

Media Announcement  
September 2014

**LAPADA**  
ART & ANTIQUES FAIR  
BERKELEY SQUARE  
24-28 SEPTEMBER 2014

### SYNCHRONISE YOUR WATCHES

The rise of the modern wristwatch from the trenches of World War I



*From left: Rolex WW1 Officers Trench watch, 1916, Longines, 1922 and Rolex Officers Trench watch, 1916 from Anthony Green; Rolex Officers Trench watch, 1916 and Rolex Half Hunter Officers Trench watch, 1917 from Kleanthous Antiques*

Original gentlemen's wristwatches, worn by soldiers in the trenches of the First World War, will be presented at the **LAPADA Art & Antiques Fair, London, from 24 to 28 September 2014**. Marking the centenary of the Great War, specialist antiques dealers Anthony Green and Kleanthous Antiques will exhibit a selection of outstanding officers' watches, representing a pivotal milestone in the evolution of the 20<sup>th</sup> century wristwatch, not only as an indispensable military tool but also as a staple in men's fashion.

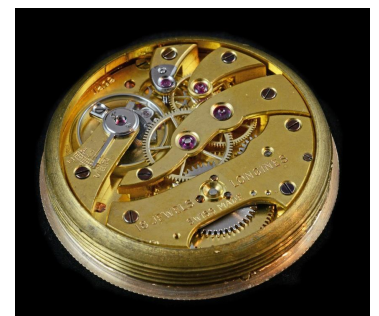
During the First World War the army supplied standard issue pocket watches to its soldiers enabling its troops to achieve synchronised timekeeping. Until this time wristwatches were not commonplace, they had only been taken up by a small number of military men, automobilists and aviators. However the impracticality of the pocket watch during combat drove many officers to purchase wristwatches privately. These early styles became known as "Officers" or "Trench" watches, and quickly became seen as a necessity in battle. The widespread exposure on the wrists of the servicemen who continued to wear their watches after demobilisation, led to a change in perception and the popularisation of the wristwatch in men's fashion.

The fact that the watches were individually purchased, not standard issue, accounts for the enormous stylistic variety that makes them so appealing to modern collectors and enthusiasts. Known for simplicity of design, often featuring numerals in an Arabic font against a white enamelled dial, some of which were covered in a luminous 'glow in the dark' material, these styles still inform many contemporary manufacturers' production to this day.

Highlights at the LAPADA Art & Antiques Fair include:

Image 1: A First World War "Officers" Rolex vintage wristwatch in Sterling Silver, offered by Anthony Green. The white enamel dial is signed "Rolex" with subsidiary seconds, luminous Arabic numerals and luminous cathedral hands. The Lever movement is signed "Rolex 15 Jewels Swiss Made". The case features London Import Hallmarks for the year 1916, and is signed "Rolex" and "W & D" (for Wilsdorf & Davis, the founders of the Rolex company)

Image 2: An exceptional, rare, early vintage 9ct. gold "Borgel" gentleman's wristwatch by Longines, circa. 1922, exhibited by Anthony Green. This famous design, which was initially developed to withstand the rigorous conditions of the Army, Navy and aviation industries, proved so successful that its production continued as late as 1939. It contains a high grade jewelled to the centre movement (as seen on the right)



*Jewelled centre wheel In  
Anthony Green's Longines, 1922*

**murray  
weir willats**

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Image 3: From Anthony Green: a fine, rare example of a Rolex First World War officers' watch in sterling silver, circa. 1916. This experimental type features a black high visibility enamel dial, signed "Rolex", with a white subsidiary seconds dial, white Arabic numerals and white spade hands. The high grade Rolex lever movement is in excellent condition and jewelled to the centre wheel whilst the the traditional hinged case back and hinged top bezel are in sterling silver

Image 4: A perfect example of an early rare trench watch by Rolex, in sterling silver, dated 1916 also from Kleanthous Antiques. This watch, made in Switzerland, had to travel across war torn Europe to reach the assay office in England, where it was stamped with the hallmark for 1916

Image 5: An extremely rare vintage Rolex Half Hunter in silver from 1916 with enamel Arabic numerals engraved into the bezel (the grooved ring holding the glass or plastic cover of a watch face) from Kleanthous Antiques. The Half Hunter watch was created to give protection to the glass and enamel dial making it particularly relevant to an officer wearing it in the trenches

Dealer Anthony Green said:

"I am delighted to be taking this group of watches to LAPADA Art & Antiques Fair. This range perfectly demonstrates an incredibly important era in the development of the timepiece and is especially interesting during the centenary year."

The sixth annual LAPADA Art & Antiques Fair is a must-visit event for sourcing and buying fine art and antiques from over 100 dealers and experts. Among the exceptional works on offer will be furniture, jewellery, carpets, tapestries, antiquities, clocks, ceramics, silver and fine art. Last year more than 19,000 visitors from around the world attended the Fair over the course of five days. Private collectors and art and antiques enthusiasts flocked to the Fair, where an expert committee of 50 specialists pre-vetted every piece on sale at the show to ensure quality and authenticity.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

Event: LAPADA Art & Antiques Fair 2014  
Dates: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Location: Berkeley Square, Mayfair, W1J 6EB  
Website: [www.lapadalondon.com](http://www.lapadalondon.com)  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7823 3511  
Opening Hours: Collectors' Preview: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014: 11am – 9pm\*  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014: 11am – 5.30pm  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014: 11am – 9pm  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014: 11am – 7pm  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014: 11am – 7pm  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014: 11am – 5pm  
Admission: Entrance by ticket priced at £15 each or by invitation  
\*£65 each for Collectors' Preview invitation  
Underground: Green Park - Jubilee, Victoria & Piccadilly lines  
Bond Street - Central & Jubilee lines.  
Major bus routes: via Piccadilly, Regent Street and Oxford Street

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LAPADA the Association of Art and Antiques Dealers



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THE ASSOCIATION OF  
ART & ANTIQUES DEALERS

**LAPADA the Association of Art & Antiques Dealers** is the largest society of professional art and antiques dealers in the UK. It is a trusted resource for private collectors and the art & antiques trade in the UK and 16 other countries around the world. Established in 1974, and celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, it boasts 600 worldwide members, who are experts in their fields, with specialities ranging from fine art, jewellery and furniture to contemporary works, sculpture and ceramics. Due to the Association's strict Code of Practice, clients are offered total reassurance when purchasing from a LAPADA member. LAPADA offers a referral service for any member of the public looking for a trusted dealer in a specific area, who is seeking quality and assurance of authenticity. It also offers industry advice and lobbies on issues affecting its members and good practice in the art and antiques trade.

[www.lapada.org](http://www.lapada.org)