



## COURT BARN MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE: AUGUST 2010

### A HISTORY OF THE WORLD

Court Barn has selected a piece of silver as its offering for the BBC and British Museum project: **A History of the World.**

This two handled dish was designed in 1902-3 by architect and designer Charles Robert Ashbee. In 1888 Ashbee established craft workshops called the Guild of Handicraft in East London - craft as an alternative to factory work. In 1902 he moved the workshops to Chipping Campden, hoping for a better life for his craftsmen. The Guild itself went into liquidation in 1908, but Ashbee's bold gesture transformed the history of the town, for it brought the Arts and Crafts movement to Chipping Campden.



Loop-handled dishes are among Ashbee's most celebrated designs. He chose to work with a few simple elements; such as plain hammered silver, coloured stones set sparingly and fluent wirework. As

compositions in design, the dishes exemplify the refined and restrained ornament that is a hallmark of arts and crafts style, as well as a precursor of early twentieth-century modernism.

The museum also has on display other pieces by Ashbee including a pendant brooch in silver, gold diamonds, abalone and semi-precious stones, c1900. (Accepted in lieu of tax by H. M. Government and allocated to the Guild of Handicraft Trust, 2008) and a fruit stand or 'tazza' 1903-04.



2010 saw the launch of A History of the World, a public service partnership between the British Museum and BBC to tell a story of humanity through manmade objects. In addition to the BBC Radio 4 programme the project has included an online resource, where other museums and members of the public can upload their own objects and associated stories to create an online museum. There are now over 450 partner museums involved in the project, 100 more since it launched.

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## CONTACTS

Images:

- Two handled loop dish ©GoHT
- Pendant brooch ©V&A images
- Fruit stand ©GoHT

For information about Court Barn Museum please contact Carole Reynolds, Administrator:  
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Notes to editors:

### COURT BARN MUSEUM

#### 1. How to find us

Court Barn Museum, Church Street, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6JE

#### 2. Admission charges

Adults £3.75; Concessions (students, senior citizens) £3.00; Children under 16 are free

#### 3. Opening times

April - September: Tuesday - Saturday 10.30 - 5.30, Sunday 11.30 - 5.30

October - March: Tuesday - Saturday 11.00 - 4.00 Sunday 11.30 - 4.00

Closed Mondays (except Bank Holidays) and Closed 24 Dec - 1 Jan inclusive

#### 4. About Court Barn Museum

Court Barn Museum is an independent museum and the brainchild of a group of local enthusiasts called the Guild of Handicraft Trust. The museum was created through the generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and monies raised by the Guild of Handicraft Trust. This groundbreaking museum, situated in the Cotswold town of Chipping Campden, tells the story of how a small town, in a beautiful setting, became a gathering place for creative people at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and continues to attract designers and makers today. Highlights include work by C.R.Ashbee, F.L. Griggs and Katharine Adams.

#### 5. About the History of the World project

At the project's heart is the BBC Radio 4 series "A History of the World in 100 Objects" written and presented by Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, which charts the diversity and changes in global, human history through objects in the British Museum's unparalleled collection. "A History of the World in 100 Objects" has been one of the most popular programmes on BBC Radio 4 this year, with a weekly omnibus edition on the World Service attracting listeners from across the globe. In addition to the BBC Radio 4 programme the project has included an online resource, where other museums and members of the public can upload their own objects and associated stories to create an online museum; the CBBC television series "Relic" which broadcast 13 episodes; activities and further collaborations in the Nations and Regions between local BBC broadcast outlets and museum partners in their area. There are now over 450 partner museums involved in the project, 100 more since it launched.