



Left: a view from the *Firsts* book fair held in London from May 15-18.

Firsts debut proves fruitful for dealer Ayling

Books fair *Firsts* got under way on May 15 with around 100 dealers exhibiting at the Saatchi Gallery in London.

Making a particularly fruitful debut was Tom W Ayling. The bookseller sold a copy of *Malleus Maleficarum* – a 1574 Venetian printing inscribed by Casanova – for £17,500, a large altarpiece of the Adoration of

the Magi (pitched at £2500) and an illuminated manuscript leaf of *The Pentecost* which carried a £3250 price tag.

Other early sales on the opening day included early watercolour designs for Dunhill 'Aquarium' boxes and humidors, which York bookseller Lucius Books sold to dealer Jonathan Frost for £4750.

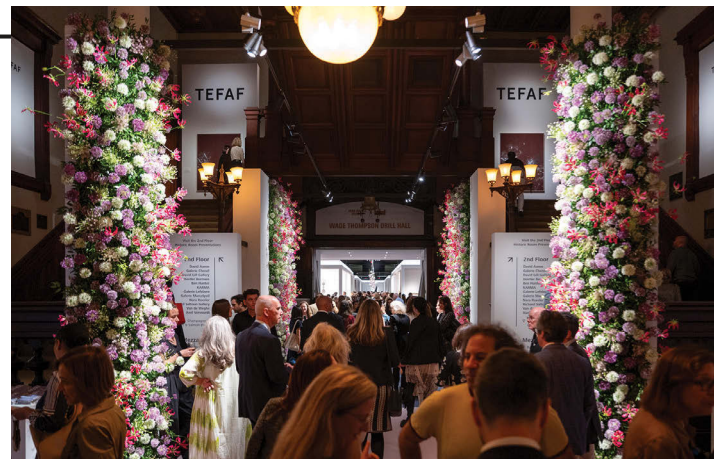
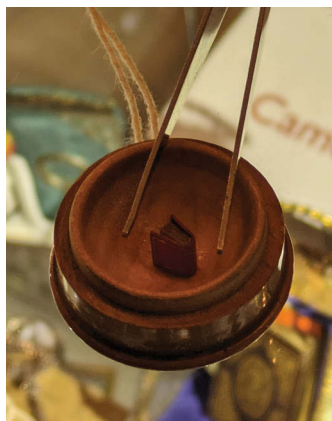
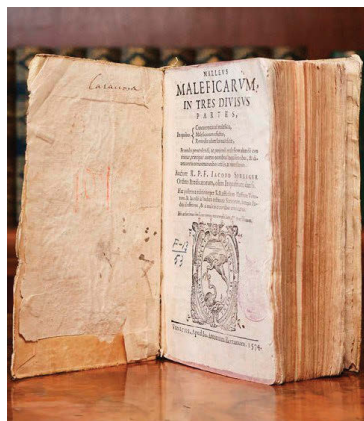
Sold to a private buyer was an 1858 copy of Florence Nightingale's *Notes on Matters affecting the Health, Efficiency and Hospital administration of the British Army* offered by Voewood Rare Books for £25,000.

The theme of the fair this year was Books in Bloom.

Dom Walbanke

Right: *Malleus Maleficarum*, a rare 1574 Venetian printing inscribed by Casanova, sold by Tom W Ayling for **£17,500**.

Far right: miniature book publishing the word for 'love' in different languages, offered for **£100** at Camden Lock Books.



Above: TEFAF New York held from May 9-13.

Falcon flies high with TEFAF NY newcomer

by Stewart Cumiskey

TEFAF New York boasted an 11% rise in attendance from last year despite challenging times.

Held at the Park Avenue Armory from May 9-13 (with an invitation-only preview day on May 8), there were more than 90 exhibitors, including 13 debut galleries.

A lack of certainty surrounding tariffs and escalating admin is not welcomed by any business venture, but despite the rocky economic climate, the event got off to a flying start with early six- and seven-figure sales.

Making its debut at the event, London dealership David Aaron achieved an impressive sale within the first hour of the fair. *The Hultmark*

Horus is hollow-cast in bronze and probably served as a votive offering or even as a coffin for a mummified falcon, symbolising an eternal prayer to Horus. It sold for nearly \$700,000 to a private buyer.



Above: *The Hultmark Horus*, sold for **nearly \$700,000** by David Aaron at TEFAF New York.

Trafalgar flag ready to do its duty at the latest Treasure House Fair

Some of the stand-out art and objects to be offered at the third edition of *Treasure House Fair* this summer have been revealed.

More than 70 art and antiques dealers will be exhibiting at the event at Royal Chelsea Hospital in London staged from June 26-July 1.

Among the items offered will be the "only surviving Union flag from a command ship at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805" from Greens of Cheltenham with an asking price of £450,000.

Other highlights include a King Edward VII Games Box at Butchoff priced at £55,000, and a 50,000-year-old mammoth tusk with double curvature priced, at £45,000 from the Stone Gallery in The Netherlands.

Newcomers to the fair include clock

specialist Tobias Birch, furniture dealer Vagabond Antiques and art dealer Stern Pissarro Gallery.

Among the returning dealers will be Ronald Phillips, Richard Green and Koopman Rare Art with international exhibitors including New York dealers À La Vieille Russie, SJ Shrubsole and Michele Beiny.

The fairs' co-founders are promoting the breadth of dealers at this year's staging.

Harry Van der Hoorn, co-founder of the fair and owner of the stand-building company Stabulo, said: "With over a third of international exhibitors and a quarter of newcomers, this third edition corroborates the importance of London for the global trade and the strength of its local market."

Laura Chesters



Above: exhibitor Greens of Cheltenham will bring this flag flown by HMS *Royal Sovereign*, the "only surviving Union flag from a command ship at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805", to *Treasure House Fair* with an asking price of £450,000.