must be reasonably clean and replacement stoppers must be in the original style.
- Replacement shades for lighting must be clearly labelled as such.
- Marriages in any form are not allowed.
- Replacement glass for Tantalus and Spirit Boxes will be permitted as long as it is a suitable quality, appropriate to the date of the original and clearly labelled “modern replacement”.

Labelling

- All items must be labelled with a description of the item, a factory and/or a country of origin and a date of manufacture. Dating must be within a 20 year period, i.e. “18th century”, “Georgian” or “Victorian” is too wide and not acceptable.
- All restoration, including trimming, must be clearly marked on labels and listed on invoices. (This is most important in order to comply with the Trade Description Act which if not, can lead to court action).
- Invoices must also state description, country of origin (also factory if possible) and date of manufacture and any trimming or replacement items.

JEWELLERY

The Ruling by Trading Standards concerning labelling of very small items such as Jewellery is that a list describing each item by number may be affixed to the side of a showcase on full public display if individual labels are too difficult to produce.

- All articles must conform (where required) to the relevant sections of the Hallmarking Act (by law).
- No piece to be of a dateline later than 1970.
- Conversions will not be allowed, i.e. small brooches into rings, watch chain tassels into earrings, chatelaines into necklaces - in view of the numerous possibilities, decisions will be at the discretion of the Vetting Committee.
- Any item that is new, reproduction, fakes, over restored and items of marriage will be vetted off, including re-shanked rings. Old cut diamonds in new settings will be deemed new and not acceptable.
- Replaced pins and catches are allowed if altered neatly; lead solder repairs are not allowed.

Organics & Costume Jewellery

- South sea pearls are not acceptable to the Vetting Committee.
- Pearls must be of good quality, good form and colour, well strung with a quality fastener. Conversions of brooches into chokers will be allowed if the value of the clasp exceeds the value of the pearls, and if the conversion does not materially alter the brooch.
- Amber, jet, coral, tortoiseshell - Must be well strung with no cracks or marriages (no mixed beads).
- American Indian and Ethnic Jewellery - No new jewellery or reproductions. Pre 1920's only.
- Plastics including Bakelite - No reproductions this includes L Stein Jewellery.
- All organics must be clearly labelled.
- Plastics such as Bakelite, Vulcanite and Gucha Percha must state on label.

- No labelling glass beads as French Jet.
- Enamelled jewellery - Only minor repairs allowed at the Vetting Committee's discretion, and details must be on the label.
- Watches must be in working order.

MAPS & PRINTS

- Dateline 1914 for everything except etchings, executed and signed by the original artist, for which the dateline is 1950.
- When presenting a mixed selection of framed prints, paintings and drawings, to ease the vetting process all prints must be clearly marked as prints.
- Every map or print must be clearly and individually labelled with circa date and if hand coloured, whether colouring is original, later or recent. Items must be mounted framed or contained in a portfolio.
- It would be advantageous if the type of production, for example, woodcut, copper or steel engraving, aquatint, lithograph, photogravure is stated whenever known.
- Every map and print must be in decent condition, labelled whether restored or cut down to be considered fairworthy.
- Chromo-lithographs are acceptable if of good quality.
- Please be aware that there can be very modern restrikes from old plates. Unless exhibitors are certain on the date of maps and prints, they should not be brought to the NEC.
- The framing and/or mounting must be in good, clean condition whether old or recent. Exceedingly battered or dirty frames and/or mounts will be classed as unfairworthy.
- Items '**for decoration only**' must be very clearly marked as such.
- Stacks of loose prints or bundles in polythene bags are unacceptable.

OBJECTS OF VIRTU/VITRINE etc.

This basically covers all smaller decorative/valuable items other than Jewellery, not necessarily just in showcases. They can be made of almost any material.

All items must bear a fully descriptive label showing country/continent of origin, at the very least. An approximate accurate date and price.

Enamel Objects

- Enamels must not be cracked or chipped making them unsightly and thus unfairworthy.
- Any restoration must only be sufficient to make items visually acceptable for sale and labelled accordingly.
- Excessive/complete re-enamelled of a base or complete overspraying of a surface to hide re-enamelling is frowned upon but if it is marked and not offensive it will be permitted.
- Over decorating to change any original script or to alter decoration to make an item more saleable is not acceptable.
- New sconces on candlesticks are permitted provided this is labelled.
- As with all boxes marriages are not permitted.
- Replaced glass in patch box lids must be labelled.

