

Our first selected Antiques & Fine Art auction of 2015 was hugely successful with a good crowd in the auction rooms throughout the day and fierce competition from over 370 online bidders from 20 different countries around the world. A massive amount of commission bids were left from expectant absentee bidders, there were also numerous phone lines booked on all the important lots.

The day opened with a collection of 32 lots of pottery and porcelain from the collection of the late Griselda Lewis who lived in Woodbridge. The collection totalled over £5,500 with many of the pieces staying in Suffolk.

The top price of the day also came from the same Woodbridge estate and was provided by an oil on canvas by John Northcote Nash depicting sunset on a Scottish loch which sold for £6,400. Closely followed by a small oil on board by Robert Polhill Bevan entitled "Return to the Stable" which sold for £3,400. A work by the mid 20th Century artist, Carel Weight, entitled "The Fisherman" sold for £1,100.

An early 19th Century South European inlaid oak coffer was strongly contested by four telephone lines before being eventually sold to an online bidder at £2,600. An 18th Century burr walnut and herringbone cross-banded chest of two short and three long drawers of wonderful colour but in need of restoration sold at £1,800. Also in need of attention was a George III gilt framed wall mirror with a broken floral scroll pediment which did not deter a West Country collector from paying £1,700.

As is usually the case with auctions over the last few years, Chinese items did well, with a small carved Cantonese jewellery casket selling for £1,450. A single 19th Century Chinese baluster floor vase with brightly coloured enamelled decoration of flowers and artefacts sold for £1,100 and a pair of Cantonese baluster vases, (later converted to table lamp bases), sold for £850.

A local lot that created much pre-sale interest was a 19th Century elm and yew wood child's "Mendlesham" chair which despite extensive damage to one of the arms, sold for £750. A 19th Century iron garden seat which had for many years stood in a quiet courtyard garden in Orford sold for £1,000.

In the jewellery section an 18 carat gold Tiger's eye diamond and emerald set ram's head torque brooch in the style of Tiffany's, sold for £1,100; an 18 carat gold tri-colour mesh work necklace and similar bracelet sold for £850 and £675 respectively.

Other prices of note included an early 20th Century oak D end extending dining table and 10 similar period chairs, £1,800; a quartetto of 19th Century inlaid rosewood occasional tables £700; a walnut and kingwood cross-banded bureau plat bearing a label for Howard & Sons, £700; a large Victorian oak pedestal writing desk £600; Arthur Gowers oil on canvas seascape study dated 1886 £700; Robert Buhler study of Dedham £700; a continental white metal and enamelled cigarette case, decorated with a steeple chasing scene £300; a George III silver baluster tankard, *Newcastle 1787* £400; a William IV silver hair coarsing trophy cup £380; two 19th Century unframed samplers £380; a 19th Century French rosewood and kingwood two tier occasional table £500; an Antique cast iron garden chair £550.

The next auction will be held on the 13th May; closing date for entries April 17th.

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01728 746323

Campsea Ashe, Nr Wickham Market, Suffolk IP13 0PS