

2016<sup>1/2</sup>

# HEREND HERALD

47.

MAGAZINE OF THE HEREND PORCELAIN MANUFACTORY



**HISTORY**  
Sailing

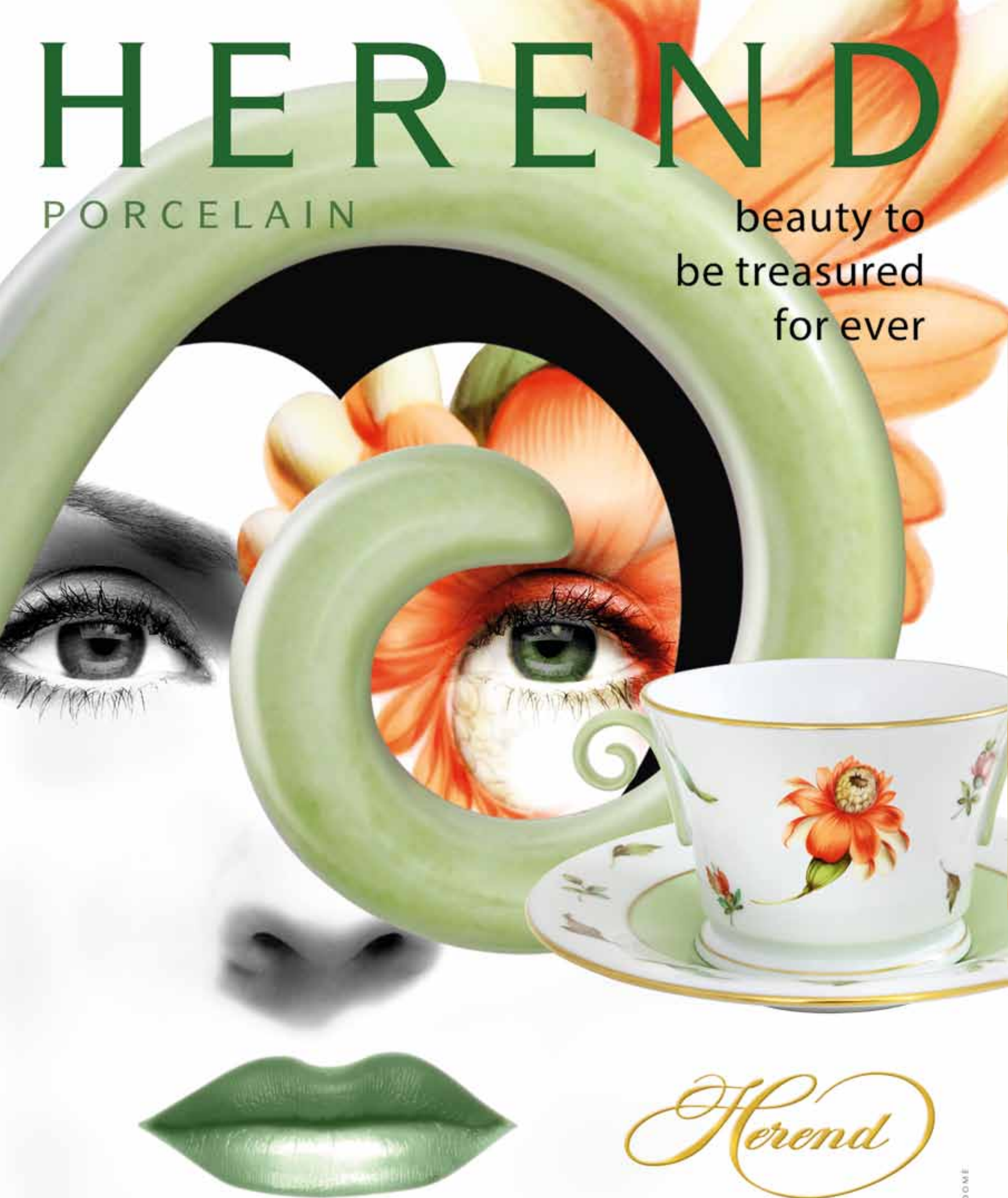
**PAINTING**  
The Formula 1 vase  
on the podium

**HEREND INTERIOR DESIGN**  
Homely eclecticism

# HEREND

PORCELAIN

beauty to  
be treasured  
for ever



*Herend*

DOVE

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INTRODUCTION

## DEAR HEREND HERALD READERS,

The restaurant where I arrive has a pleasant homely feel; the light from the streetlamps impart a warm glow on the windows. Familiar friends, an inviting aroma and congenial company. We are invited to a beautifully set table. Suddenly, the noise, struggles and tiredness of the day come to mind and I realise it will be another late night. We have spent all day thinking about past inherited values, responsibly planning the future while at the same time not allowing the present to slip away.