European Ivories, Tortoiseshell, Mother of Pearl etc.

- All items must be in good order, not cracked or damaged and any restoration must be sympathetically carried out and marked accordingly.

- Russian Antique, Precious Metalwork, Enamel and Faberge items should be clearly labelled with a maker, workmaster, town/city and date.
- If an item has been restored it should be clearly labelled **R** indicating this.
- An item should not be over restored as it will then be deemed to be unfairworthy. This is made with particular reference to the condition of enamels.
- Marriages of items should be clearly indicated and labelled **R**. They will then be vetted in accordance with the above directive.
- Objects by particular Goldsmiths and labelled such should be genuine, of that date and by that maker. They cannot be later copies bearing spurious makers' marks. In addition, items that are Post Revolutionary should be labelled as such with a date.
- Modern reproductions of Pre Revolutionary objects will not be allowed in the Fair.
- Objects should not be damaged to the degree as to make them unfairworthy.

Miniatures

- All miniatures or small pictures presented in the manner of miniatures whether executed in oil, enamel, watercolour or any other medium must be original artwork i.e. not overpainted prints or photographs or any other paint enhanced reproduction.
- All miniatures must be labelled describing the material used i.e. watercolour, etc. Also the base if it is other than Ivory, i.e. copper, enamel, cartridge paper, ivorene, etc.
- Any miniature, which is damaged and has been restored in a DISCREET manner making it fairworthy, must be labelled accordingly with at least an **R** and label permitting described work carried out.
- Any miniature, which has been over restored either to conceal damage, over enhance or to change the original image/background etc., in order to improve the original character will be rejected.
- Late 19th or early 20th Century copies or miniatures in an earlier style are not acceptable. Likewise furnishing pictures often Continental “sweetened versions” in the style of 18th Century or “antique style” in “piano key” or over elaborate frames made to look like earlier works will be rejected.
- All miniatures and silhouettes offered must be in a fairworthy condition, which is of sufficient quality to be acceptable i.e. well executed, not faded by sunlight, damaged by water, mildew etc. And displayed in a suitable frame.

Silhouettes

- Silhouettes must be “ALL of the period” - i.e. Any silhouette where there is reason to suspect that the background has been added or further embellished to enhance the whole, even if the figures are clearly original will be rejected.
- All later copies in an earlier period style even if they are within the dateline of the Fair will be rejected.
- All silhouettes should be clearly labelled not only stating the date and maker if known but should also give as much information as possible about the method of production, i.e. whether it is painted on glass, plaster, board etc. Likewise if they are cutout and laid down etc. NB. Many silhouettes painted on glass (particularly rigged sailing ships or coaching subject) which are being generally offered for sale are younger than they should be. We therefore strongly advise that they should be carefully scrutinised by the dealer before being offered for sale.

All Boxes to include Snuff Boxes, Toothpick Boxes, Tobacco Boxes etc.

This covers rectangular, square and oval conventional boxes made in papier mache, tortoiseshell, ivory, etc., as well as converted seashells, ram's horns snuff mulls, carved treen (wood) snuff shoes,

coquilla nut figures, and other nuts including coconuts etc., Toothpick boxes, Boite a miniature, sealing-wax boxes; small pocket writing boxes etc., the list is endless but the rules apply equally.

- No marriages such as fitting lids to bases of any description.
- No embellishments such as miniatures or silver/brass inlay or painting added to plain boxes, or any other “trick” to enhance a plain box such as divisions inserted making a fly box or a stamp box etc.
- No later engraving, such as an added date or initials. This ruling applies equally to treen, brass/copper boxes, snuff mulls etc.
- If the fitments are replaced, such as mini inkwells, scent bottles, etc., they must be of the period.
- Boxes must not have damaged hinges or defective clasps - this would make them unfairworthy.
- Any mounts or cagework must be original, but some restoration is permitted in an acceptable way in keeping with the period. This must be labelled.
- If the hinges are replaced they must a) match, b) look like the originals and c) there must be NO other visible signs of damage to the fabric of the box such as splits or cracks running from the hinge.
- Where the original lining has shrunk/disintegrated boxes must not be re-lined.
- Escutcheons, handles and all other furniture must be original or accurate replacements.

Papier Mache

- The main fabric of the article must be in good order; likewise the painting and any Mother of Pearl decoration etc. must be complete and if restored marked accordingly.
- Some re-gilding is acceptable provided it is in the original design only to restore and not enhance more than the original decoration - i.e. original very plain trays or those with just border patterns, given central decoration of pictures, Mother of Pearl or gilding etc., are not acceptable.

