



Cynthia Duval (1932–2017)

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of one of our newest and most enthusiastic members, Cynthia Duval, who died in July this year.

Cynthia was born in Port Talbot in 1932 and moved to London to follow her love of the decorative arts, studying for a degree at the Chelsea School of Art in London in the early 1950s. This love remained with her all her life, with a spell as Antiques Buyer for Harrods, followed by a job as General Appraiser for Sotheby's in New York. She was then a Lecturer at Ringling School Art, Sarasota, Florida in the USA. She became Administrator for the John and Mable Ringling program at Tampa Museum Art Associates, and then Senior Curator of Decorative Arts at the Royal Military Academy, Tampa Ringling Museum.

Remaining in Florida, Cynthia moved to St Petersburg as Assistant Director/Curator for Decorative Arts at the Museum of Fine Arts, later becoming a Professor of Art History. Cynthia ended her career as Chief Curator and Curator of Decorative Arts at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Dayton Beach, though she would continue as a consultant both in England and the USA.

Cynthia had moved back to England three years ago to be near her son Jonny and family following the death of her husband Marcel. Her love of the decorative arts never diminished as she soon joined both the Regional Furniture Society and the Antique Metalware Society, where she greatly enjoyed the company of people who shared her passion for art and antiques. Cynthia was always great company with wonderful tales of her fascinating career and life with her war hero, later night club manager, husband Marcel. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Simon Clarke