

## Online Auction #183 Report: The Fine Sale; 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020

A single-day online sale of jewellery, watches, art and antiques. Quantity of lots offered: 650. Combined sales: £110,000.

Precious metals are in high demand in the current economic climate, hence there were few unsolds in the Jewellery section. For several auctions including this we have noticed a specific demand for opals, with all examples exceeding estimates.

Luxury and vintage wristwatches are in great demand, with collectors and dealers fighting over almost every lot. Besides the Rolexes and Omegas, which are infallibly popular, there was an intriguing price of £360 paid for a Japanese Seiko, lot 334, est. £60. Seiko is typically seen as an affordable mass-produced brand, but their watches have gained a cult/retro following and are growing in collectability.

In the silver section the highest price seen was £1400 hammer for an early Masonic “jewel” (silver pendant). This Georgian, ‘Baldwin Rite’ jewel by the maker Thomas Harper, was hallmarked London 1818. Masonic memorabilia always shows itself to be a strong category of collectables.

Some speculative pictures were sold, the best of which being lot 428, believed to be a portrait of Molière by the Swedish painter Michael Dahl, that went for £1800 hammer. An etching by the American Whistler (James A. M. Whistler, painter of “Whistler’s Mother”) fetched £400. Some antique maps also sold for well-above estimate.

A large collection of Wade and Moorcroft sold solidly, followed by the ever-popular vintage toys. A collection of fine Russian vertu showed an enduring strength in that market. Several Nicholas II period enamelled silver kovsh’ sold between £800 to £1300.

The next Fine Sale will take place 14-15 October - consignment open until 4<sup>th</sup> September.

We look forward to our ‘Paper Collectables’ online sale (books, ephemera, stamps, sporting, postcards & cigarette-cards) this Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July & Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

12-13 September will be our next auction of Coins, Medals & Militaria, with further auctions in multiple categories already scheduled going forwards. The September sale is going to be outstanding, and a good indication that we are getting “back on track” after having been unable to travel and conduct our usual events for much of the year. Many previous clients have helped us to maintain a good standard throughout the lockdown, but our forthcoming outdoor roadshows should awaken many more collections to be offered in our Autumn and Winter sales.



Lot 568: Russian enamelled silver kovsh (1908-1917), sold for £800 hammer.