Tôleware

- Tin by its very nature tends to rust and flake, but all objects offered must be in good order preferably with only its original paintwork.
- HOWEVER, discreet re-painting will be allowed if the article would otherwise be unfairworthy but only if it is not a way of altering/over enhancing the object and must be honestly labelled.
- Any object which is completely overpainted to cover an unacceptable degree of rust or excessive re-soldering, or similar embellishments will be rejected.

Scent Bottles

- All restoration must be sympathetically carried out to make the bottle acceptable and fairworthy, and marked accordingly.
- No bottle must be tampered with to alter and/or enhance its appearance.
- Bottles must be in a fairworthy condition, i.e. not chipped, cracked, or necks re-ground etc. New stoppers will be permitted if they are in the correct style and marked accordingly.
- No new silver spun tops will be permitted.
- No reproductions.
- New glass bottles will not be permitted in old containers even if they have the original tops.
- All bottles must be correctly labelled with date, material, country/continent of origin.
- Bottles produced by cutting away half a probably damaged originally double ended scent bottle will not be acceptable.

Fans

- Fans must have undamaged leaves or be sympathetically restored and labelled accordingly.

- The sticks and guards must be of a piece i.e. originally matching and if restored it must be sufficiently well done so as not to detract from the appearance and labelled accordingly.

OIL PAINTINGS, WATERCOLOURS AND DRAWINGS

For all Period, Contemporary/Living artists labels must clearly state:

1. Name of Artist or attribution, dates and/or period of the work
 2. Background information including exhibitions (as a group or individual previews)
 3. Medium of the work labeled
 4. Unknown and previously non-exhibited artists' works must be pre-vetted one month before Fair dates for inclusion in a Clarion Birmingham event.
- Condition:– Everything should be restored and in a fairworthy condition prior to the Fair. Items considered not to be in the best interests of the Fair will be rejected at the discretion of the Vetting Committee. Conditions of watercolours, mounts, prints and some primitive naïve paintings should be given greater care to ensure fairworthy condition.

- Labels must be visible for the purpose of vetting and during the open period of the fair.
- Over cleaning, strengthened colours and signatures and over restored pictures will not be permitted.
- Restoration:– All mounts and frames must be of a presentable standard.
- Copies:– No copies or modern derivatives are allowed.

ORIENTAL CARPETS & RUGS

- There must be at least 70% of stock pre-dating 1950.
- No modern Chinese of any kind including silks and needlework will be allowed at the Fair.
- Carpets or rugs made in Pakistan will not be allowed.
- All contemporary carpets and rugs must be of good quality and from the country of origin.
- All carpets and rugs must be clearly labelled with date and condition and country of origin.
- Cut and shut or badly restored items will not be allowed.

ORIENTAL OBJECTS, ANTIQUITIES & ASIAN WORKS OF ART

All excavated Chinese ceramics with a retail value of above £3,000 for pottery and above £4,000 for porcelain and stoneware must be thermo-luminescence (TL) tested by an internationally accepted testing centre. This testing requirement will cover all ceramics to the end of the Yuan period (AD1368) and pottery tomb figures to the end of the Ming period (1644). Post Yuan porcelain and stonewares will not require a TL certificate. To have a piece tested, contact:

Oxford Authentication Ltd.(Telephone)01235 770998

The Bolton Building(Fax) 01235 771021

Grove Technology Park(Website)www.oxfordauthentication.com

Wantage

Oxfordshire OX12 9FA

- A TL Certificate does not guarantee total authenticity and all tested pieces will still be subject to vetting in accordance with the regulations. It is recommended that excavated Chinese bronzes and works of art such as wood, lacquerware etc. are also authenticated with a TL Test. Where there is no TL certificate available for bronzes, works of art or ceramics below the retail price threshold, a disclaimer notice must be displayed alongside the piece - the notices are available from the Vetting Office.
- It is acknowledged that the test can be invasive and may damage thinly potted objects - in these special circumstances, a TL certificate will not be required but a disclaimer notice must be displayed as above.
- Totally refinished or reshaped Chinese provincial furniture or food boxes will not be allowed. Chinese provincial furniture will only be allowed if of original shape and finish and of high enough quality to be considered an asset to the Fair by the Vetting Committee.

