

Online Auction #194 Report: The Fine Sale, 17th-18th February 2021

Total sales: £200,321

Another strong online sale with many outstanding prices.

The Jewellery section yielded strong results since many attractive pieces were on offer. The highest price of the section was £5700 hammer for an 18ct white gold tennis bracelet set with diamonds. Vintage watches were popular as ever. Watches from extinct brands Coresa and Universal Genève, made £500 and £2100 (multiple times estimate). An elegant 1960 Omega Seamaster with original case from Croydon's Ipswich went for over twice top estimate at £1100.

Following this came perhaps the most remarkable section of the sale – a collection of carved wooden figurines by the late Harold Pepper. His hobby was researching and carving figures of quaint and sometimes infamous historic personalities. Many of these were especially relevant to East Anglian local history and legends. The pre-sale estimate of these 144 figures was just £3000 combined (folk art being difficult to judge). In the end the combined hammer prices exceeded £15,000 having caused much excitement and many enquiries from interested bidders. By far the highest price within the section was £2800 paid for just two figures; those of Daniel Lambert of Leicester/Stamford, and Edward Bright of Maldon, Essex. These were two of the heaviest men in British history, with Lambert famed for his great strength, and also being the figurehead of a present-day civic society.

A section of fans followed this to round out the first day. £380 was paid for a silk fan depicting a French 'Lebaudy' airship, bi-plane and hot-air balloon.

On the second day we began with the Pictures. The highlights of this section were undoubtedly two original artworks by the cartoonist "Giles". These, featuring a satire of the Monte Carlo Rally 1962, and the other a hen, estimated at £1500 and £400 top, made £4400 and £1800. Giles' originals are always popular, and we often have the privilege of handling these since he lived and worked for much of his life in Ipswich - our town centre featuring a statue of his famous 'Grandma' character.

A large section of Silver followed, with a strong rate of sales throughout – silver being a sought-after metal under present economic conditions. Then the Ceramics saw a group of five Meissen porcelain monkey musicians reach £950 (est. £400).

The Toys & Models category was filled with quality and multiple "sleepers". £480 was paid for two original Sindy dolls, £540 for sixty loose Kenner Star Wars figures (turf out those lofts!), and £850 for a Japanese tin-plate 'Robbie the Robot' toy of Forbidden Planet fame. A well-engineered live steam model stationary engine reached £800. -These were often produced in the garden sheds of local engineers who worked at firms such as Ransomes & Rapier.

Other collectables such as antique novelty biscuit tins sold for hundreds of pounds. These are really quite sought-after. A 19th Century commemorative Nelson snuff box made £320.

Forthcoming auctions include The Banknote Sale 27-28 February, the Coins, Medals & Militaria 27-28 March, and Paper Collectables 14-15 April. Consignments welcome for forthcoming sales of all types, dates to be confirmed shortly. We encourage all sellers to make use of the very high demand for collectables at this time.



The collection of 144 carved wooden figurines of historic personalities by Harold Pepper sold for a combined hammer price of £15,000 (original estimate £3000 upper)

