

PRESS RELEASE:

**Auction in London: An Important Collection of Porcelain Figurines.
Private Russian Manufactories**

Wednesday 25 March 2015, 10:30

MacDougall's have the pleasure to present one of the finest private collections of porcelain made by Russian private manufactories. The auction to be held on the 25th March in London will feature about 150 lots of various figurines, including the celebrated series "The Magic Lantern" and "Peoples of Russia", as well as rare early examples produced by Gardner, Popov, Kuznetsov, Terekhov and Kiselev and other smaller factories. Attractively priced works, with estimates varying from £1,000 to £20,000, will no doubt draw seasoned and new collectors alike who will have a unique opportunity to acquire some of the most interesting examples of Russian porcelain production. The present collection is not only one of the largest, but also most representative, important and complete private collection of Russian porcelain figurines to come to market in recent years.



Assembled over the past 15 years, the carefully curated collection offers a valuable overview of the fashions and popular themes of the 19th century. This comprehensive collection is remarkable not only for its variety, but also for the outstanding quality of represented models, their artistic and technical merits, range of colours and undertones as well as skilful painting. In the middle of the 19th century, such figurines enjoyed a great success at national and international exhibitions and nowadays can be found in major private and public porcelain collections.

The Patriotic War of 1812 stirred up powerful feelings of national pride, which had a direct and immediate effect on the range and subject matters of

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porcelain production. It was in 1818 that Gardner began manufacture of porcelain figures representing the idealised depictions of common people: vendors, tradesmen and other lower-class craftsmen and entrepreneurs. Sketches for these porcelain sculptures were based on engravings by Kapiton Zelentsov taken from a popular monthly publication titled “The Magic Lantern”. Straight away these figures became very popular and were then copied by other private factories.

The collection also contains fine examples by Popov manufactory, famous for its production of figures depicting haymakers, spinners, shepherds, wanderers, which were in particular demand among common people; and also for its series of figures of dandies, fashionistas and pretty salesgirls. These statuettes were based on lithographs taken from fashionable French magazines or European porcelain figures and occupied pride of places in the homes of the wealthy Russians. Amongst the most notable examples are the sculptural group “Pantalone e Colombina” from commedia dell’arte, statue of a Chinese mandarin, figure of a jester, a portrait of Abd Al Kadir and compositions depicting children-gardeners, to name just a few.



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Viewing Schedule:

Weekdays only 25 Feb–24 March, 11:00-18:00.

Pre-auction weekend 21–22 March, 11:00-18:00.

Address: MacDougall’s, 30A Charles II St, London SW1Y 4AE

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