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# **Remote control** Intrepid auctioneers find ways to sell – and deliver – at distance



**The cat's whiskers:** a detail of a 1930s embroidery panel by May Morris that provided one of the strongest results at the Lyon & Turnbull 'live online' sale on April 1. Full image and full story on page 5.

Auction houses across the country are grappling with the practicalities of staging auctions safely as the UK enters its third week of the government-sanctioned shutdown.

The industry is adapting by switching to an online-only formula with staff working remotely and ensuring social distancing measures are respected at all times, including during delivery.

Last week, while some salerooms chose to furlough staff under the government help scheme, others held 'live online only' auctions behind closed doors, broadcasting sales on the internet from empty buildings or auctioneers' own homes. Timed auctions are also an option that many salerooms are pursuing.

Most salerooms were offering free storage for sold items while some were also giving allotted individual collection times for items to be picked up to ensure no personal contact.

### **Council confusion**

Auction house premises are on the government's list of the non-essential businesses that have been closed.

Some councils appeared initially confused over online sales and the guidance on social distancing, with a few taking a tough line on what they deemed breaches of the Covid-19 lockdown before then backing down.

Two-thirds of the way through the March 31 auction held by Aldridges of Bath, the firm received calls from Bath & North East Somerset Council and the local Environmental Health department demanding that the sale be stopped.

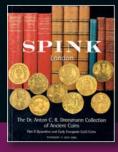
Auctioneer Ivan Street argued that,

### Continued on page 5



Left: Gavin Strang did almost 12 hours solo on the rostrum for Lyon & Turnbull on April 1.

### Dealers Online: 40 more objects to buy see page 16-21











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### Welcome to this special digital-only issue of Antiques Trade Gazette.

This edition is being distributed in three ways: as an e-Paper, as an interactive issue in the ATG app and as content on our website.

We have emailed all subscribers to alert them that it is available to view. It can be accessed online by all of them, whether they subscribe just to the print newspaper or to our digital service or have a subscription that combines both.

As we explained last week, publishing a digital-only edition is in response to the current Covid-19 pandemic. We will be back in print next week and we will review the situation again at that point.

Thank you for subscribing to Antiques Trade Gazette.

We hope you are safe and well and will enjoy perusing this week's issue.

Matt Ball **Publishing Director** 



## WILKINSON'S AUCTIONEERS

## Objets d'Art and Bijouterie Sale

Sunday 19th April 11am online and commission bids only, no viewing dates available

















Postage service available after the sale, some limitations\*. BACS payments preferred.



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### 'There are tools out there to operate in this new world'

A number of industrial and commercial-focused businesses have operated online-only and timed auctions for some time and have systems in place that allow for very little contact between individuals.

They all reiterate the importance of giving the buyer confidence in what they are purchasing.

Stephen Jepson, national auction manager at Sanderson Weatherall, said: "We have done online-only auctions for the past six-eight years. It is all about photos – a picture tells a thousand words. For a 70-lot sale we will take 700 photos. Video is also important."

In this sector auctions are still being held, using platforms such as i-bidder and BidSpotter (both owned by the *ATG*'s parent company Auction Technology Group), that are compliant with the new government social-distancing guidelines.

Systems in place include allowing consignors themselves to upload images and video about their items (that remain with the vendor until after the auction) and allowing the consignor to arrange pick-up/ delivery or agree to store items until government restrictions relax.

Robin Gray, managing director at William George, said: "It's about giving confidence to buyers. We give people flexibility and reassurance and allow items to be stored free of charge. Some consignors want to hold off but many still want to go ahead. Traffic to websites is still very good so we want to carry on holding sales."

Gray added: "There are tools out there to operate in this new world. There is adaption to be made and businesses will need to think about what works best (for example a focus on smaller items) but the key is to make it as easy as possible for the buyer."

Classic car specialist H&H is conducting 'virtual visits' using video calling to assess potential consignments and has put in place a strict 'no-contact' protocol for those clients who still wish them to inspect and photograph their vehicles first hand. The visiting specialist will be wearing appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) and can view the vehicle while the client remains indoors. Discussions take place via phone.

The firm was working closely with its preferred vehicle transport provider EM Rogers & Chas Mortimer to provide no-contact delivery.

Laura Chesters

### 'I felt more like a YouTuber than an auctioneer'

There were two in the room when British Bespoke Auctions held a four-and-a half hour sale last week.On the rostrum on April 1, in an office rather than the saleroom (which is closed), was Nicholas Granger. Behind him was Bella, a blue-and-gold macaw who has been by his side for 20 years.

Granger said there was a 50% increase in new bidders registered to the sale and over 750 in total.

"We have adhered to government guidelines. This sale exceeded expectations and under these difficult constraints people have been very supportive."

Devon auctioneer Michael Bowman conducted an auction from his home over the weekend of March 28-29 with staff feeding through bids via speaker phone. Bowman said the sale seemed "at least as successful as any other I have held in recent times".

Over at East Bristol Auctions, a successful sale of 257 lots



**Above:** Nicholas Granger of British Bespoke Auctions together with saleroom mascot Bella.

from the estate of the actor Peter Wyngarde was held on March 26. Auctioneer Andy Stowe said:

Auctioneer Andy Stowe said: "The rostrum was my dining room table, with the dog asleep at my feet. I operated the software myself, which was surprisingly easy. I felt more like a YouTuber than an auctioneer, but it was a great experience – and one we'll be repeating soon. We had lots of new bidders and the feedback has been completely lovely."

# The situation evolves – but safe delivery options are available

Given the government's strict guidelines on social distancing, what delivery options can art and antiques buyers use during the lockdown period?

The good news is that on March 30 the Department of Transport wrote to road haulage and freight transport associations to confirm that it "considers it essential that the work of the logistics sector should continue to the greatest extent possible" adding that "government policy is clear that this applies to all supplies chains and not only those for food and medical supplies". This means journeys for work by logistics staff are deemed 'essential travel'.

Without physical fairs to service, several art market delivery firms have closed their doors for the lockdown's duration (*ATG* No 2436). Yet there are still delivery services available – ones that adhere to government strictures while treating fragile objects with the care that buyers expect. Mail Boxes Etc (MBE) operates a franchise of depots

throughout the UK.

Under its 'Auction Logistics' brand, MBE partners with *ATG* parent Auction Technology Group to provide some 100 auction houses hosted on thesaleroom.com with bespoke collection, packing and global delivery of art and antiques.

"This unprecedented situation is evolving daily," says Duncan Hypher, business development manager at MBE (UK)'s head office. "The solutions we put in place today may not be appropriate tomorrow.

"Strict safety protocols are in place and we scrupulously observe the law, but subject to this we would like to help auction houses and buyers through this."

Individual MBE franchise stores are working with auction houses where operationally possible, Hypher says.

Take MBE Edinburgh's support for Lyon & Turnbull's online-only sales in April: a collection service provided on a bespoke 'no-contact' basis.

"If we can arrange a single, bulk collection following a sale, we can help ensure the minimum of auction house personnel is required onsite," Hypher says. "We can also minimise the number of journeys to collect purchases, by collecting all items for shipment during a single visit."

As ever, for the final part of the journey, objects are placed by MBE with familiar couriers such as Parcel Force, DHL and FedEx, which provide consignment tracking services. MBE's established relationships with auction houses help facilitate non-contact access for its franchisees, so that social distancing can be observed.

When it comes to dropping off the items, now predominantly to residential addresses during the lockdown, the same distancing protocols are followed.

While Public Health England advises that people receiving parcels are not at extra risk of contracting the virus, couriers will avoid asking for signatures as proof of delivery. Instead, recipients are asked to acknowledge receipt by opening their front doors or by logging a request to deposit the item in a safe place, to avoid purchases having to be returned to auction houses.

Couriers will record delivery in other ways, such as taking a photo of an item on a recipient's porch.

During the pandemic, delivery options for art and antiques buyers will vary from location to location, Hypher says. "However, we continue to evolve and react to developments, always with a safety-first approach," he adds.

### 'We've got to bite the bullet'

For more than 20 years, English pottery specialist John Howard has used FedEx to send items to overseas clients.

Demand is still there and last week Howard sent rare 1820s Staffordshire figures to clients in Texas and Pennsylvania. "They were picked up from here in Oxfordshire by FedEx and delivered overnight to the US," he says. "There's been no tail-off in FedEx's service – they're like the fifth emergency service for me right now." Howard has similar praise for Mail Boxes Etc for

"continuing to pick up my purchases from auction houses". The correct delivery documentation is even more

critical during disrupted periods.

FedEx's online system produces a certificate of antiquity and what the firm calls an Air Waybill – an item's delivery note with export category code, tracking number and customer details to communicate estimated delivery time and any glitches at customs.

Howard insures his deliveries with Lloyds broker Besso, as carriers themselves don't tend to underwrite fragile items.

At the suggestion that transit costs may rise in line with more difficult journeys, Howard shrugs. "We've got to bite the bullet," he says. "We should accept extra expense if we want to trade through this and not compromise our items."

Noelle McElhatton

25kg BC

### Encouraging results for auctioneers choosing to sell behind closed doors

### Continued from front page

using a team limited to four members of the same family, a sale format that was closed to the public but open to 847 registered online bidders was very much in the spirit of the law. He was then allowed to continue the sale that included the £18,500 Kashmir shawl reported on *News Digest* (page 6).

"We pinned everything on this sale, probably the last we can hold until we can get out and about again," said Street. "We are hugely grateful to the bidders who participated, many of whom we had not met before."

### **Council backs down**

In a separate incident, another investigating council was persuaded to let an unnamed auctioneer continue to trade online after drawing a clear distinction between a public auction and one held behind closed doors.

The local authority later conceded: "The complaint we received referred to your business being open for public auction. This is clearly not the case if you are closed to the public. As such you are operating as an 'Online Auctioneer' and you do not have to close the premises. You must, however, continue to ensure that the UK Government guidelines on reducing the spread of Covid-19 are followed."



Lyon & Turnbull also reported a successful sale of Decorative Arts on April 1 – the firm's first using the 'live online' format.

Alone in the saleroom, managing director Gavin Strang stood for 12 hours on the rostrum, fielding bids via video-conferencing software from three online platforms and phones operated by staff from home.

Almost 1400 bidders registered online, with around 500 online absentee and 700 commission bids left before the sale. The selling rate across around 600 lots was 83% – above the norm for this sale category.

The £570,000 sale was led by the £28,000 bid for a 19in (48cm) bronze reduction of the New Sculpture classic, Sir George Frampton's *Peter Pan* dated 1911.

"It was certainly the longest time I have ever spent on the rostrum, but I'm not 'en plein air'. Internet buyers could hear birdsong as they placed bids at the silver and jewellery sale.

Left: Edward Whitton

conducted an online-

of Whittons in Honiton

only auction on April 2

complaining," said Strang. "If there hadn't been so much bidding, I might have been finished in half the time. I'm glad we were able to trade in a way which allowed all our staff and customers to safely stay at home."

The firm plans to repeat the formula for three more sales in disciplines it believes are also well-suited to ecommerce: Contemporary & Post-War Art (April 16), African & Oceanic Art, Antiquities and Natural History (May 5) and Fine Asian & Islamic Works of Art (May 13).

### **Furloughing staff**

Meanwhile, reports emerged last week that Sotheby's and Christie's have already furloughed some staff and introduced pay cuts (either forced or voluntary) for those who remain in work.

Bonhams and some regional rooms have also had to furlough some employees.

Sotheby's is conducting some sales. Its watch department has launched a programme of weekly online auctions. The rolling seven-day format offers a swift turnaround between appraisal and sale. The sales, beginning with a 19-lot selection offered via Hong Kong closing on April 8, are additions to the existing schedule of live auctions.

While small portable items present fewer issues than those that require careful and expensive packing and shipping, Sotheby's online auction of Old Master paintings from the collection of dealer Rafael Valls opened as planned last week and remains scheduled to close on April 8.

The firm also posted the highest-ever total for an online sale of 20th Century Design when an auction that closed on March 31 raised \$4.03m (£3.25m) including premium. It had previously been scheduled as a live sale in New York.

Christie's plans to announce more online sales in the weeks ahead across collecting categories including decorative arts, fine art, jewellery, watches, wine and handbags.

Other initiatives include an enhanced private sales site offering online viewings and immediate purchase options, while a digital 'auction estimate tool' has led to a year-on-year increase of 162% in online submissions.



**Above:** Charlie Ross keeps fit in his living room.

# Keep fit on a rostrum with Charlie Ross

In these days of selfisolation, social media is awash with home workout routines. Last week Charles Ross launched his own version online for those auctioneers not selling during lockdown.

His two-minute tonguein-cheek video features the BBC's *Bargain Hunt* and *Antiques Road Trip* star demonstrating simple exercises to keep rostrumready.

"Auctioneers among you must be desperately worried about getting unfit while your salerooms are closed," he says as the clip opens. "Now I've devised some simple exercises to keep yourself moving."

Targeted muscle groups include the neck (turning the head to welcome bidders) and the biceps and triceps (accepting bids). Ross told *ATG* that he was inspired after his family introduced him to Joe Wicks exercise videos which he found "a bit too vigorous for me".