SCULPTURE, BRONZE & ORMOLU SCULPTURE

- Sculpture, in any medium, should not be over-cleaned. Some replacement is acceptable, up to 25% of the LESS important parts, but must be like for like replacement, i.e. bronze for bronze, silver for silver, etc. All replacements must be specified and clearly labelled, as must any damage or omission from the original.
- Overall false patination is not acceptable. However, sympathetic restorative work such as re-gilding, re-silvering or re-patinating is acceptable where the finish is the same as the original finish. Any re-finished sculpture must be clearly labelled as to the extent of the re-finishing, 'some re-patination', on the label, will not do. Items that have been totally re-patinated, may be removed at the discretion of the vetting committee, if the finish is not of sufficiently high standard or the method of re-finishing is not the same as the original method used.

- Non original bases must be labelled as such.
- Bronze or spelter figure lamps will be vetted by the Bronze and European Sculpture Committee and the Lighting Committee. Where there is electric wiring, it must comply with current safety standards and bear a PAT certificate.
- Resin cast ‘bronzes’ are not acceptable.
- Modern sculpture is to be by an artist who has had his or her work exhibited at a recognised venue or establishment and be a ‘one off’ or maximum of 20 editions. The sculpture will be vetted on the quality of casting and finish as well as the reputation of the artist.

Contemporary Sculpture, labels must clearly state:

1. Dates and/or period of the work
 2. Background information including exhibitions (as a group or individual previews)
 3. Medium of the work correctly labelled
 4. Unknown and previously non-exhibited artists’ works must be pre-vetted one month before Fair dates for inclusion in a Clarion Birmingham event.
- Re-casts are not allowed, except when under licence, such as Barbidiene. When a piece of sculpture, in whatever medium, appears to be an illegal copy, whether or not it bears a signature, it will be rejected

SILVER & SILVER PLATE

- The dateline for silver and plate throughout the fair is 1970
- All exhibitors trading in silver and gold must display a card showing the Hallmarking act. •Items that contravene the Hallmarking Act are not allowed (by law).
- All items should be in as original condition as possible, with good colour and patination appropriate for their age and usage. Over-polishing and over-restoration are to be discouraged.

Silver

- Later engraved or chased decoration is unacceptable and will be vetted off.
- No unsightly repairs are acceptable. Others should be noted on the ticket.
- Later inscriptions and heraldic engraving are acceptable as long as they are noted on the ticket.
- Careful erasures are acceptable as long as there are no thin areas, and must be noted on the ticket.

Plate

- Replating of Old Sheffield plate unacceptable, although minor “ragging-in” allowed as long as it is noted on the ticket.
- Replating of electroplate acceptable as long as it is noted on the ticket.

Mixed Media

- Items of mixed media will be vetted by all applicable committees.
- Items with replacement glass elements (clarets jugs, cruet bottles, salt and basket liners etc) may be removed at the discretion of the glass committee. All replacement glass must be noted on the ticket.

TREEN & COLLECTABLES

Labelling

- All Treen items must have country of origin on the label. Whenever possible the description ‘continental’ should only be used when national boundaries are not a limitation of the articles manufacture or use.
- Please double check when ticketing items of ivory that they are not made from bone.

Boxes

- All boxes, whenever possible, should have original interiors and be in fairworthy condition. Boxes with interiors in poor condition or dilapidated will not be allowed.
- If a box has been converted from an obsolete purpose such as a knife box or spoon box to a stationary cabinet or cigar humidor to a small collectors cabinet, the conversion should be of the same workmanship quality as of the original box. All internal alterations, modifications and conversions must be indicated on the label and invoice. (Acceptance of these conversions will remain at the discretion of the Vetting Committee).
- Boxes with added inlays and restored boxes with poorly matched replacement inlays will be rejected.
- No conversions of tea caddies to money boxes or letterboxes will be allowed nor will any box that has been enhanced in form, decoration or purpose i.e. plain workboxes converted to games compendiums and boxes with later painted decoration.
- Any box or caddy that has been re-veneered or refinished in such a way that its original decoration form or age is obscured will be subject to possible rejection at the disgression of the Vetting Committee.

Tantalus and Spirit Box Replacement Glass

- This will be permitted as long as it is of suitable quality, appropriate and clearly labelled 'modern replacement'.

Ethnographica and Natural History Specimens

- Exhibitors should make sure that all exhibits comply with the current legislation re the Endangered Species Act. All fossils and minerals should be presented in their natural state i.e. not reworked into eggs, balls, stands or paperweights or other craft objects.

