

A P O L L O

The attendance as usual was a large one, and among the members and their guests the following are some of those present: Mr. M. Adams Acton, Mr. Colin Agnew, Mr. and Mrs. T. Livingstone Baily, Miss Grace Bateman, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bellesi, Mr. Edward H. Benjamin, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Blairman, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Blairman, Mr. Edgar E. Bluett, Mr. G. G. Blumenthal, Mr. L. S. Bobbé, Mr. Oliver Brackett, Miss Burney, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney B. Burney, Sir William Burrell, Mr. A. C. R. Carter, Mr. Kenneth Clark, Mr. Arthur Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Davis, Mme. Delomosne, Mr. C. G. des Graz, Mr. Wilfred Drake, Capt. and Mrs. Shirley Falcke, Mr. and Mrs. Danton Guerault, Mr. Lance Hannen, C.B.E., B.A., Mr. T. Leman Hare, Mr. Harold Harmsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Harris (Jun.), Mr. Moss Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney S. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Tomas Harris, Mr. Charles Hobday, Mr. Geoffrey D. Hobson, Mr. C. W. Holmes, Mr. Geoffrey Horsman, Lieut.-Comdr. G. E. P. and Mrs. How, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Keeble, Mr. Gerald W. Kerin, Mr. F. E. L. Kern, Mr. R. A. Kern, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Knight, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Lee (Jun.), Mr. R. A. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Alex G. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lipscombe, The Hon. Mrs. G. R. Mackay, Sir Eric Maclagan, C.B.E., F.S.A., Mr. Francis Mallett, Mr. Alec Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Millar, Mr. Muirhead Moffat, Mr. and Mrs. Bertie Neale, Mr. Martin S. Norton, Mr. Richard M. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Parsons, Mr. Claude A. Partridge, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Partridge, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bernard Perret, Mr. Edmund A. Phillips, Mr. W. Drummond Popley, Mr. Oscar Raphael, F.S.A., Mr. L. C. Robinson, Mr. G. Russell-Hay, Mr. Frank Rutter, Mr. C. E. S. Sawyer, Mrs. C. J. Sawyer, Mr. Peter Sparks, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stoner, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Stoner, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Surgey, Mr. R. R. Tatlock, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rochelle Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil F. Turner, Mr. Bernard Wait, Mr. Parish Watson, Capt. Victor A. Watson, Capt. D. N. Whitaker, M.C., Mr. Walter H. Willson, Sir Robert Witt, C.B.E., F.S.A., Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Wolsey, Mr. Leonard Woolley, Mr. G. L. Worlock.

At the Annual General Meeting, on May 24th, held by kind permission at Messrs. Robinson, Fisher & Harding's rooms, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. Frank Surgey; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Cecil F. Turner, Mr. Arthur Churchill, Mr. W. Drummond Popley; Hon. Treasurer, Capt. Victor A. Watson; Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. Livingstone Baily; New Members of the Council: Mr. Leonard Knight, Mr. Alfred Ebsworth Hill, Mr. R. P. Way, Mr. Cecil Henry Bullivant, Mr. C. Parker Cussen, Capt. D. N. Whitaker, M.C.

T. L. H.

MESSRS. AGNEWS' exhibition of drawings by Duncan Grant reveals in this artist the growing fascination of the Baroque, in other words, of the ample curve and voluted or at least rotund rhythms. But whilst the historical Baroque delighted in a rather blatant sonority of red and gold, Mr. Grant composes in commuted colours, delicately broken pinks and greens, here and there reinforced by a bold black caligraphic line. His studies of the nude (19, 23, 25, 32) have a Rubens-like

fullness, but in addition a sculpturesque firmness of modelling and rhythm of masses, which is precisely the new contribution to art and therefore absent from Rubens's more frankly naturalistic art. Mr. Grant is fond of composing his designs for circular spaces. The show is generally pleasing although it makes the impression of one of preliminary rather than finished works.

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To the Editor of "Apollo."

HIGH PRICES FOR OLD PEWTER

It has recently been stated in the Press, in more than one quarter, that pewter seems to be losing its hold on public esteem, and proof is adduced from prices realized at the dispersal of the collection of the late Mr. G. C. Waud at Sotheby's Rooms on June 1st, and it is argued that because 630 items realized but £775, of which five lots alone accounted for £225, therefore esteem has waned!

But surely this is putting the cart in front of the horse and betrays an utter lack of appreciation of the facts, which—though truly set down—are wrongly interpreted.

The collection in question contained much—yes, very much—which was distinctly fourth rate, and the very fact that the compiler of the catalogue found it necessary to assemble no fewer than 230 items into sixteen lots was prophetic in anticipating that little *could be expected* from them.

On the other hand, very many of those items which were singled out as worthy of being placed in single, or small lots, did remarkably well, and showed a very distinct stiffening over prices realized during the past few years.

Few of those of us who were present at the sale will have cause to regret it, for it afforded abundant evidence—if such were needed—that *pewter still stands very high indeed* in public esteem. In common with other branches of art, it has not escaped the effect of world conditions, but if one may assume that high prices for antiques are a reflex of returning confidence, then, indeed, hope should run very high, for many records were not only broken at this astonishing sale, but snapped to pieces and flung to the four winds of heaven. One saw an improving tendency amongst many of the early and more ordinary lots, but none of us was prepared for what actually happened later. The highest price realized was the £80 for Lot 84—a late eighteenth-century, 13 in., tavern flagon of gallon capacity, with an interesting inscription. This was followed by £66 for a 10½ in. unmarked early seventeenth-century flagon (Lot 97). Lot 118, a 24¾ in. broad-rimmed Stuart dish, with the Arms of May upon the rim, made £57; Lot 114, a dish of similar type, but 18½ in. diameter, reached £29; and Lots 115 and 116, a pair of 20½ in. ditto, though identical in every way, sold for £19 and £31 respectively; £18 was paid for a 20½ in. triple-reeded late seventeenth-century dish by Thomas Cave, and £14 for a 20½ in. ditto by an unknown maker. All these, with the possible exception of Lot 115, easily established new records for the auction room, and £8 each for two 16½ in. triple-reeded dishes by William Banckes (Lot 69) must also be somewhere near the mark for this type and size.

Other good prices were £36 5s. for Lots 29-31—eighteen wavy-edge plates by Thomas Chamberlain, circa 1750—and £8 15s. for Lot 46—two quite ordinary 23½ in. dishes, and 15s. 6d. each for twelve eighteenth-century Irish plates, is a great improvement on recent prices. One noted, too, a distinct and growing appreciation of Continental items, as witnessed by £9 5s. for Lot 39, a fine candle-box and pair of candlesticks, and the same price for Lot 7c—three Zurich wine cans—£8 5s. for a fine pair of square-based candlesticks (Lot 37). These prices betoken a growing interest in such pieces, as do also £4 5s. for three Carpentras flagons, Lot 83; £6 15s. for Lot 81; £8 15s. for Lot 92; and £7 5s. for Lot 93; the three latter being various types of the well-known Swiss *Walliserhantli*.

Only three other pieces have touched the price of £80 at auction within the past ten or fifteen years, so far as memory serves me, when £80, £100 and £100 were paid, at the same rooms, for the three magnificent Stuart rose-water dishes in the Fieldhouse collection, on May 2nd, 1929.

HOWARD HERSCHEL COTTERELL.