

## DAVID WILLIAMS JOINS OLYMPIA AUCTIONS ANTIQUE ARMS, ARMOUR AND MILITARIA DEPARTMENT, CONSOLIDATING EXPERTISE IN LONDON



Brothers in Arms -

Thomas Del Mar and David Williams now working together at OA after years of friendly rivalry

Olympia Auctions is delighted to announce the appointment of **David J. de M. Williams** who joins its **Antique Arms and Armour Department** as **Senior Consultant**.

David has 40 years' experience as an Antique Arms and Armour specialist having previously been head of department at both Christie's and Bonhams. He will work alongside Thomas Del Mar, the world-renowned arms and armour expert who founded Olympia Auctions in 2005. David's arrival marks a consolidation of arms and armour expertise in London and confirms Olympia Auctions' position as the only London auction house holding regular sales in this specialist area of the applied arts.

David's interest in antiques of all kinds began in his youth. His curiosity for old things combined with his love of shooting led him to greatly appreciate the fine craftsmanship employed on the guns that he used. Not only were they functional but more importantly they displayed to him the fine engraved and chiselled decoration that he so admires, particularly on old flintlock and percussion firearms.

David Williams said: "On entering the fascinating world of auctioneering, I soon discovered that my main interests met in the antique arms and armour department. I had found my niche - and happily a subject that has kept me occupied for the last 40 years or so."

Following a short but highly enjoyable time as a porter, David joined Christie's antique arms and armour department where he worked with Peter Hawkins and the renowned Claude Blair who, on his retirement as Keeper of Metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum, had joined the department as a consultant.

During his 15 years at Christie's David was responsible for the successful sales of many famous collections including those of J.C.L. Knapton, Wilfrid Ward, Eugen Nielsen, and the armoury of Their Serene Highnesses the Princes zu Salm-Reifferscheidt-Dyck.

David joined Bonhams in 1997 where he was entrusted with items from famous collections including those of W. Keith Neal, D.H.L. Back, Henk L. Visser, Richard R. Wagner Jr., Per T. Norheim, Dr. Peter Parsons, E.A. Christensen, Dr. Ernst-Joachim Rogahn, Mrs. G.P. How, Claude Blair, Dr. Hans Georg Plaut, the Daedalus Collection and on behalf of the Carl Beck Foundation.

Between them Thomas Del Mar and David Williams have handled most of the great collections of arms and armour during the past four decades.

David is a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers where he serves as Honorary Curator and he sits on the vetting committees of the TEFAF and LAPADA art fairs. He acts as specialist adviser to the Royal Armouries, Leeds and has advised the National Heritage Memorial Fund. David is a member of the Meyrick Society and the Arms and Armour Society. For many years he has held the position of Honorary Secretary of the Rowland Club.

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Find out more about Arms, Armour and Militaria Department and subscribe to our newsletter [here](#)

The Fine Antique Arms, Armour and Militaria Two Day Sale takes place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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## **Editor's Notes**

### **Olympia Auctions - London's expert auctioneers at Kensington Olympia**

Our experts have years of experience working at the top of their fields and have come together to form a new kind of auction house. At Olympia Auctions we believe in research, knowledge and taking time to share our expertise with clients, no matter what the value. We hold sales in almost all specialist areas: paintings, works on paper, sculpture silver, jewellery, European, Indian and Islamic, Chinese and Japanese works of art, books, prints and arms and armour. We are innovators in the sale of artist studio estates, and contemporary Chinese, Indian, Middle Eastern and African art.

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