



Binding with Binder

Collectors meet up with Adam Binder and special guest Dinsdale Petch.

Halifax's historic Piece Hall was the venue for Adam Binder's special event, hosted by Pat Steer of Collect@, and collectors travelled from all over the UK for the chance to meet Adam and his special guest, Dinsdale Petch.

Key to the event was Adam's special piece, the Three Sprites, a fabulous carving of three tree frogs.

The piece is available in light green in an edition of 150 in the UK – shared between Collect@ and The Clothes Rail, Bromsgrove, while each of the US stores, which Adam is to visit later this year, will have a unique colourway in a maximum edition size of 100. Also exclusively available at the event was the bronze palm charm of Adam's young puppy, Bo, and it was the first chance to see the 2006/7 club-rejoining piece, a bronze frog.

Adam brought along some tantalising sneak previews of forthcoming products including a silver Tree Top Tag from the Let's Play Series, which was launched at

Adam's first exhibition in June.

Collectors really appreciate the chance to meet Adam, to view the latest ranges and to discover the reasons behind individual pieces. Sisters Sue Herbert and Margaret Baker use Adam's events as an excuse for a reunion. Living in Yorkshire and Wiltshire, they take it in turns to stay with each other, depending on where in the country the events are taking place, so that they can both have their regular 'Adam Binder Fix'.

Having been members of the club for five years they were very pleased with the new

club exclusive, Free Ride, which combines all the previous four models, and were fascinated in learning how it developed. Adam described how he studied the previous four pieces in preparation for creating the follow on when he realised that by putting them together they formed an interesting group with a story and represented the growth of the club.

He said: 'I have given them a new twist by carving them in the style of my recent and future Netsuke releases. The Turtle from New Dawn is now all grown up and burdened with carrying the other animals and not looking too pleased about it either. The Octopus from Perfect Fit has no problems holding on with his eight tentacles and all those little suction pads, and the Frog from In the Pitcher is clearly enjoying the free ride. The Mouse from Rise n' Shine, perched precariously at the top of the pile, isn't too sure about his travel companions. But he isn't going to jump, he's going to hold on and enjoy the journey.'

'I am passionate about researching the background of animals, while

understanding the mythology and symbolism of ancient cultures is also important to me. I find my design ideas really flow when I've assimilated these meanings and I feel in tune

LEFT The Three Sprites and Free Ride.





Sisters Sue Herbert and Margaret Baker with Adam Binder. 'I love arranging and displaying my collection, the tops of many pieces can be turned so I can show them in different ways,' says Margaret. 'I like the frogs. I concentrate on pieces that I like rather than buying everything - but then I like most of them' adds Sue. Both agree that what attracts them is the tactile nature of Adam's work, 'They are so intricate, and we're always noticing new details' said Sue.

with the animals and netsukes I'm creating.'

The new Ape Masks show the depth of research that Adam carries out. They are based on three famous apes –the Gorilla, Orang-utan and Bonobo. All on the critically endangered list. Each mask is intricate and incorporates many details. For example, the Gorilla is represented by Koko, an amazing ape who has learnt sign language and also has a pet kitten. The mask set is issued in a limited edition of 300 and retails at £60.

Adam really enjoys the chance to talk with collectors. He finds their feedback about pieces he's launched or about to launch very positive. He said: 'Collectors are like one big family. Because of our shared interest we meet up more than many families are able to.'

The Dinsdale connection

Dinsdale Petch was Adam Binder's special guest at the event. They met at Collect it!'s fair last November and, immediately liking each other's work, have formed a business partnership for specific projects.

Adam said: 'Working with Din, using his incredible metal working skills, means I can develop new and different ideas for collectors. The results are far greater than I could achieve on my own and its incredibly stimulating as it has opened up fresh directions and concepts. There will be more choice for collectors as using metal broadens the scope of my carving. Limbs can be extended, rabbit ears can be set at different angles and delicate subjects such as birds can be included.'

Pieces made from silver will be hallmarked by the Assay office and will include Adam's silver mark AB, which will be entered in the Assay makers' list.

