

American Ceramic Circle
Tour to England
June 14th to 21st, 2016

Special Opportunities

- Join **Patricia Halfpenny**, English ceramics expert and Curator Emerita Ceramics & Glass at Winterthur Museum, on a week-long tour to Staffordshire and London
- Meet **private collectors** of pottery and porcelain – mostly from British manufacturers but also from continental and Far Eastern makers -- who will lead study sessions in their homes
- Partake in handling sessions of reserve collections at **The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, and the Victoria & Albert Museum**
- Learn about traditional processes of production with experts at **Burleigh**, the oldest working Victorian pottery, and **Gladstone Pottery Museum**, where we will tour the factory and learn what life was like in a Victorian factory
- Enjoy a wine and cheese reception, with tour and demonstration, at **Spode Visitor Center** hosted by Paul Wood, former managing director of Royal Worcester Spode and now chair of the Spode Trust. The year 2016 is the 200th anniversary of the Blue Italian pattern and there will be a special exhibition in newly opened galleries.
- Tour the museum and archives at **Wedgwood Museum** and look at the recently expanded manufacturing facility for high-end wares
- Attend the **Prestige Ceramic Fair** in London, perhaps the best opportunity to see and purchase ceramics from dealers and specialists of 18th- and 19th-century pottery and porcelain
- Dine at the members-only Potters Club in Stoke-on-Trent, and at a gastronomic restaurant known for its ‘theater of food’ presentation
- Stay three nights at the top-rated **Best Western Manor House Hotel** in Alsager, on the Staffordshire-Cheshire border; and four nights at **The Rembrandt Hotel** in London, located opposite the Victoria & Albert Museum

Tour Program

Monday, June 13th

Depart the U.S. no later than today.

Tuesday, June 14th

L, D

LONDON / SOLIHILL / ALSAGER

Arrive in **London** no later than today. Meet the Tour Director in the lobby at **The Rembrandt** at 9:45 a.m. prior to our departure by coach to Staffordshire. A bag lunch will be provided en route to Solihill (*2 to 2-1/2 hours from London*), where we will visit a collection of early 19th-century Spode (also Copeland & Garret and Copeland period), various bodies including porcelain, creamware, drabware, chalcedony, dry-bodied stoneware, and stone china. We will also see examples of transfer printed, bat printed (including rare gold bat-printed) and hand painted (including works by important named artists) ware, as well as moulded and sprigged wares. Other manufactories include, Minton, Davenport, New Hall, H. & R. Daniel, and others. Tea and biscuits will be provided. Continue to Alsager (*1-1/2 hours*) and check in to the **Best Western Manor House Hotel**, on the Staffordshire-Cheshire border to the north of Stoke-on-Trent. Early buffet dinner and powerpoint talk by Pat Halfpenny with an introduction to the rest of the tour. *Overnight Alsager*

Wednesday, June 15th

B, L, D

ALSAGER / SCHOLAR GREEN / BURSLEM / ALSAGER

This morning we'll meet our hosts at nearby **Rode Hall** and see an important collection, considered one of the great English porcelain collections. See an important Derby botanical service decorated by William Billingsly, a collection of 18th-century porcelain teapots, and a large collection of table and ornamental wares from Bow, Chelsea and Worcester. We will also see the only complete collection in the world of pots designed by Walter Crane for Maw & Co. in 1890. Lunch in the Stables Tea Room and time to enjoy the stunning gardens. Then head to **Middleport Pottery**, located by the Trent and Mersey Canal in Burslem, operated by Burgess Dorling & Leigh (Burleigh for short). It is now the oldest working Victorian pottery in Staffordshire, and continues a tradition of producing fine quality, pure English earthenware products using traditional processes of the highest standard, decorated with transfer printed patterns. Begin with a factory tour followed by a talk by Jemma Baskeyfield on Burleigh's history and the factory processes. Time to visit the bottle kiln and mould store, as well as the shop. Return to the hotel. Tonight will be a special treat: a five-course gastronomic dinner at nearby **Pecks Restaurant**. *Overnight Alsager*

