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Our main offices and two auction rooms are located in Stanhope Street, opposite the Liverpool Marina. There is free on-road parking. Visits to clients in Wirral, Chester and North Wales are made every week. Evening and weekend visits to clients homes can be made by prior arrangement.

To book your appointments simply telephone **John Crane** personally on either **0151 709 5559** or mobile **07836 209995**

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Telephone Soon For Home Visit Appraisals



Red Haired Clown

The Red Haired Clown is rare. Designed by Harry Fenton, it was produced from 1937–42. I have discovered only two in thirty-five years of house visits. We have an example in one of our forthcoming auctions and despite a very small amount of damage in the form of a tiny chip to the rim during a recent removal – but by us I hasten to add – it should still make in excess of £700. Perfect examples can still occasionally make nearly £2,000.

During the war years, due to economic constraint, the design of some figures was modified: Sir Francis Drake was modelled minus his pre-war hat and this model is still highly prized by collectors. John Doulton attended the funeral of

Admiral Lord Nelson in 1806 and it is said that this inspired the production of the first character jug produced around 1820.

If you are considering collecting Royal Doulton items and are offered any examples, always tap them around the rim with a coin – if you hear a dull thud rather than a ringing sound, then it may well have been chipped, then filled and overpainted to disguise the damage.



Brass Plaque

Now, I have a small mystery in the form of a brass plaque which I have illustrated. The story is that this was screwed to a door on a panelled room on Hilbre Island. The room housed a snooker table and Liverpool businessmen who lived in Wirral would meet there for recreation maybe about 1920–30. If anyone has information relating to The Hilbre Island Club, I would be pleased to receive it.

Much of my time is spent out of the area, and this year is no exception with valuation sessions arranged in Cheshire, Shropshire, and Herefordshire during the spring. The £1,000,000 Chinese vase has not materialised yet, but maybe it will this year...?

Finally, our Cato Crane Wirral Valuation Office at 48 The Mount in Heswall continues to be busy. I am always there on Fridays and other times during the week, but always by appointment – please by telephoning 0151 342 2321. If you are passing and I am not with clients, you are very welcome to just drop in if you would like to discuss disposing of collections. Happy antique hunting!

Follow us on Twitter @CatoCrane and our website is CatoCrane.co.uk and email to send me photographs is Sell@lowerpercent.co.uk



Canteens of Cutlery – increasingly popular



Japanese Objects – increasing in value