Dinsdale is a relative newcomer to the collectable world but his miniature limited edition bronze and silver animals, fruits and nuts are becoming highly sought after. With a background in restoring antique metal objects such as



Les Dixon watches as Dinsdale Petch engraves his initials and date. Les's collection is extensive, and he has many examples by Harmony Kingdom. But is also very keen on Adam's work, especially the netsukes. Working for a Japanese company has stimulated Les's interest in the country's culture and decorative art forms. Owing some bronzes already, Les was impressed with Dinsdale's work, especially with the incredible detail in his miniature pieces. Les said: 'I like the small size as it's possible to have more and display it.'

candelabra, fenders and silver, and carrying out commissions for many other artists he has acquired skills that he has now applied to his own miniature range.

Many pieces are issued in limited editions of less than 100 and so immediately each one is of some rarity. For many collectors at the Collect@ event, it was the first time they'd seen Dinsdale's work and it was universally admired.

One of the much-heard sayings of the event, reflecting Yorkshire's earthy humour, was 'have you seen Dinsdale's Nuts?' as collectors were introduced to Din and his bronze miniatures. The nuts refer to his latest launch –a range including walnuts, almonds, brazils, acorns, chestnuts as well as pine cones. All are made by hand and patinated to reflect the immense variety of natural colourings.

Although the nuts are unlimited, every one is different because of the hand-making process but, to accompany the collection, Dinsdale is producing a selection of fruit. Each one will be available only for a year and the first, an apple, will be retired in September. Din is currently planning next year's piece and it's likely to be a pear. In this way collectors will be able to build up an everlasting nut and fruit collection.

The event was a definite hit with collectors. A raffle of special pieces donated by Adam, including a Bronze Mouse Netsuke, Wooden Cat Mask, and Green Zambezi Roll, raised over \$250, which was donated to The Oak And Furrows Wild Life centre in South Cerney, near Cirencester, where injured animals are nursed back to health and released back into the wild. The auction of a 'bling' version of Free Ride (with added Swarovski crystals) raised over £260 for the Halifax branch of the RSPCA.

Collect@ the Piece Hall

The Piece Hall dates back to 1779 and was built for local handloom weavers to sell their



Collectors Janice and Charles Myers have a dilemma. They are soon moving to Bulgaria and, as a result, are streamlining their collection. But they keep seeing new pieces that they are unable to resist, like the new ape masks. 'These are incredible' they said. Amongst the pieces they are keeping will be all the palm charms. Janice plans to use them as curtain tie backs in their new home. Their enthusiasm for Adam Binder is infectious, and it's likely they'll encourage new collectors in Bulgaria.

pieces of cloth. The small rooms have now been converted into individual shops and Collect@ stocks a large range of Adam Binder and Dinsdale Petch collectables.

The owner, Pat Steer, has been a fan of Adam Binder since the formation of Adam Binder Editions and has built up an enthusiastic group of collectors. She discovered Dinsdale's bronzes and silver last year and was immediately captivated by his work. It's been well received by her customers, too, and she was delighted to have both artists at the event. She said: 'The cross fertilisation between their work is very exciting.'

Pat had organised an impressive display of retired Adam Binder pieces which was of immense interest to collectors. Many pieces were from her own collection, but she had also borrowed rare examples from other collectors.

Collect@ stocks many other modern collectables including Wade, Just the Right Shoe, Face Pots, Charlotte De Vita Trade Plus Aid teapots and bird houses, Robert Harrop, Finians, The Turds, Rinconada and Baby Axe. Another major collectable range is the Bad Taste Bears, and last spring Collect@ was the UK's number one retailer in this category. 

LEFT ABOVE Bronze Frog.

LEFT BELOW Silver Palm Charm.

Useful contacts

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- Adam Binder, Tel 01285 711700 adam@adambindereditions.com www.adambindereditions.com
- Dinsdale Petch, Tel: 01598 760558 info@runningdogbronze.co.uk



Part of Pat Steer's collection on display in store.