

Online Auction #185 Report: Coins, Medals & Militaria; 12th-13th September 2020

What a fantastic sale! 2312 lots were offered between two rooms over two days, with total prices realised of £417,330. The auction was comprised of some of the collections we had picked up after lockdown restrictions were lifted, and we were able to conduct covid-safe outdoor valuation events around England. The gold and silver exchange prices were very high, and continue to be due to international conditions. Demand for portable valuables as collectables and alternative investments seems to be very strong. There were many standout prices in this sale as follows:

Firstly the English Gold results were the strongest we've ever seen. The standard price of a sovereign is at an all-time high. The classic George VI Coronation 1937 gold proof four-coin set, Lot 27, sold for £10,800 hammer. The craze for Royal Mint items continues unabated, with gold proof 50p's fetching many times bullion, such as Lot 3: Benjamin Britten gold proof 50p 2013 aFDC cased with cert, which sold for £2600 hammer.

Following this was a private collection: The Property of a Norfolk Gentleman. This excellent group of English Milled and several choice Ancient & Hammered attracted much attention. A Commonwealth Crown 1653 in good Fine went for £2100. A Halfcrown 1706 Quinto, roses & plumes, ex-Grosvenor Collection, slabbed AU50, made £1400. The Henry V Quarter Noble, lot 154, sold for £1300, and the Brutus(?)/Koson slabbed gold stater reached £1600. Overall the collection sold well-above estimate.

The English Coins from other properties contained many other highlights. A 1934 Wreath Crown in cleaned EF made £2600. An extremely rare 1863 Penny with die number 3 below date, in about Fine, made £2400. It took the previous owner a lifetime to find one!

The talk of the sale was surrounding a group of early Chinese milled coins, which came direct from the descendants of a Royal Marine who settled in Shanghai in the early 1900s. To say these coins sold "above estimate" would be an understatement. The demand for alternative investments from China is huge. Chinese coins of this quality and provenance are seldom seen in this country. Needless to say, the Krause catalogue is "out" on these items, as well as on Hong Kong, Malaysia and many far-eastern countries. Recent events have seen an even further surge in value, particularly for silver minors, which weren't fetching these prices in European auctions even in recent years. The highest prices seen were £7000 and £6800 hammer for lots 519 and 520, the Republic Dollars Y#321 and Y#319. A couple of small silver minors: Chihli 5 Cents and Kiangnan 10 Cents sold for £1100 and £1350 (against estimates of £50 and £60 !). It seems any Chinese or Hong Kong coin should be taken seriously in the current climate.

The second day in the Coin room was rounded out with a large section of Bulk Coin Lots. These were perhaps the most hotly contested of all due to the number of people who are turning to online-selling as a source of income in the present economic climate. Recent restrictions have also prevented the usual flow of material throughout the country via fairs and public auctions, so an offering such as ours was eagerly welcomed.

The Medals & Militaria room began on day 1 with a private collection. This included some beautifully enamelled Masonic jewels: Lots 1207 and 1210, the Consecrating Master St. Audrey Lodge Ely, and the WWI Founder's Armament Lodge, which went for £320 and £340 hammer. A good Weapons section followed, which provided some standout results: Lot 1267, a British Army Sharps Model Carbine, which went for £1600. A fine Victorian presentation Bowie knife, lot 1277, made £800.

Medals & Militaria were offered over two days. There were highlights such as Lot 1425: An autograph, message and scrap book including a piece of fabric cut from the crashed plane of the “Red Baron” Von Richthofen. This splendid book achieved a hammer price of £1400. A Caterpillar Club gold pin badge to Sgt. Frederick Gordon Spanner DFC, RCAF, Bomb Aimer for 207 Squadron (KIA 3/9/43) made £1000. A surprise “sleeper” lot was 2247, an un-packed hessian dummy dropped by parachute as a decoy during the Normandy Invasion. Estimated at £60, it sold for £850!

Our Banknote Sale will take place 26-27 September, followed by the Fine Sale 14-15 October, Paper Collectables 31 October, and the next Coins, Medals & Militaria 14-15 November. Consignment for the November Coins & Medals is open until 2nd October. We encourage anyone thinking of selling to make use of the fierce demand for collectables in the present climate. Call or email to book an appointment: 01473 627110 sales@lockdales.com



Lot 515: Kiangnan Province 10 Cents 1902 Y#142a.10, sold for £1350 hammer.



Lot 519: Republic of China Silver Dollar Y# 321, sold for £7000 hammer.



Lot 520: Republic of China Silver Dollar Y# 319, sold for £6800 hammer.



Lot 521: Republic of China 20 Cents Y# 317, sold for £1900 hammer.