# Cat's out of the bag – May emerges from behind the Morris curtain

Although often overshadowed by her famous father William, May Morris (1862-1938) was herself an important figure in the British Arts & Crafts movement, *writes Roland Arkell*.

As early as 1885, at the age of 23, she became manager of the Morris & Co embroidery department at Merton Abbey and continued there until the death of her father in 1896.

Much of her later works were private commissions.

This 18in x 2ft 4in (45 x 70cm)

embroidered panel has a handwritten inscription reading *Hunter at Bay was designed and worked by me in 1935, May Morris* and a paper label for Kelmscott Manor, the Morris family's Cotwolds home.

The May Morris archive, in the Ashmolean Museum since 1941, includes the watercolour design for this piece. Estimated at £3000-5000 in Lyon & Turnbull's 'live online' sale on April 1, it sold at **£8500** (plus 25% buyer's premium).

### Pick of the week

### The Kashmir shawl of a former governor of India

The auction held 'live online' by Aldridges of Bath on March 31 included this spectacular hand-woven north Indian long shawl, or dochalla. It came with a colonial provenance.

The embroidered inscription Cashmere, 1846, Emily Hardinge suggested a connection with Emily Jane Stewart Hardinge

(1789-1865), who in 1821 had married Sir Henry Hardinge (1785-1856). Peninsular War soldier. Durham MP and, from 1844-48, governor general of India.

The couple's years in the sub-continent included the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46) and the subsequent treaties of Lahore and Amritsar. In April 1846, Sir Henry was made 1st Viscount Hardinge of Lahore, receiving annual pensions of £3000 from Parliament and £5000 from the East India Company.

Despite the inscription, pashmina wool

shawls such as this were deemed masculine attire. While the square shawl (rumal) was worn most commonly by women, the rectangular dochalla, was particularly favoured by men and was worn draped over the shoulder or around the body for warmth.

The design dates it to c.1840. In The Kashmir Shawl and its Indo-French Influence (1997), Frank Ames divides the decorative repertoire of Sikh long shawls into the 'classic' and the 'modern'. While early designs confine decoration to narrow pallas (borders), shawls in the 'modern' group are patterned across a much larger surface. In this case the entire 10ft 7in (3.22m) long textile, that may have taken more than a year to make, is patterned

> with paisley forms (boteh). The central turquoise panel depicting figures at a temple is particularly rare.

In remarkable condition, it was entered for sale at a valuation day by a Bath resident who knew nothing of its history other than to say it has spent most of its life in a cupboard.

The estimate was £800-1200 but, following 21 online commission bids in the run-up to the sale, auctioneer Ivan Street was able to open bidding at £4700. He fielded bids at larger increments before selling to a UK phone against the internet at £18,500 (plus 20% buyer's premium).

The niche market for Kashmir shawls is enjoying a purple patch. Multi-estimate results across a sale of a private collection conducted by Christie's online in June 2019 were followed earlier this year by a £12,000 bid for a late 18th century 'moon' shawl at Morphets in Harrogate (see ATG No 2435).

Roland Arkell

London, has announced its

The £20m development

located in five Grade II-listed

Georgian townhouses includes

14 galleries and a variety of

working spaces and storage

There is a multi-tiered

membership model for art

businesses, giving them access

to viewing rooms, meeting

rooms and technical support.

the list are Stair Sainty, which

focuses on 16th-early 20th

century European painting,

Old Master specialist Baring

Fine Art and John Martin

Gallery, offering Contemporary

'Honorary members' -

limited to institutional

directors and senior curators

- include the Camden Arts

Centre and the V&A Dundee.

coronavirus outbreak the

opening, planned for May 20,

has been postponed until the

In light of the continuing

Among the dealerships on

membership list.

options.

works.

autumn.



Above: Kashmiri shawl sold for £18,500 at Aldridges of Bath. Inset left: detail of the central design of a temple.



## metals

On Friday, April 3, Michael Bloomstein of Brighton was quoting the following for bulk scrap against a gold fix of: \$1610.41 €1493.72 £1311.20

Gold

22 carat: £1159.86 per oz (£37.29 per gram)

18 carat: £948.97 (£30.51)

15 carat: £790.81 (£25.42)

14 carat: £738.00 (£23.73)

9 carat: £474.49 per oz (£15.25 per gram) 12 Month High: **▲** £15.95 12 Month Low: 🔻 £11.35

**Hallmark Platinum** 

£16.15 per gram

### Silver

£9.75 per oz for 925 standard hallmarked 12 Month High: 🔺 £12.35

12 Month Low: **V**£9.24

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### Jewellery stolen in **Oxford burglary**

Police are trying to trace antique jewellery stolen by burglars from Norah's Antiques in Oxford. The theft occurred sometime between the afternoon of March 21 and 7.30am on March 22.

Thames Valley Police said the offenders smashed the street-facing window of the shop in Turl Street and stole a large amount of jewellery including rings and brooches. Investigating officer Det

Con Rob Prout, of Force CID based at St Aldates police station in Oxfordshire, said: "I am asking anybody who did witness anything to make contact with police.'

At this stage no photos of the stolen jewellery are available.

Anyone with information should call 101 quoting reference 43200094657 or call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Washington gallery returns a Picasso

The National Gallery of Art in Washington announced it will return a pastel drawing by Pablo Picasso to the heirs of a

prominent German-Jewish banker who was persecuted by the Nazis. Head of a Woman (1903) from

Picasso's Blue Period is one of at least 16 pictures that the banker Paul von Mendelssohn-Bartholdy sold in the months after the Nazis seized power and before his death in 1935.

It was sold to the dealer Justin K Thannhauser in 1934 and The National Gallery of Art said it acquired the pastel as a donation in 2001.

The New York Times reported that the museum decided to transfer ownership of the drawing in a settlement "to avoid the heavy toll of litigation".

The decision, it said, "does not constitute an acknowledgment of the merit or validity of the asserted claims".

### **Arts hub members** list announced

Cromwell Place, the new arts hub in South Kensington,



### Van Gogh painting taken from museum

A Vincent van Gogh painting from the early part of the artist's career has been stolen from a museum in the Netherlands.

According to a report by Associated Press, the theft occurred at the Singer Laren museum east of Amsterdam. The painting in question is *The* Parsonage Garden at Nuenen in Spring 1884 which is believed to have been stolen in the early hours of March 30. The 10 x 22in (25 x 57cm) oil on paper shows a person standing in a garden surrounded by trees with a church tower in the background.

The museum houses the collection of American couple William and Anna Singer and the painting was on loan from the Groninger Museum in the northern Dutch city of Groningen.

### Wyngarde estate sale is white-glove

The dedicated, online-only sale of actor Peter Wyngarde's estate and related items at East Bristol Auctions was a whiteglove sell-out.

A total of 257 lots sold on

March 26 ranged from items that were in his private residence in Kensington to props and costumes from a long career. Wyngarde (1927-2018) appeared in most 1960s-70s 'cult' programmes including Doctor Who and The Avengers and took leading roles in his own shows Jason King and Department S.

Auctioneer Andy Stowe said: "The rostrum was my dining room table, with the dog asleep at my feet. I was operating the software entirely myself, which was surprisingly easy."

Stowe added: "We had lots of celebrity interest in this sale with several of the buyers being well-known presenters, actors



Above: Peter Wyngarde's personally owned copy of his self-titled 1970 album on vinyl -£320 at East Bristol Auctions.

and pop stars. It had an amazing celebrity reaction on social media."

Also see Auction Reports, pll.

### Super football career but a very sad ending

The first 20 lots of the football memorabilia sale at Stacev's in Rayleigh, Essex, on March 30 came from the family of the Edwardian player Benjamin Warren (1879-1917).

Born in Newhall, Derbyshire, and scouted while playing as a junior, he emerged as one of England's highest-rated half-backs, playing for Derby County (one of the 12 founder members of the Football League in 1888) for eight years from 1899 and for Chelsea from 1908-11 before a knee injury ended his career.

Warren played 22 games for his country. Included in this archive was his first full international maroon cap (for a match played against Ireland in Belfast in February 1908) sold together with the cloth 'three lions' badge from his shirt and original photographs of Warren and his team. Estimated at £850-950, it took £1000 (plus 24% buyer's premium).

An England cap from the game on November 2, 1911, played against Ireland at the Baseball Ground (home of Derby County from 1895-1997) sold at £1350. A ticket from the same game was a rarity. This example, with the corner neatly torn off for entry, doubled up as Warren's itinerary for the weekend. The rear has details of his hotel for Friday night and the schedule for match day. It made £750

A rare red and white striped England trial shirt made by Gamages, sold together with a postcard dated 1900-01 showing Warren and the rest of the team wearing the kit, sold at £750.

### **Poignant item**

Warren's life was ultimately a tragic one. When injury halted his source of income, his mental health suffered. Among the most poignant items in the sale was a letter written in February 1914 by Chelsea FC to Warren's wife who struggled financially after her



Above left: England cap awarded to Benjamin Warren (above right), sold for £1000 at Stacey's.

husband was certified insane and admitted to an asylum in Derbyshire. The letter, sold for £150 at Stacey's, refers to series of benefit matches that were played in April that year - one attracting 15,000 spectators. Warren died three years later of tuberculosis.

Roland Arkell



The most viewed stories for week March 26-April 1 on antiquestradegazette.com

- **Coronavirus: latest** changes to auctions and fairs dates
- 2 TV's Charlie Ross posts online workout video for auctioneers with closed salerooms
- 3 Showcasing 40 fabulous objects from dealers' websites
- Fellows sticks to 4 family values as jewellery auction is staged from owner's home
- **Rembrandt self**portrait, yachting watch and a portrait by a British society artist - among five auction highlights that caught bidders' eyes





The proportion of bidders at Sotheby's Design sale held from March 24-31 in New York bidding via mobile phone.

### **Bid Barometer**



## **Auction Reports**

Dresser addresses art from the South Pacific Fiji was the inspiration for this dish by the influential designer



Hammer highlights - page 10

# Sale serves a feast from the east

Spring brings a varied array of Asian art at Lewes auction along with European treats

### by Terence Ryle

A cross-section of Asian art – Qing porcelain, Meiji Satsuma and Euro-Asiatic ivories – provided the prizes at **Gorringe's (21% buyer's premium)** March 10 spring sale held in Lewes.

Top-seller among nearly 90 Chinese lots was a Kangxi blue and white brush pot or bitong.

Dated c.1700-15, the 7in (18cm) tall vessel was painted with a scholar and assistants to one side and a seven-column inscribed poem to the reverse. It featured a studio seal mark *mu shi* (bamboo and rock) – one seen on several porcelains of the period likely to have been the name of a private kiln.

The pot had a small chip to the foot but, against a £10,000-15,000 estimate, it sold at £35,000. Keen Chinese interest was evident but the London trade, always strong bidders for Kangxi wares, bought it.

A Chinese buyer bought two pieces with Daoguang (1821-50) marks which also went well above high hopes.

A pair of 4½ in (11.5cm) diameter yellow ground famille rose 'medallion' bowls with six-character seal marks were catalogued as 'probably of the period'. Painted to the exterior with lotus flowers and foliage, they were estimated at £12,000-16,000 and made £22,000.

Catalogued as of the period, a 'duck and lotus' bowl using the twice-fired doucai technique topped that. It was painted to the exterior with an underglaze blue band of dragons chasing the flaming pearl and overglaze with mandarin ducks swimming among lotus blossoms. To the interior was a central medallion of a pair of ducks in a lotus pond.

In May 2017 a pair of similar bowls took £72,000 at Sotheby's in London. The single bowl at Gorringe's, estimated at £8000-12,000, made £25,000.

Items bearing the seal marks of three of the greatest names in Meiji ceramics led the Japanese section.





A 15in (37.5cm) tall, exhibition quality Satsuma vase finely painted with figures and boats in a mountainous landscape bore a gilt nine-character seal. It was marked for Kyoto Ryozan along with the trademark of the Yasuda Company and the mon of the Shimazu family. Estimated at £4000-6000, this vase went to a UK collector at £10,000.

2

Other Meiji prizes included a pair of pottery vases by Yabu Meizan and a moulded bowl from the Kinkozan Kyoto studios, both of which were bought by a London specialist dealer.

Yabu Meizan (1853-1934) opened his Osaka workshop in 1880, but quickly became highly regarded in Japan and then a hugely successful exporter to the West.

His  $4\frac{3}{4}$ in (12cm) tall ovoid vases offered in Lewes were painted to the upper half with figures of artisans and scholars and, below, with figures in boats. Bearing gilt four-character seal marks, the vases, pitched at £3000-5000, went at £5500.

In contrast with Meizan, the



1. A 16th-17th century Hispano-Filipino or Sino-Portuguese ivory relief – £10,000 at Gorringe's.

**2.** Gardner Russian peasant figure – **£6500**.

3. Kangxi brushpot – £35,000.

4. Kyoto Ryozan Meiji vase – £10,000.

Kinkozan family had been producing wares from their Kyoto studios since 1645 and began exporting to the West during the 1850s. During the Meiji period they became Japan's largest producers of Satsuma ware until the factory closed in 1927.

