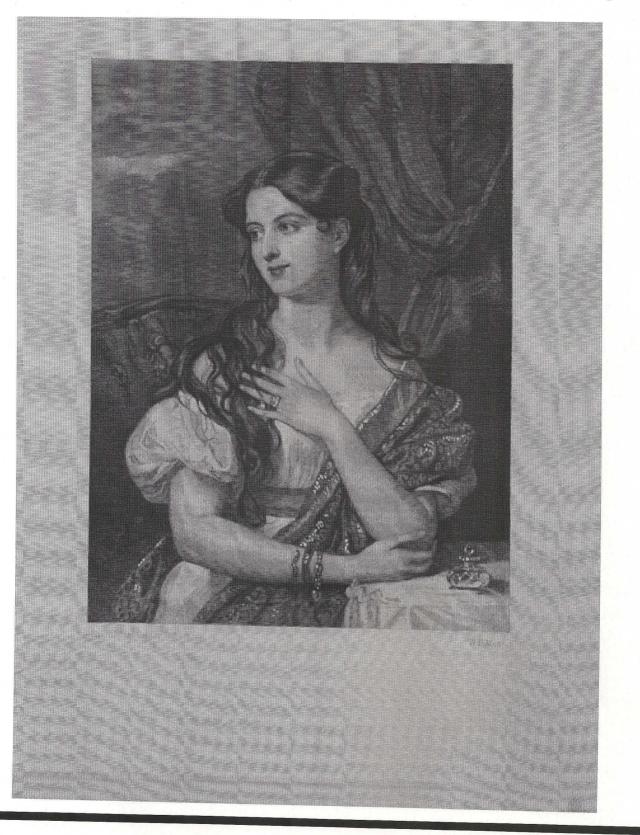
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ROYAL GOLDSMITHS: THE ART OF RUNDELL & BRIDGE 1797-1830

Close Window

Exhibition organised by Koopman Rare Art

The artistic legacy of one of the greatest creators of silver and gold in the nineteenth century will be presented in a landmark exhibition at Koopman Rare Art, the silver dealers on London's Chancery Lane, from June 14 to July 1, 2005. With loans from Her Majesty the Queen, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Devonshire Collection at Chatsworth, the lavishly illustrated book which accompanies the exhibition, with a foreword by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, will be sold in aid of leading youth charity, The Prince's Trust. Entry is free.

This will be the first exhibition to be devoted to the firm who held the Royal Warrant from 1797 until 1843, serving four monarchs: King George III, and his son the Prince Regent (later George IV), William IV and the young Queen Victoria. Magnificent silver centerpieces, jewellery, snuffboxes, watches, military decorations and dazzling presentation swords will tell the story of fine dining in the period, illustrate the superb taste and the fascinating lifestyle of the Prince Regent, and document the history of one of the most successful, international businesses of the century. Such was their reputation around the world that during his preparations to invade England Napoleon had promised the shop as plunder for the first of his Marshals to capture London. The exhibition will bring together some of the most dazzling examples of the work which made Rundell and Bridge's premises in Ludgate Hill a meeting place for the fashionable.

Among the nine objects loaned by Her Majesty The Queen is be a sumptuous gilded tureen in the form of a shell, ordered by King George IV in 1826 and still used for state banquets. George IV showered his family and friends with gold snuff boxes, rings and other jewels from Rundell's, such as an exquisite ring embellished with his portrait, inscribed VIVE LE ROI, lent by the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees, and a ruby and emerald pendant given by him to Lady Londonderry at his coronation in 1821. For his mistress, Lady Conyngham, the King lavished even more spectacular presents from Rundell's, including an imposing ormolu figure of himself on horseback, which is being lent by Lady Conyngham's descendants. A contemporary cartoon, also included in the exhibition, depicts Lady Conyngham in Rundell's shop buying jewellery.

A sumptuous pair of monumental ewers made for Britain's Ambassador to France in the 1820s, the celebrated grandee the Duke of Northumberland, will also be shown. Made in gilded silver, the handles are formed from the arched body of a nymph, her arm raised as she holds up a mirror before her face as the wine flows from a spout formed from a curled leaf.

One of the most celebrated examples of neo-classical art, the magnificent Shield of Achilles, will be lent from an English private collection. Approximately a metre in diameter, it depicts scenes from the Trojan Wars.