Thursday, June 16th

B, L, R, D

ALSAGER / HANLEY / LONGTON / STOKE-ON-TRENT / ALSAGER

Spend the morning at **The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery**, which houses the world's greatest collection of Staffordshire ceramics. We will take a deep dive into the Reserves for a study and handling session with Miranda Goodby, Senior Curator of Ceramics; and Ben Miller, Assistant Curator of Ceramics. Then Pat Halfpenny will lead a tour of the Ceramics Gallery, followed by time on your own to visit the Archaeology galleries. Lunch at The Potteries with staff. Then off to **Gladstone Pottery Museum**, a unique Victorian pottery factory where we will have the opportunity to walk inside the huge bottle ovens, see traditional processes, view a fabulous tile collection and explore a gallery of lavatories. Return to the hotel to relax. This evening enjoy a wine and cheese reception at **Spode Visitor Center** hosted by Paul Wood, former managing director of Royal Worcester Spode and now chair of the Spode Trust. The Center is located at the now shuttered Spode Factory, still on its original 18th-century site. The museum contains an unrivalled collection of factory productions from 1770 to the present. The year 2016 is the 200th anniversary of the Blue Italian pattern and there will be a special exhibition in newly opened galleries. A

demonstration will also be arranged. Dinner nearby at **The Potters Club**, a members'-only club originally founded for directors of local pottery companies to entertain their guests. *Overnight Alsager*

Friday, June 17th

B, L, R

ALSAGER / BARLASTON / LONDON

Following check-out, head south about a half hour to the **Wedgwood Museum**. Our visit will be hosted by its Curator, Gaye Blake Roberts, who will begin with an introductory talk followed by a self-guided tour of the museum and special visit to the archives with archivist Lucy Lead to see pattern books and other materials. Then continue south to London (*3+ hours*). A bag lunch will be provided. Check-in to **The Rembrandt Hotel** in Kensington. This evening we will attend an **evening reception and lecture** on "Sir Hans Sloane's Plants on Chelsea Porcelain" presented by Sally Kevill-Davies. Dinner on your own in London. *Overnight London*

Saturday, June 18th

B, R

LONDON

Enjoy a relaxed morning, with the option to attend the **Prestige Ceramic Fair** in Kensington Town Hall, perhaps the best opportunity to see and purchase ceramics from dealers and specialists of 18th and 19th century pottery and porcelain. This is where the most avid collectors go! *The Fair runs from 11 am to 5 pm; transport by tube or taxi, and entrance fee, not included.* In the late afternoon we will visit a private collection that ranges from 18th century salt-glaze to modern studio ceramics with a special focus on Welsh pottery and porcelain. Wine and cheese will be served. Dinner and the evening are on your own. *Overnight London*

Sunday, June 19th

B

LONDON / BRIGHTON / LONDON

Today we travel by coach nearly two hours to Brighton for a special visit at the **Brighton Museum & Art Gallery**, located in the Royal Pavilion Garden. It was originally built for the Prince of Wales, later George IV and completed in 1805. Since 1902 it has been a museum for numerous collections that include British, European and American applied art and design from the 17th century to present day including ceramics, glass, metalwork, furniture and jewelry. We will be welcomed by Stella Beddoe, the Museum's former Senior Keeper and the author of a recently published book (*A Potted History: Henry Willett's Ceramic Chronicle of Britain*). She will begin with a powerpoint introductory talk, then lead a tour primarily focusing on the Willett Collection on display and in reserve, though we will also have access to other collections of English pottery in store, namely 18th-century earthenwares and soft-paste porcelains, a collection of brown salt-glazed stoneware and 19th- and 20th-century European production ceramics. The Willett Collection comprises hollow ware and flat ware, ornamental busts and figures that commemorate historical events and personalities representative of 16th- to 19th-century British social history. Time on your own to visit other galleries and have lunch. This afternoon we will take a guided tour of the **Brighton Royal Pavilion**, an exotic palace in the center of Brighton with a colorful history. Built as a seaside pleasure palace, this historic house mixes Regency grandeur with the visual style of India and China. Among the amazing collections are Chinese porcelains together with English ceramics commissioned to blend with the Prince's taste for chinoiserie. Return to London by 6 p.m. Dinner and the evening on your own in London. *Overnight London*

Monday, June 20th

B, L, D

LONDON / WESTCOTT / LONDON

Travel one hour from London to one of the finest private collections of ceramics in the world with examples from pre-dynastic Egyptian to 18th-century England via the exotic East, the far West, as well as Europe and all places in between. We will have a ‘teach-in’ with our hosts, with members of the group contributing their own knowledge and experience. Lunch will be provided. Arrive back in London by 6 p.m. Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner at a local gastro pub. *Overnight London*

Tuesday, June 21st

B

LONDON / HOME CITIES or EXTEND YOUR STAY

Following breakfast, complete check-out and store luggage with Front Desk Reception. Our tour will end with a visit to the **Victoria & Albert Museum** for a handling session of ceramics from its vast study collections followed by a curator-led tour of the Ceramic Galleries. Our tour program ends by 12:30 p.m., at which time you are free to linger at the V&A to see other galleries and special exhibitions. Be sure to see the recently re-opened Europe 1600-1815 Galleries, which have ceramics throughout including a monumental Meissen fountain.