I am reassured that I am part of a community and culture with a lengthy history of creativity and the ability to renew itself. As the first among equals, the pressure and responsibility on us is even greater. We are bold and capable of change while others are still trying to find their way. They complain and blame others, and try to cash in on their past. We, however, carry out the task in hand and know how to pass on 19th century traditions to a 21st century world. I am suddenly struck by the realisation that my thoughts are elsewhere – I am working again. I quickly bring my thoughts back to the present giving my full attention to my host.

We are seated and I find myself surrounded by many guests, my host to one side, my partner to the other. I glance at the table and a smile spreads across my face, I will be among my beloved friends after all. The table has been set with a wonderfully resplendent hand painted porcelain service; plates, distinctive side plates, couvert plates, textile napkins in napkin rings, cutlery and candle holders, the menu, naturally all in porcelain.

The porcelain before me is both classic and modern, we are travellers through the centuries, The beauty of tradition and innovation fused together; yesterday the treasured riches of kings and emperors, today trendy pieces that grace every style of home. Before me the brushstroke of pastel colours, the marriage of water, fire, earth and air giving rise to white gold and the shining beauty of platinum.

I remember I was there at the inception with my respected colleagues, on a Tuesday afternoon in the last room on the second floor. What we imagined that afternoon has become a reality, it is here today in front of the guests who are admiring its timeless beauty. The talent which flourishes in our workshop like a meadow flower, has arrived at a new destination, here among the distinguished guests, providing our meal with a sense of elegance and pampering.

I watch the guests' faces. Everyone is captivated by the beauty of the table setting, everyone surreptitiously touches their plate, I notice everyone traces the painted design with a finger unable to resist the urge to touch it. A thought occurs to me, the guests are touching something that has passed through 800 pairs of hands as the porcelain passes from person to person from the start of the process. When a piece is finished and finds an owner the care, talent and compliments of 800 people are passed on with it.

In the meantime a steaming bowl of soup arrives in a porcelain dish. Our host breaks the quiet and wishes us a good appetite and proudly tells us a story that an old wish of his was fulfilled last week when he purchased and took home a Herend service. A new, treasured family member had moved in: herend porcelain, our future legacy.

Thank you for your kind attention and I hope you enjoy our magazine.

With warm regards,  
Dr. Attila Simon  
CEO





16

- 5 EVENTS
- 7 LET THE BELLS RING  
– BELL CASTING PAST AND PRESENT
- 8 THE FORMULA 1 VASE ON THE PODIUM
- 10 DISCOVERED CIVILIZATIONS  
– IMPORTANT INVENTIONS FROM HISTORY
- 12 HOMELY ECLECTICISM
- 14 STYLE AND ELEGANCE  
– PORCELAIN DECORATING TECHNIQUES
- 16 SAILING – BOAT BUILDING  
IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> AND 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY
- 18 THE DANUBE: EUROPE'S GRAND DAME
- 20 ANCIENT MARTIAL ARTS ON HORSEBACK
- 21 APICIUS RESTAURANT RECOMMENDS
- 22 GIFT IDEAS

## IMPRINT



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# HEREND BEAUTY IN JAPAN

Shortly after the legendary blossoming of cherry trees, Japanese connoisseurs were able to delight in Herend porcelain at a number of locations.



At an exhibition in Hankyu, one of Osaka's most notable department stores, visitors had the opportunity to admire the richly coloured world of Herend.

Fukuyama was the first stop for a series of cultural exhibitions, made possible thanks to the collaboration between the Budapest Museum of Applied Arts, the National Museum and the Herend Porcelain Museum. Further venues for the exhibition include, Niigata, Aichi, Osaka, Ibaraki and Tokyo.



# A HUGE COLLECTION AND SUCCESS IN KISINYOV

The grandiose Herend porcelain exhibition in Kisinyov, in the Republic of Moldova, was met with great interest, by both Monica Babuc, Moldova's Minister for Culture and Corina Fusu, Moldova's Minister for Education, speaking at the opening of the exhibition.

The ministers thanked the exhibition organizers emphasizing in particular the values it upheld. They also expressed their appreciation for Hungary's significant contribution to European culture, both past and present. The exhibition, which shows 600 pieces, was seen by over 20,000 visitors during the first two weeks after opening.



