

Silverwoods of Lancashire

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SILVERWOODS' AUGUST SALE 'MUSIC' TO VENDORS' EARS

Exceptional prices across the board were achieved for vendors at Silverwoods' 25th August Antiques and Fine Art sale.

All available phone lines were booked by eager buyers for a very special harp by London maker, Sebastian Erard 'harp and pianoforte maker in ordinary to her Majesty and the Royal Family'. The beautiful example in satinwood with gilt Grecian decoration, despite the best efforts of the phone bidders and its need for considerable amounts of restoration, went to an internet bidder for £2,200. The following musical lot – a Lachenal concertina with 31 ivory buttons was sold in the room for £550, doubling its estimate.

Eight lots of antique glass (some pictured), chosen out of a house clearance and meticulously researched by Silverwoods' glass expert Jacquie Fairburn achieved a total of £1,640 even though some were damaged. The provenance attracted bids from the internet and in the room and the collection trebled its estimate.

£1,100 secured a commission bidder a pair of unusual early 19th century painted pine 'dummy boards' of a lady and her suitor. It is unclear what they were originally used for – a practical joke, an early form of house security to give the illusion of people in different rooms or perhaps even to give the casual passer-by the impression that the owners had more friends than really had!

Contd/2

August sale/2

N.W artists do well in the saleroom and two Alfred Heaton Cooper landscapes of the Lakeland area were, as always, very popular, with the finest selling in the room for £1,300 – nearly ten times the conservative estimate. Strong interest was expressed in three local oil-on-canvas portraits of the Waddington family dating from the late 18 – 19C. Believed to be wife, husband and daughter, phone and internet bidders paid nearly £1,500 for them.

Senior auctioneer, Wilf Mould's earlier predictions this year of silver, gold, diamonds, antique watches, wines and other solid investment items in uncertain times increasing in value were born out across the sections. Highlights were a heavy William IV silver tea service that sold in the room for £1,500, a gold charm bracelet with 14 charms going to the internet for £900 and a two carat diamond solitaire ring which went under the hammer for a superb £4,000. Watches were also popular – a 1950 Rolex Oyster Perpetual wrist watch sold for £1,400 to an internet bidder and a gold cased pocket watch was snapped up via telephone for £1,100, doubling estimate.

Ceramics, furniture, clocks and a collection of jade provided a mixed bag of results. However, a pleasing £900 internet bid for a much-admired 17th century elm top refectory table, £650 for a Victorian Arts and Crafts octagonal sundial and a 17th century carved oak coffer achieving £550, again going to the internet, illustrated that the both local and international market is in the mood to invest in quality antiques.

Entries (until 20th September) are invited for the next Antiques and Fine Art auction at Silverwoods which will take place on Thursday 27th October. This will additionally feature a strong, and widely publicised in the trade, special section of 'Militaria' – items such as medals, antique (decommissioned) weaponry, memorabilia and other Forces antiquities. Anyone with these types of antiques is encouraged to bring them forward for sale.

Viewing for the burgeoning weekly antique and collectables sale at Silverwoods starts every Wednesday at 9.00, with the sale itself now getting underway at an earlier time of 12.00. Visit www.silverwoods.co.uk to find out more.

You can bring in any items you are considering selling at auction for either the weekly or Antiques and Fine Art sales on any Monday (including bank holidays) from 9 – 3 for free, no obligation valuation and assessment, or call 01200 423322 for an appointment.

– Ends -

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