

July 2009 Lewes Auction Newsletter

## View from the Rostrum

by Aaron Dean BA MRICS

Analysts of the market and its future may be predicting a long period of recovery and hardship, but the bidders in our auction this week appeared determined to defy the City soothsayers.

It is some time since a piece of furniture was the top selling lot, but the rarity and beauty of the Ceylonese table was virtually guaranteed to excite buyers. Elsewhere in the sale a collection of early gold coins in good condition and from rare years saw some extremely strong bidding from numismatists from all over the UK and highlights the strength of niche markets in such unpredictable times.

I am also pleased to announce that the set of paintings depicting 'The Barbarous Murder of an Unknown Sailor', which took place at the Devil's Punchbowl in Surrey in 1786, were sold to the Haslemere Museum where they will form the highlight of a forthcoming local exhibition.

I now look forward to a bumper September sale which features the second of my annual book auctions. With over 200 lots already, including many signed first editions as well as letters from, T E Lawrence, Florence Nightingale and Charles Dickens, I have 'Great Expectations' for the auction.



Above: 19th C. English School, set of 5 oils on canvas depicting 'The Barbarous Murder of an Unknown Sailor at Hindhead', 32 x 44in

**Sold for £4,800**

Left: A mid 19th century Ceylonese "peacock" centre table, 3ft 11ins.

**Sold for £18,000**



An early 20th century German carved and painted wood Noah's Ark, 14ins.  
**Sold for £4,400**



An early 20th century French painted tinplate clockwork paddle steamer with a lion's head figurehead and a smaller hull with matching figurehead, 22 & 15ins.  
**Sold for £4,200**



A George III carved giltwood and gesso mirror, 5ft x 2ft 9ins.  
**Sold for £4,600**



A set of six Emile Gallé marquetry and birch dining chairs.  
**Sold for £3,000**



A George IV gold sovereign, 1830 that sold for £1,050. Part of a private collection of coins that achieved a sales total of £13,000



An 18ct white gold mounted solitaire diamond pendant.  
**Sold for £10,500**



Lesser Ury (German, 1861-1931), Seated man listening to a child reading, signed and dated 1884, 40 x 26in.  
**Sold for £8,500**



An Edwardian mahogany and boxwood line inlaid dressing table, 2ft 11ins.  
**Sold for £7,000**



An impressive René Lalique 'Oran' pattern opalescent glass vase, 10.25ins.  
**Sold for £14,000**

A 1920s platinum sapphire and solitaire diamond ring.  
**Sold for £7,400**



After Corot, Trees in a landscape at sunset, oil on board. bought at Agnews, c.1890 by Sir Edward Clousden, Founder of the Bank of Montreal, bears signature, 4.75 x 7.5in.  
**Sold for £12,000**

# Preview of our next sale



A selection of letters from the archive of Helen Anrep.  
Estimate: £50,000-80,000

## An important archive of letters relating to Helen Anrep and the Bloomsbury Group

Helen Anrep (née Maitland) became involved with the Bloomsbury circle in 1924. She first met Roger Fry at a party at the studio of Vanessa Bell. Although not an artist or intellectual herself, she was deeply interested in the arts.

Following this encounter, Anrep left her husband, the Russian artist Boris Anrep and lived with Fry, as man and wife, providing critical support for his work, until his death in 1934.

This intriguing collection of material contains many letters, often of a personal nature, from and to such correspondents as Vanessa Bell, Roger Fry, Augustus John and Virginia Woolf.

Bloomsbury scholars will welcome this opportunity to acquire further insights into the complex web of relationships within the group. The archive has passed by descent to the present owner.



An Arts & craft silver two-handled biscuit barrel.  
Makers: The Guild of Handicraft, probably designed by Charles Robert Ashbee, London, 1904. Height 7.5ins, width across handles 9in, gross weight 33oz.  
**Estimate: £8,000-12,000**



Roger Eliot Fry (1866-1934), oil on canvas, Interior scene with a lady standing by a piano, signed, 24.36in x 30in.  
**Estimate: £4,000-6,000**

**Fine Art, Antiques & Collectables Auction: 2nd & 3rd Sept 2009**

**Entry Deadline: 12th August; Viewing: 28th, 29th Aug & 1st Sept**

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