



Tiepolo motivated by motifs

Old Master sheets such as this lively example of satyr and Bacchus studies are believed to have served as a repertoire of motifs used in paintings or prints by the artist or their studio.

The 9 x 5½in (22 x 13cm) work, made in pen and brown ink and dated to c.1740-50, is by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (1696-1770) and shares similarities with studies by the Italian painter in the Musée Atger in France and the Museo Civico di Storia ed Arte in Italy.

The sheet is among a series of Old Master drawings together with early 19th century paintings featuring in a stock sale at London dealer **Stephen Ongpin Fine Art**.

Prices for the works range from around £500 to mid-five figures with the Tiepolo drawing priced at £38,000. Most of the works are sold framed, and all prices include shipping.

▶ stephenongpin.com



Above: pen and brown ink studies c.1740-50 by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, priced **£38,000** at Stephen Ongpin Fine Art.

Battersea Dec reflects the new way of doing business

The *Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair (DATF)* has announced the launch of its latest iteration of the online platform, *Digital Decorative*, which was set up in response to the cancellation of its physical fairs during the pandemic.

More than 70 dealers, regular participants at *DATF*, are taking part in *The Spring 2021 Edit*, which runs until July 12 and presents a variety of traditional, decorative and modern pieces for sale.

They include this large mid-18th century giltwood Venetian mirror from **Foster & Gane**.

Extra shopping opportunities are also planned through a series of themed pop-ups. The Spring Pop-Ups will each take place over two days on April 23-24, May 14-15 and June 11-12 with items for sale shared simultaneously on the fair's Instagram feed and dedicated website page.

The fair's organiser, Jane Juran, said: "While dealers with showrooms may be opening again to the public from April 12 many do not have shops, and trade only online. So, for the time being we are glad to offer a continued web-based sales and shopping opportunity for the fair's clients."

▶ decorativefair.com



Above: mid-18th century giltwood Venetian mirror priced at **£32,000** from **Foster & Gane** featured on the *Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair* online staging.

gallery at an auction in Essex last year. (For more on this see *ATG* No 2464).

Completing the trio are two Anglo-Indian teak trunks that originally belonged to Lt Col Caldwell (1763-1839) of the HEIC's Bengal Army and Lt Col Gummer (b.1779) of the Madras Native Infantry.

Caldwell commanded the artillery at the decisive battle of Seringapatam in 1799, which marked the end of Tipu Sultan, the Tiger of Mysore, and was present at the surrender.

"The owner of this trunk had a rich military history and was heavily involved in many of the battles that cemented British rule in India," says Clarke.

"Items belonging to soldiers that were at Seringapatam do not come on the market often and hold great interest to collectors of the British in India. Caldwell also commanded the artillery for the invasion of Java in 1811 and there is a good chance that he knew Garnham."

Other show highlights include a Chinese Export cabinet on stand that belonged to Richard Alsager (1781-1841), a captain in the East India Company who made several voyages between England, India and China trading goods for the company and himself between 1817-26.

He became an MP in 1835 and a detailed account of his journeys survives in testimony he gave to the

House of Lords on the affairs of the East India Company.

There is also a Hill & Millard iron campaign bed that was slept in by John Robert Gladstone (1852-26), the nephew of Prime Minister Gladstone, when he was in the Coldstream Guards. The bed, which retains its original packing case, would have been used by John in the Egyptian War of 1882.

Dover military life

Offering a glimpse of military life back in England is an early 19th watercolour of Dover's Grand Shaft Barracks. The Grand Shaft was a series of spiral staircases built between 1806-09 as a quick means of communication and movement between the barracks on the Western Heights and the town below should Napoleon invade England.

With provenance to the personal collection of the late London dealer Jack Webb (1923-2019), the 14¾ x 15¼in (37 x 39cm) work by William Heath (1794-1840) shows young soldiers in the 5th Northumberland Regiment of Foot preparing to parade on Dover's Snargate Street before being sent abroad.

Overall, prices range from £115 for a pint lipped rum measure, which is part of a collection of items relating to the tradition of issuing rum, to £8650 for Lt Col Garnham's early campaign chest. ■

▶ campaignfurniture.com

The web shop window

Thousands of items are available to buy from dealers online. Here we pick out one that caught our eye this week.

Guy the Gorilla (1946-78) was one of London Zoo's most popular residents.

Named after Guy Fawkes – he was exchanged from Paris Zoo with a tiger on Bonfire Night in 1947 – the lowland gorilla attracted some three million visitors a year by the late 1950s (less than half that number visit the zoo today).

Such was his fame that cricketer Ian Botham, England's tall and brawny all-rounder, was nicknamed 'Guy the Gorilla'.

Despite his morose and intimidating appearance, Guy had a gentle disposition and was observed on occasion carefully examining small birds that flew into his cage before letting them go.

'Kitchen Sink' artist John Bratby (1928-92) developed an interest in the brooding primate and made several portraits of him. This 9¾ x 14in (25 x 35cm) black pencil on paper showing Guy in an energetic mood is priced at **£1400 (+ARR)** from **Crispian Riley-Smith Fine Arts**.



▶ riley-smith.com