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Fawley Court To Host Prestigious Antiques Fair

The Fawley Court Antiques & Fine Art Fair
Marlow Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 3AE.
26th – 28th September 2008.

Fine art and antiques valued at more than one million pounds go on sale at a major new event that takes place at Fawley Court, near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire this autumn. The Fawley Court Antiques & Fine Art Fair runs from 26th – 28th September 2008 and visitors can enjoy a rare opportunity not only to buy a wide range of high quality antiques and collectors' items but also to view the interiors of this well known and impressive stately home situated on the banks of the River Thames.



The three-day fair will feature 30 antiques dealers from across Britain showing a wide range of exhibits with prices from less than £30 to more than £5,000. The fair takes place in several large stately rooms within Fawley Court, an impressive Grade I listed building which is open to the public for part of the year and attracts visitors for occasions as varied as the Royal Regatta, reunions, conferences, wedding receptions and birthday parties.

Organizer Sue Ede of Cooper Fairs from Somerset has been delighted with the response to the addition of the fair to her 2008 schedule: 'I am always being asked to run fairs in good locations and Fawley Court meets all the requirements, especially with its close vicinity to Henley-on-Thames and nearby Marlow and High Wycombe. As a result the fair is fully booked with thirty exhibitors, promising a wide variety of antiques, fine art and rare collector's pieces.'

Among the wide range of art and antiques on sale will be many unusual Oriental pieces including several items of 19th century Tibetan folk art, notably a portable shrine with the figure of the Buddha, in white metal and copper in a leather carry bag, perhaps once owned by a monk, to be shown by Fu

Ts'ang Lung. Bristol based dealers A & M Caswell will be showing a range of Japanese jewellery, enamels and carvings, including an exquisite ivory carving of a Japanese woodchopper, circa 1910, priced at £4,950, and a miniature Japanese screen, in enamels, made for the dining table and originally purchased from Aspreys. It is priced at £650.

Traditional antiques include an impressive Dutch 18th century triple-top demi-lune card table with banded inlay, made from at least six different woods, on the stand of Mulberry House Antiques from Sussex. It is priced at £5,500. Bristol dealer Brian Ashbee, who shows all kinds of rare collectables, has an unusual watercolour depiction of Puck, from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the artist unknown, but the Puck character is clearly a depiction of the young Hywell Bennett, the well-known actor, when he appeared in the role at the Edinburgh Festival. The painting, a fine example of theatrical memorabilia, is priced at £695.

Also exhibiting will be Yoxall Antiques from Solihull, showing period furniture, Anderson Jones from London with jewellery, Hazlehurst Antiques & Sculpture from Kent, showing French sculpture and ceramics, Hartley Fine Art from Surrey, specializing in period oils and watercolours, Trivette from Hampshire, showing jewellery, InVogue from Berkshire, showing period furniture and ceramics, Candice Horley from Surrey, showing ceramics and small sculpture, Chiltern Antiques from Henley-on-Thames with scientific and medical instruments, early post boxes and small Georgian furniture, P & JC Wathern from Dyfed, specializing in maps, and Westington Fine Art from Gloucestershire with 19th and 20th century watercolours and prints.

Fawley Court has a history that dates back to the 11th century when it was mentioned in the Domesday Book as the property of Walter Gifford, brother-in-law of William I. The name "Fawley" comes from the Old English word for fallow deer, great herds of which once roamed this countryside.

The present house was designed by Christopher Wren and built in 1663 for Colonel William Freeman as a family home. Although there have been many alterations, the basic structure of Fawley Court is much the same as it was built in the 1680s. The breathtaking carved ceiling in the drawing room, a work by Grinling Gibbons from 1690, is one of only three that have survived in the country, and the garden was landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. The temple (not open to the public) had the first Etruscan-style interior in England and now marks the start point of the Henley Regatta course.

Since 1953 Fawley Court has been maintained by the Congregation of Marian Fathers, a Polish religious order. The Marian Fathers have set up a museum in the house containing many exhibits from various periods, including a collection of religious paintings, valuable manuscripts, parchments and incunabula, old writings, Papal and Polish historical documents, rare old maps, pictures and prints from 19th and 20th centuries, and portraits of Polish kings and heroes. Among them is the original Laski's Code of Laws dating back to 1506, several documents bearing royal seals and a 16th century Bible printed for Prince Radziwill.

Of particular note is the collection of European, Far and Middle Eastern militaria and arms, donated to the museum by major Witold Buchowski and Zygmunt S. Ipohorski - Lenkiewicz. One section of the museum is dedicated to the Polish Army, Navy and Air Force during their service with the Western Allies between 1939 and 1945. It consists of photographs, uniforms, military decorations and all kinds of memorabilia from this period.

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Organised by

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