Participants are free to extend their stay in London or return home. *The Rembrandt will extend group room rates for up to three nights.*

Ceramics-Related Events For Those Who Extend Their Stay

Thursday, June 23rd

Porcelain, ceramics and antiques dealers on and off Kensington Church Street open their doors for **Eight Days in London**. ACC members are specially invited to attend an evening reception at the annual “pop up” antiques stop of Rod Jellicoe, specialist in English porcelain, and Garry Atkins, specialist in early English pottery at E&H Manners Gallery, 66c Kensington Church Street. Eight Days in London runs until the 30th.

Friday, June 24th

Public Opening of **Art Antiques London** (11 a.m. – 9 p.m.) in Kensington Gardens opposite Royal Albert Hall, in walking distance to The Rembrandt. It runs until the 30th.

Admission: £15 Online in Advance / £20 at the door. *All bags, backpacks and tote bags must be checked. Preview on Thursday, June 23rd, is by invitation only.*

Program Information

LAND-ONLY PRICE \$4,475 per person, double occupancy
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$ 725

Tour Costs Include: Seven nights' accommodation (three nights in Standard Rooms at the Best Western Manor House Hotel in Alsager; and four nights in Executive Rooms at The Rembrandt in London); breakfast daily; five lunches; three evening receptions; and four dinners including wine, as well as refreshments from hosts; transportation throughout by deluxe motorcoach; portorage at hotels; donations, entrances and private visits at sites featured in the itinerary; all taxes and service charges; and gratuities to coach driver.

Tour Costs Exclude: International airfare to and from London; airport transfers; and meals not otherwise indicated, i.e. three lunches and three dinners.

FOR QUESTIONS:

Please call Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse toll-free 1-877-716-1776. Or send an e-mail to: meg@travelmuse.net.

RESERVATION FORM FOR THE AMERICAN CERAMIC CIRCLE TRIP

Please find enclosed deposits (\$1,000 per person) for _____ places.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Cell/Mobile: _____ E-mail(s): _____

INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE:

___ I understand that airfare is not included, and that I am responsible for booking it.

TRIP INSURANCE:

___ I understand that trip insurance is not included, and that I am responsible for purchasing it (not required, but suggested). Information will be sent upon sign-up.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

___ I/We will share a room with _____, and we prefer a ___ Queen ___ Two twin beds.

___ I prefer a room on a single basis, and agree to the single supplement of \$695.

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (please advise us of any foods that you do not eat):

I/We have read the details of the brochure, including the Tour Conditions, and agree to abide by all stipulations.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

**Please make your deposit check payable to Travel Muse and return to:
Travel Muse, 369 Montezuma Ave., #319, Santa Fe, NM 87501**

Tour Conditions

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

First deposit of \$1,000 per person *

Balance is due on or before April 18, 2016.

* Please note: Registration cannot be accepted until the Terms and Conditions have been read, and you sign and return the Waiver of Liability provided on the Registration Form.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be made in writing to Travel Muse.

Cancellations received prior to February 22, 2016: \$300 *

Cancellations received from February 22 to April 18, 2016 \$600 *

Cancellations received on or after April 18, 2016

and up until the day of departure:

Total tour cost **

* Cancellation fee covers administrative and operational costs and any penalties assessed by suppliers.

** Travel insurance information will be sent to you upon receipt of your deposit.

Passports: A U.S. passport valid for at least six months from the date of travel is required.

Trip Insurance: Trip Cancellation / Interruption & Baggage / Health / Accident Insurance is available from Travel Muse; information will be sent to you upon receipt of your deposit. Trip insurance is strongly recommended.

Limit of Liability: Travel Muse, its ground operators, and the American Ceramic Circle act only as agents for the participant with respect to air travel, transportation, hotels, and other features of this tour, and exercise every care possible. However, we cannot assume liability for injury, damage, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any motorcoach or other arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for loss or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sicknesses, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated.

Travel Muse reserves the right to cancel the tour prior to departure in which event the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation or liability on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour; to substitute accommodations, carriers or qualified tour staff; or to alter the itinerary of the program at any time when deemed appropriate or advisable without penalty or liability. Travel Muse cannot be responsible or liable for loss, damage or theft of personal baggage and belongings, nor can it be liable for personal injury, accident, or illness. We strongly suggest you check with your insurance agent for adequate coverage for any eventualities.

Tour Minimum: The Tour Price is based on a minimum of 14 participants.