



Image: Brock Moran



THE ART OF TABLE SETTING

If you take a quick look at our Anglo Saxon history and its influence on traditions in American culture, it's hard to believe how civilized our society has become in a mere 400 years. It wasn't until the first Tudor king reigned at the transition from Medieval England to the English Renaissance that barbaric dining customs were replaced by those of a more civilized English court. Even the lovely fair-haired Queen Elizabeth I was accustomed to 'lift to her mouth with her virgin fingers the second joint of the turkey and gnaw it to depletion', according to *The History of the Art of Table Setting*, an out of print book in Cornell University Hearsh Library's archives. The guests were served with no plates or forks, and few knives, eating with their hands or bringing their own spoons, and threw the refuse on the floors to be cleaned up by freely invited royal dogs and cats. The introduction of forks came in the early 1600's from Italy, where an English aristocrat described the new discovery as 'almost as important as the discovery of America, and causing far more discussion'. Thank God for Italy!

We checked in with one of Charlotte's top interiors purveyors, Brock Moran Home which has again expanded the store to include a broader selection of table top merchandise, and developed a bridal registry program about the latest trends in table top design ware. Although Proprietor Brock McLendon did not have any major revelations for us like discovery of the fork, he does work with the world's finest luxury tableware brands and hand selects

each piece with an eagle eye for the most exceptional and timeless designs. The store carries exquisite tabletop collections including Arte Italica, Atticus, Bernardaud, Juliska, Simon Pearce, Pickard, Raynaud, Jean-Louis Coquet, L'Objet, Vietri, Mariposa, and Ricci. The new space showcases the tabletop collections on richly set dining tables and stunning displays. Any new bride who registers at the store before June 1, 2009 will receive a \$100 store gift certificate to be used toward a minimum \$400 purchase. Brock Moran Home. 704.341.6264. brockmoran.com.

TOP TABLETOP TRENDS

Five Top Tips for Creating Beautiful Tables From Charlotte's Premier Tabletop Purveyor, Brock McLendon of Brock Moran Home

- Monogrammed Formal Dinnerware like Pickard's Signature Collection in White or Ivory with Gold or Platinum Rim
- Bright Colors in Formal Dinnerware you can find in Bernardaud's Galerie Royale Blue or Raynaud's Tropic Pink
- All White Everyday Dinnerware like Arte Italica's Bella Bianca\ Vietri's Incanto\Juliska's Berry and Thread
- Simply Designed Graham or Isabella Stemware from Juliska
- Coastal inspired Table Linens by Kim Seybert