

## Online Auction #178 Report: Watches, Clocks, Silver & Collectables; 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

451 lots were offered, with under 20 unsold; the majority selling above estimate in an absolute scramble for antiques and collectables that we are witnessing during this global crisis. Our online auctions are proving to be a lifeline to buyers and sellers, as “the show must go on” and demand has not faltered. If anything the market for collectables has boomed since restrictions on domestic and international mobility. People are taking solace in their hobbies, and also looking for sound investments.

Highlights of the sale included Rolex and Omega wristwatches, selling between £500 to £7400 hammer. All of them sold above estimate, in many cases double or more. These included smaller dial, early manual wind and ladies watches, which seemed as popular as the usual gents’ GMT and Seamaster style ones. Gold pocket watches were selling over double estimate and thus far beyond their bullion value, indicating strong interest as collectables. There were fierce bidding wars even on lesser known Swiss brands; essentially any piece of fine horology is hot property. Even Rolex and Omega ‘advertising clocks’ were going way above expected value.

The Silver section sold very strongly. Standout lots included 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russian ‘vodka tot’ cups, enamelled spoons and a nice kovsh; these selling up to £500 each. Other exotic silver such as Chinese, Burmese, and Indian fetched high prices. Closer to home: Scottish silverware was highly sought-after.

Moving to the General Antiques & Collectables section there were many further highlights. A Curta mechanical calculator fetched £560 hammer, a White Star Line blanket achieved £1150, and a Hardy Bros. ‘Alnwick’ fly fishing reel went for £700.

The star of the section was lot 392 (featured in national media) the bagpipes recovered from the Somme, belonging to Private William Alexander Scott, who played for the Tyneside Scottish regiment on the first day of the battle and was killed in action upon reaching the German trenches.

Fine ceramics soared above estimate. The whole auction was fought-over intensely with just under 20 unsold lots as mentioned.

Owing to the current strength of demand we urge all potential sellers to contact us immediately to discuss consignment. Future auctions can be scheduled around high value collections, as online and postal sales can be easily and quickly arranged. These are no less popular than our public and printed auctions, in fact they are proving to be even more successful. We will of course re-open for public viewing when the lockdown is lifted.

Look out for the Coins, Medals & Militaria Sale 30-31 May, and the Toys & Paper Collectables (stamps, cards, programmes & ephemera) 17-18 June.

Into July we have another Coins, Medals & Militaria Sale 4-5 July, with consignment until 22 May. 11 July will be another of our popular Banknote Sales (consign by 12 June), and 15 July is scheduled for more Jewellery, Watches & Silver (consign by 19 June). We look forward to hearing from you.



Lot 392: Tyneside Scottish bagpipes from the Somme, sold for £4600 hammer.