The 8¼ in (21cm) diameter moulded bowl at Gorringe's, featuring bamboo-shaped basketwork ribs and painted with panels of millefleur to the exterior and white flowers to the interior, was impressed with the four-character mark to the base. Against expectations of £1500-2000, the bowl sold at £4400.

Two Euro-Asiatic religious ivory pieces went well above expectations.

A 6in (15cm) relief depicting the Crucifixion catalogued as Hispano-Filipino or Sino-Portuguese was probably late-16th or early-17th century and relates to an nearcontemporary engraving by Flemish artist Jan Sadeler.

In a later fitted case, the ivory was pitched at £3000-5000 but sold online to a London specialist

## McEvoy emerges as an artist in demand

Paintings that had fallen out of fashion regain popular appeal



The way to teach kids some universal truths Adventure book by the Hawkings was aimed at younger readers

Books and works on paper - page 14



Art market - page 12

### **C** The Gardner 'regional types' figures are an equally vibrant niche market

at £10,000 against Portuguese and Spanish competition.

Also of Portuguese interest was a 91/2in (24cm) Indo-Portuguese ivory group of Christ as the Good Shepherd. Dated to the 17th or 18th century, it more than doubled top hopes at £3400 via an internet bidder.

Appealing to a very different collecting audience, but an equally vibrant niche market, are the 'regional types' figures produced at the porcelain factory set up outside Moscow by English entrepreneur Francis Gardner in 1776.

The 8½in (21.5cm) tall example at Gorringe's dated from the mid-19th century. It had suffered loss to the left hand and his staff was a replacement but the £200-300 estimate always had a here-to-sell look about it.

After arousing wide Russian and East European interest, the figure went back to Moscow via thesaleroom.com at £6500.

### **Best of British**

British-made successes featured throughout the sale.

A 12in (30cm) diameter late-18th or early-19th century English baking dish with a slipware lattice design on a brown background cream went to the London trade at a quadrupleestimate £2800.

Dating to c.1885 was a Doulton Lambeth flambé bottle vase standing 8in (19cm) tall. Decorated with an entwined mythical beast and incised MVM for the designer Mark V Marshall, it sold to a collector at £1800 (estimate £200-300).

Best of the furniture was a 3ft 6in (1.07m) diameter Regency giltwood and gesso convex wall mirror. With a carved, ribbon-tied laurel wreath frame and a later plate, it went above estimate to the northern English trade at £5500.

Topping the silver was a pair of embossed, inverted pear tea caddies and matching sugar box by Samuel Taylor, London, 1752, which went within estimate to a local collector at  $\pounds 3200$ .





### 'Brooks' beaker backed brutal slave trade not abolition

A rare creamware transfer printed and painted beaker offered for sale by **Mellors & Kirk (20% buyer's premium)** in Nottingham on March 18 told a dark tale, *writes Roland Arkell*.

It carries the image of a privateer and the words *Success to the Brooks*, while to the reverse is an oval medallion of a young woman in the guise of Hope and the initials *MEB* dated 1797.

The vessel, built on the cheap in 1781 and operated until 1804, was infamous. Owned by Joseph Brooks (1746-1823), a Liverpool merchant whose family had provided the city with its neoclassical town hall, it was the 'Brooks' and its 609 enslaved Africans stowed head-to-toe, that was the subject of a shocking engraving published in 1788. The image proved of incalculable value to the abolitionists' cause.

### **Rare survivor**

The beaker, probably made for a member of the owner's family, appears to be the only one known.

"Anti-slavery memorabilia and documents are very collectable, but rarer by far are those such as this which openly advocated the evil trade at the very time that the clamour for its abolition was at its height," said auctioneer Nigel Kirk. Estimated at £500-700 to reflect two large hairline cracks, it ultimately sold at £5500.

Ten years after the beaker was made an act banning the



Kookaburra flies into Cumbrian saleroom

Maud O'Reilly (1886-1971), a key figure in Queensland's Arts & Crafts movement and a student of the LJ Harvey school, showed her pottery at a number of British exhibitions in the mid 1920s.

In 1926 she exhibited an 11in (27cm) slip-cast figure of a kookaburra, similar to this one shown **left**, at The Royal Academy.

A number of versions are known including that sold by Bonhams in Sydney in 2011 for Aus\$14,400 ( $\pm$ 7323). The example pictured here, incised *M O'Reilly 1926*, has had some professional restoration to the beak but is in otherwise good condition.

Offered for sale at **Mitchells (22% buyer's premium)** in Cockermouth on March 18, it took £2600 (estimate £2000-3000) from an internet bidder.

**1 & 2.** Two views of a creamware beaker wishing *Success to the Brooks* – **£5500** at Mellors & Kirk.

**3 & 4.** Two views of a creamware mug attacking the Catholic Relief Act of 1778 – **£1500** at Gorringe's.

slave trade throughout the British Empire was passed in 1807, although it was not until 1833 that slavery itself was outlawed in Britain and most of its colonies.

### **Religious hysteria**

Politics were at fever pitch in the latter years of the 18th century. Another rare English creamware mug, sold for a multiestimate sum at a **Gorringe's (21% buyer's premium)** weekly sale on March 16, tells of the hysteria that greeted the Catholic Relief Act of 1778.

The so-called Papists Act allowed Roman Catholics to join the army and purchase land if they took an oath of allegiance.

The transfer-printed scene is a simplified version of an anonymous print titled *Sawneys Defence against the Beasts, Whore Pope and Devil* that first began to circulate in February 1779. To the left of the composition stands a Scottish soldier in Highland dress who shouts *Be Gone Judas* alongside clerics who cry *No Faith Kept with Hereticks*.

Meanwhile, across the River Tweed the forces of Popery are triumphant. John Bull lies prostrate on his back, trampled underfoot by the Whore of Babylon riding the seven-headed Beast of Rome, while nearby the Pope addresses the king saying *I Absolve Thee From The Breach of Thy Oath*.

The guide on this rare 6 in (15cm) mug, that was in great condition save a minor chip to the foot, was £80-120. However, bidding reached £1500.

## Dresser looked to Fiji for dish inspiration

#### by Roland Arkell

A Linthorpe pottery dish designed for the Middlesbrough pottery by Dr Christopher Dresser sold online well over a  $\pm 400-600$  estimate for  $\pm 4200$  at **Paul Beighton (17.5% buyer's premium)** on March 2.

Impressed *Linthorpe 293*, the model copies an original Fijian libation dish in the collection at the British Museum. This version (with a chip to an arm) is decorated with autumnal glazes with the figure's head left unglazed.

The result at the auction held in in Thurcroft, Rotherham, is one of a handful of strong prices recently paid for examples of the rarer Dresser Linthorpe creations.

A record price of £17,000 was bid at Lyon & Turnbull in Edinburgh in October 2019 for a similar figural vessel – a sake bottle also inspired by Fijian art.

Unlike his more formal creations for the Minton factory, Dresser enjoyed free rein when creating



**Left:** Constance Spry urn form wall pocket – **£2600** at TW Gaze.

**Below left:** Fulham Pottery flower vase and uplighter – **£2200** at Woolley & Wallis.

Most of these 1950s vessels are

priced in the low three-figures but others

were produced in small numbers and are

An unglazed wall pocket, modelled

as a swag of tassled fabric, measuring a

substantial (43cm) across and bearing

an impressed facsimile signature. It

was offered at TW Gaze (18% buyer's

premium) in Diss, Norfolk, on February

21 with hopes of £100-1500 but sold to a

buyer using the saleroom.com at £2600.

Another Fulham Pottery vessel, a 14in

incorporating two light fittings, performed with similar verve at the **Woolley & Wallis** 

(25% buyer's premium) sale of Art Deco

and Design in Salisbury on March 18.

Possibly a Spry design (it had no signature) it could equally have been by factory designer Gerard de Witt. Estimated at £200-400, it made £2200.

(36cm) high clam shell flower vase

keenly sought after by decorators and

Spry devotees

**Further Fulham** 

### Spry rated high by devotees

Responsible for the flowers at the Queen's coronation, the society florist Constance Spry (1886-1960) is also credited with the 'democratisation' of flower arranging.

She 'married' premium blooms with less celebrated plant materials (such as kale and pussy willow) and collected unconventional vessels (from jam jars to attic curios) in which to house them.

Later in her career Spry created her own collection of flower containers with the Fulham Pottery Company.





Christopher Dresser – **£4200** at Paul Beighton.

designs for something like 1000 pots while working as art superintendent at Linthorpe from 1879-82.

### **Multiple influences**

He drew on a wide range of influences including Minoan, Cycladic, pre-Columbian, Chinese and Japanese ceramics as well as locally-found prehistoric and Bronze Age artefacts. Right: Linthorpe moon flask by Christopher Dresser – £1900 at Paul Beighton.

While most of Dresser's designs were intended for mass production, some were made in very small numbers.

Two other Dresser Linthorpe designs were eagerly contested in the Beighton sale.

A pre-Columbian type bottle (model 237) with mouldings to the shoulders, an incised face and a streaked glaze sold online in nearperfect condition at £950.

Scarcer was a treacle-glazed moon flask, 5in (12cm) high, with relief moulded decoration in the Chinese style of a sage under a tree and a waterfall to the rear.

Impressed with the number 440, it took £1900 from another online bidder using thesaleroom.com – a sum that reflected some small chips around the rim.

# Wardrobe designed for travelling in style

This deluxe Victorian travel accessory is a 'campaign wardrobe' made by Robinson & Sons of Ilkley, Yorkshire.

Fashioned in a gold floral upholstery around an octagonal pine and mahogany frame, it was really made for the domestic market rather than for international travel.

The interior is fitted with brass hooks and an enamel label reading *Patent*, *Patentees and Manufacturers*, *Robinson & Sons Ilkley*, *Yorkshire*.

The firm was known primarily for its *Ilkley Portable Couch*, a campaign day bed which proved so popular it was copied by a number of other companies.

This wardrobe also proved influential later in life: the example owned by designer Nicky Haslam was the inspiration for a wardrobe he recently designed for retailer OKA.

This late-19th century original, last sold at Christie's in London in January 2014 for £2800, reappeared for sale at the **Mallams** (22.5% buyer's premium) House & Garden sale in Abingdon on March 17 with an

estimate of £600-800. It again proved popular, selling online at £3400.



Above right: Robinson & Sons campaign wardrobe sold for £3400 at Mallams. The enamel label is shown left.

# Auction explorers locate rare watch

An unusual late Victorian silver pocket watch by Herbert Blockley of London sold for an unexpected £2800 at **Potteries Auctions (20% buyer's premium)** in Stoke-on-Trent March 14-15.

A clue to its origins is the screw-off cap to the winder. Timekeepers such as this, with heavy duty waterproof cases, are known as the Royal Geographical Society pattern 'explorers' watch.

Made from the last decade of the 19th century (the case to this one is hallmarked 1899) they were supplied by the Clerkenwell watchmaker Usher & Cole to the retailer Herbert Blockley of 41 Duke Street, St James's.

> Left: Royal Geographical Society pattern 'explorers' watch – £2800.



Many were sold to the Royal Geographical Society and to private clients.

The watch had been estimated at £200-300.

#### Sumptuous urns

Top-seller among the 840 lots of ceramics at the 1400-lot sale was a sumptuous pair of Coalport urns and covers.

The 16½ in (42cm) tall vases titled *The Fair Musician* and *Sunny Climes* were each signed *T. Keeling*, for Thomas Keeling who worked at the factory in the early 1900s, and bore the crown mark and *Tiffany & Co* 

Left: a pair of Coalport urns and covers decorated by Thomas Keeling – £3600 at Potteries Auctions.



The vases bore the Tiffany mark, with whom the Shropshire maker had a long connection

*New York* with whom the Shropshire maker had a long connection.

The Sunny Climes vase had a 6in (15cm) firing crack to the inside rim, a 3in (8cm) hairline crack and a chip to the finial, but the pair sold toward high estimate at £3600.

From the same period and aimed at the same market was a Minton vase by Albion Birks, specialist in the pâtésur-pâté technique.

Decorated with a classical vignette depicting an archery lesson between Venus and Cupid, the 7½in (19cm) tall vase quadrupled the estimate to sell at £2800. Roland Arkell

# Machine exerts a strong influence

The Wimshurst influence machine, an electrostatic generator capable of creating high voltages, was developed between 1880-83 by British inventor James Wimshurst (1832-1903).

This example **below**, of typical composition with two contra-rotating cylinders, two Leyden jars and a hand crack mechanism, has a label for the London optical and scientific instrument maker Dollond and Company of Ludgate Hill.

It stands 17in (42cm) high on a hardwood base. Offered for sale at **Trevanion & Dean (20% buyer's premium)** in Whitchurch, Shropshire, on March 14, it took £2400.



### Sex Pistols 'holy grail' is punk pick

Among a 200-lot list of vinyl records by a galaxy of rock and pop stars, punk provided the outstanding performance at **Cottees' (18% buyer's premium)** specialist sale at Poole, *writes Terence Ryle*.