# IN HONOR OF SEMMELWEIS

July 1, Ignác Semmelweis's birthday, is a day celebrated by the world of medicine. His contribution to medicine in general and to mothers in particular is of great importance. A statue of Semmelweis, by Erika Éles-Varga, was presented to the National Cardiac Hospital in Balatonfüred by Herend Porcelain Manufactory, to commemorate this special day.

# SUMMER, MAGIC, KAISERVILLA, BAD ISCHL



A special exhibition called Imperial Herend, was opened in Ferenc József's old summer retreat in the beautiful town of Bad Ischl. The unusual name given to the exhibition alludes to the historical ties between the Imperial Court and Herend. Specifically, the title of imperial supplier which was given to Mór Fischer, the owner of Herend Manufactory at that time, by Ferenc József. Only the most prestigious and best manufacturers of the day merited this title.

A special treat was instore for those visitors who viewed the beautiful, elegant pieces, specially made for Ferenc József, bearing his crest and monogram. Also exhibited were pieces given by the Emperor to his wife Sissi for their castle at Gödöllő. There was no shortage of exquisite pieces, unique ornaments and even a sumptuous wedding setting was on display from the abundant imperial collection.

## “HERENDDESIGN” IN SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR

Since graduating from the faculty of porcelain at the Hungarian University of Design in 1977, Tamás Ákos has worked continuously as a designer at Herend. Besides his traditional and classical statues, Tamás has developed a completely new and fresh porcelain style. His name is linked to Herend's unique delicate lace dishes, colourful inlaid vases, organic ornaments and lamps. His fresh approach and creative style are particularly appealing to the younger generation.



An exhibition of the finest works by porcelain designer and artist Ákos Tamás, spanning many decades, has opened in the St Stephen's Centre for Religious Studies and Culture.

## ON DISPLAY 'WHITE GOLD' IN PÉCS

At Herend's 'white gold – Herend porcelain ornaments for the feasts of royals and aristocrats' exhibition, visitors were able to admire design with an aristocratic link that has been developed over many decades. This refers to the 'white gold' porcelain whose value rivalled that of gold.

Its unequalled beauty and sparkling perfection won the admiration of kings and aristocrats. It is thanks to their patronage that designs such as Apponyi, Esterházy, Gödöllő, Hadik, Victoria and Waldstein have become recognised throughout the world.

## HEREND AT THE OLYMPICS

The National Judo Association celebrated victory and success at the Olympics in Rio with a gala night. At the event Mr. Marius Vizer, president of the association, personally congratulated all the winners, and presented each one with a Herend statue of Kano Jigoro, the founder of judo.



Baker Mashu (JPN) - Olympic Champion - 90kg  
Mr. Marius Vizer, IJF President

## EUROPEAN HERITAGE AND HUNGARICUM

In 2016, the beautifully renovated Academy of Music was awarded the European Heritage Award for its outstanding contribution to the world of European music. The academy in Budapest is an emblematic cultural institution of excellence; its intellectual and artistic influence universal. Situated in the heart of the city, its foundation coincides with the birth of a metropolis along the banks of the Danube Herend Porcelain Manufactory Ltd. as a hungaricum, is part of the Hungarian Cultural Heritage, and is recognized as a luxury brand throughout the world.

These two renowned and respected centres of excellence are both celebrating their jubilee this year. Following the Music Academy's spring exhibition which was on display at the Herend porcelain museum, a Herend exhibition opened this autumn in the Music Academy. This joint cultural event will close with the Music Academy's jubilee event where a gift to the Hungarian nation will be placed in the academy building to mark Herend's 190th anniversary.



### Did you know?

The largest bell in Hungary, made by the Perner bell foundry, is the Great Saint Stephen bell in Saint Stephen's Basilica, Budapest, which has a diameter of 240 cm and weighs 9,250 kg. It was blessed by Cardinal László Paskai on 20 August 1990.

GEORGINA FÉZLER

## LET THE BELLS RING BELL CASTING PAST AND PRESENT

### A BELL IS RINGING

Aside from religious reasons, bells in Hungary were also used to raise the alarm in the event of fire or flooding. When ringing the bell as a warning of danger, the bell was steadied and repeatedly struck on one side only.

### A BELL'S JOURNEY – FIVE MONTHS TO A PERFECT PITCH

The first step in the bell casting process is for the craftsmen to measure the sound of the bells already in the church, as the new bell will have to be in harmony with these.

