



# Keeping standards high

This group of entries for the COUNTRY LIFE/LAPADA Object of the Year competition is every bit as remarkable as the first

**H**ERE we have the next (not second) 15 long-listed entrants for the COUNTRY LIFE/LAPADA Object of the Year. Dealers with asterisks will be showing at the Olympia Fair (June 7–17). I am joined on the judging panel by a distinguished group: writer, curator and broadcaster Paul Atterbury; John Bly, authority on English furniture and decorative arts; Earl Howe, president of LAPADA (and Under-Secretary for Health); Tim Knox, director of the Soane Museum; Tessa Murdoch, acting keeper of Sculpture and Metalwork at the V&A; former gallery owner Jacqueline Pruskin, an authority on 20th- and 21st-century design; and Robert Upstone, formerly a curator at Tate Britain and now a director of the Fine Art Society. Once again, our task will be pleasurable, but not at all easy.



↑ Silver-gilt Orange Order badge by James Brush, Dublin, 1798. It dates from the establishment of the Dublin Lodge, two years after the foundation of the Order itself. *Timothy Millett*

→ French prisoner-of-war bone model of a 70-gun man o'war. It is unusually small, and of very high quality. *Caroline Penman*

↓ An 18th-century Italian or Spanish scagliola table top figuring trompe l'oeil maps of the ancient Persian Empire by Mercator, 1584, and a de Wit cartouche from another of 1660. *Lucy Johnson*

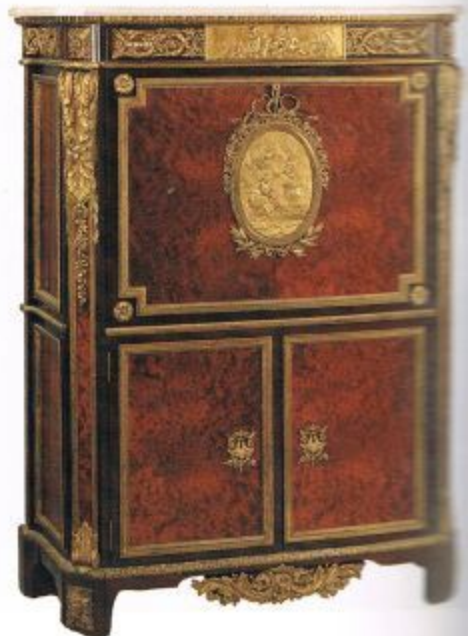


→ Patinated-bronze and ormolu French Empire World Time Clock, with 'Frankurt sur Main' as meridian, of about 1811. It is likely that this was made for Eugene de Beauharnais, Napoleon's stepson, as Grand Duke of Frankfurt. One other is known, set for Stockholm. *Gavin Douglas*



↓ A reproduction—but what quality! It is thought that this secret chest may have been copied in about 1900 by Hatfields of London directly from the Riesener original in the Wallace Collection. *Butcher*

← Georgian octagonal joggled tea caddy, of about 1770. This is early for English joggled ware, and appears to be an individually designed piece. *Paul Nash*







← Japanese Noh Mask of Akujo, about 1500. It was possibly a duplicate deaccessioned by the Berlin Asian Art Museum, in about 1908. The remainder disappeared with the Soviet Army in 1945. Although it has lost hair and pigment, it is an early prototype of the classic mask, and has great dramatic power. *Rutherford & Bandini*



↑ An interesting enameled gold posy ring, dating from the second half of the 16th century. The hands and hearts point to a betrothal, as does the interior inscription: 'United hearts death only parts.' *Berganza*

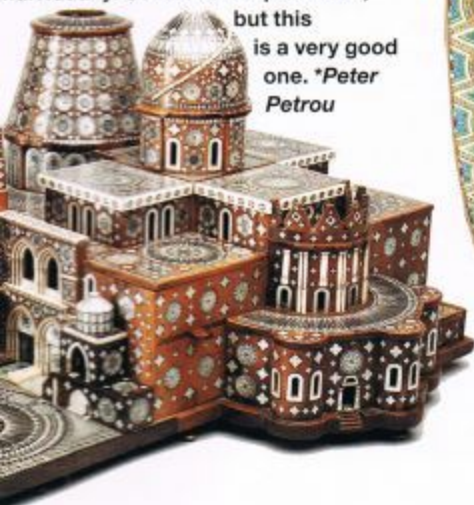
↓ Byzantine Revival gold and cloisonné enamel paper knife by Castellani, Rome, of about 1860. Castellani was a most important jeweller, but comparatively few examples survive. This was retained by the man himself, and sold in 1930, after his death. *Hancocks*



type Pooh and Piglet  
velour toys. In 1930,  
ne signed a merchand-  
l with Stephen Slesinger,  
ie are the very first toys  
ade. Milne gave them  
ily friend, inscribing  
eet. *Peter Harrington*



wood, bone and mother-of-pearl model  
church of the Holy Sepulchre, of about  
ese early Holy Land souvenirs come  
o that the chapels can be lifted out  
ndividually. Several examples exist,  
but this  
is a very good  
one. *\*Peter  
Petrou*



↑ Charles Altamont Doyle (1832–93) was the son of political cartoonist John, brother of Richard of *Punch*, and father of Arthur Conan. He painted *The Cat that loved cream not wisely... but too well* in 1885, the year he entered a mental asylum. *John Robertson*



← An Olympic Gold Medal for the 4 x 100m at Stockholm, 1912. The gold—actually silver-gilt—medal won by Harry Macintosh, who was to be killed on the Somme in July 1918. Photographs of his victory, and later in uniform, are with it. *\*Nadin & Macintosh*

→ The Post-Impressionist Henri Lebasque (1865–1937) was praised as 'the painter of joy and light' and this canvas of his daughter *Nono dans le jardin* shows why. It dates from about 1908, and in 1909, she also modelled for her father's friend Matisse. *\*Clerkenwell*



← Limewood carving of fighting sparrows by Thomas Henry Kendall of Warwick, about 1870. Noted as a 19th-century successor to Grinling Gibbons, he supplied panels for the House of Commons dining room in 1872. *William Cook*