Described by auctioneer Tony Savage as "the holy grail for collectors", a one-sided acetate of the Sex Pistols' *Anarchy In The UK* recorded at the famous Abbey Road EMI studios in 1976 was estimated at \$800-1200.

With the original blue and gold 'psychedelic' label, the disc, in a plain sleeve and in fine condition, went to a Kent collector at £6200.

Now in their fourth year, these biannual specialist sales at Dorset – the next is scheduled for October, circumstances permitting – have witnessed what Savage describes as the massive comeback of vinyl records but also



Left: original acetate of *Anarchy In The UK* – £6500 at Cottees.

include instruments, juke boxes and other rock paraphernalia.

Best of the instruments at the 470-lot March 7 sale was an early 1980s Alembic 20th Anniversary mahogany, walnut and ebony bass guitar.

Numbered 69/200 and in its original case it went comfortably above hopes at £1800.

### Fab Four in 'ballroom of the stars'

One of the highlights of actor Peter Wyngarde's estate sale held live, online-only at **East Bristol Auctions (18% buyer's premium)** on March 26 was a Beatles concert poster from 1963.

It promotes the Fab Four's concert in the Abergavenny Town Hall Ballroom ('The Ballroom of the Stars') on June 22, 1963. It measured 2ft 5in x 20in (74 x 50cm) and was printed by Arthurs Press Ltd, Stroud. Wyngarde was an acquaintance of the band. The poster (**right**) sold at a mid-estimate **£2200** to a Beatles collector.

It is the latest in a series of strong results for concert posters from the early days of famous bands – such as our *Pick of the Week* in *ATG* No 2435, a poster advertising an early gig by The Who at the short-lived Blue Moon club in Cheltenham, sold for  $\pm$ 11,500 at Gardiner Houlgate's auction.



# Sweetness was his weakness

But artist McEvoy battles back to regain favour with auctioneers, buyers and dealers

### by Alex Capon & Roland Arkell

Critics were not always kind to the British 'society' artist **Ambrose McEvoy (1878-1927).** 

One wag writing during the First World War joked that at a time of sugar shortage McEvoy's sometimes saccharine portraits were 'a positive asset to the nation'.

Despite such swipes, his portraits remained in high demand throughout the 'Roaring Twenties' with sitters including illuminaries such as Winston Churchill and James Ramsay MacDonald.

When McEvoy died in 1927, he was at the peak of his fame.

The market for his works since his death has had its ups and downs. His portraits were deemed somewhat 'of their period' and fell out of fashion as tastes changed after the Second World War.

Although he remained in relative obscurity in subsequent decades, his name has re-emerged more recently both in terms of his portraits making increasing sums at auctions and dealers spotting and cultivating the growing interest.

A significant moment came in February 2015 when a portrait of a young girl appeared at Dreweatts in Newbury and soared over a  $\pm$ 700-1000 estimate to be knocked down at  $\pm$ 32,000. The subject was later identified as the aristocratic British actress and 'Bright Young Thing' Lois Sturt (1900-37).

It subsequently featured at the first major show on McEvoy in 50 years which was staged by dealer Philip Mould at his Pall Mall gallery, opening last November.

### **McEvoy returns to Dreweatts**

In the latest test of demand, another early-20th century portrait by McEvoy resurfaced, again at **Dreweatts (25% buyer's premium)**, and was offered at its Modern and Contemporary Art sale on March 19.

The 4ft 2in x 3ft 4in (1.27 x 1.01m) oil on canvas portrait of Miss Violet Henry (1901-76) was painted in 1918 and had been in the family of the sitter ever since then.

The sitter was a typical McEvoy client. She was the daughter of Philip Solomon Henry (1863-1933), an Australian copper and coffee trader who later lived first in Paddington



and then on a large estate in Asheville, North Carolina.

After marrying Brigadier Hartley Alfred Macochie, she lived in Somerset and McEvoy painted her standing at a mantelpiece, her reflection appearing in a mirror – a composition borrowed from Whistler's *Symphony in White* (1864).

The picture had a long exhibition history. It was commissioned as part of a series of portraits McEvoy painted to benefit the Red Cross that were shown at the Grosvenor Gallery in 1918. Two years later it formed part of the McEvoy exhibition held by the famed dealer Joseph Duveen in New York, a show that gave the artist a reputation in the US. It was also pictured in John Rothenstein's *Modern English Painters: Sickert to Smith* (1952) and so it was a 'known' work.

Left: Miss Violet Henry by Ambrose

Moore - £26,000.

McEvoy, 1918 – **£35,000** at Dreweatts. **Right**: *Horse*, a small bronze by Henry

Offered for sale in Berkshire with modest expectations of  $\pounds4000-6000$ , the appealing subject and fluid technique found admirers.

It sold to a UK trade buyer using thesaleroom.com at  $\pounds$ 35,000 – a record price for McEvoy at auction.

Indeed, the price suggested extra interest has been encouraged by the Mould exhibition as well as the fact that the artist's following was not, at this point at any rate, deterred from bidding by the coronavirus crisis unravelling with greater urgency at the time of this sale.

### Leading Lavery

The top lot of the Dreweatts sale was a view of Hyde Park Corner by **Sir John Lavery (1856-1941)** showing the procession for the marriage of Prince George, Duke of Kent, to Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark on November 29, 1934.

Lavery was the artistic equivalent of David Dimbleby in his day –

### Duncan Campbell collection

A group of pictures from the collection of the late art dealer Duncan Campbell, who died in 2011, were among the lots drawing interest at Dreweatts.

Offered by the family, the eclectic range of works would have been familiar to those who had visited his gallery in Thackeray Street, Kensington.

A larger 269-lot array from his collection was sold at Dreweatts & Bloomsbury back in April 2012 but here the 28 works on offer raised a total of £27,475 (including premium).

The top lot among them was *Hillside with Village, Roviano* (above left) by Scottish artist Alberto Morrocco (1917-98) that sold on low estimate at £12,000 to a UK private buyer.

The subject was the village on the opposite side of the valley to



Anticoli Corrado, roughly 40km east of Rome, where the Morrocco family spent their holidays in the 1950s and early 1960s. It featured the familiar varied palette which the artist used to create the familiar the woven patchwork in his richly layered landscapes.

The collection also included a small selection of watercolours by **Rowland Hilder (1905-93)**, among which a decent competition emerged for a view of Tilford, Surrey (**above right**).

The rural landscape was an  $8\frac{1}{4} \times 12$  in (21.5 x 33cm) signed watercolour and ink that surpassed a £500-700 estimate and was knocked down at **£800**.



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### The market for McEvoy's works since his death has had its ups and downs

wheeled out with steady regularity to cover royal weddings and key national moments in all their vibrant pomp. In the 1880s he was commissioned to paint the state visit of Queen Victoria to the *Glasgow International Exhibition* and this royal patronage continued throughout the rest of his career.

The 23<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (60.5 x 50cm) oil on canvas at Dreweatts came fresh to the market, having been in a private collection for some considerable time. It followed a larger view of Hyde Park Corner but from a different angle showing Armistice Day in November 1918 that sold at Sotheby's in November 2018 for £250,000 including premium.

This view had a lot going for it too in terms of its market freshness, exhibition history and tonal effects. It duly sold over its £20,000-30,000 estimate and was knocked down at £44,000 to the UK trade.

### Moore bronze

Among the sculptures at Dreweatts, a small bronze of a horse by **Henry Moore (British 1898-1986)** sold within estimate at £26,000 and was knocked down to a UK private buyer. Conceived in 1978 and cast in an edition of seven, it was a relatively late work and had a green patina with a smooth, undulating surface.

While equine subjects are not unknown in Moore's oeuvre – they started appearing as early as the 1920s – he did not experiment with the form in the same way that other leading Modern British artists such as Elizabeth Frink did, for example.

The work at Dreweatts was one of only a handful actually created by Moore that were also enlarged to a full-scale model. One of the full-size versions can be found in the collection of the Henry Moore Foundation in the Hertfordshire countryside.

While examples of the larger edition in a brown patina can make substantially more, this  $8\frac{1}{100}$  (21cm) long maquette nevertheless looked a decent proposition against a £20,000-30,000 estimate.

### 'Exceptionally pleased'

Dreweatts head of fine art Jennie Fisher said: "Given the potentially difficult timing of this sale, we are exceptionally pleased with the results.

"There were some great prices for the top lots with strong and competitive bidding from trade and private buyers alike. While it may have been difficult for bidders to attend the auction in person, they fully embraced the full range of remote options open to them."

## Illuminating artworks

*f*1 = *€*1.14

The ROSC art exhibitions – 'rosc' being an Irish word roughly translated as 'the poetry of vision' – were the first major series of large-scale international art shows in Ireland. The first took place at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) in 1967 and comprised the work

of the 50 'best' living artists of the time including Francis Bacon, Willem De Koonig,



Joan Miró, Ben Nicholson and Pablo Picasso. *The New Yorker* described it as "one of the boldest and most illuminating international exhibitions of modern art ever held..."

This sizeable 4ft 3in x 4ft 7in (1.3 x 1.4m) oil painting, *Mastiff* (*Cwajnos*), **left**, was among the works included, painted in the same year by Polish artist **Tadeusz Brzozowski (1918-87)**.

He was a member of the Krakow Group and the international 'Phases' movement of painters inspired by Surrealism and non-geometric

and lyrical abstraction. The hallmarks of a top Brzozowski – distorted forms, intense colour, strongly emphasised textures and a mysterious title inspired by old Polish words – were all present in *Mastiff (Cwajnos)*.

Over 50 years later after ROSC it returned to the RDS on March 9 as part of a sale of Irish and international art at Dublin saleroom **Whyte's (20/13.5% buyer's premium)**. It came from a private collector in Ireland who had acquired it well in excess of its modest  $\in 1000-1500$  guide for  $\in 90,000$  from Adam's of Dublin in 2007. Offered at Whyte's with an  $\in 80,000-100,000$  guide, it drew competition once more and was knocked down to a private collector in Poland for a sale-topping  $\in 190,000$  (£167,000). The sum equals the auction record set in November 2017 by Desa Unicom in Warsaw for *Pretzels* (1959), a well-known Brzozowski canvas exhibited at MOMA in the 1960s.

Overall, the 200-lot sale at Whyte's totalled €1.1m and was 82% sold. The auction house said it was a "fine start to the art auction season" despite the "inclement weather" and concern over the impact of the coronavirus that had begun to grow at the time.

Gabriel Berner





### Auerbach's theatrical flourish in Scarborough

An unsigned **Frank Auerbach (b.1931)** sketch (**top left**) in coloured inks of Camden Theatre in London, a favourite subject of the artist, emerged as the top-selling lot at Scarborough saleroom **David Duggleby (22.5% buyer's premium)** on March 6.

The work was one of over a dozen modestly priced 20th century oils, watercolours, lithographs and drawings by mainly British and American painters from the private collection of the late Brian Hill of Bridlington, East Yorkshire.

The large Grade II-listed theatre, painted by Auerbach repeatedly over many years, features in famous works such as *The Camden Theatre* (1976) in the British Council collection and *Camden Theatre in the Rain* (1977), a largescale oil that sold at Sotheby's in 2007 for a premiuminclusive £1.92m.

The 10 x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in (25 x 27cm) drawing offered in Scarborough had featured in the touring 1977 exhibition *Drawing in Action* by Ferens Art Gallery in Hull.

It came with provenance for Marlborough Fine Art in London where Hill had bought it. In "very good condition" and in its original frame, the drawing sold to the UK trade for **£6000** against a £1000-2000 estimate.

It is not the first time such works have been offered. A comparable felt-tip pen sketch of the theatre executed in c.1973 sold at Christie's in December 1999 for a premium-

inclusive £518, a sum that also illustrates the rising auction prices in the intervening decades for Auerbach's work. The 287-lot Spring Art Sale was 82% sold by lot and totalled £180,000, that auction's highest total to date.

### **Staithes Group work**

Among the works depicting local scenes was a 19 x 23in (48 x 59cm) oil on canvas of a woman mending nets at Runswick Bay near Whitby by Staithes Group artist **Mark Senior** (1862-1927). It tipped over top estimate to sell to a Yorkshire collector on the book for £4600.

After the catalogue had been published, the figure was identified as Mrs Peggy Calvert by her granddaughter, who saw the painting in the local paper and still lives at Runswick Bay.

The picture (**below left**) was bought by the vendor in 1994 at specialist Staithes Group dealer Phillips & Sons in Cookham and came in appealing 'ready to hang' condition. "There is still plenty of local interest in the Staithes Group, particularly for oils," said Duggleby after nearly all 45 lots dedicated to the art colony sold.

The auction was led by *Shipping Anchored in the Humber off Spurn Point*, a typically serene 19th century coastal oil by the Hull School painter **Henry Redmore (1820-87)** that sold to a private buyer based in Yorkshire on bottom estimate for £8000. *Gabriel Berner* 

# Witch pickings in salerooms

Puritan Cotton Mather's defence of executions is latest work on the subject to surface

### by Ian McKay

Two copies of a 1682 work called *A Tryal of Witches* have featured in recent auctions, and witchcraft was once again in the air at a recent West Sussex sale.

