Burrell Collection 'Top Thirty Objects' as selected by Glasgow Life on

https://burrellcollection.com/burrell-collection-top-30-objects March 1st 2022

1)Princess Cecily

about 1483-1484

Originally from the Royal window at Canterbury Cathedral, this panel representing the daughter of Edward IV of England and Elizabeth Woodville is one of the finest examples of late 1400s stained glass.

England (place of manufacture); England, Kent, Canterbury, Canterbury Cathedral (place of use)

2) The Red Ballet Skirts, Edgar Degas

about 1900

In this vivid pastel, three tired dancers are waiting in the wings during a performance. They are resting and stretching, adjusting their pointe shoes or arching their weary backs. Paris, France (place made)

3) Meiping Vase

Ming Dynasty, Hongwu period, 1368-1398

This extremely rare Hongwu period Meiping vase shows a five-clawed dragon above magic fungus-shaped clouds. The characters on it, Chun Shou, mean 'Spring longevity'. China, Jingdezhen (place of manufacture); China, Kaifeng (place found)

4) Girl on Bicycle, Joseph Crawhall

about 1896

Crawhall shows his sister Beatrice on her bike with the family dachshund Fritz desperately trying to keep up. Cycling became popular among women in the 1890s with the invention of the safety bike.

5) Fragment from the 'Temple Pyx'

circa 1140-1150

Once believed to be part of a 'pyx' (a type of religious container), this unique piece is now thought to have formed part of a book cover, shrine or reliquary.

Germany (possibly) (place of manufacture); England (possibly) (place of manufacture)

6) Portrait of Edmond Duranty, Edgar Degas

1879

Duranty was an art critic and novelist, as well as Degas' friend. He is shown seated in his study, surrounded by the books which were the tools of his trade. France, Paris (place made)

7) The Thinker, Auguste Rodin

1880-1881

One of the world's most recognisable sculptures, The Thinker sits with furrowed brow, coiled like a spring. His tense pose suggests the power and weight of human thought. France (place of manufacture)

8) Set of Steeple Cups

1611-1612

Steeple cups, named after the spire-like finial decoration, were often used for ceremonial display on the dining table. This is a particularly fine set of three. England, London (place of manufacture)

9) Warwick Vase

2nd century

Found in the villa of the Emperor Hadrian outside Rome, the Warwick Vase was restored and gifted to the Earl of Warwick in 1774. Later it found a home in The Burrell Collection. Italy, Tivoli (place of manufacture)

10) Figure of a Luohan

Ming Dynasty, 1484

The 'Meditating Luohan' is a life-size sculpture from the Ming dynasty. It belongs to a group of figures from the same temple that are inscribed with their maker's name – Liu Zhen. China, Shanxi province (place of manufacture)

11) The Chateau of Medan, Paul Cezanne

circa 1879-1880

When Cézanne visited his childhood friend, the writer Émile Zola, he sat on the banks of the River Seine and painted Zola's house in vibrant shades of green, yellow and blue. France, Medan (place depicted)

12) Three-Quarter Light Field Armour

circa 1540

This is an extremely fine armour of the type worn by light horsemen armed with lances and handguns. It offers excellent protection and allows freedom of movement in the fight. Germany, South Germany (place of manufacture)

13) Self Portrait of Rembrandt van Rijn

1632

Rembrandt van Rijn was just 26 when he created this self portrait. It was one of the first paintings he made when he moved to Amsterdam in search of work.

Amsterdam (place of manufacture)

14) Tabernacle with Alabaster Carving

15th century

Carved alabaster heads of St John the Baptist were produced for a mass market and sold at a modest price. They were treasured items, made to assist prayer in the home. England (place of manufacture)

15) Two Tomb Guardians

Tang Dynasty, 618-907

Ceramic figures of tomb guardians kept evil spirits away from the deceased. This one is a fangxiang in exaggerated human form.

China (place of manufacture)

16) Mosaic Fragment (Morna said that this will not be on display immediately as it is beng inc in an exhibition somewhere)

1st century BC

Made up of multi-coloured stone tesserae set in plaster, this Roman mosaic of a cockerel would have once been set in a pavement.

