

## Auction #172 Report

Our Coins & Collectables Auction held 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January 2020 achieved total sales of £386,000.

This was a strong start to the year, and an indicator that people are back in “business mode” after the big political question (you know what) was settled. It was an auction of many highlights. The medals and militaria had to be split across both days since there was so much material to offer. Exceptional WWI casualty medals were sold, including lot 385 (£2300 for a single star!) to Capt Duncan Lennox Martin KIA on the first day of the Somme. Gallantry groups included lot 594 (hammer £4200) the MC and bar group to Major Richard Rapier Stokes (nephew of the inventor of the Stokes mortar), MP for Ipswich and Managing Director of Ransomes & Rapier Ltd. This was accompanied by several academic and professional awards to Richard Christopher Rapier, co-founder of the company.

Another outstanding medal group sold was lot 662, the WWII RAF PoW group to F/E Anthony George Springthorpe. This was accompanied by his Caterpillar Club badge, and his Stalag Luft III tag. The time between his baling out and being captured suggests that he was “on the run” in German occupied territory for five months!

There was a large quantity of ‘type medals’ from a huge variety of campaigns. This included the collection of the late Major Guy Ackers, a fondly remembered client of ours. His collection included Russian items such as lot 1662: The Soviet Order of Lenin in gold, platinum and enamel, along with the Hero of Socialist Labour Gold Star, and identifying paperwork. This pair sold for £1900 hammer. There were also British Indian campaign medals and Orders, such as lot 1670: The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire Companions Neck Badge, which sold for £1050 hammer.

The biggest story surrounding this auction was the presence of a collection of Cardiff City Football Club programmes and ephemera, which caused quite a stir in the Welsh media in the lead-up. This collection, estimated at £15,000 to £20,000 achieved a combined hammer price of over £44,000. This gives you some impression of the interest generated. Many of the items related to the 1925 and 1927 FA Cup Finals, which Cardiff lost in the first instance (one-nil to Sheffield), and in the second achieved an historic one-nil victory against Arsenal. This was the first and, to this day, the only time a non-English side has won the FA Cup. Understandably the club was keen to recover much of this material, and we believe they were successful. The collector, having saved these items at a time they were considered of no value, we hope is as happy with the result as we are.

The ancient coins saw many interesting Roman silver and bronze coins sold; such as £380 hammer for a ‘tetrastyle temple’ denarius of M. Volteius, lot 1197. Anglo-Saxon coins fetched pleasing results such as £400 each for two choice sceats, and £850 for an Ipswich penny of Cnut – a really exceptional price.

Masonic Medals are a hot market presently, with interest especially in Victorian Stewards jewels. A pair of these, lot 1423, in at just £40 to £50, jumped up to £400 online straight away! Post-WWI Stewards jewels tend to be of modest value, it is usually the elaborate Founders jewels of the 20thC to watch out for, but anything early, Stewards included, are scarce and often beautifully made. Another notable lot in the Exonomia was lot 1444: A “John Dee” style magic amulet, probably 17<sup>th</sup> century or maybe later; in low grade but very rare, it sold for £220 hammer. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century tokens are highly sought-after. The results for these were very promising.

A good array of weapons was offered. A particularly unusual item was lot 1499: A 15<sup>th</sup> Century “hand cannon”, a very early form of fire-arm, which sold for £420. I wouldn't fancy holding that and lighting the match!

Gold is “up” due to global events, so the sovereigns and guineas were strongly contested. Earlier sovereigns such as George III and IV have been pushing the book price, so I think these may be under-valued currently. The silver and copper/bronze milled was also well fought-for so we're confident in the market for English coins all round. The craze for Royal Mint continues unabated.

Certain countries are putting the Krause book in the shade, such as Iraq, where we are seeing prices up to over £500 for coins that 'book at' a fraction of that. British Empire Trade Dollars are strong, due to prosperity in the region they were used: Malaysia and Singapore. The Bulk Coins saw a crowded saleroom as usual: Lots of Ebayers getting in gear for another year.

Similarly with the stamps, lots of collections went sky high, for their dealing potential. Same with the postcards and the cigarette-cards.

In summary, we are delighted with the results for our first auction of 2020. We look forward to our first dedicated Banknote Sale on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, the Fine Sale 19-20 Feb, and the next Coins & Collectables 28-29 March. Consignment for March closes 14 February.



The collection of Cardiff City FC material sold for a combined hammer price of over £44,000