Responsible for the day's highest bid of £4100 at **Toovey's (24.5% buyer's premium)** on March 17 was a 1693, third London edition in 19th century calf of Cotton Mather's *The Wonders of the Invisible World: Being an Account of the Tryals of Several Witches Lately Executed in New England...* 

The book is essentially a defence of the witch hunts that he and his father, Increase Mather, had raised in Salem, Massachusetts.

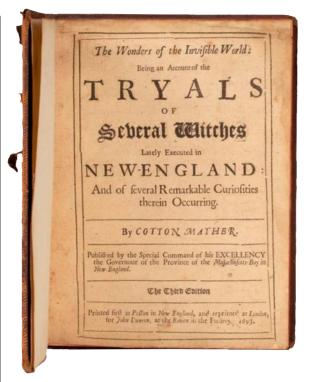
The Mathers saw witches as tools of the devil in Satan's battle to "overturn this poor plantation, the Puritan colony", and prosecution of witches as a way to secure God's blessings for the colony. As a result, as many as 19 women were convicted of witchcraft and put to death.

Only a single example of the original US edition of the same year, sold for \$7000 by Swann Galleries in 1987, appears in auction records.

However, in 2014 one of the many sales held to disperse the vast 'How History Unfolds on Paper' collections of the US collector Eric Caren included a first English edition of 1693 which sold for \$19,000 (then £11,445).

### **Less familiar Stoker**

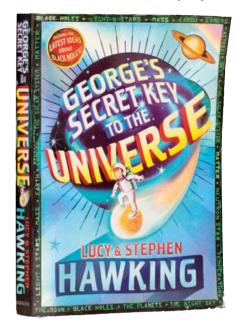
An ex-public library first of *Dracula* in the Toovey's auction made £1200



**Above:** the title page of Cotton Mather's ... Account of the Tryals of Several Witches Lately Executed in New England, sold for **£4100** by Toovey's.



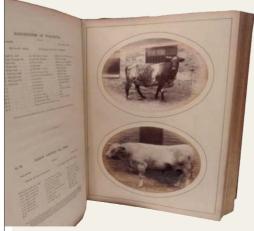
The book is essentially a defence of the witch hunts that Cotton and his father, Increase Mather, has raised in Salem **Below:** signed and inscribed by Lucy Hawking and bearing the thumbprint of her father – as verified by his duty nurse's inscription – a copy of their 2007 book *George's Secret Key to the Universe* sold for **£950** at Toovey's. It is one of six adventure tales by Lucy, all based on real science and aimed at young readers.



### Last but not least

The very last lot of the day produced an unexpectedly high bid of £650. It secured one of just 50 signed copies of *Ten Designs for the Two Gentleman of Verona* by John Guthrie issued by the Pear Tree Press of Flansham in Sussex in 1925.

Illustrated with woodblock plates and in original wrap-around card covers, it was lotted with other ephemera relating to Guthrie and the Pear Tree Press.



**Above:** spread from *Photographs of Celebrated British Shorthorns –* **£600** at Thomson Roddick.

### Celebrated shorthorns in the spotlight

but bid to £950 was a much less

familiar work by Bram Stoker: a

Mystery of the Sea of 1902.

1902 first (2nd impression) of The

In the original pictorial cloth

association derived from the fact

that Stoker was for many years a

Irving and may have met the duke

while managing Irving's Lyceum

by Stoker for the Duke of Fife.

binding, it was signed and inscribed

The cataloguer wondered if that

personal assistant to the actor Henry

Books, catalogues, ephemera, pictures and other material from the collections of the Shorthorn Society of the United Kingdom & Ireland formed a significant part of a recent Carlisle sale.

theatre.

One of the more keenly pursued of those lots on March 19 at **Thomson Roddick (17.5% buyer's premium)** was FB Larkworthy's *Photographs of Celebrated British Shorthorns*, a work of 1879 in which the portraits of the cattle are accompanied by details of their pedigree. It doubled the high estimate to sell at what may be a record £600.

The most expensive lot in the property was an 1823 oil painting by David Dalby of York, depicting *Mr Hutchinson's Beef Shorthorn Bull, Sir Leoline*, that featured on the catalogue cover. It sold at £2800 (see *Art Market*, page 13).

Not part of that Shorthorn Society property, but of related interest was a five-volume set of John Mills' *New and Complete System of Practical Husbandry* of 1762-65 that had added association value.

Each volume bore the bookplate of Robert Riddell of Friars Carse, near Dumfries, who was a companion and correspondent of Robert Burns. It sold for £350.

### Wainwright drawing

Items in the larger, general part of the sale included an ink and pencil drawing by Alfred Wainwright of a Scottish peak, *Binnein Mòr*, at £380, and a 32*pp*, illustrated souvenir of the Royal Cup Final of 1914 in which Burnley defeated Liverpool 1-0. Sold at £320, the latter was a copy that came to auction

## Send your books news to Ian McKay at editorial@antiquestradegazette.com

# Horror titles cut after decapitation shocker

Offered without a reserve, a job lot of "low grade" comics dating from the 1940s-50s ended up selling for £1200 in a **Comic Book Auctions** (19% buyer's premium) timed sale on thesaleroom.com that ended on March 1.

The big attraction it seems was a 1954 copy of *Crime SuspenStories*.

Auctioneer Malcolm Phillips explained the background to its success. "When Johnny Craig drew the initial [cover] illustration it showed the decapitated head dripping blood from the neck wound and was looked upon as too gory by EC, or Entertaining Comics publisher and editor, Bill Gaines.

"Consequently the illustration was lowered to 'just' show the head. This did not stop the issue's cover becoming the centrepiece of a Senate sub-committee hearing on Juvenile Delinquency, from which Dr Frederick Wertham's *Seduction Of The Innocent* became a staple in every public library in North America and *Crime SuspenStories* #22 the most infamous and horrific cover of its time.

"As a direct result, Gaines discontinued EC's horror titles, changing tack to found MAD



players.

Some would argue later that MAD was even more subversive, mocking and lampooning political and artistic leaders of the day as it did

Right: Alfred Wainwright drawing of

Binnein Mòr – £380 at Thomson Roddick.

from a descendant of one of the Burnley

Three of the lesser-known works of

preserved, but The Story of Little Degchie-

the author of Little Black Sambo, Helen

All firsts in pictorial green cloth

Head: An Awful Warning to Bad Babas

(1903) made £120, while copies of The

Story of Little Black Mingo (1901) and Pat and the Spider (1904) sold at £80 each. No copies of the last mentioned work

appear in auction records that I have seen.

bindings, they were not perfectly

Bannerman, also featured.

magazine, its 'Humor In A Jugular Vein' tagline a pithy reference to CSS #22. Some would later argue that MAD was even more subversive, mocking and lampooning the political and artistic leaders of the day as it did, while going on to run for over 40 years and making Gaines a fortune."

### Short-lived magic

Other highlights from the CBA sale included a lot offering the first five issues of the short-lived DC comics stablemate of *Beano* and *Dandy*. Previewed in *ATG* No 2430, those rare copies of *Magic Comic*, which ran only in the years 1939-41, sold at £4100.

Two artworks produced by Frank Bellamy for consecutive 1968 issues of TV21 sold at £3550.

Showing tape repairs, a re-stapled spine and numerous other faults a copy of the 1963 first issue of *Amazing Spider Man* comic sold at £2900 in the CBA auction.

However, in a March 5-8 comics auction held by US saleroom **Heritage (20% buyer's premium)**, a copy of the *Amazing Fantasy* Marvel comic of 1962, in which the comic book writer, editor and publisher Stan Lee's most famous creation was seen for the first time, was bid to \$662,500 (£513,565).

Billed as far and away the most valuable, in-demand comic book of the what is known in the 'Silver Age', this near-mint copy, said Heritage, rivalled the finest it had ever seen: "Jack Kirby did the classic cover, and Steve Ditko began his legendary tenure as Spidey's primary artist."







Above left: the notorious 1950s issue of *Crime SuspenStories* sold at Comic Book Auctions as the key attraction in a mixed lot that made £1200.

Above right: an exceptionally high grade copy of a Marvel comic of 1962 that featured the first appearance of *Spider Man*, sold by Heritage for **\$662,500 (£513,565)**.

**Left:** Frank Bellamy original artwork for *TV21* sold by CBA at **£3550**.

### British and Irish book auctions (all online only)

Apr 7* 🗹	6 lots Books & Maps, Bretells - Newport (Shropshire)	01952 815925
ends Apr 7* 🗹	7 lots Printed Ephemera, William George	01733 667680
Apr 8* 🗹	Autographs, Chaucer Auctions - Folkestone	0800 170 1314
ends Apr 11* 🗹	Autographs Section, Excalibur Auctions	020 3633 0913
Apr 14* 🗹	11 lots Books, Bretells - Newport (Shropshire)	01952 815925
Apr 15* 🗹	Sports Autographs, Chaucer Auctions - Folkestone	0800 170 1314
Apr 21* 🗹	Paper Collectables, Toovey's - Washington	01903 891955
Apr 23* 🗹	Books & Works on Paper incl more Birmingham Assay Office lots, Forum	020 7871 2640
ends Apr 23* 🗹	Royal Letters & Photos, Historical Documents, etc, William George	01733 667680
Apr 25* 🗹	Movie & Music Memorabilia incl Autographs, Excalibur Auctions	020 3633 0913

Sales marked with an \* are those in which books and ephemera form part of a larger sale. Sales marked  $\square$  are viewable on **thesaleroom.com** 

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### **Dealers'** Diary

Send your dealer news to Frances Allitt at francesallitt@antiquestradegazette.com



# Invent, innovate, be in touch

How the trade is responding to the coronvirus alert with fresh online formats

### by Frances Allitt

Dealers and trade bodies have been adapting to the new normal caused by coronavirus. For most this means isolated living and remote transactions. However, in a spirit of energy and invention, traders are finding new ways to promote both their stock and their brands online.

Many are moving planned events to websites, such as Eames Fine Art, which is holding its first digital exhibition. Fellow London gallery Panter & Hall and Swiss dealership Bailly Gallery have also staged online shows (see **right**).

### New way to display

Others are exploring new ways of running online shows.

Mazzoleni, a specialist in Modern and Post-war Italian art, launched #MAZZOLENIDIARY. Until June 7, the dealership is posting three works per week on Artsy and on its social media pages. Images are accompanied by quotes from the corresponding artist and the project includes interviews, videos and documentation from Mazzoleni's archive.

Along with some of its own online displays, Rehs Galleries in New York has been hosting a game of 'Can You Guess the Artist' on its various social media platforms, showing details of paintings for its followers to identify. Answers are posted on the same platforms the next day.

Also from the Big Apple, silver and jewellery specialist SJ Shrubsole is in the middle of a 30-day email series modelled after Boccaccio's *Decameron* (a 14th century collection of stories told

2 C O V E T

2covet.com



by a group sheltering during the Black Death). In each email the dealership offers a story about a work of art or life in the trade to entertain its newsletter subscribers.

Others have opted for video, such as Jamie Rountree of Rountree Tryon, who talks about key items of stock in short films posted to his website and LinkedIn. Last Thursday the House of Automata in Scotland presented a 40-minute show of 19th century clockwork performances broadcast live over Instagram.

Meanwhile, trade bodies and fairs have worked to support their members.

LAPADA launched a series of webinars to help dealers get to grips with various online tools.

Created with social media agency The Tom Sawyer Effect, these offer practical advice on using digital platforms, maximising online presence and engaging with clients. Though these gatherings, hosted on Zoom, are for members only, recordings are free to all on LAPADA's website.

The next session is on Thursday and

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**Left**: Seaplane of the Imperial German Air Force over the Baltic Coast, 1918, by Carl Malchin (1838-1923), is offered for **£7500** at **Panter & Hall**'s exhibition A Dealer's Eye.

This show, which runs until April 17, offers 46 works from dealer Matthew Hall's collection acquired over two decades. The online catalogue contains his notes and anecdotes on each piece, while further information about each artist is available on the gallery website. (> panterandhall.com

**Right: Eames Fine Art** of Southwark, south London, offers this poster for a 1971 show at the Knoedler Gallery priced at **£350** as part of its online exhibition *Picasso on Paper: Posters and Prints.* The collection of lithographic posters, all from historic exhibitions,

provides a chance to snap up affordable works by the great Modern artist. Available also are linocuts and original lithographic prints. The show will be hung and a video of the exhibition accompanies the digital listings. Unframed pieces will be sent in the post while the gallery's framers are working to get framed works to new owners as well. The exhibition runs until April 26.

▶ eamesfineart.com

covers YouTube and Pinterest.

A series of BADA Friends Friday quizzes was launched on Instagram last Friday (according to plans at the time of writing). Each competition revolves around an object offered by a BADA dealer and the winner is awarded a free membership to BADA Friends. The structure is set to evolve over time.