Other highlights included in the 50 or so exhibits will be a magnificent pair of large silver-gilt cups and covers made by Richard Cooke for Rundell's in 1803, with handles formed from the entwining backs of a pair of slim serpents, and a solid gold cup and cover presented by George IV to Lord Ormonde for his role as Chief Butler at the 1821 coronation, lent by the V&A. A snuffbox with the head of George IV, made from part of a medieval oak beam removed during the King's restoration of Windsor Castle in the 1820s (a loan from Lord St John of Fawsley) will also be included. A magnificent sword presented to Major General Eyre Coote from the Officers of the Irish Dragoons in 1797 and decorated with exquisite enamelling, acanthus leaves, wreaths and sprays of laurel and oak will be shown.

To accompany the exhibition, a sumptuously illustrated history of Rundell & Bridge by Christopher Hartop will be published with a foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales. With essays by Philippa Glanville, Diana Scarisbrick, Charles Truman, Professor David Watkin and Mathew Winterbottom of the Royal Collection, its sale proceeds will go to the youth charity The Prince's Trust.

Tuesday 14th June to Friday 1st July 2005

Opening Times:

Mon-Sat 10.00 am to 5.00 pm (Closed on Sundays)

Exhibition Venue:

53-64 Chancery Lane London, WC2A 1QS

Telephone:

020 7242 7624

Email:

enquiries@rareartlondon.com

Catalogue:

A catalogue by Christopher Hartop is available. Published by John Adamson and forward by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The net proceeds of the sale of the book will benefit the Prince's Trust. £ 19.95 plus £3.50 p&p

Website:

www.rareartlondon.com

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1422

Creator MARK OF PHILIP RUNDELL, LONDON, 1822

Lot Title A PAIR OF GEORGE IV SILVER DINNER PLATES

Estimate 2,000 - 3,000 U.S. dollars

Price Realized 4,182.50 U.S. dollars

Pre-lot Text THE PROPERTY OF A NEW YORK COLLECTOR

Lot Description A PAIR OF GEORGE IV SILVER DINNER PLATES MARK OF PHILIP RUNDELL, LONDON, 1822 Each shaped circular, with gadrooned border and leaves at intervals, the rim engraved with a Marquess's armorials and Royal arms, each marked on reverse 9 7/8 in. (25.1 cm.) diameter; 35 oz. 10 dwt. (1107 gr.) (2)

Provenance Victor George Henry Francis, 5th Marquess Conyngham, sold Christie's, London, 10 February, 1938, lot 25 (two of twelve)

Lot Notes The arms are those of Conyngham guartering Denison. as borne by Henry (Conyngham), 1st Marguess Conyngham (1766-1832) and his wife, Elizabeth (Denison), Marchioness Conyngham (d. 1861).

> The Marchioness Conyngham (d. 1861) was the last mistress of George IV, and he was the last on her list of noteworthy lovers which included Henry Lord Ponsonby and Tsar Nicholas I. (Saul David, Prince of Pleasure, 1998, pp. 390, 421-22). Dubbed the "English Pompadour," she exerted great influence over the King and capitalized upon her personal friendship to secure positions for her family and friends. Whether she stayed with the King at Windsor or at Brighton, she was encouraged to conduct herself as mistress of the household. She frequently used the King's horses and carriage, wore the Crown Sapphires, and had meals for her private dinner parties prepared at St. James's Palace. The privileges she enjoyed while mistress ended with the King's death only a few years later, and the Marquess and Marchioness faded into the background of society.

Three second course dishes and a pair of meat dishes, also engraved with the Royal arms and those of the 1st Marquess Conyngham, by Philip Rundell, 1822, sold at Christie's, London, 10 February, 1938.

CAPTION: Lady Conyngham, mistress of George IV. with Philip Rundell, inside Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, 32 Ludgate Hill, published by S.W. Fores, 1822

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George IV

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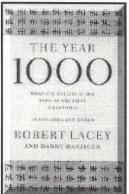
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KING GEORGE IV

1820 - 1830

George Augustus Frederick, born 12 August 1762, was created Prince of Wales in 1762. In 1785 he married Maria Anne Fitzherbert, a Roman Catholic. The marriage was illegal, however; and in 1795, to secure parliamentary settlement of his enormous debts, he made a political marriage with Caroline of Brunswick. He married Princess Caroline of Brunswick (1768-1821) in 1795. He ascended to the thrones of Great Britain and Hanover, as King George IV, on 29 January, 1820, and was crowned on 19 July 1821. He died 26 June 1830.

The couple had one child: Charlotte, born 7 January, 1796. Princess Charlotte married Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg on 2 May, 1816. She died in childbirth of a stillborn son on 6 November 1817.

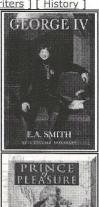
In constant and open opposition to his father, George associated closely with the Whigs. As a result, when George III had his first serious fit of insanity in 1788–89, the Tory William Pitt proposed that the regency vested in the prince be closely restricted (to prevent George bringing his Whig friends to power), while Fox, usually the opponent of royal prerogative, wanted the prince to have unlimited powers as regent.

