

# Bamberg summer selections

**Right:** a 15th century carved wooden figure of Saint Elizabeth which Walter Senger is showing at Bamberg priced at €235,000.



TWENTY years ago the medieval German city of Bamberg was awarded the status of a UNESCO world heritage site.

For many more decades the city, which can boast one of the most impressive late Romanesque cathedrals in Europe, has also been home to many of Germany's heavyweight art and antiques dealers.

In 1996 several of them had the idea of pooling their resources and holding a joint summer selling exhibition to attract the custom of the numerous visitors to the city, not least of the well-heeled Wagner fans who flock to the opera house in nearby Bayreuth.

What started as an experiment is now an institution and for the 18th time a dozen dealers, whose premises all lie within a 500-metre radius, will be holding their coordinated exhibitions.

This year's exhibition runs from July 23-August 18 and is accompanied by regular tours and lectures by the participants on related subjects; among them is Gregor von Seckendorf's talk on serpentine works of art from Saxony.

The dealing community in Bamberg is particularly well represented when it comes to furniture and sculpture, but almost all the exhibitors can offer a wide range of works of art in all fields. Many of the shops are housed in 15th and 16th century residences which are worth a visit on their own account.

**Matthias Wenzel** runs the oldest antiques business in Bamberg, founded over 60 years ago. Considerably older is his small, 18in (45cm) high, south German limewood figure of Saint Sebastian, which can be dated to c.1490.

**Walter Senger** has been trading for over four decades and among his prime exhibits is another late 15th century sculpture, a 3ft 7in (1.09m) tall limewood figure of Saint Elizabeth, executed in Nuremberg, which is priced at €235,000.

**Christian Eduard Franke** has several pieces of exquisite furniture, made by court cabinetmakers from different parts of Germany, but also an impressive, gilt bronze mid-18th century quarter-striking mantel clock with the dial signed by Jean Lenoir of Paris.

It is fitted with a movement by the court clockmaker Andreas Lehner of Munich and once belonged to the Bavarian royal house of Wittelsbach and is priced at €88,000.

A relative newcomer to the Bamberg scene is the family firm **Schmitz-Avila**, which has, however, 35 years of trading experience in the Rhineland.

Among their contributions is an 18th century commode executed by an unnamed Bamberg cabinetmaker (priced at €58,000).

Specialists **Silber Kontor Heiss** have a particular penchant for objects by Georg

**Below right:** this gilt-bronze French mantel clock by Lenoir with a Munich movement will be on offer at Christin Eduard Franke in Bamberg priced at €88,000.



Jensen and other Danish silversmiths, while **Glaserie Pusch** specialise in Art Nouveau glass from the likes of Gallé, Daum Frères and Verreries Schneider.

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