

October 2009 Lewes Auction Newsletter

View from the Rostrum

by Andrew Elliston-Elhinn

Our October auction featured a strong showing of decorative arts, with many important pieces of Art Nouveau and Art Deco in the sale, including pieces by such top makers as Hector Guimard, René Lalique and Emile Gallé. Such a large selection is rare in a provincial auction and attracted international interest.

Other 'golden names' appeared elsewhere in the sale. An 18ct gold sculpture, "Mincalo" by Dame Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975), commissioned by Morris Singer Foundry in London as part of the 'Artists in Gold' series in the 1970s, fetched £36,000, while a small concert grand piano by Fazioli made £24,000. Similarly, works by Frederick Focht, Eduard Stellmacher and the clockmaker Vuillamy all sold well too.



The clock section featured a remarkable private collection of 120 assorted French clocks, realising over £100,000 in total. Of the highest quality and condition, the collection was formed by Mr. Bernard Dombey, who for many years ran an antique clock shop in Kensington.

In the Oriental section, a Japanese Meiji period kodanza made an exceptional price, reflecting the high demand for pieces of such quality. Amongst the European ceramics we saw good prices for the first part of a large collection of Royal Dux and look forward to the second instalment in our next auction.

Overall in this sale, the buyers seemed to be looking for one-off statement pieces for interiors and dealers for something spectacular to catch the eye of buyers. Looking ahead to December, traditionally the best sale of the year, we will be offering some exceptional jewellery as well as having a special section of fine wines, champagne and port.

Dame Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975), "Mincalo". Overall 10.5in.
Sold for £36,000



Attributed to Hector Guimard (1867-1942), A French Art Nouveau ormolu five light chandelier, 39ins.
Sold for £3,800



A pair of Royal Dux figural vases, 23ins, from a private collection which sold for a total of £18,000.
Part two of the collection to be sold in December.



A Lalique roses pattern veilluse brûle-parfums, 7.5ins.
Sold for £6,000



A pair of 18th century Blanc de chine models of elephants and riders, 7.25ins.
Sold for £3,600



An Emile Gallé cameo glass 'Eagle and Mountain' lamp, 27.5ins.
Sold for £6,000



A James II gold five guinea coin, 1688
Sold for £3,800



Frederick Charles Focht (1879-?), A large bronze sculpture.
Sold for £6,400



A Liberty & Co Tudric pewter mantel timepiece, 11ins.
Sold for £3,200



An impressive Art Nouveau Austrian vase by Eduard Stellmacher (Amphora), 26.25ins.
Sold for £7,000



Above: A Fazioli small concert grand piano, length 7ft 4ins.
Sold for £24,000



A Regency mahogany drop dial wall clock by Vuillamy, 24in.
Sold for £6,500



Right: A platinum set solitaire diamond ring.
Sold for £7,000



An 18th century French longcase clock, 8ft 2ins.
Sold for £11,000.
Part of the Bernard Dombey Collection which sold for a total of over £100,000



A Japanese Meiji period shakudo work kodanza, 11.5ins.
Sold for £12,000



An 18th century chinoiserie lacquered cabinet on later stand, 5ft 8in x 3ft 5ins.
Sold for £4,600

Preview of our next sale



Irma Stern (1894-1966) oil on canvas,
Still Life of Magnolias and Gourds,
signed, 30 x 28in.
Estimate: £30,000-50,000



Irma Stern (South African, 1894-1966),
Portrait of a young Malay girl, signed and
dated '1948', oil on canvas, 24 1/8 x 20 3/8in.
Estimate: £40,000-60,000



December Wine Sale

Gorrings are currently accepting consignments for our sale of wine, spirits and champagne on 9th December (entry deadline 18th November).

If you require a free valuation of your wine, please contact Gorrings on 01273 472503. Our wine consultant, Matthew Britnell will be pleased to assist.

Left: Château d'Yquem 1967 (£1,800 - 2,200 for four bottles). Centre: Champagne Billecart-Salmon Cuvée N.F. Billecart 1966 (£1,400 - 1,800 per case of twelve). Right: One Château Lafleur 1982 Pomerol (£1,500-1,800)

Fine Art, Antiques & Collectables Auction: 9th & 10th Dec 2009

Entry Deadline: 18th Nov; Viewing: 4th, 5th & 7th Dec

Enquiries: 01273 472503 email: clientservices@gorrings.co.uk