

## **Eskenazi Ltd.**

**Founded 1923**

**Dealers in Chinese Art**



Eskenazi Ltd. was established in Milan, Italy, in 1923 by the banker Vittorio Carmona. Starting in 1926 it was managed by his nephew, Vittorio Eskenazi (1906–1987), who incorporated the business under his own name two years later. Born in Constantinople (Istanbul), Eskenazi held British citizenship and worked for British Intelligence during World War II. He returned to Milan after the war, working first as an auctioneer and then again as an art dealer.

Due to the growing importance of London in the international art market, Vittorio's cousin Isaac (Chacho) Eskenazi (1913–1967) opened a branch of the firm on the sixth floor of Foxglove House, 166 Piccadilly, in 1960. He was joined by his son Giuseppe (born 1939), who had also worked at his uncle's gallery in Milan. Giuseppe took sole charge of the London office following his father's death in 1967. Luigi Bandini (1947–1996), Giuseppe's brother-in-law, opened a Japanese art department within Eskenazi's in 1969, which flourished until his death. During that period, the company expanded its London premises, first at Foxglove House in 1971 and then incorporating the first floor of the adjacent building, Dudley House, in 1975. It was at this time that Eskenazi Ltd. gained a reputation for exceptional design in both its galleries and its catalogue production. In 1972 Philip Constantinidi (born 1949) joined the firm, as did Giuseppe's son Daniel (born 1969) in 1993. Eskenazi moved to its current location at 10 Clifford Street, London, that same year.

Eskenazi's past clients have included Ezekiel and Lilly Schloss, Hans Popper, Norton Simon, the Stoclet family, and the Cleveland Museum of Art in Ohio. The firm acquired major items from the Frederick Mayer Collection for Dr. Arthur M. Sackler.

### **Literature**

Roy Davids and Dominic Jellinek, *Provenance: Collectors, Dealers and Scholars in the Field of Chinese Ceramics in Britain and America* (Oxford, England, 2011), p. 166.

Eskenazi Ltd. and Hajni Elias, *A Dealer's Hand: The Chinese Art World Through the Eyes of Giuseppe Eskenazi* (London, 2012).

See the Eskenazi website at <http://www.eskenazi.co.uk/en-gb>