

11 June 2008

## Statement regarding a Sèvres porcelain *seau crennelé* (monteith)

The Fitzwilliam Museum has received the recommendation of the Spoliation Advisory Panel (11 June 2008) in respect of a distinctive Sèvres *seau crennelé* (monteith) of soft-paste porcelain registered in the collection of the Museum as C.38-1961, which has been the subject of a claim as a result of spoliation. This claim has not been disputed by the Museum, which has enjoyed an amicable relationship with the claimant throughout the period during which the claim has been researched and investigated.

The monteith forms part of a service manufactured in the Sèvres factory in 1768 and is decorated with a *bleu celeste* ground, polychrome bird painting in the two reserves, and gilding. Two other pieces from the same service are owned by the Fitzwilliam, which acquired the monteith in good faith from a former Director of the Museum, Dr Louis C G Clarke, as part of an extremely large bequest from his private collection in 1960.

The Spoliation Advisory Panel concludes that, whilst the Museum's legal title to the monteith is regarded as 'impregnable', 'it is manifest that the claimant has a strong moral claim'. Whilst acknowledging the considerable importance of this extremely fine piece of eighteenth century porcelain to the Museum's collections, the Fitzwilliam accepts that restitution is entirely appropriate and will be returning the monteith to the claimant.

The Syndicate of The Fitzwilliam Museum approves the restitution of the monteith, acknowledges the valuable role of the Spoliation Advisory Panel in resolving such matters and, in accordance with the principles of the international museum community, is pleased that this fine example of Sèvres ware will be returned to its rightful owner.

- ends -

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# Press | The Fitzwilliam Museum

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## Notes for Editors

### The Fitzwilliam Museum

The Fitzwilliam Museum houses the University of Cambridge's art collection and is a public museum and art gallery with an international reputation. More than half a million objects and works of art are held in five curatorial departments: Antiquities, Applied Arts, Coins and Medals, Manuscripts and Printed Books and Paintings, Drawings and Prints.

The Fitzwilliam's treasures range from Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman antiquities to the arts of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and include masterpieces by Titian, Canaletto, Stubbs, Constable, Monet, Renoir and Picasso, one of the world's foremost Rembrandt print collections, Handel music manuscripts and the famous Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, one of the most significant collections of Korean ceramics outside South-East Asia, medieval illuminated manuscripts and outstanding collections of pottery, porcelain and medieval coins.

The Fitzwilliam Museum welcomes over 300,000 visitors a year, offers a wide-ranging programme of temporary exhibitions and events, and has an award-winning Education Service. The Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 - 17.00. Admission to the permanent collections and to temporary exhibitions is free. Website: [www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk)

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