

The Portland Museum

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The collection of natural history objects, art and antiquities belonging to Margaret, Duchess of Portland was known as The Portland Museum. On her death in 1785 it was sold in an auction which lasted 38 days. Some of the items were bought back by her son, the 3rd Duke of Portland. The items on display here were all owned by Margaret and formed part of her celebrated collection.



1 The Augsburg Cup, 1630–1650

Unknown German maker

Gold, enamel and rubies

Probably bought by Margaret, Duchess of Portland. Sold in The Portland Museum auction.

2 Cup and saucer, about 1710

Unknown German maker

Gold and enamel

Probably owned by Edward Harley, Earl of Oxford and inherited by Margaret, Duchess of Portland

3 Pair of beakers, about 1700

Tobias Baur

Silver-gilt and enamel

Probably owned by Edward Harley, Earl of Oxford and inherited by Margaret, Duchess of Portland

4 Wooden box containing various ethnographic material, 1700s

Wood, leather and miscellaneous

Assembled by Margaret, Duchess of Portland

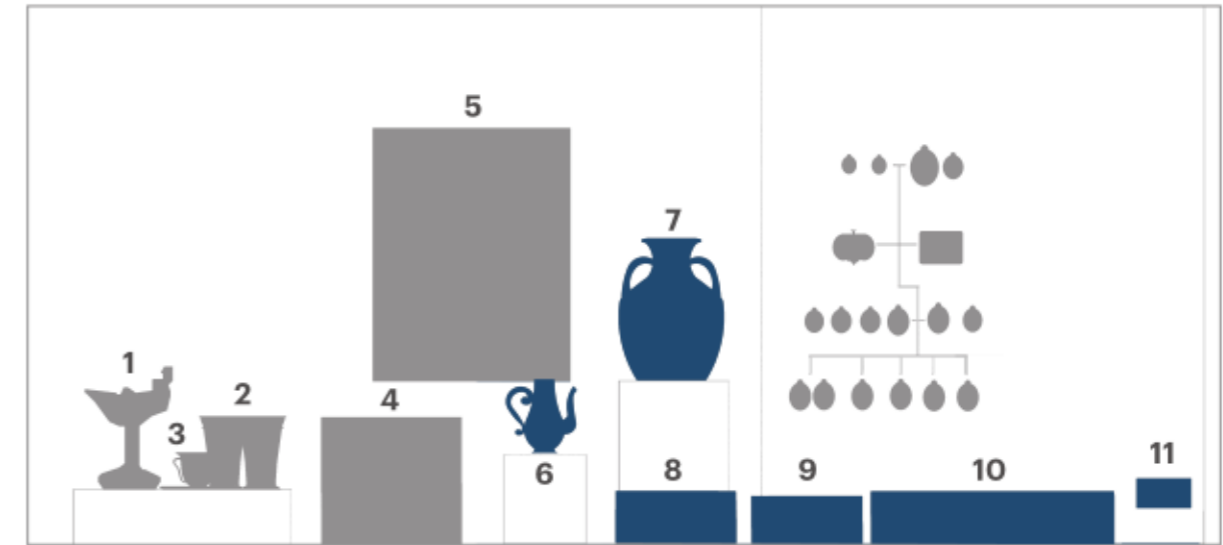
5 Portrait of a Boy, 1634

Attributed to the workshop of Rembrandt

Oil on panel

Bought by Margaret, Duchess of Portland for £32 from the sale of Sir Luke Schaub's collection in 1758.

When purchased by the Duchess of Portland, this portrait was believed to have been painted by Rembrandt himself. After his death, the popularity of Rembrandt's work steadily increased. This peaked in the eighteenth century when there was an incredible demand for works by Rembrandt.



6 Böttger stoneware coffee pot, about 1710–1712

Johann Martin Meyer; Meissen

Red-brown stoneware and enamel

Owned by Margaret, Duchess of Portland

This is an exceptionally rare example of early Meissen stoneware and is thought to be one of the first products made at the factory. The label reads: 'This teapot is one of the first pieces of china made at Dresden, was presented by Aurora, Countess of Konigsmarck, mother of the Count Saxe, to Jno. Earl of Stair.'

