



Charles and Nell Vyse

A Partnership

Terence Cartlidge

ISBN	9780903685948
Publisher	Richard Dennis Publications Di
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	7.02 in x 8.52 in
Pages	56 Pages
Illustrations	84 color, 12 b&w
Price	\$19.00

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Charles Vyse served an apprenticeship as a modeller and designer at Doulton's, 1896 and later studied at Hanley Art School and sculpture at the Royal College of Art, 1905-10. He worked first as a portrait and figurative sculptor before setting up a pottery studio in 1919 in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, with his wife Nell who was especially knowledgeable about glaze chemistry. They produced colorfully decorated figures many of London characters, such as the 'Balloon Girl' and 'Barnet Fair'. After 1923 they experimented with high-fired wares and revived Chinese glaze techniques particularly chun and tenmoku glazes. During the 1930s they also produced contemporary designs with geometric patterns and calligraphy. Throughout that decade they sold mainly through Walker's Gallery in Bond Street where they had an annual exhibition every November. Around 1940 the couple separated and Nell Vyse gave up ceramics. After the studio was damaged in the blitz in 1940 Charles Vyse taught at Farnham School of Art. He later worked with a former student, Barbara Waller, before retiring to Deal, Kent, in 1963.

Terence Cartlidge a native of the Potteries, traces his interest in ceramic figures to his first job - painting figurines at the Royal Doulton Factory in Burslem. As a mature student he gained his BA, Design and Ceramics and MA, History of Ceramics at Staffordshire University, PhD, History of Ceramics at Aberystwyth.