

Online Auction #187 Report: The Fine Sale, 14th-15th October 2020

1064 lots offered over two days. Total sales: £232,111. There were many strong sections and highlights in this auction, and quite a few surprise “sleepers”. Beginning with a large section of jewellery, followed by watches and chains, there was strong demand throughout for precious metals due to the obvious economic situation globally. Vintage watches were popular as always, with typically good results for Rolex and Omega etc, but also noted again the growing interest in mid-range Seikos and early digital watches. Ladies’ watches also picking up in demand. Pocket-watch collecting must be experiencing a resurgence judging by prices such as £500 hammer for a George III silver pair cased watch, and £1620 for a Waltham 18ct half hunter (well above bullion).

On Day 2 the silver section met with a high rate of success (the silver price is also historically high). A selection of vertu followed in which we saw the highest price of the sale: £9600 hammer for the 18th Century Swiss enamelled gold snuff box. Other highlights of the section were a Kinora “flick-book” viewer with 6 reels, which made £650 against an estimate of just £200. £260 was paid for a novelty Adolf Hitler pin cushion where you stick pins in his rear end. There were some gems in the picture section such as a “Giles” original pen and ink cartoon sold for £2000, a Chinese enamelled porcelain plaque for £1540, a set of WWII home-front propaganda flyers for £950, and a painting by Scottish artist George Rennie for £420 among others. After a good section of ceramics where we saw demand for shipwreck porcelain, there followed one of the best sections – the Toys and Models. This contained some collections of classic vintage toy cars with original boxes, and the online bidding was contested by multiple phonelines. The highest price for an individual Corgi toy was £340 for the James Bond Aston Martin DB5, and the highest for a Dinky was £220 for a ‘Refuse Wagon’ in other words a rubbish truck (what a charming toy!). Amongst the remaining curios in the general works of art most notable were the enamelled signs, especially the railway signs: ‘Station Master’ and the ‘Waiting and Ladies Room’ which went for £360 each.

The next auction will be ‘Paper Collectables’ 31st October, followed by Coins, Medals & Militaria 14th-15th November. Our next Fine Sale is scheduled for 3rd December, with consignment open until 30th October.



Lot 647: 18th Century Swiss enamelled gold snuff box, sold for £9600 hammer.