

Lecturer: Jessica Cunningham BA, MA

Lecture Series:

1. Introduction to the variety of forms, styles, designs and uses of domestic silver in Britain and Ireland from the mid-17th century to the 20th century

Looking at the silversmith's workshop and his techniques. Identifying maker's marks, hallmarks and other marks on silver.

2. The Many Styles of the Baroque

Through a survey of silver for the dining table, tea table and dressing table, from the restoration of Charles II (1660) to George II (1727), we will examine the styles and ornamentation of decorative Baroque, plain, geometric Baroque and the vogue for Chinoiserie.

3. The Dynamic Rococo

A shift in silver design in Britain and Ireland is apparent from the 1730s, influenced by the innovation of French designers, inspired by nature and the sea. This new movement in design is seen in silver from c.1730 - 1770, varying from the conservative use of C-scrolls on coffee pots to soup tureens fashioned from the cast moulds of crustaceans!

4. Neo-Classical Silver

European travel and re-discovery of ancient Greece and Roman, together with a reaction against the 'frivolity' of the Rococo, create widespread interest in the shapes and forms of antiquity. Classical columns, volutes, urns and vases, among many other ornamentations and designs, are evident in silver in the last quarter of the 18th century.

5. Industrialisation and Development

The Regency period and the early decades of Victoria's reign brought the mechanisation and larger-scale production of silver. Large factories dominated in London and now also in Birmingham and Sheffield in the mass-production of silver. Sterling silver now competing with silver-plated and electro-plated goods. The Great Exhibition in London in 1851.

6. Decades of Change 1850-1900

Successive stylistic revivals in silver from the Rococo, to the Classical and Chinoiserie were matched by innovation at the end of the 19th century. Japan opens up to the

world and the repercussions are seen in a variety of shapes and styles. The legacy of Christopher Dresser, the Arts and Crafts movement and the Celtic Revival all manifest in significant developments in the production of silver.

7. Visit to the Irish Silver Exhibition in Collins Barracks

A chance to look at examples of silver from the periods discussed and examined during lectures