Sunbury Antiques, which runs antiques markets at Kempton and Sandown Park, has been using its social media platforms to promote its



PICASSO KNOEDLER, 85<sup>465</sup> RUE DU F° ST-HONORE - PARIS 26 OCTOBRE - 30 NOVEMBRE 1971

exhibitors in a scheme dubbed 'Meet the Traders'.

Dealers have recalled favourite memories from the markets and showcased highlight items of stock.

In the following pages, we present our second selection of 40 objects available to buy from dealers' websites.

This ongoing feature seeks to show the variety of objects and price points that can be found even without a trip to premises. Another 40 will appear next week.



A collection of 50 Modern and Post-war works is offered by **Bailly Gallery** on Artnet and Artsy. The show features pictures such as Raoul Dufy's *Le Coeur, le Palais et le Ventre de Paris* (1924), a gouache on paper offered for **€80,000-90,000**. Other artists represented include Maurice de Vlaminck, Joan Miró and Piet Mondrian. The show runs until June 25.

**baillygallery.com** 

Our selection of 40 objects to view and buy



### **Ebury Trading**

L&V

Art and Design

and gilded metal trolley measures 2ft (60.5cm) tall The asking price is £1000

Designed by Aldo Tura, c.1950, this

This original Archittetura chest, c.1970-80, by Atelier Fornasetti features the studio's typical lithographically printed, hand-painted design and brass fittings. Formerly in a fashion boutique in Milan, it is offered for £26,000

### eburytrading.com



#### **Howard Walwyn**

This William III period ebonised table clock, c.1685-95, with an eight-day hour striking brass dial movement by Samuel Watson, is offered for **£45,000**. The unusual inclusion of a viscount's coronet in the design of the caddy mounts would indicate that the original patron was a peer.

### > walwynantiqueclocks.com



**Peta Smyth Antique Textiles** This pair of 18th century French tapestry portières is probably from Beauvais, c.1720-30. Each features a design of poppies in a cartouche with other elements including birds, crossed quivers and a pair of dancing monkeys. With a provenance to the Mayorcas collection, the pair is offered for £14,000.

### petasmyth.com



### Serhat Ahmet

This Berlin porcelain tête-à-tête set, c.1780, painted with scenes of farmyard animals in rural settings, is offered for £3750. The set comprises a tray with scalloped handles, teapot, cream jug and sucrier and two cups and saucers.





### John Martin Gallery This 20in (50cm) wide bronze, The Embrace, by Contemporary artist Olivia Musgrave is one of an edition of nine and is offered for **£6400** + VAT.

➢ jmlondon.com



🕞 landvdesign.com



Alon Zakaim Fine Art

Henri Le Sidaner's oil on canvas Petite porte de Trianon, Versailles (1936) is offered for \$240,000 + 5% import VAT. It reflects the French artist's interest in light and demonstrates why (although he did not consider himself a part of the group) he was often associated with the Impressionists.

🕞 alonzakaim.com



### **Mayfair Gallery**

This micromosaic, just under 3in (7cm) across, made in Rome, c.1830, is based on the floor in Hadrian's villa. The original is known as the Capitoline Doves or the Doves of Pliny. It is offered for £12,000.

### ➢ mayfairgallery.com



**Mark Goodger Antiques** Priced at £2850, this pair of silver mounted liqueur decanters in the shape of ducks were made by Saunders & Shepherd of Birmingham in 1892. Both the heads are engraved with an earl's crown and the letter L.

markgoodger.co.uk

Our selection of 40 objects to view and buy



### Ottocento

This 6ft 3in (1.9m) wide needlework panel, *Les Saisons* (1962), is by 20th century French artist Pierre Jourda (1931-2007). With a provenance to the studio sale of the artist, it is offered for **£6600**.

### ➢ ottocento.co.uk



#### contra por

### Abbott and Holder

This pencil drawing *Head of a Man* by Dame Elisabeth Frink (1930-93) is signed and dated 1976. It is offered framed for **£19,000**.

➢ abbottandholder-thelist.co.uk

#### The Home Bothy

Included in the decorative offerings from The Home Bothy is this American naïve portrait of a girl with a cat, c.1840. The large oil, 2ft 9in x 3ft 3in (84cm x 1m), is offered in its original frame for **£2900**.

### > homebothy.co.uk



This coconut bugbear, probably worked by a sailor, features two hearts on the reverse and is engraved *John Evans May 1816* and *Ann Blimping May 1816*. More lightly carved than those attributed to Napoleonic prisoners of war, it also depicts a two-storey house with trees, love birds and a schooner. It is offered for **£975**.

➢ collinsantiques.co.uk

### Mackinnon Fine Furniture

This George I ormolu mounted parcel gilt walnut secretaire cabinet in the manner of Samuel Bennet is available for **£95,000**. Made in England c.1720, it stands 8ft (2.44m) high and has a provenance to James Lowther, 1st Viscount Ullswater.

> mackinnonfineart.com

#### **John Bird Antiques**

Featuring good verdigris patination, this mid-19th century copper cistern measuring 4ft 3in (1.3m) wide is available for **£2800**.

johnbirdantiques.com







Our selection of 40 objects to view and buy



### Joanna Booth

These carved limewood drops, in the manner of celebrated craftsman Grinling Gibbons, are revivalist pieces from c.1860. Perhaps originally made to flank a fireplace or doorway, they measure 4ft 11in (1.5m) long and are offered as a pair for £3800.

➢ joannabooth.co.uk



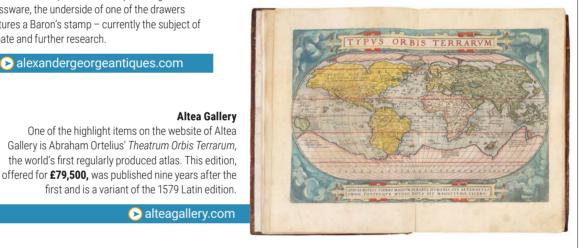
**Alexander George Antiques** This English Charles II Japanned cabinet, c.1675, is offered for £17,250. With complete original brassware, the underside of one of the drawers features a Baron's stamp - currently the subject of debate and further research.

> alexandergeorgeantiques.com



The William IV proof silver crown from 1834, designed by William Wyon, is one of the rarest British coins. It has an estimated mintage of around five pieces only, so this example, graded as Proof 64 Cameo, would make a significant addition to any collection. It is priced at £69,500.

baldwin.co.uk





#### Early Oak at Wysdom Hall

Bearing the initials and date GM 1688, this 7ft 4in (2.24m) James II oak court cupboard is available for £18,000. Made in north Lancashire, it retains its original canopy - a rare find in a cupboard of this age.

➢ wysdomhall.co.uk



▶ alteagallery.com

**Thomas Coulborn & Sons** Made c.1738, this freestanding dummy board figure, priced at £9750, depicts a grenadier of the Royal Scots Regiment. Painted in oil on panel, it would originally have been one of a matching pair of fireside boards.



#### **Chalet White**

Chaletwhite.com

Used for pruning in the garden or reaching tall shelves in the library, this set of early-19th century English steel ladders is hand forged. Made c.1820 and standing 5ft 10in (1.78m) tall, it is offered for £1950.

➢ coulborn.com

Our selection of 40 objects to view and buy



### **Raffaello Pernici**

Ceramics specialist Raffaello Pernici offers a large c.1930 panel by architect Gio Ponti for Richard Ginori on the LAPADA website for **£25,000**. The apparently unique hand-painted piece represents the Italian landscape as a theatre scene and includes views of Mount Vesuvius and Tuscan hills.

▶ lapada.org



shaped tazza by Ludwig Politzer, c.1890, is set with garnets and offered for **£16,795**. > pushkinantiques.com



### Cohen & Cohen

From a service well-known among collectors of Chinese export porcelain, this pair of 13in (32cm) Qianlong period chargers is decorated with the arms of Okeover. The decorative programme is thought to come from original artwork painted by Arthur Devis (1711-87). The pair is priced at **£110,000**.

Kevin Page Oriental Art

designs inspired by the insects' wings.

🕞 kevinpage.co.uk

➢ cohenandcohen.co.uk

### Garret and Hurst

mmi

Young Poet, c.1889, a bronze by French sculptor Eutrope Bouret (1833-1906), measures 11in (29cm) high including the base and is offered for **£2979**.

➢ garretandhurst.co.uk



### Hickmet Fine Arts This 6in (16cm) high signed soufflé flower cameo glass vase by Emile Gallé is

soufflé flower cameo glass vase by Emile Gallé is decorated with burgundy and deep red flowers against a peach field. Dated to c.1920, it is offered for **£5500**.

bickmet.com

Offered for £69,500, this pair of Japanese Meiji period

cloisonné vases c.1880 is decorated with large butterflies on

an ink blue ground separated by silver wires. The foot and

neck of each vessel is decorated with floral and geometric

### Smith & Robinson

This 3ft (91cm) wide trunk made by François Goyard of Paris, c.1920-30, features brass fittings all marked with the maker's name. Supported on a later customised brass stand, it is offered on 1stdibs and LAPADA for **£21,000**.

Smithandrobinson.com & 1stdibs.com



#### Robert Young

Available for **£5500**, this primitive Windsor comb back armchair in ash, elm and walnut, c.1750, features an arched crest and pierced splat.

robertyoungantiques.com

watercolour paints and crayons and a paper storage cupboard.

**Patrick Sandberg Antiques** 

it features three frieze drawers containing many original

Dating to c.1790, this Sheraton artist's bonheur

du jour made in rosewood, boxwood and ebony

is priced at £8800. Standing 3ft 3in (1m) tall,

Our selection of 40 objects to view and buy



### **Rountree Tryon Galleries**

This Second World War oil on canvas Intercepting Doodlebugs over the South Coast, 1944 by Frank Owen Salisbury (1874-1962) was painted for the Defence Committee. It is offered for £22,500.

### ➢ rountreetryon.com



### Karen Taylor Fine Art

Primroses were a favourite subject of William Henry Hunt (1790-1864). They serve as the subject for this watercolour with bodycolour measuring 6 x 8in (15 x 20cm), priced at £6500.

karentaylorfineart.com



**Kate Thurlow** 

Kate Thurlow of Gallery Forty One features a number of mirrors on her website including this 2ft (61cm) high Louis XV example priced at £750. Dated to c.1760, the frame has its original gilding and retains the original mercury mirror plate, now degraded.

### katethurlow.co.uk



**Catharine Hunt Oriental Antiques** This Kangxi famille verte brushpot, c.1690, featuring a scene of a meeting of scholars and officers with court officials, is offered for **£8500**.

cathy-hunt.co.uk



Freya Mitton 20th Century British Art This oil on canvas, Vinegar and Ginger Beer by Mary Fedden, measures 20in x 2ft (50 x 60cm) and is offered for £19,500.

Freyamitton.com



#### **Alexander Ancient Art**

This Roman marble funerary plaque, c.2nd-3rd century AD, is dedicated to the memory of Vibius Lucius Rufus, who died when he was only two years old. Decorated with griffins and a portrait of the boy, it is offered for £18,000.

➢ alexanderancientart.com



giltwood figure of St John the Evangelist would originally have been part of a crucifixion group. The 2ft 9in (84cm) sculpture retains most of its original polychrome and is priced at £6000.

hispanicantiques.co.uk



Olde Time This French porcelain and ormolu mantel clock, c.1860, is offered for £8500.





Nikki Page Antiques This pair of Swedish Gustavian armchairs, c.1800, scraped to the original paint, is priced at £2650.

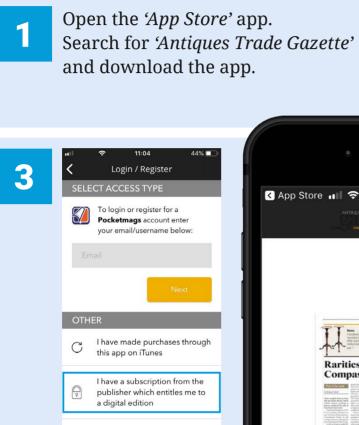
▶ nikkipageantiques.com

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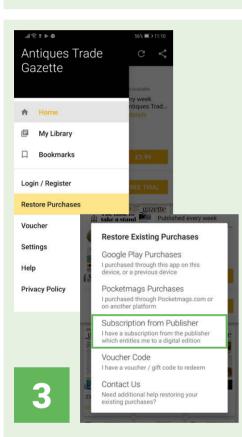
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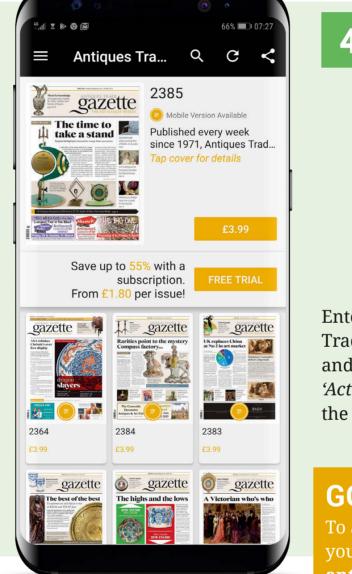
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PROPERTY FROM AN AKRON, OHIO ESTATE Estimate: \$30,000 - \$50,000

> View | Track | Bid HA.com/8005

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Paul R. Minshull #16591. BP 12-25%; see HA.com 57765



Studio of Peter Lely (British, 1618-1680) Lady Elizabeth Bedingfeld Oil on canvas: 101 x 91.5 cm.