- All horns and antlers must have their original mounting boards.
- Ethnographical, wherever possible, exhibitors should try and research the article and give the country, tribe or area, and be more specific with the labelling of items 'African Mask' or 'Oceanic Club'.
- Any re-cased natural history specimens must have cases of original type and quality. Any repainting to carved wooden fish must be minimal and noted on the label accurately.

Leather and Sporting Goods

- Please ensure when labelling articles described as crocodile or snakeskin that it is the real thing. If one is not sure it is safer to label items as hide, leather or skin in order to comply with the Trade Descriptions Act.
- Luggage and vintage picnic sets must be in good condition inside and outside.

Fishing Tackle

- All fishing flies, tackle, wallets and lures must be within datelines.
- Stuffed fish and carved fish should be within original cases if cases available. No modern cases will be allowed.
- Repainted fish or fish mounted on modern boards will not be allowed.

Walking Canes, Sticks and Umbrellas

- Re-carved handles or new handles on old sticks will not be allowed.
- No replacement canes allowed.
- Old handles with new sticks will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.
- All gadget and system canes/sticks must be original.
- No remounting of handles as magnifying glasses or paper knives etc...

Decorative Items/Collectors Items

- Please ensure items labelled ivory are ivory and not in fact bone.
- All goods must be accurately labelled as to original purpose and country of origin.
- All architectural embellishments to be presented in a good fairworthy display i.e. not in heaps as this is not acceptable.

Needlework, Linen and Lace

- Modern Chinese, Russian, or other modern linen or lace will not be allowed.
- Badly darned linen, throws or shawls unless early period examples will be rejected.
- All linen needlework must be kept tidy and displayed attractively.
- Embroidered silk pictures must be in good condition (small breaks in groundwork will be allowed).

Samplers, Stumpwork and other Early Needlework

- Samplers with reworked dates will be rejected as will any with suspect dates.
- Samplers that have been restored or finished at a date later than that of the original manufacture must have an explicit label and an invoice when sold indicating what has been done. No reworking or later colouring of samplers, wool or silk pictures.
- All material fragments, drapes, passimentrie, haberdashery and millenary pieces must be presented in a fairthworthy manner.

Dolls, Toys, Model Boats, Yachts and Ships

- Replacement parts and restoration must be indicated clearly on all labels, i.e. non original dolls clothes.

- Dolls dressed in non-original clothes made from old materials must be labelled accordingly.
- Dolls with replacement parts should be labelled accordingly i.e. new wigs or eyes etc.
- No new dolls heads allowed.
- All teddy bears and stuffed toy animals must be dated on the label and any examples that continued in production after the Fairs dateline will be vetted off.
- All model boats, yachts and ships that have been re-rigged or had replacement parts or sails must be labelled accordingly.
- Scale models must be of good quality, poor weak examples will not be allowed.
- Clockwork toys need not be working but must be in a fairworthy condition.
- Please indicate on your invoices whether it's sold as a working toy/model or non working collectors items (Trade Descriptions Act – Fit for Purpose).

Vintage Electrical

- Vintage Electrical items must comply with current wiring and safety regulations and have a current PAT certificate. Non working collectors items must have plugs removed and be invoiced as collectors items only. Exceptions will be made for items like telephones and electrostatic machines.

Books and related printed material

- All books and related material must be clearly priced, described and invoiced according to the accepted book trades descriptions.
- All books and related printed material must be pre 1950, in sound and clean condition and presented in a fairworthy manner.
- Exceptions are made for more recent books specifically related to the arts and antique collecting.
- Fragile items or any item with loose leaves such as trade catalogues, pamphlets, sheet music, early magazines, newspapers etc... must be within the fairs dateline, be presented in individual plastic sleeves and be clearly labeled on the sleeve as to the nature of and condition of the contents.

Trading Standards

Your attention is drawn to increasing activity by local Trading Standard Officers at Art and Antique Fairs. You must be prepared to justify any descriptions, attributions or provenances that appear on labels or invoices, or are made verbally.

Disclaimer

The Opinion of the Vetting Committees on an object is rendered solely to the Fair Committee for the purpose of information and assistance in connection with the admission of an object to the Fair, and may not be used or relied upon by any other person or for any other purposes whatsoever. The opinion is given to the best of the Vetting Committee's knowledge, and neither the Vetting Committee, Clarion Events Birmingham Ltd nor their appointed agents accept any liability whatsoever for the validity of the opinion.

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Correct as at January 2009