

Online Auction #192 Report: Coins, Medals & Militaria, 23-24 January 2021

An amazing sale. 2401 lots offered with over 90% success rate. Combined top estimate of all lots £282,294 - total hammer £343,519 - £417,700 including premium!

There was great interest in this auction, being held at a time when collectors and dealers have been unable to attend fairs for a long time due to lockdown. The demand for collectables is high, and all sections were fiercely contested. This is a seller's market for sure.

Beginning with the Weapons we saw significant results for divers' knives, flintlock pistols and carbines. The Boer War Lee Enfield carbine, Lot 17, made £3200 hammer against a top estimate of £2000. A diver's knife in at £60 top went for £560.

The Medals & Militaria sold over two days included many highlights. Some surprises included £850 for an ID bracelet in at £40-£50, Lot 1173. The recipient KIA in a distinguished action at the Somme. A house brick impacted with a musket ball from the Battle of Waterloo made £900 (est. £120-£140). The highest price of the section was £2100 for the 1945 DFC to Ramwell, who took part in all three attacks on the "Tirpitz". Overall, the sales rate of the section was notably high.

The Coin 'room' saw the highest success rate we've ever seen, with most prices exceeding estimates. Nothing went unsold in the English Gold. High prices were paid for rare Sovereigns, by those looking to safeguard money in assets. The 1841 Sovereign, lot 1251, in better than Fine achieved £10,000 hammer: Well above what was expected, but being a classic rarity it's not sold often enough to define an absolute "book" value. Some rare copper and bronze varieties were sold including a very scarce 1860/59 Victorian young head copper Penny in nVF, which went for £1700. Very hard to get in any grade.

There was a scramble for Bulk Coin Lots, even more than usual, due to all the online sellers hunting for stock. Even though viewing was conducted remotely by picture request, bidders seemed more than happy to take a gamble in many cases.

Part One of the Isabella Collection of Short Cross Silver Pennies was very well received. Zero unsolds, and prices well exceeding estimates in most cases. We are so pleased to be able to offer parts Two and Three in March and May, and we are glad to achieve these results for the life-long collector of these specialist coins.

Forthcoming auctions include: Paper Collectables (stamps, cards, ephemera etc) 3rd February. The Fine Sale 17-18 February. The Banknote Sale 27 February. Coins, Medals & Militaria 27-28 March. Consignment for the March Coins & Medals is open until 12th February. We encourage all sellers to make use of the extraordinary demand for collectables at this time.



Lot 1251: Sovereign 1841, rare date, F/GF. Estimate £5000 - £6000, sold for £10,000 hammer.