17) Head of an Egyptian Queen

18th Dynasty (1550-1295 BC)

This Egyptian queen is shown wearing a vulture cap with a rising cobra. The vulture was associated with the goddess Nekhbet and the cobra with the goddess Wadjet. Egypt (place made)

18) Valance

1532-1536

This rare surviving Tudor embroidery was made for Henry VIII of England and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. The design includes their initials 'HA', acorns symbolising Henry's royalty and honeysuckles for Anne.

England (place of manufacture)

19) Stained Glass Window, Life of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary

circa 1444

These six panels are just a section from the huge seven-window display created for the Church at Boppard in the 1440s. Much of this stained glass survives in museums all over the world.

Germany, Boppard on Rhine, Carmelite Church (place associated); Germany, Rhine Region (place of manufacture); Jesse Tree Window (place of use)

20) The Wagner Garden Carpet

Early 17th century, Safavid period

The garden design on this carpet is crammed with shrubs and trees, animals and birds intersected by water channels and a pool full of fish and ducks.

Asia, Middle East, Iran, Kirman (Kerman) (place of manufacture)

21) Wall Tile

1261-1262

This lustre-painted ceramic tile once decorated the walls of the burial chamber in a Muslim saint's shrine – the Imamzada Yahya. Passages from the Qur'an encircle its border. Asia, Middle East, Iran, Varamin, Shrine of Imamzada Yahya (place of manufacture)

22) Portrait of Miss Mary Burrell, John Lavery

1894-1895

Glasgow Boy artist John Lavery was commissioned to paint this portrait by William Burrell for his sister's 21st birthday. It shows Mary Burrell's sophistication and the objects hint at her own collecting interests.

Britain, Scotland, Glasgow (place made)

23) Chasse or reliquary casket

early 13th century, circa 1200-1210

This casket commemorates the death of St Thomas Becket. One of medieval Europe's most important saints, Becket's fame spread throughout Europe, and his shrine at Canterbury, Kent, became a major pilgrimage destination.

France, Limoges (place of manufacture)

24) Head of Sekhmet

18th Dynasty, reign of Amenhotep III, circa 1390-1352 BC

Once a full-figured statue, this lion head represents the goddess Sekhmet, with the slot on its head originally holding a solar disc. It may have stood at Amenhotep III's mortuary temple. Africa, Egypt, Upper Egypt, Thebes (place of manufacture)

25) Longsword

13th century, circa 1250

A deadly weapon, the longsword combines the swordmaker's skills – working with iron and steel – with the lethal fighting ability of its proud owner, who would have been equally well trained.

France (place of manufacture) or Germany (place of manufacture)

26) St Walburga of Eichstätt accompanied by four nuns

circa 1600-1625

English missionary St Walburga worked to Christianise the people of Southern Francia (modern Southern Germany). This sculpture of St Walburga was possibly made for inclusion in a large German altarpiece.

Germany, Swabia, Bad Waldsee, possibly (place of manufacture); Eichstätt (place associated)

27) Pink Roses, S.J Peploe

early 1920s

The Scottish colourist Peploe produced decorative and stylised still-life paintings in the early 1920s. He painted the same objects again and again, exploring colour, form and composition. Britain, Scotland, Edinburgh (place made)

28) Women Drinking Beer, Edouard Manet

1878

Drinking beer was seen as a fashionable pastime for both men and women in the mid-to-late 1800s. It was part of the Parisian café-society that greatly inspired Manet and the Impressionists.

France, Paris (place depicted); France, Paris (place made)

29) Exploration of the Indies: The Camel Caravan

about 1500-1530

Eight long-necked camels dominate this large tapestry. It was originally designed as part of a set of hangings that showed scenes from the voyages of Portuguese explorer, Vasco da Gama. Southern Netherlands, Spanish Netherlands, Hainaut, Tournai (probably) (place of manufacture)

30) Fight Between a Falcon and a Heron

about 1525

Hunting scenes were popular subjects for medieval and Renaissance tapestries and Burrell collected several examples. This one shows a particularly dynamic moment as the two birds fight in the sky.

France, Paris (probably) (place of manufacture)