Ish, 1618-1680)Jiao Bingzhen (Chinese, Act.1689-1728) Pair of Album (46 Leaves) of Farming anddingfeldJiao Bingzhen (Chinese, Act.1689-1728) Pair of Album (46 Leaves) of Farming ands 91.5 cm.Weaving with Gong Qin Wang Yixin Collector's Seals, pen, ink and color on silk: 30 xAlexandria, VA, (Washington D.C.) ~ info@potomackco.com ~ 703.684.4550 ~ www.potomackcompany.com

April 25 Auction

Camille Pissarro (French, 1830-1903) *Porteuse De Fagots* Watercolor: 21.6 x 15.25 cm.

VA#0704

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# Buyer tempted by Adam and Eve

Graduation oil painting by artist who worked on Diaghilev set designs soars to six figures

by Anne Crane



£1= \$1.15 An early work by Boris Anisfeld titled Adam and Eve made one of the highest prices in the Russian paintings and works of art auction at Shapiro (25% buyer's premium) in New York on March 21.

The large signed oil on canvas, 8ft 9in x l0ft 5in (2.67 x 3.17m), had been estimated at 20,000-30,000but realised no less than 105,000(£91,305).

Russian-born Anisfeld (1878-1973), who received his artistic training in Odessa and St Petersburg, was an artist and a set designer for the theatre. In the early years of the 20th century he met the impresario Diaghilev and worked in Paris on set designs for his ballets before he moved to the US in 1918 where he lived until his death in 1973.

Adam and Eve was a popular subject with Anisfeld.

This particular painting, which is

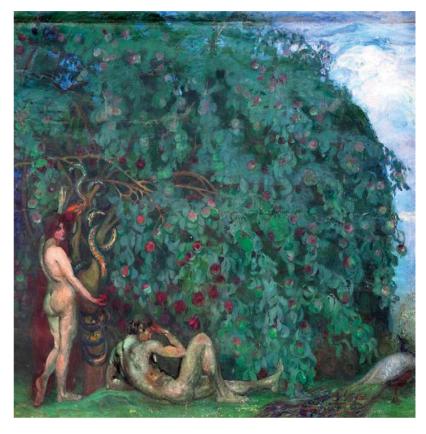
Anisfield met Diaghilev and worked on set designs for his ballets

included in the catalogue raisonné on the artist, was the actual work Anisfield submitted as his graduation piece to the Imperial Academy of Arts in St Petersburg in 1909 and featured in the High Art School exhibition at the Academy in that year.

The painting had a provenance to the artist's estate and then a private New York collection. The auction house reckoned that there were around 30 bidders on the lot before it was finally sold to a private buyer.

Right: Adam and Eve, an oil on canvas of 1909 by Boris Anisfeld – \$105,000 (£91,305) at Shapiro Auctions.

£1= €1 12



### More adventures of Tintin

Tintin was a major player in a sale of Comic Strip art staged in Belgium.

Works relating to Hergé's famous creation accounted for the three highest prices and several of the top 20 lots in an online-only



auction also including related items held by **Millon** in Brussels on March 29.

The highest-priced lot was a 7in x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (18 x 27cm) pencil drawing on paper accompanied by its tracing paper transfer, showing the young reporter and his dog Milou (Snowy) opening a box from which a dove flies.

The drawing was a project for a greeting card in 1959 and was produced during the publication of the episode *Tintin in Tibet* in the *Tintin* newspaper.

The lot came with a copy of a letter from Philippe Goddin attesting that the drawings are by Hergé and realised €7000 (£6250).

Following at an upper-estimate €6000 (£5360) was a wellpreserved 1930 black and white Petit Vingtième first edition of *Tintin au pays des Soviets* (shown **above left**).

A 1946 coloured first edition of *Le Lotus Bleu* provided the thirdhighest price of the sale at an upper-estimate  $\notin$ 4500 (£4020).

## Asian zingers in Zurich

£1= SFr1.24 Some keenly contested examples of Asian art featured in the large sale held by Schuler in Zurich on March 23-27.

They included a 6in (15cm) high 20th century Chinese porcelain brush pot on a wooden stand which is delicately painted to the cylindrical body in famille rose palette with a winter landscape and a lakeside pavilion.

As well as an inscription below the rim, the piece has an iron red mark reading *Xuren Zhushan* to the base.

The mark relates to He Xuren (1882-1940), a member of the Friends of Zhushan group of Republican-era porcelain painters. A specialist in winter landscape painting, his work was frequently copied both during and after his lifetime. He used this mark c.1930-40.

The brush pot had a provenance to a Swiss private collection from 1975. It easily outstripped its SFr800-1200 estimate to take SFr18,000 (£14,500).

The Asian section also included a Chinese white jade oval plaque measuring  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2$  in (6 x 5.5cm) which had been in a Swiss private collection since the late 1950s. Catalogued as dating to the first half of the 20th century, it was decorated in low





Above: Chinese Republican period porcelain brushpot and a detail of the iron red mark to the underside – SFr18,000 (£14,500) at Schuler.

Left: small oval jade plaque – SFr20,000 (£16,130).

relief with two figures while the reverse had an inscription and was signed *Zigang*. It too easily outpaced its SFr1500-2000 guide to take SFr20,000 (£16,130).



## Tiffany and Lalique link up for glass highlights

£1=\$1.15

Tiffany and Lalique glassware from a private New York City collector provided some of the highlights in the Clarke Auction Gallery (25% buyer's premium) online and phone bidding sale.

Topping the bill in New York on

March 22 were two Tiffany lamps from this group: a signed Lotus lamp at \$120,000 (£104,350) and a Peony lamp at \$100,000 (£86,955).

The selection of Lalique glass included a frosted glass figure, known as Grande Nue Bras Levés, a model introduced in 1921.

Set on a wood base and measuring 2ft (62cm) high, the figure- which is engraved R.LALIQUE FRANCE - sold within estimate at \$25,000 (£21,740).

A 9½in (23cm) high opalescent Bacchantes vase went within guide at \$7500 (£6520).

Also in demand was a pair of stylish mid-century multi drawer chests measuring 3ft 11in x 3ft (1.2m x 91cm) designed by the Italian architect and designer Gio Ponti for the American furniture manufacturer M Singer and Sons.

They realised \$18,000 (£15,650).



### Writing table with an English country house in mind

This early-19th century mahogany writing table comes from a private New York City and Southampton, New York, collection of English country house furniture to be offered by Nye and Company.

The collection is strong on Regency and George III furniture that has been acquired from the top dealers, such as Hyde Park Antiques, Mallett, Philip Colleck and Clinton Howell Antiques & Fine Art.

The 2ft 9in (93cm) wide, brass-mounted table has

an estimate of \$1500-3000 in the auction to be held in Bloomfield, New Jersey, on April 15.

It will be an online-only sale. John Nye had a long career at Sotheby's before he and his wife, Kathleen, acquired Dawson's in 2003 and

started Dawson & Nve. With the move to Bloomfield seven years later, they

renamed the business to Nye & Company. D nyeandcompany.com





### Auction Calendar 8 - 21 April

### The original and authoritative listing of UK sales

Every care is taken in compiling this calendar - changes are happening very quickly at the moment.

Due to current market conditions caused by Covid-19 this week we are listing only those UK auctions that we have been able to verify as definitely taking place and being held as live online-only sales. Such auctions will be held behind closed doors, are not open to members of the public for bidding in the room and can be operated by the auctioneer remotely. Bidding takes place online and may also be available on the phone or on commission, you should check directly with the auction house for full details including the storage arrangements or delivery options that are currently available.

We are also listing timed auctions that are being held on thesaleroom.com - all bidding on these sales takes place online and can be operated by the auctioneer remotely.

Use our online calendar to check for updates and also check the latest news on our website where changes to

dates and sale formats are listed. Information accurate at time of going to press

(2pm Friday April 3).

Antiques Trade Gazette cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions.

Auctioneers are requested to contact us with details of their sales and inform us of any changes. Contact us at: calendar@antiquestradegazette.com

auctions in our **UK** calendar

36,772 lots for sale on thesaleroom.com

### **UK and Ireland** auction advertising

Wilkinsons Auctioneers 3 Forum Auctions 15

### International auction advertising

Heritage Auctions IISA 25 Potomack Auctions USA 25 Hargesheimer Auctions Germany 27

🕑 Find these auctioneers on thesaleroom.com where you can bid live on all or many of their auctions - check each auctioneer's listing on the site for details

#### **WEDNESDAY** APRIL 8

**BEESTON AUCTIONS** Unit 12, Paynes Business Park. Dereham Road, Beeston, Norfolk, PF32 2N0 Tel: +44 (0)1328 598090 Antiques, Silver & Jewellery, 10.00 (live online only) beestonauctions.co.uk

CHAUCER AUCTIONS Webster House, 24 Jesmond Street, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5QW. Tel: +44 (0)8451 304094 Autographs & Stamps, 18.00 (live online only) chaucercollectables.co.uk

DIX NOONAN WEBB 16 Bolton Street, Mayfair, London, W1J 8B0 Tel: +44 (0)20 7016 1700 Coins. Tokens & Historical Medals 10.00

(live online only) dnw.co.uk

### SPINK & SON

67-69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. Tel: +44 (0)20 7563 4000 A: World Bank Notes, 10.00 B: Charity Sale of Bank of England Notes, 17.00 (live online only) spink.com

THURSDAY

 $\checkmark$ 

STERLING VAULT AUCTIONEERS 93-94 West Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7EB. Tel: +44 (0)1252 720815 Watches, 10.30 (live online only) sterlingvault.co.uk

SATURDAY

#### EXCALIBUR AUCTIONS The Village Hotel, Centennial Avenue, Centennial Park, Elstree, WD6 3SB. Tel: +44 (0)20 3633 0913 Movies, Music Memorabilia, Posters, Autographs & Comics, 10.00 (live online only) ~ excaliburauctions.com

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### TUESDAY

ALDRIDGES Phoenix House, Lower Bristol Road, Bath, Somerset, BA2 9ES. Tel: +44 (0)1225 462830 Decorative & Household Furniture, 10.00 (live online only)

aldridgesofbath.com

#### CHESHIRE STAMP AUCTIONS Egerton Court, Haig Road, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8DX Tel: +44 (0)1565 653214 Stamps, 16.30 (live online only) sandafayre.com

ELMW00D'S The Red House, Munro Mews, Portobello Road, London, W10 5XS Tel: +44 (0)20 7096 8933 Jewellery 14:00 (live online only) elmwoods.co.uk

### KINGSLEY AUCTIONS

112-118 Market Street, Hovlake, Wirral, Merseyside, CH47 3BG. Tel: +44 (0)1516 325821 Antiques & Collectables, 10.30 (live online only) kingsleyauctions.blogspot.co.uk

MORGAN O'DRISCOLL Ballsbridge, Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Tel: +353 (0)1 282 2338 Irish & International Art, 10.00 (live online only) morganodriscoll.com 

SPINK & SON 67-69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. Tel: +44 (0)20 7563 4000 Philatelic Collectors' Series, 15.00 (live online only) spink.com

STERLING VAULT AUCTIONEERS 93-94 West Street, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7FB. Tel: +44 (0)1252 720815 Bags, 10.30 (live online only) sterlingvault.co.uk 

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 15

**C & T AUCTIONEERS** Unit 4 High House Business Park, High House Lane, Kenardington, Kent, TN26 2LF. Tel: +44 (0)1233 510050 Antique Arms & Armour (live online only)

### CHAUCER AUCTIONS Webster House, 24 Jesmond Street, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5QW. Tel: +44 (0)8451 304094 Sports Autographs, 10.00

67-69 Southampton Row, London, Philatelic Collectors' Series, 10.00

### WARRINGTON & NORTHWICH

### THURSDAY APRIL 16

DIX NOONAN WEBB 16 Bolton Street, Mayfair, London W1J 8B0. Tel: +44 (0)20 7016 1700 Orders, Decorations, Medals & Militaria, 10.00 (live online only) dnw.co.uk

FEATONBY'S AUCTIONEERS 15 Little Bedford Street North Shields. Type & Wear. NF29 6NW. Tel: +44 (0)1912 522601 General, Collectables & Fine Art, 10:00

#### (live online only) featonbys.co.uk

FELLOWS

Augusta House, 19 Augusta Street, Birmingham, West Midlands, B18 6JA Tel: +44 (0)1212 122131 Jewellery, 10.00 (live online only) Fellows.co.uk

### LYON & TURNBULL

33 Broughton Place, Edinburgh Tel: +44 (0)1315 578844 Contemporary & Post War Art, 11.00 (live online only) lyonandturnbull.com 2

mccartneys.co.uk

#### OMEGA AUCTIONS

Sankey Valley Industrial Estate Junction Lane, Newton-le-Willows Mersevside, WA12 8DN. Tel: +44 (0)1925 873040 Rare & Collectable Vinyl Records, 11 00

