Teapot - Festival of Britain Tea Service

Object: Teapot

Place of origin: London (made)

Date: 1950-1951 (made)

Artist/Maker: Goodden, Robert Yorke CBE, RDI, born 1909 - died 2002 (designer)
Durbin, Leslie, born 1913 - died 2005 (maker)

Materials and Techniques: Silver, parcel gilt

Museum number: M.176A-1976

Gallery location: Silver, Room 68, The Whiteley Galleries, case 5, shelf 1 []

Public access description

Robert Goodden (1909-2002) was a nephew of R.M.Y. Gleadowe, the distinguished silver designer, and though trained as an architect began to design silver work while still a student at the Architectural Association. He was made a Royal Designer for Industry (RDI) in 1947 and later played a considerable part in the Festival of Britain, designing the Lion and Unicorn building. From 1948 to 1974 he was Professor of Silversmithing and Jewellery at the Royal College of Art, London; from 1967 to 1974, Pro-Rector of the Royal College. In 1956, he was made a CBE. He was Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, 1976-77.

Robert Goodden brought in as gifts on the 13th July, 1976, one working drawing, details and studies for the service including a detailed drawing for the sugar tongs and the couplets drawn out for the engraver. The couplets were written by Robert Goodden himself; at one point he intended elaborating them into a series of full scale poems but these were never realised.

Leslie Durbin (1913-2005), silversmith, was a pupil at the Central School of Arts and Crafts and whilst there held all the scholarships granted by the Goldsmiths' Company, including the Travelling Scholarship. Subsequently he carried on his workshop at Rochester Place, Camden Town, relinquishing it only late in 1975. He made the Stalingrad Sword in 1944 and much plate for City Livery Companies, universities and other official bodies. He taught for some time at the Royal College of Art.

Descriptive line

Hot water jug from a tea service, silver, parcel-gilt, London hallmarks for 1950-51, mark of Leslie Durbin, designed by Robert Goodden RDI, CBE.

Physical description

Festival of Britain Tea Service: hot water jug, teapot, milk jug, sugar bowl and tongs

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Object history note

Designed by Robert Goodden, RDI., CBE., for the Royal Pavilion at the Festival of Britain.

Hot water jug: H 25.7  L 30.0
Teapot: H 18.5  L 32.0
Sugar Bowl: H 10.5 Diam 16.5
Cream Jug: H 11.5 L 15.5

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O95026/festival-of-britain-tea-service-teapot-goodden-robert-yorke/