7 The Portland Vase, first-edition copy, 1789

Josiah Wedgwood

Jasperware

On loan from The Fitzwilliam Museum

This is a copy of what was originally known as the Barberini Vase. Dating from around 50BC, the Barberini Vase was bought by Margaret, Duchess of Portland from Sir William Hamilton in 1785 for 1,800 guineas and on her death it entered The Portland

Museum auction. The 3rd Duke of Portland bought it back and it remained in the collection until 1945 when it was sold to The British Museum.

8 Description of The Portland Vase bought by Margaret, Duchess of Portland, 1790

Josiah Wedgwood

Paper

9 Sale Catalogue of The Portland Museum, 1786

John Lightfoot and George Humphries

Paper

10 Sale Catalogue of The Portland Museum, 1873

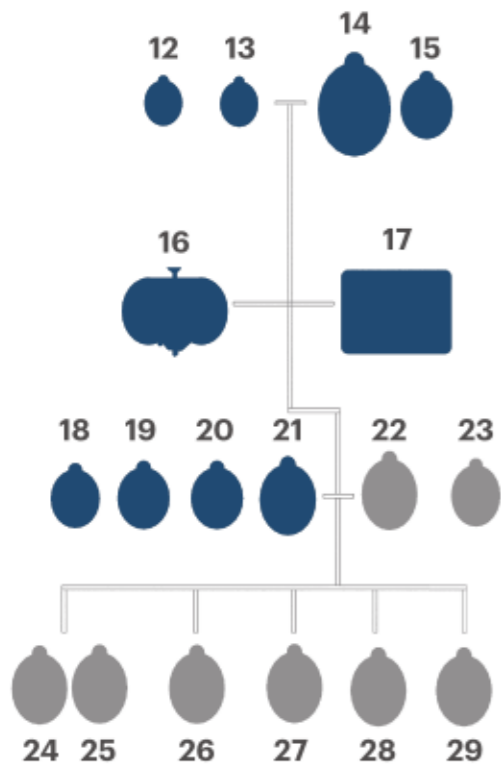
John Lightfoot and George Humphries

Paper

11 Almanac recording birth dates of Margaret, Duchess of Portland's six children, 1735–1744

Margaret, Duchess of Portland

Paper



12 **Lady Henrietta Cavendish Holles Harley, Countess of Oxford and Mortimer, 1700s**

Attributed to Noah or Abraham Seaman

Enamel

13 **Lady Henrietta Cavendish Holles Harley, Countess of Oxford and Mortimer, 1700s**

Attributed to Noah or Abraham Seaman

Enamel

14 **Edward Harley, 2nd Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, 1700s**

Attributed to Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

15 **Edward Harley, 2nd Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, 1719**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

16 **Lady Henrietta Cavendish Holles Harley and Margaret Cavendish Holles Harley, about 1725**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

17 **Lady Margaret Cavendish Holles Harley and Edward Harley, 2nd Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, 1727**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

18 **Lady Margaret Cavendish Bentinck, Duchess of Portland, about 1740**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

19 **Lady Margaret Cavendish Holles Harley, 1733**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

20 **Lady Margaret Cavendish Holles Harley, 1733**

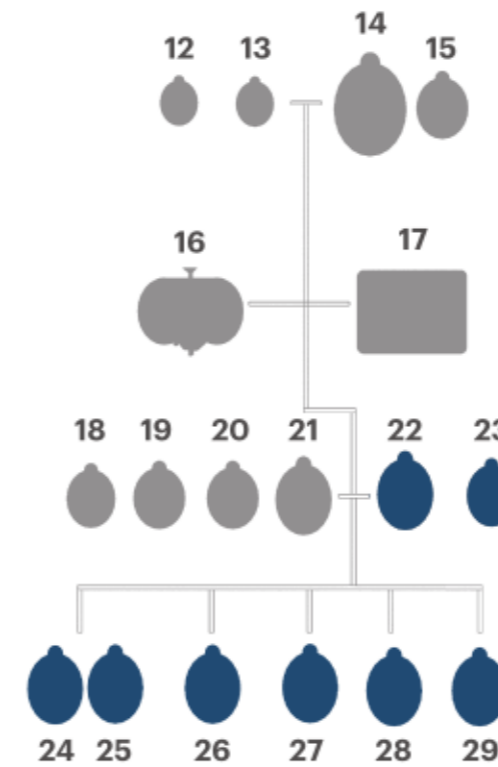
Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

