As last year, Haughton International Fairs’ Art Antiques, London (http://www.haughton.com/) will take place in a purpose-built marquee in Kensington Gardens opposite the Royal Albert Hall from 13-19 June 2013. The lecture below is one of a series.

**French Empire Silver versus English Regency Silver**

The establishment of the French Empire led to the production of huge quantities of magnificent silver in Paris, both for the Emperor Napoleon and the new French elite and for other rulers and aristocrats across Europe. Godfrey Evans will explore the rise of Martin-Guillaume Biennais from a retailer of items made of wood to the Emperor’s official goldsmith. He will focus on the two outstanding works by Biennais now in Edinburgh, the amazing travelling service of Napoleon’s sister, Princess Pauline Borghese, and the stupendous silver-gilt service supplied in connection with the Emperor’s marriage to the Archduchess Marie-Louise of Austria in 1810, based on drawings by Napoleon’s architect and designer Charles Percier.

After studying some little-known major pieces by Biennais’s rival Odiot, Dr Evans will discuss the activities of the British royal goldsmiths Rundell, Bridge and Rundell and Paul Storr, the patronage of the Prince Regent, and the importance of Rundell’s ambassadorial services in the history of British silver.

Tickets to the lecture are offered at the reduced price of £10 if bought online until 12th June or £15 at the Fair.

Haughton International Fairs are delighted to be able to offer members complimentary tickets to the fair admitting two people and including multiple returns. To apply for these complimentary tickets, mention you are Silver Society member and write to Anthea Roberts at Haughton International Fairs, 15 Duke Street, St James’, London SW1Y 6DB, phone Anthea on 020 7389 6555 or, should you prefer to receive an e-ticket, email anthea.roberts@haughton.com using PUNCH as the reference subject. E-tickets may be reprinted for repeat visits.