In 1811, after the king had become permanently incapacitated, George became regent on terms very similar to those proposed by Pitt in 1788. However, when the limitations on his power to make appointments and spend crown revenues were removed in 1812, the prince regent retained most of his father's ministers, breaking his connection with the Whigs.

The Tories, under the leadership of the 2nd Earl of
Liverpool for most of the period, remained entrenched in power
throughout the regency and George's subsequent reign. As regent and as
king, George was hated for his extravagance and dissolute habits, and he
aroused particular hostility by an unsuccessful attempt, immediately after
his accession (1820) to the throne, to divorce his long-estranged wife,
Caroline.

During his reign the monarchy lost a significant amount of power. George was succeeded by his brother <u>William IV</u>.

Timeline









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George IV



George, the eldest son of George III, was born in 1762. George rebelled against his father's strict discipline. At the age of eighteen he became involved with an actress, Mrs. **Perdita Robinson**. This was followed by a relationship with Lady Melbourne. The Prince of Wales also rebelled against his father's political views. Whereas George III preferred Tory ministers, George, Prince of Wales, was friendly with the Whigs, Charles Fox and Richard Sheridan.

In 1784 the **Prince of Wales**, met a fell in love with **Mrs. Maria Fitzherbert**, a <u>Roman Catholic</u>. Fitzherbert refused to become his mistress and eventually George agreed to marry her. The marriage was kept a secret as under the terms of **1772 Royal Marriages Act**, it was illegal for a member of the royal family to marry a <u>Roman Catholic</u>.

By the 1780s the Prince of Wales had become a gambler, a womanizer and a heavy drinker. He was deeply in debt and when Parliament agreed to increase his allowance, George III remarked that it was "a shameful squandering of public money to gratify the passions of an ill-advised young man."

The Prince of Wales continued to overspend and my 1795 he had debts of £650,000. In an effort to persuade Parliament to pay off his debts, George agreed to marry his cousin, Caroline of Brunswick. After the birth of a daughter, Princess Charlotte, on 7th January 1796, the couple lived apart.

In 1811 <u>King George III</u> suffered another bout of insanity. He was no longer able to continue with his royal duties and the Prince of Wales was appointed regent. For years the Prince of Wales had been making promises to the Whigs that he would favour their party when he replaced his <u>Tory</u> father. However, this did not happen, and he quickly became an ultra Tory supporting the policies of <u>Lord Liverpool</u> and his government.

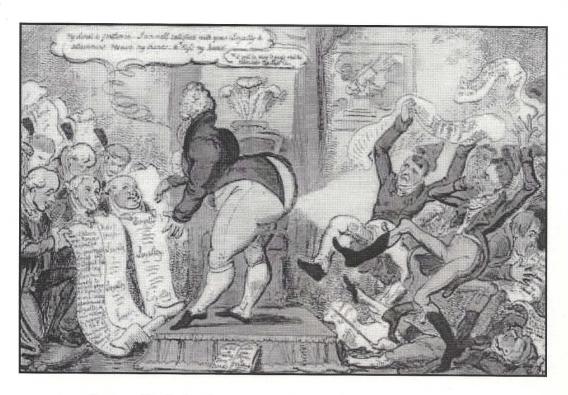
In his youth the Prince of Wales agreed with his friend <u>Charles Fox</u> about the unfairness of the laws that discriminated against <u>Roman Catholics</u> and <u>Protestant Nonconformists</u>. Once in power George changed his views and became a strong opponent of <u>Catholic Emancipation</u>. He also abandoned his support for those <u>Whigs</u>who were arguing for parliamentary reform.

ThePrince of Wales was impressed by the work of the architect, <u>John Nash</u>. He commissioned him to design Regent's Park and its environs of curved terraces. He also arranged for Nash to create <u>Buckingham Palace</u>out of **Buckingham House** and the rebuilding of the <u>Royal Pavilion</u> at <u>Brighton</u>.

On the death of his father in 1820 George became king. Caroline returned to England to claim her rights as Queen. George IV persuaded Lord Liverpool and his government to bring in an Act of parliament to deprive her of the title Queen and to declare the marriage "for ever wholly dissolved, annulled and made void". The Whigs opposed the measure and their were public demonstrations against the new king.

Queen Caroline appeared at George's coronation but she was turned away from the doors of Westminster Abbey. This resulted in further public demonstrations but this came to an end when Caroline died suddenly on 7th August 1821.