21 **Lady Margaret Cavendish Bentinck, Duchess of Portland 1738**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel



22 **William Bentinck, 2nd Duke of Portland, 1738**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

23 **William Bentinck, 2nd Duke of Portland, 1700s**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

24 **Lady Elizabeth Cavendish-Bentinck, 1740**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

25 **Lady Elizabeth Cavendish-Bentinck, 1739**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

26 **Lady Henrietta Cavendish-Bentinck, 1741**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

27 **William Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Marquis of Titchfield, 1742**

Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

28 **Lady Margaret Cavendish-Bentinck, 1744**

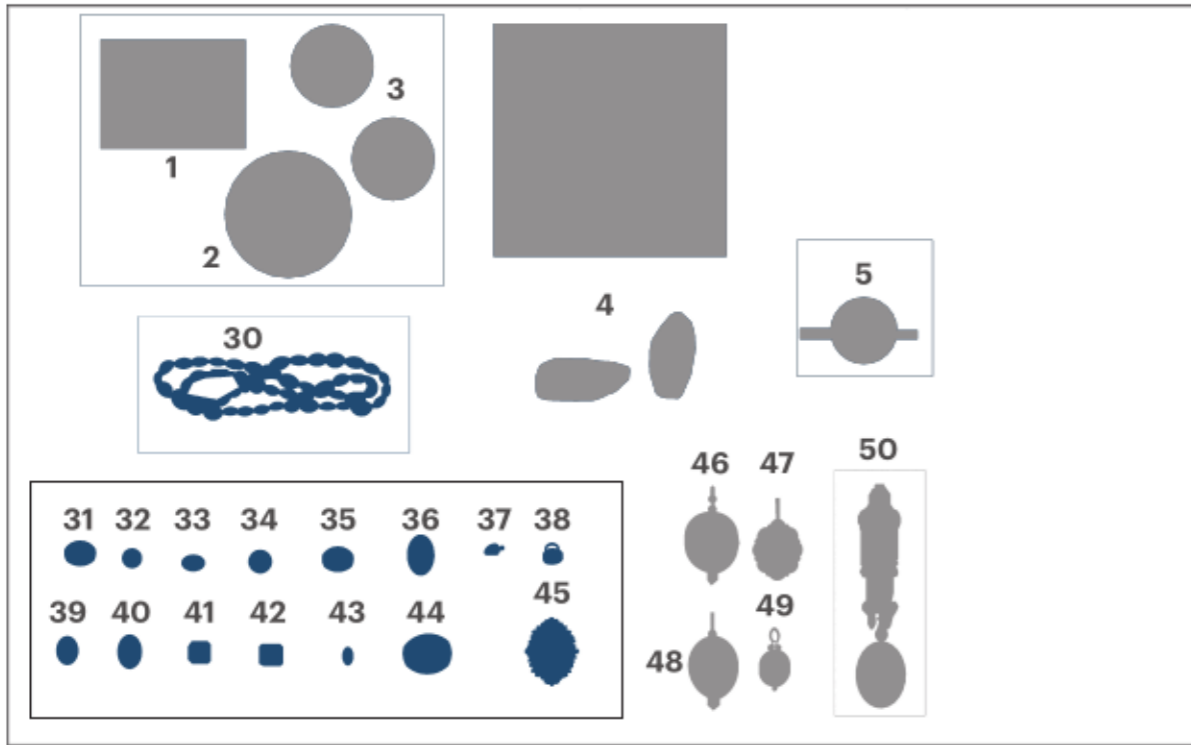
Christian Frederick Zincke

Enamel

29 **Lord Edward Charles Cavendish-Bentinck, 1749**

Lucius Barber

Enamel



30 Rosary of six plum stones and fifty cherry stones, 1600s

Attributed to Nicolas Briot

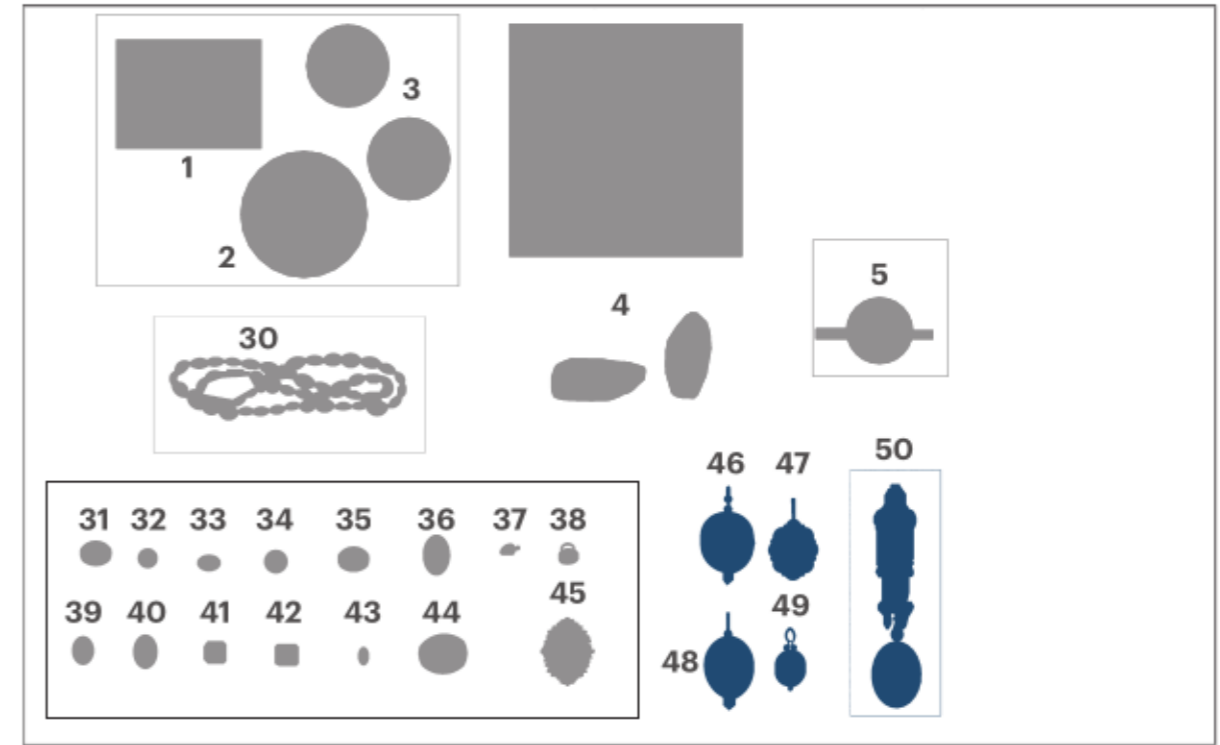
Wood, plum stone and cherry stone

Thought to have belonged to Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of King Charles I, and bought by Margaret, Duchess of Portland from the antiquary James West

31-45 A collection of cameos and semi-precious stones, various dates

These were bought and collected by Margaret, Duchess of Portland and include examples from Classical Antiquity

Of particular interest is (38) the amethyst signet ring engraved with a bust of the Duchess by Charles Christian Reisen 1723.



46 Order of the Garter, Lesser George, 1801

Unknown English maker

Gold, onyx and enamel

47 Order of the Garter, Lesser George, 1741

Unknown English maker

Gold, onyx and enamel

Awarded to William Bentinck, 2nd Duke of Portland

48 Order of the Garter, Lesser George, 1794

Unknown English maker

Gold

Awarded to William Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, 3rd Duke of Portland

49 Order of the Garter, Lesser George, late 1600s

Unknown English maker

Gold

Probably awarded to Hans William Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland

50 Watch and chatelaine, 1763

Vernaux of Paris, Jean Jacques Prevost and Adrien-Mathurin Dumelle

Enamel and gold

Belonged to Margaret, Duchess of Portland