The desired pitch and resonance is achieved with the help of various formula based on the mass of the bell, taking this into account the bell is then shaped to produce the correct sound. The so-called core of the bell, also called a false bell, is prepared. This is a hollow shape made using loam bricks (a mixture of horse hair, sand, clay and manure) or stone, which serves as a type of furnace as well as a mold. The shape is covered in molten wax and several layers of clay are applied. Decorations and inscriptions formed in wax by skilled craftsmen are then placed on the false bell which is then covered in

another layer of clay. After this an outer form or coup is prepared also using loam.

Once ready the molds are fired at between 800 and 900° celsius. Bronze is then poured into the bell shaped mold, which is placed in a casting pit, and covered in earth leaving an inlet open at the top. Covering the bell in earth prevents the mixture of 78% copper and 22% tin from splitting the mold at temperatures of up to 1,300° celsius. When the bell has cooled the mold is lifted off, and once polished the bell is ready for tuning with a fork. This whole amazing and very exact process can take up to five months to complete.

### THE SAINT URBAN TOWER BELL IN KOSICE

The Saint Urban bell in Kosice rings out for the patron saint of winemakers from the Saint Urban tower. The original bell was destroyed in a great fire in 1556 and the new bell was cast from its remnants in 1557 by Ferenc Illenfeld, master cannon and bell maker. Its glorious sound rang out over many centuries until, in 1966, a fire caused the bell to fall and break into pieces. In 1989, following its restoration, the original bell was placed on a stand on the west side of the tower. An exact copy of the original was made in 1999 and is rung everyday at noon.

Jean-François Millet: Angelus



## Did you know?

- When the Chain Bridge was opened in 1849 it was the largest chain bridge construction in the world.
- Each chain link is close to 50 cm long and capable of stretching a number of centimetres without breaking. The structure of the bridge is supported by 4,660 chain links.
- Do the Chain Bridge lions have tongues? According to the story, at the ceremonial opening of the bridge this question was raised causing the shamed sculptor to throw himself into the Danube. The truth is that though the lions' open mouths look empty between their teeth, they do in fact have tongues. Even though they are not too obvious the sculptor János Marschalkó did not forget to carve them. Whenever the subject came up he would irritably retort, I'm not a butcher looking for large tongues.

PAINTING

# THE FORMULA 1 VASE ON THE PODIUM

Ear splitting decibels, amazing style, flat out horse power. This is Formula One, the most popular among all technical sports in the world.

Formula One racing has been held in Hungary since 1986. The Hungaroring is one of the few circuits that is granted permission each year to host the Formula One race. For many years now Herend Porcelain Manufactory has been the official prize supplier to the international competition.

gilded with 24 carat gold, were made specifically for the Hungarian leg of the race. From the start of the manufacturing process to the last brush stroke took five months and the work of 30 people to complete the pieces.

Last year's champion, Sebastian Vettel was presented with a jubilee amphora vase. At this year's 33rd Hungarian Grand Prix, Lewis Hamilton stood at the top of the podium; a place he has already occupied on five previous occasions, and as such is the proud owner of a number of Herend vases.

In 2016 Herend porcelain presented the grand prix winner with a vase and ornamental plate decorated with iconic Hungarian locations including the Chain Bridge. The exclusive pieces,

## Did you know?

- With its narrow stretches and sharp corners the Hungarian circuit is considered among the most difficult particularly for overtaking, and is very similar to the Monaco racing circuit.
- The racing drivers cover 44% of the track at full speed with Michael Schumacher reaching the highest average speed measuring 192.798 k/h in 2004. The home-stretch is close to 800 metres long and the drivers can reach speeds of up to 320 k/h.

Winner's vase  
Height: 530 mm  
Length: 245 mm  
Width: 230 mm

Ornamental plate  
Height: 60mm  
Length: 520 mm  
Width: 520 mm



GEORGINA FÉZLER

# DISCOVERED CIVILIZATIONS

## - IMPORTANT INVENTIONS FROM HISTORY

### THE WHEEL AND THE COMPASS

Where did it all begin? The first wheel rolled across cobbled streets in approximately 3500 BC, allowing the people of the time to leave their homes and move away. Traders were able to transport their wares more easily from one town to another as carts were stronger and able to bear heavier loads.