(live online only) omegaauctions.co.uk

#### RYE AUCTION GALLERIES Units 2 & 3, Rock Channel Quay, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7DL Tel: +44 (0)1797 222650 General, 10.00 (live online only)

ryeauctiongalleries.com

SPICER'S AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS The Exchange Saleroom, Exchange Street Driffield Fast Yorkshire YO25 6LD. Tel: +44 (0)1377 593593 Victorian & Home Furnishings, 10.00 (live online only) spicersauctioneers.com

### STERLING VAULT AUCTIONEERS

93-94 West Street, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7EB Tel: +44 (0)1252 720815 Jewellery, 10.30 (live online only) sterlingvault.co.uk

### SATURDAY APRIL 18

### **BIDDLE & WEBB**

Icknield Square, Ladywood Middleway. Birmingham, West Midlands, B16 OPP. Tel: +44 (0)1214 558042 Jewellery, Silver, Watches & Interiors, 10.00

(live online only) biddleandwebb.co.uk 

#### **ELSTOB & ELSTOB AUCTIONEERS** Ripon Business Park, Charter Road, Ripon. North Yorkshire, HG4 1AJ. Tel: +44 (0)1677 333003 Fine Art, Antiques & Jewellery, 10.00 (live online only) 2 elstohandelstoh co uk

Live online only: live auctions listed as 'live online only' have no bidding in person and can be operated by the auctioneer remotely. Bids can be placed online and usually on commission and on the phone - check with the auction house for details. Latest updates available at antiquestradegazette.com/calendar

chaucercollectables.co.uk SPINK & SON

spink.com

(live online only) warringtonauctions.co.uk

# (live online only)

WC1B4FT. Tel: +44 (0)20 7563 4000 (live online only)

AUCTIONS 551 Europa Boulevard, Westbrook, Warrington, Cheshire, WA5 7TP. Tel: +44 (0)1925 658833 A: Home & Garden, 09.00 B: Antiques & Collectables, 10.00 C: Furniture & Pictures, 15.00

### candtauctions.co.uk

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### FRIDAY

MCCARTNEYS Brecon Saleroom, Warren Road, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8EX. Tel: +44 (0)1874 622386 Antique & General Furniture, 10.30 (live online only)

### Auction Calendar

### Visit thesaleroom.com for the latest timed auctions

The Auction Centre Antiques Collectables & Asian Art 08/04/2020 ENDS

East Bristol Auctions 20th Century Interiors 08/04/2020 ENDS

Charterhouse Auctioneers Classic & Vintage Cars ENDS 09/04/2020

William George Diamond Jewellerv 09/04/2020 ENDS

**Keys Fine Art Auctioneers** Pictures & Prints

ENDS 10/04/2020 Tate Ward Jewellery, Watches & Handbags ENDS 10/04/2020

William George Jewellery, Collectables & Handbags 12/04/2020 ENDS

Humbert & Ellis Militaria 12/04/2020 **FNDS** 

Stephan Welz & Co Art, Books, Furniture, Silver, Jewellery & Cars ENDS 12/04/2020

McTear's Whisky Malts ENDS 12/04/2020 McTear's Whisky Blends 13/04/2020 ENDS

Charterhouse Auctioneers Luxury Goods & Antiques ENDS 14/04/2020

Ramco UK Ex-Military Band Musical Instruments 14/04/2020 **FNDS** 

McTear's Wine **FNDS** 14/04/2020 **Opus Auctioneers & Valuers** 18th -21st Century British, European & American Glass 15/04/2020 ENDS

William George Diamond Jewellery ENDS 15/04/2020 William George Loose Diamonds & Set Jewellery **ENDS** 16/04/2020

Wigan Auction House Model Toys & Vintage Items 16/04/2020 ENDS

William George Antiques & Collectables

16/04/2020

ENDS

William George Watches, Antiques & Collectables ENDS 17/04/2020

Warrington & Northwich Auction Coins, Watches & Jewellery ENDS 19/04/2020

William George Rare Coins & Sovereigns 21/04/2020 ENDS

William George Fine Art & Sculpture 22/04/2020 ENDS

William George Royal Letters & Photographs, Documents & Postal History 23/04/2020 **FNDS** 

McTear's Jewellery ENDS 23/04/2020

Moore Allen & Innocent Antique Furniture & Home Interiors ENDS 26/04/2020 McTear's Contemporary Pictures

ENDS 26/04/2020 William George

Staffordshire Estate Clearance ENDS 26/04/2020

William George Jewellery & Loose Stones 28/04/2020 ENDS

William George

Antique Furniture & Decorative Salvage ENDS 29/04/2020

William George Sports & Classic Cars ENDS 30/04/2020

### This is a selection of timed auctions on thesaleroom.com. Visit the website to see the full list.

#### KENT AUCTION GALLERIES

Unit C. Highfield Estate, Bradley Road. Folkestone, Kent, CT19 6DD. Tel: +44 (0)1303 246810 Antiques. Fine Furnishings. Art & Fashion, 10.00

(live online only) kentauctiongalleriesltd.co.uk

### STAMFORD AUCTIONS

Martin Markhams Yard, Ryhall Road, Stamford, PE9 1XF. Tel: +44 (0) 7779 439642 Antiques, China, Glass, Jewellery, Collectables & Furniture, 12.00

(live online only) stamfordauction.co.uk

### SUNDAY

### LOTS ROAD

71 Lots Road, London, SW10 ORN. Tel: +44 (0)20 7376 6800 Antique Furniture, Art, Carpets & Rugs (live online only) lotsroad.com

SULLIVANS AUCTIONS

Pant Industrial Estate. Merthyr Tydfil South Glamorgan, CF48 2SR. Tel: +44 (0)1685 384603 Furniture & Fine Art. 10.00 (live online only) sullivansauctions.com

### WILKINSON'S AUCTIONEERS

The Old Salerooms, 28 Netherhall Road Doncaster South Yorkshire DN1 2PW Tel: +44 (0)1302 814884 Obiet d'Art & Bijouterie, 10.00 (live online only) wilkinsons-auctioneers.co.uk

#### MONDAY APRIL 20

~

forthcoming sales dates

**Rachel Tolley Calendar Controller** 

racheltolley@antiquestradegazette.com

FELLOWS Augusta House, 19 Augusta Street, Birmingham, West Midlands, B18 6JA. Tel: +44 (0)1212 122131 Jewellery & Watches, 10.00 (live online only) Fellows.co.uk

Please inform us of changes to your

BN7 2PD. Tel: +44 (0)1273 472503 Gorringes.co.uk

#### The Bicton Street Auction Rooms, Exmouth, Devon, FX8 2RT. Tel: +44 (0)1395 267403 Antiques & Collectables, 10.00 (live online only) piersmotleyauctions.co.uk

TUESDAY

2

#### BLOOMFIELD ALICTIONS Unit 22, Owen O'Cork Mill, 288 Beersbridge Road, Belfast, BT5 5DX. Tel: +44 (0)28 9045 6404 Antique Furniture & Effects, 18.30 (live online only) bloomfieldauctions.co.uk

KINGSLEY AUCTIONS 112-118 Market Street, Hovlake, Wirral, Merseyside, CH47 3BG Tel: +44 (0)1516 325821 Antiques & Collectables, 10.30 (live online only)

Buying at Auction - a general guide Always read the auctioneer's terms and conditions for full details.

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A charge made by the auctioneer to the buyer as a percentage of the hammer price. This fee is usually subject to VAT.

### Purchase price:

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The buyer should establish the rate of buyer's premium and other add-on costs such as VAT and factor them into prices prior to bidding. Auctioneers may also charge fees such as a minimum lot fee. Lots consigned from outside the EU may also incur additional charges: look out for symbols denoting this in the cataloguing. Payment:

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Online bidding allows you to follow an auction as it is happening via the internet and bid in real time against those in the room or on the telephone. To participate

in this way you need to register your details before the sale just as you would at the auction house. Typically, the lot being sold will be shown on screen vith the level of bidding displayed alongside. For the internet bidder it is then simply a matter of clicking to register a bid.

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If an auctioneer offers delivery, buyers will need to factor in the cost if they cannot make their own arrangements.

If an auctioneer does not offer a delivery service they will usually be able to refer the buyer to service providers who operate in their area

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Living artists and the descendants of artists deceased within the last 70 years are entitled to receive a result royalty each time their work is bought. The right applies only when the sale price reaches or exceeds the sterling equivalent of  $\in$ 1,000 and is calculated on a sliding scale.

Please note ARR is calculated in euros. Auctioneers will apply current exchange rates.

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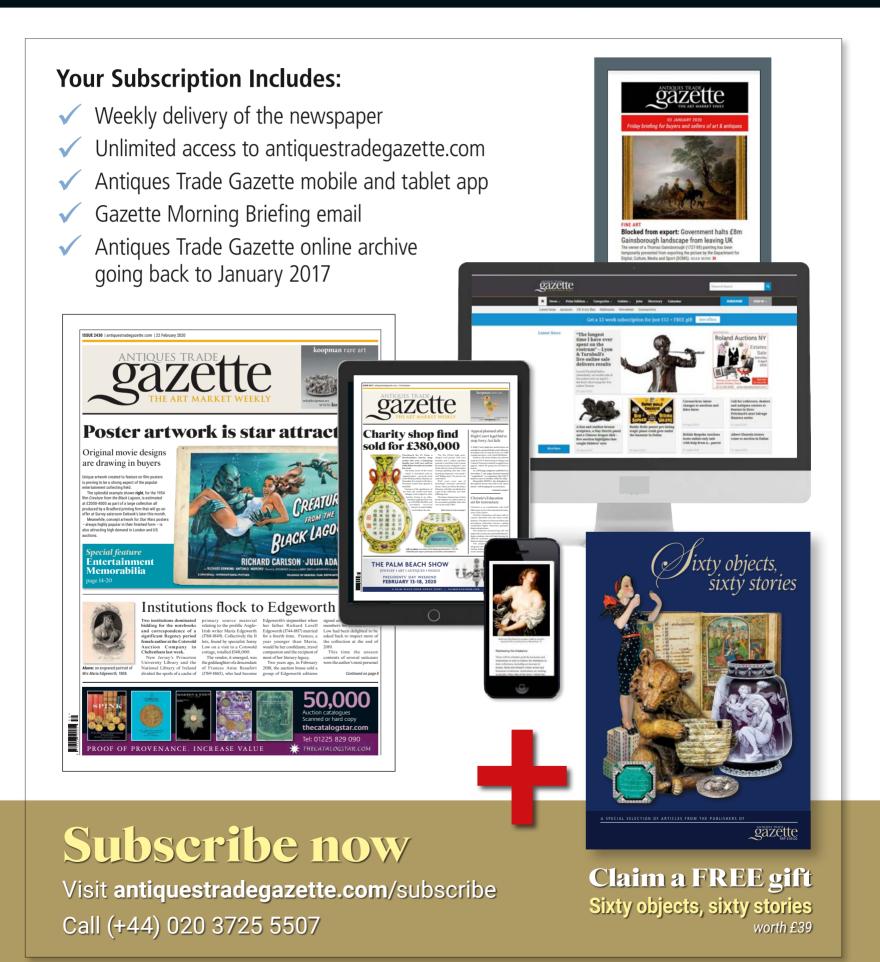
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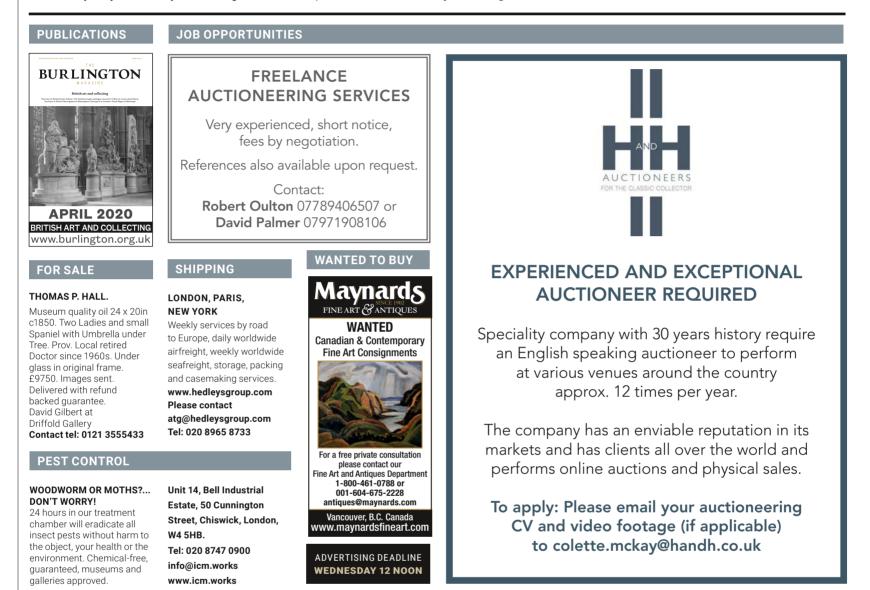
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