

ANITA HARRIS ART POTTERY

November 2014 Newsletter

Henry Sandon steals the show!!



For those of you who were able to make our event last Saturday 8th November, you will have seen and spoken to a great gentleman who has so much energy, enthusiasm and knowledge that you just want to stay longer and longer around him.

It is quite exceptional to meet a famous BBC Antique roadshow star, Royal Worcester expert and MBE, who not only is delighted to enlighten you about his historical finds and tales, but also genuinely wants to hear about your life, likes and interests.

Henry Sandon brought along memorabilia from hundreds/thousands of years ago and was happy for all visitors to handle, have a guess at their age and tell you about its history, where found and how it has inspired Anita to transform parts of their designs into her modern ceramics which she has put

together with Henry.



So, if you were unable to attend how old do you think this piece is?

I am sure you can do as well as Sam did!!



Can you also see the way Anita and Henry had used parts of this early pot shape into the day's special Marrakesh Limited Edition piece?

Similar shape, top half has the main pattern, although they preferred to add a bright colourful Aztec pattern rather than faces.



Back to Saturday and from the moment Henry Sandon arrived by taxi, we knew the day was going to be successful and great fun.



Straight away, Henry Sandon was off chatting to shoppers and visitors, with no concerns about having to walk around to the shop or needing any time to recover from the journey.

This picture shows even the security man had a laugh with Henry. This was about his brother, who had met Henry, 50 odd years ago and after taking a phone photo, was going to be so surprised when he received it and saw Henry had hardly changed!!



I was lucky enough to be asked to go and meet Henry and his son Peter, just in case they needed any assistance, so was able, on camera, to catch some of these extra moments for us Collectors.

It really was like old friends meeting up.



On top of seeing and meeting Henry Sandon, the day was also very special as it really came across that Anita and Sam, were so proud of their shop and the days large variety of ceramics they had on show for us Collectors to admire.



It may have taken them six months of hard work, but slowly they have grown the shop into a real treat to visit.

So back to the day's event and the special Henry Sandon Limited Editions.



Obviously Anita had to start painting the special designs before the big day and here you can see Anita painting the 'Chaco' designed, delta shaped, Limited Edition, before adding it to the kiln for firing.



It was quite amazing just how much detail Anita had built into Henry's Chaco design,

how many different stages and layers of painting it required before Anita and Henry were happy with the end result.



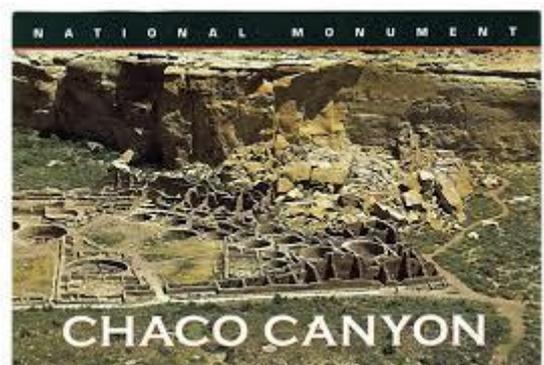
The finished design photo shows 2 out of the 10 Limited Edition Delta vases and the 'One off' Onion shaped vase. Just in case anyone is interested, at the time of writing, there was just a couple of the Delta vases left if you hurry. Sorry the One Off was snapped up by a very happy lady.

So what is the story behind 'Chaco' I asked Anita?

Well, it's based on the people of the Chaco Canyon's high-desert landscape. This was the unlikely place for a major centre of ancestral Puebloan culture to take root and flourish. Yet this valley was the centre of a thriving culture a thousand years ago. The monumental scale of its architecture, the complexity of its community life, the high level of its community social



organization, and its far-reaching commerce created a cultural vision unlike any other seen before or since. The cultural flowering of the Chacoan people began in the mid-800s and



lasted more than 300 years. So now I know!!!



As you can see Henry was quite taken with his new designs.

The Marrakesh limited edition is called 'Headdress', after the Aztec Headdresses they use to wear and



the Minos limited edition is called 'Toltec'.

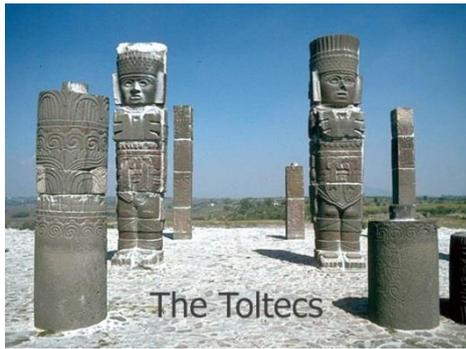


This left hand picture shows me getting Henry to sign the one off Onion vase which we have brought home with us, alongside the large Cairo; again a one off, Anita had painted as both Henry and Anita were so pleased with how the Headdress design had come out.



How about these as a special Christmas treat?

Now the question that I wanted to know the answer to was, “why **Toltec**”?



‘The Toltec culture is an archaeological Mesoamerican culture that dominated a state centered in Tula, in the early post-classic period of Mesoamerican chronology (ca 800–1000 CE). The later Aztec culture saw the Toltecs as their intellectual and cultural predecessors

The Toltec name carried a certain prestige and they were very highly regarded by the Maya and the Aztecs, in particular, who seem to have copied many aspects of Toltec religious practices and art and looked on the

Toltec period as a golden era when such wonders as writing, medicine, and metallurgy were invented. These may well have been invented earlier and by others but more certain is the Toltec influence on architecture and sculpture.



The right hand picture is the Toltec temple ruins in Tula, Mexico.

There is no doubt that these early cultures are fascinating the more you read and find out about them the more interesting history becomes.

I can see why they have captivated both Henry and Anita, and now, me too.

Hope you enjoyed the pictures and feedback from last Saturday’s event,

Clive and Vanessa

P.S. We also enjoy hearing from you about your latest finds, feedback and if you have any Christmas or Birthday requests, please let us know.

P.P.S. Finally Henry, Anita and ourselves were delighted to donate a spear dish to the local MP to help raise money for the ‘Remembrance charity’ and Anita had also produced this most spectacular extra-large roundel to mark the occasion.

