

Auction #169 Report

Report on our Fine Sale, 9-10 October 2019 (Auction #169): 1466 lots were offered over two days. Total sales: £375,670.

This was a strong auction, with enduring interest in the room, online, and on the phones from the first section to the last.

The jewellers were out in force, after the many diamond and gemstone-set rings. Several antique and designer pieces stood out, such as £460 hammer for a painted miniature marquise ring, in at £150 to £250. A jewelled Military Cross brooch attracted interest from our 'blue sale' militaria collectors; hammer £420 (est. £80 to £120). A modern designer piece by Theo Fennel was sought-after. The highlight of the jewellery was a mysterious antique gold serpent necklace set with diamonds and rubies; in at £500 to £600, the hammer descended at £2900 to the phone.

A large selection of wristwatches were offered including many military pieces. The highest prices overall were for vintage Rolexes once again, such as £15,500 hammer for a Rolex Explorer c.1956, and £12,500 hammer for a Sea-Dweller. "Dirty Dozen" type WWII watches proved popular, such as £2100 hammer for an IWC MK10 (without strap). A MK11 fetched £2800, also without strap. Pocket watches also surprised, including £1400 for an 18ct half hunter by Benson, 1925.

A modern silver singing bird automaton by Martin Gerald and Sid Adler (London 2003) sold for £1700 hammer.

Scottish art attracted interest, with a monochrome abstract gouache by Alan Davies, and a watercolour by David West going for £580 and £850.

The toys were another strong section. The modern premium Corgi and Minichamps models made well-above estimates in all cases. Among the vintage toys the James Bond toy cars excelled. The near-sealed Husky Aston Martin leapt up to £750 online after opening at £50 ! The Corgi version, lot 1065 reached £580 hammer, above an estimate of £150 to £250.

Some Victorian telescopes and microscope slides brought good results in the Scientific section.

Among the fountain pens, a Dunhill lever pen c.1930s decorated with a heron and foliage reached £1300 hammer (for a single pen!).

The books and documents contained many highlights. Groups of Jane Austen and Ian Fleming novels exceeded expectations. A fine Renaissance botany book by Caspar Bauhin 1596 sold for £2000 hammer, against an estimate of £300 to £500. Natural history books always seem to do well. A Roald Dahl signed 1st edition of 'Danny, the Champion of the World' reached £600.

We were surprised at our bidders when two collections of "page 3" negatives by Harry Ormesher and Popperfoto made over 10 times their estimates, at £1050 and £700 (est. £40 to £80 !)

Other outstanding results were seen for 1st editions and early volumes of To Kill a Mockingbird, and Frankenstein/The Modern Prometheus.

Some autographs such as those of Churchill and Dickens sold successfully.

The final surprise of the sale was £1600 hammer for an est. £250-£350 Edwardian walking stick with a concealed dagger, and gun (!) inside. (Obsolete calibre, no license required of course).

We look forward to our 16-17 November Auction of Coins & Collectables, which is going to be another blockbuster. To be available within a few weeks.

Accepting lots for January C&C, and December/Feb Fine Sale. We look forward to hearing from you. The markets remain strong!



Some of the military watches successfully sold in this auction.