

May 2010 Lewes Auction Newsletter

View from the Rostrum

by Clifford Lansberry

The glamour of celebrities past visited the saleroom for the May sale, namely Marilyn Monroe, Gracie Fields and the Bloomsbury Group.

A rare 'unofficial' photograph of Marilyn revealing her natural state attracted interest from the local press, while the day after the Cameron-Clegg coalition was announced the front page of the Argus led with 'Unpublished photos of Taylor and Burton', clearly considered by the editor to be a more enduring and popular marriage. The images were part of a fascinating collection of memorabilia relating to Gracie Fields which totalled over £13,000.

The biggest story for the media however was the collection of Bloomsbury Group paintings and

artefacts from Grace Higgens, housekeeper at Charleston. The auctioneers are often asked to promote items and make every effort to do so; however success with the media always lies with the 'human interest' angle.

This story contained all the necessary ingredients and appeared on BBC news, radio and national press; the coverage fuelled by the old-world charm and amusing anecdotes recalled by John Higgens' memories of the comings, goings and eccentricities of Vanessa Bell and her entourage. The collection raised over £45,000, undoubtedly assisted by the publicity.



Left: Duncan Grant (1885-1978), oil on canvas, Roquebrune, signed and dated '60, inscribed verso 'For Grace in memory of Roquebrune 1960', 21 x 18in.

Sold for £15,000



Leif-Erik Nygards, a photograph of Marilyn Monroe photographed in Los Angeles at Bel Air Hotel at the end of her last photo shoot, 11.5 x 15.5ins.

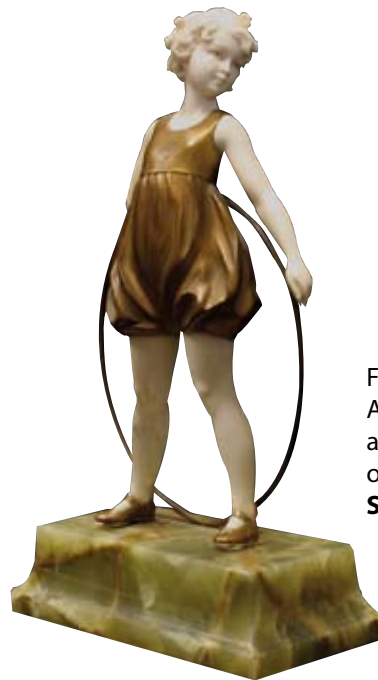
Sold for £1,700



A stamp collection of Great Britain, mostly Victorian, including 23 Penny Blacks.
Sold for £16,000



A Chinese porcelain model of a seated hound, 20.5ins.
Sold for £7,000



Ferdinand Preiss, An Art Deco ivory and bronze model of a hoop girl, 8.5ins.
Sold for £2,200



A pair of late 19th century French ormolu vases, Paris, 15ins.
Sold for £2,500



A 21 piece Chinese Qian Lung export tobacco leaf variant part dinner service.
Sold for £8,000



Joseph Jansen (German 1829-1905), oil on canvas, Beneath Mont Blanc, signed, 37 x 51 in.
Sold for £5,000



A George II two seater settee, W 3ft 7ins.
Sold for £2,600



Robert 'Mouseman' Thompson, dining table and chairs
H 1ft 3ins, W 1ft 4ins.
Sold for £4,400



A 19th century Italian hardstone intaglio carved with classical heads and signed Matxant, 1.25ins.
Sold for £4,000



David Shepherd (1931-), oil on canvas, 'Straight Deal', signed, 16 x 20 in.
Sold for £12,000



Duncan Grant (1885-1978), oil on canvas, Cattle and Granary (view from Charleston), signed & dated '48, 18 x 27 in
Sold for £8,500

Preview of our next sale



Above: Distinguished Conduct medal group to Colour Sergeant LFA Redderson, West Kent Regt.

Estimate: £6,000-8,000

Left: Marina B, 18ct gold Atomo necklace and earrings.

Estimate: £5,000-7,000



Left: Ken Howard, oil on canvas, Model before a Window.

Estimate: £8,000-12,000

Next Fine Art & Antiques Auction: 30th June & 1st July

Entry Deadline: 9th June;

Viewing: 25th, 26th & 28th June

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