

Making steady progress

If this was a school report, there would be no doubt that the headmaster would be pleased with the way the auction world is progressing. We have now fully adapted to what is the new “normal”, selling to a bank of computer screens rather than a sea of faces. Interest has been abnormally high and prices in all categories have reflected this. The saleroom has implemented a strict appointment system for the viewing and collection of lots, and payment by bank transfer – I would like to thank everyone who has cooperated with these requests.

Highlights of the year to date undoubtedly centre on the art world, and our own local favourite – Royal Worcester porcelain. The top price for paintings has been £16,700, paid for a pair of primitive Richard Whitford pig portraits; Whitford was a Cotswold artist who specialised in animal portraits, with the Royal Family amongst his clients. By contrast, an elegant Parisian scene by Edouard Cortes sold for £12,000.



Over £100,000 worth of porcelain from the local factory has already been put to auction this year, with a plethora of birds and animals being ever popular – Highland Cattle, Pheasants, Sheep and Swans being predominant, with a small bow piece vase decorated with sheep by Harry Davis selling for £10,200.



The fruit crop has also been exceptional this year - vases and plates handpainted in Worcester have made record breaking prices. There have also been other highlights such as a case of Lafite wine selling for £4,000, an Audemars Piguet watch for £6,000, and a collection of suffragette ephemera made £5,200.



Our forthcoming **22 July Antiques and Fine Art Sale** will include the usual selection of Worcester porcelain, with several painted fruit bow pieces and a crown top pot pourri to be included in the lots. Heading the field of a private collection of 12 Limited Editions by Doris Lindner, is her ageless model of that racing great Arkle. A number of fine paintings have also been consigned for entry including a pair of portraits attributed to Angelica Kaufmann, with the promise of more exciting lots in the pipeline. A good walnut marquetry longcase clock should create a great deal of interest, and we are pleased to have a small collection of seat furniture by notable 20th century designers, such as John Makepeace, Frank Gehry, David Colwell and Derek Lloyd amongst them. Ideal for the petrolhead with a big garage wall is a piece of motoring history – a large painting removed from the grandstand at Silverstone in the 1960's– possibly of Surtees or Bonnier – in a BRM. For the more diverse collector, there is a 19th century field surgeon's set by Weiss, and close to 100 lots of World War I and World War II militaria from a private collection.

We are now accepting entries for our forthcoming summer Interiors Sales, and the Fine Art and Antiques sale in September. Please contact Sarah Goodbody at the Saleroom by telephone on 01684 892314 or by email on auctions@serrell.co.uk for details.