However, in order to reach more distant places suitable directions were necessary. By 1000 BC the Chinese were already using a rudimentary form of compass. Later, the Arabs introduced the compass to Europe where a Neopolitan sailor, called Flavio Gioia, made improvements to the original design by adding a verticle pivot and attaching a magnet to it. The magnet, called a needle, has a red tip which always points north,

while the other end, which is blue, points south, thus indicating the position of the north and south poles of the Earth which itself acts as a giant magnet moving the compass needle.

### SPECTACLES, LIGHT BULBS AND TELEPHONES FOR A CIVILIZED SOCIETY!

It was the philosopher Roger Bacon (1214–1292) who first recorded the use of glass lenses for optical applications. From here it was one small step to the development of glasses. The lenses, which were placed in a frame, came in to use at the end of the 13th century much to the joy of avid readers and people with impaired vision.

Reading and therefore the spread of other activities in the home were not only helped by

the availability of glasses; the light bulb also meant people no longer had to retire for the night after the sun went down as bulbs lit up every corner of the home. According to historians, a number of inventors had been working

### *Did you know?*

With the help of their internal compass, homing pigeons use the earth's magnetic field to navigate. This compass is in fact iron present in the fleshy skin on the pigeon's beak. The skin is surrounded by nerve endings which transmit information about changes in the Earth's magnetic field to the bird's central nervous system.

on developing the first light bulb, when finally in 1879 Thomas Edison developed the first fully functioning bulb and lighting system.

### THE COMPUTER, THE INTERNET AND SMART DEVICES

The computer and internet shape our daily world through the fast flow of information, availability and shared real time community experiences. For example, thanks to the internet and freely available phone apps, you can connect to friends in New York while sitting in a Budapest cafe.

In recent years our user devices have changed thanks to digitalisation. The successor of the smartphone, the smartwatch, not only tells the time but linked to your smartphone also gives you weather updates, monitors health (through a step-counter app), and can even be used as a compass.

Through digitalisation these devices, whether used for entertainment or work, become smarter by the day. It no longer surprises us when we hear about things like smartglasses (virtual augmented reality glasses), smartbikes (which collect and transmit information to the rider), or smartcars which, in the not too distant future, will not require a driver and be capable of transporting passengers safely from one place to another.

### *Did you know?*

The best-known and most important polymath was Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519). In addition to his artistic and scientific pursuits he was also a great inventor. Though many of his inventions never came to fruition, they were ahead of their time and demonstrate his level of ingenuity and spirit of discovery. His inventions include improved weapons of warfare, tools and machinery, and contact lenses. His inventiveness extended to conquering the seas with the life ring, flippers and the diving suit, and the air with the invention of a flying machine, known as the ornithopter, the glider and the parachute.

# HOMELY ECLECTICISM

ÉVA PÁLVÖLGYI



Style is the person it reflects. Whether the result of instinct or a conscious choice it mirrors our personality, way of thinking and emotional world. This is especially true of our homes which probably give away more about us than anything else.

Today's world is characterised by eclecticism which means a mixing of eras, trends and styles. This world can encompass many things; from old pieces of furniture that carry memories linked to our past to the latest designs in functional objects.

In order for us to achieve a pleasant, friendly home that reflects our personality, it is worth spending time developing a basic concept in which you can confidently fit everything together. Eclecticism is not characterised by any particular style or colour, the wealth of available materials is inexhaustable; metal, glass or crystal and the warmth of wood, textiles and leather sit perfectly side by side.

In this world porcelain also plays an important role, not only as an ornamental piece, but in the form of objects we can use daily adding comfort and convenience to daily life. Starting our

morning ritual of coffee or tea from a favourite cup determines how we start the day. In the same way a gem on a modern design piece can catch our eye, or serving desert from an unusual dish can provide the setting for a pleasant chat with a friend.



# STYLE AND ELEGANCE

## – PORCELAIN DECORATING TECHNIQUES

GEORGINA FÉZLER

*We asked Joli Tanai, plant manager at Herend Porcelain Manufactory, about the special techniques involved in porcelain decoration.*

At first glance, lovers of porcelain probably consider the decorativeness and brushwork of a piece, but a closer look at its shape, design and elaborate workmanship all contribute to the satisfying experience of contemplating a highly elaborate work of art.



### WHAT ARE THE TYPICAL HEREND EMBELLISHMENTS?

The goods in each design, and in particular the teapots and lidded serving dishes, are available with matching finials. The well-known Victoria design which features butterflies and peonies is also available with a rose or butterfly finial. In the case of the Rothschild design, which predominantly features birds, a teapot and bonbon dish are available with a bird finial. These shapes are carefully attached to the lid, in their raw state, at the start of the manufacturing process.

