

Keeping an eye on home

MAYFAIR antiquities specialists **Charles Ede Ltd** is on duty at Maastricht for the next couple of weeks where the pick of his stock includes a 2nd century Roman from Egypt mummy portrait on wood of a woman wearing a purple chiton and expensive jewellery, priced around €200,000, and a c.1st century BC Hellenistic marble bust of the Aphrodite of Epidauros offered at €750,000.

But as with most Maastricht dealers, while they are away at the fair, life still goes on back at the shop and there are plenty of choice works currently on display at the Ede gallery at 20 Brook Street, W1, many from their recently published Spring catalogue of Egyptian antiquities.

One of the most intriguing pieces in the catalogue is this bronze mummy mask of a cat from the 26th Dynasty, c.650BC.

Cats were sacred and adored in Ancient Egypt where they were sometimes mummified and buried in special cemeteries. This head is almost 5in (13cm) high and is probably from Tell Basta (Bubastis), the site of Egypt's largest cat necropolis. In the catalogue it is marked POA (price on application) but that price is in excess of £50,000.