George's indulgent lifestyle seriously damaged his health. By the 1820s he was extremely overweight and was addicted to both alcohol and laudanum. George IV also began showing signs of insanity. He told people that he had been a soldier and insisted he had fought at the **Battle of Waterloo**. The king became more and more a recluse at Windsor Castle and eventually died in 1830.



George Cruikshank produced Loyal Addresses and Radical Petitions in December 1819. In the weeks following the Peterloo Massacre, George Prince of Wales received petitions from Tory loyalists and Radicals demanding parliamentary reform.

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Andrew Barlow	The Prince and his Pleasures	Pavilion	1997
Alan Bennett	Madness of George III	Faber	1992
John Brooke	King George III	Constable	1985
Cynthia Campbell	George IV and the Women in his Life	Kudos	1995
John Clarke	George III	Weidenfeld	1988
Diana Donald	Satirical Prints in the Reign of George III	Yale	1997
C. Hibbert	George III	Viking	1998
M. J. Levy	Mistresses of King George IV	Owen	1996
Ida Macalpne	George III	Pimlico	1991
Richard Pares	King George III and the Politicians	Oxford	1988
John Steegman	The Rule of Taste: George I to George IV	Ebury	1986
John Watson	Reign of George III	Oxford	1960

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<u>Maud</u> McCarthy

Children and Local Duties

<u>Daughter's</u> Marriages

The Prince Regent's Privy Purse

The Prince Regent, the future King George IV, pursued pleasure and, while chronically short of money, managed to spend what he had or could borrow on gambling and entertaining. And for this he had built his own pleasure palace, The Royal Pavilion, in Brighton, which in those days was a considerable journey away from his father who despised him when he had time to think of his eldest son between bouts of the many illnesses that afflicted him.

Prinny, as the less respectful called him, liked to invite new faces to the Pavilion in an effort, no doubt, to improve his fortunes. Despite Benjamin Bloomfield's own circumstances the Prince took an immediate liking to him and appointed him Gentleman-Attendant and later Chief Equerry and Clerk Marshall. He thus joined the small band of courtiers who surrounded the Prince and protected him both from the King's anger and the increasing disapproval of the people of the country. The people thought him idle and pleasure-loving which was undoubtedly true but little different from other members of the aristocracy. They also sided with Princess Caroline of Brunswick whom the Prince had married in order to increase his income, as much as for any other reason. They had shared a bed for a very short time, enough to engender their daughter Charlotte, but thereafter the Prince seemed to spend much of his time trying to find evidence of Caroline's infidelity so that he could divorce her.

In 1817 Sir John MacMahon resigned and was succeeded by the now Sir Benjamin as Receiver-General of the Duchy of Lancaster and Keeper of the Privy Purse. In other words he both controlled the sources of the Prince's income and the spending of it. A responsible but difficult employment especially as the Prince was by now in love with Lady Elizabeth Conyngham who was 50 and the Prince 58 when he at last inherited the throne in 1820.



Lady Elizabeth was the daughter and sole heir of William Denison, a banker and was therefore herself rich but this did not stop her craving the jewellery which the King was happy to supply.

Marousia, a lost Love

Baron Langhoff

A Military Man

Vicars in General

<u>Wyddial</u> Memories

The Two Iolaires

The Battle of Jutland

Brab in the Outback

Burtundy

Pearls and Sugar He even insisted on giving her some of the crown jewels which the Keeper of the Privy Purse resisted. The King and his Keeper fell out and the former began a search for some suitable employment for Benjamin, preferably far from London. Refusing the Governorship of Ceylon, Benjamin eventually settled for His Majesty's Ambassadorship to Sweden, sweetened two years later by his gracious acceptance of the title of Baron Bloomfield of Ciamaltha, Co Tipperary. I remember his portrait as Ambassador and Minister Plenipotentiary as a schoolboy and which I reproduce on the left.

In Sweden Benjamin became a convert to Wesleyism and turned to good works. He was already Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and later he became Governor of Fort Charles, Jamaica and finally Commandant of Woolwich Arsenal itself. Here he set up schools for the children of the gunners and was much concerned with the welfare of the men and their families.

By and large, despite a bit of luck initially first with Captain Wilmot and then in Brighton, he seems to have been a worthy and even competent man with rather more ability than most at that time.

His importance to my story, in case you were wondering, is that he had a son and three daughters, the eldest, Harriet Ann, married into a family of Saxon and Norman ancestry who had lived at the same place in Gloucestershire for at least 500 years. They are the <u>Kingscotes of Kingscote</u> and Harriet was my great-great-grandmother and her portrait hangs in my office now.



Harriet Mary Anne Kingscote, 1806-1901

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