### HOW LONG DOES THIS PROCEDURE TAKE?

The result of our latest development for example is a tiled vase which has 408 tiles. The tiles are carefully positioned individually by a highly skilled craftsman, a process which takes over nine hours. As well as the smaller parts larger ornamental elements give each piece a unique style. For example the larger vase which takes 40 hours, or five working days to complete, has 178 individually applied elements (petals, leaves and branches) giving the effect of a lifelike grove.



### WHAT OTHER TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES ARE THERE, AND WHICH IS THE OLDEST?

Possibly the oldest form of porcelain decoration is the relief technique. This means a number of concave and convex shapes are applied to the porcelain. The interesting thing about this technique is that during the application of the relief pieces there is no additional work for the craftsman as during manufacture the shapes take on the negative form of the pattern. For this reason particular importance is placed on planning and tool-making technology. A basic cast can be changed from a baroque style right through to a modern design.

### THIS COMPLEX, PRECISE WORK IS EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE. NEXT TO ALL THE TECHNOLOGICAL INPUT WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL?

Cutting the design shows true craftsmanship. This technique involves the craftsman cutting the design into the hard, raw material using a double edged knife, removing the unnecessary parts to leave 'holes' in the porcelain.

This technique requires a great deal of attention to detail, patience and a steady hand. Long periods of concentration are needed as there



is no room for errors. One slip of the hand and many days' work can be lost. Examples of this technique are the Maria Theresa plate and the so-called lattice vase.

### COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THESE PIECES?

The Maria Theresa plate has 2,300 holes in it. Even though the work is done by two people at the same time, it still takes more than a day to complete. The work is highly skilled and technologically challenging as the raw material has to maintain a certain consistency during the whole procedure as it is not possible to cut if it becomes too soft or too hard. With the lattice vase only one person at a time can work on it because of its size, therefore it takes four days or 32 hours to complete. The base of the vase has 250 holes, the lid 600 while the body has 3,500. Moreover, these numbers have to be adjusted depending on the size of the vase.





# SAILING

## BOAT BUILDING IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> AND 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

JUDIT MOLNÁR

Since ancient times to the present day every generation has had its sailing and boat building traditions. The 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century boat builders were no exception with the significant enhancement of trading and naval vessels. Let us have a look at what the typical vessels were like at the start of this new era.

### THE GALLEON

The most exceptional vessel of the 16th century was the galleon. Originally built by the Spanish, it was quickly adopted by other seafaring European countries. The first architect of this ship, whose name is unfortunately unknown, was probably one of the greatest shipbuilders of the time. It was this type of ship that played a major role in the greatest adventure of the time: discovering the world. These galleons were longer and narrower than their predecessors with the bow extending forward in the shape of a triangle. Their sails were better proportioned, taller and easier to handle than those on earlier models.

One of the most famous galleons was the Ark Royal. As flagship of the British fleet, it took part in numerous naval battles.

### THE FRIGATE

Among the smaller vessels to appear during the second half of the 17th century was the French frigate. Its design and sails were similar to those of larger vessels, but it was smaller and had fewer cannons. These qualities meant this fast vessel

### *Did you know?*

The Cutty Sark is one of the world's most famous merchant clippers. Thanks to its unusually slim hull and huge sails it was the fastest clipper of its time. It belonged among the last of the sailing clippers before the advent of the steam ship. One of the most famous Cutty Sark stories is about a race from Shanghai to London against another clipper, the Thermopylae. The race started well and after three weeks the Cutty Sark had gained a 400 mile advantage. Unfortunately, misfortune struck in the shape of a broken rudder. The ship, however, did not dock and the crew fixed the broken rudder twice at sea. After 122 days the Cutty Sark reached land seven days after the Thermopylae. Despite not winning her crew were recognised and rewarded for their valiant effort. Today this fine example of British maritime trade is docked in Greenwich and is part of the National Historic Fleet.



was ideal as a surveillance ship in the fleet and modified versions of it spread quickly throughout the maritime world. Among the frigates Hermione was the famous warship on which the Marquis de Lafayette set sail from France to America to take troops to the colonies fighting in George Washington's War of Independence against the British. Subsequent victory led to the establishment of the USA.

### THE FLUYT

The fluyt was the wanderer of the seas and had numerous advantages; its load-bearing capabilities were similar to that of the galleon whilst requiring a third of the crew. Its sails were easy to handle and even sailing in shallow water presented no problems. It is thanks to these qualities that the fluyt was considered the best cargo ship of the 17th century, including the best of the Dutch cargo fleet, but the whaling fluyt was also very famous. Later, the people around the Mediterranean also adopted this type of ship.



### *Did you know?*

The Vasa is the only preserved 17th century warship in the world. At its launch in 1628 it was Sweden's largest warship. The Swedish king, Gustavus Adolphus II, who commissioned the ship, wanted a vessel that was unrivalled in Europe. Approximately 500 people, including shipwrights, sculptors and sailmakers, worked on the 52 metre high, 69 metre long ship which weighed 1200 tons. With 64 cannons on board the Vasa was top-heavy, and despite having rocks in her hull to weigh her down she keeled over and sank on her maiden voyage. She was recovered in 1960 and after nearly 30 years of restoration, in 1990, the museum built around the ship was opened to the public; it is regarded as one of Sweden's most popular sights.



# THE DANUBE, EUROPE'S GRAND DAME

JUDIT MOLNÁR

## Did you know?

The Blue Danube waltz by Johann Strauss II is his most famous piece. The term Blue Danube is believed to come from an Austrian legend that says the grey waves of the Danube appear blue for lovers. Another theory is that Strauss came across the term 'beautiful blue Danube' in a poem by the Hungarian poet Karl Isidor Beck.

## Did you know?

The Danube is the only river in Europe to appear on the World Wildlife Fund's list of endangered rivers. More than 80% of its floodplains have been lost because of regulations, pollution, and climate change.



The Danube is the most international river in the world flowing through ten countries (Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine), and four capital cities: Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade, while its drainage basin extends to four further countries (Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Montenegro and Slovenia). At 2,850 km long, the Danube, Europe's queen, is the second longest river in the European Union after the Volga.

Originating in the Black Forest it flows into the Black Sea. Several sources identify where the origins of the river can be traced back to. One thing is certain, the Danube is named after the confluence of the Brigach and Breg streams in Donaueschingen in Baden-Württemberg state, Germany.

The Danube is home to more than 4,000 species of animals and 1,000 species of birds. The most well-known birds are the black-headed gull, the cormorant, ducks, swans, wild geese and the lapwing. Rosy pelicans are typical inhabitants along the Danube delta, while the inhabitants of the floodplains and backwaters include the water shrew, the water spider, the otter and the harvest mouse. The Danube contains relatively few types of fish with only 52 species. The most common are sturgeon, carp, pike and perch.

The first bridges across the river were built by the Romans, and the remains of one of them can still be seen today at Turnu Severin in Romania. The oldest bridge still in use today is the Stone bridge in Regensburg. At present there are close to 300 bridges spanning the Danube the longest is the Beska viaduct in Serbia. At its widest point, along the Lower Danube, it can measure up to 1,500 metres across, and the deepest point measuring 70 metres is found at the Iron Gates in Romania.



# ANCIENT MARTIAL ARTS ON HORSEBACK

JUDIT MOLNÁR

Spectacular horsemanship is all the more so when coupled with archery. Mounted archery is a special branch of sport, where the past and present are clearly intertwined. Riders on galloping horses shoot their arrows with speed and accuracy in all directions; forwards, to the side and behind at an angle of 180 degrees. The ancient centaur symbol expresses the essence of the mounted archer: from the hips down the warrior becomes one with the horse, from the hips up with his target. Mounted archery, which requires not only great physical strength but also exceptional mental preparation is becoming more popular around the world.

## THE ORIGINS

The original mounted archers were the formidable warriors of nomad tribes from the Asian Steppes. These nomads wandered from place to place.

The mobility of the Hungarian mounted archers gave them a great advantage over foot archers who were typical in Europe at that time, as a quickly moving target is far more difficult to hit. Arrows would rain down on the enemy from a distance while, at the same time, horsemen encircled them to prevent escape. They often feigned escape only to unexpectedly strike with their arrows from behind throwing the enemy into disarray. Thanks to the light weight weapons and spare horses they took the archers were capable of travelling great distance.

## Did you know?

- Lajos Kassai is the defining figure of modern day mounted archery holding the world record for 24-hour non-stop horseback archery. He also shot 14 discs in 19.85 seconds from a galloping horse.
- Dear Lord, save us from the conquerers' arrows, a saying from the time of the conquering tribes, possibly refers to the Hungarian battle tactic of feigning escape only to turn and fire arrows backwards.

## NIMROD THE MOUNTED ARCHER

One of our oldest myths, the Miraculous Hind, writes the following about Nimrod, father of the Huns and Magyars: In the morning, after he awoke, and had dealt with the affairs of the country, he would gather up his arrows, jump on his horse and gallop as fast as the wind, or even faster, across hills and valleys, through ditches and bushes and from his horse shoot down the flying birds. Any bird he took aim at no longer sang, no longer flew.

## BOW AND STIRRUPS

The Hungarian conquerors used their so-called recurve bows. The bow would be overstrung so the two ends were pulled towards each other. It would then be placed in a sheath and could be carried for up to eight hours without coming to any harm allowing the archers to always be battle ready. When the bow was in its resting state it was kept in a quiver to protect it from the cold and damp. Preparing a top quality bow could take up to a year and was worth the equivalent of a large number of cattle and horses.

On a galloping horse it is only possible to shoot while standing in the stirrups, and accurate shooting requires great stability. For this reason the pommel on the front of the saddle was raised allowing the rider to lean against it giving a more accurate aim.



## APICIUS RESTAURANT RECOMMENDS

Grilled Danube catfish with mangalica pork crackling, cottage cheese pasta and ratatouille puree



### INGREDIENTS TO SERVE 4:

- 40 dkg catfish • 25 dkg pasta squares • 6 dkg smoked mangalica bacon
- 8 dkg cottage cheese • 8 dkg sour cream • 3 dkg onion • 12 dkg yellow peppers
- 8 dkg peeled, seeded tomatoes • salt, pepper, paprika, oil

## Chocolate souffle with white chocolate cream, raspberry sorbet and fruit



### INGREDIENTS TO SERVE 4:

- 8 dkg dark chocolate • 2.75 dkg butter • 3 eggs • 4 g flour • 5 dkg white chocolate • 1 egg yolk
- 4 g flour • 1 dl whipped cream • 0.5 dkg gelatine • 0.8 dl milk • 30 dkg raspberries • 6 dkg sugar
- 1 dl dry champagne • vanilla stick, icing sugar, fruit, butter

Season the fish fillets with salt and pepper and leave to stand.  
Cook the pasta in boiling, salted water, drain and leave to cool.  
Cut the bacon into small pieces, fry the pieces till brown then drain and keep the fat.  
Chop the onion, yellow peppers and tomatoes in to small pieces.  
Fry the onion in the drained pork fat, add the peppers and finally the tomatoes.  
Cook until soft then puree.  
Put some oil in a large frying pan and quickly fry the fish.  
Warm up the cooked pasta and mix in the cottage cheese and sour cream.  
Serve the fish with the pasta and ratatouille puree, sprinkle with the pork crackling.



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Gently cook the raspberries and sugar in approximately 1.5 dl of water, sieve and cool in the freezer. When chilled, slowly add the champagne mixing thoroughly and replace in the freezer.

To make the chocolate cream: mix the egg yolk, icing sugar, and vanilla until creamy then add half of the milk. Thicken over a pan of simmering water stirring continuously. Allow to cool. Melt the white chocolate and remainder of the milk over a pan of simmering water, add the gelatine and leave to cool. Mix the whipped cream into the cooled egg yolk mixture, add the melted white chocolate and cool in the fridge.

To make the chocolate souffle: melt the dark chocolate and butter over a pan of simmering water, cool at room temperature. Separate the three eggs and mix the yolks and flour into the cooled chocolate. Finally, beat the egg whites until stiff and carefully fold them in. Pour the mixture into a buttered ovenproof dish and bake in a preheated fan oven at 200°C until ready. Serve the sponge with the raspberry sorbet, white chocolate cream and decorate with fruit pieces.

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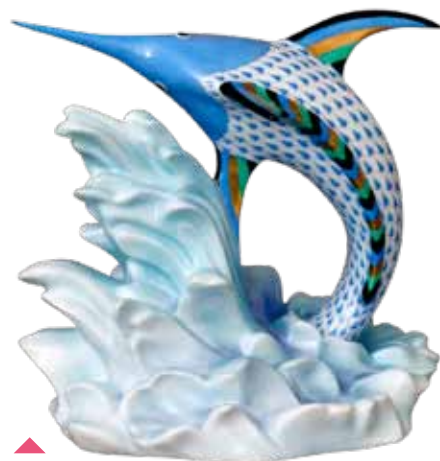
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