

For Immediate Release: 28th September 2010

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CHORLEY'S SEPTEMBER TWO-DAY SALE SEES GOOD RESULTS

Chorley's two-day sale in September (23rd & 24th September) got the autumn sale season underway in style. The presentation of the furniture, pictures, books and decorative objects in the upstairs saleroom was much admired and contributed to some fantastic prices on Day One.

The **book section** was led by a first edition of Gibbon's '*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*' at £4200 (Lot 57). Not only is a first edition relatively rare it was also beautifully bound and bore a steel engraved bookplate '*Holland House*' which the auctioneers felt was likely that of Henry Vassall Fox, 3rd Baron Holland, the prominent Whig politician, writer and patron of the arts.

The **picture section** proved that the market will still pay a premium for a pretty face. Lot 167, an 18th Century portrait of a lady, not only had impeccable provenance (having belonged to the prominent art historian Alastair Smart) but had the elegant features and doe eyes that the buyers will pay a premium for. The work, attributed to Jeremiah Davison (1695-1745) exceeded expectations of £2000-3000 knocking down for £3,800.

Lot 177, a later portrait by Marcel Dyf (1899-1985) was also hotly contested. This portrait of the artist's wife had her seated but turned away from the viewer with a fan held to her face. Again the pre-sale estimate was left behind (£2,000-3,000) as keen telephone bidding pushed the total to £4,800.

Another portrait of a lady topped the portrait miniature section. Painted by the well known artist Horace Hone (1756-1825) Lot 238 was not only pretty but also in a good quality case bearing the initials EC in seed pearls. The hammer price of £5,000 was particularly satisfactory as this equals the highest price for a portrait of an unknown sitter by Hone.

The **mirrors and lighting** saw several strong prices including £3,000 for a pair of intricate Dieppe ivory mirrors (Lot 274). These make a strong visual statement and although detailed would suit a more modern interior.

Furniture produced some of the day's highest prices, Lot 421, a top quality Pembroke table, circa 1780, with oval top and



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Lot 167



Lot 177



Lot 274



Lot 421

stunning inlays realised £6,000 showing that there is life in the market for the best examples of their type. Lot 426, a large mahogany dining table, also proved popular. While dining furniture has often struggled in recent times this table was particularly handsome a triple pedestal base and a beautifully grained mahogany top which secured a price of £4,800.



Lot 426

Decorative furniture also performed strongly proving that sometimes the look of a piece is more important than its age. Lot 433, a particularly stylish pair of French late 19th Century painted side tables had the classic interior designer look and sold accordingly at £2,800.

Day Two began with a packed **glass section** with plenty to choose from. A full bank of telephones contested the Lalique 'Sirene' dish (Lot 503) to an impressive £5,000. The collection of the late Bill Baker of Reid Wines also produced some worthy results including £1,400 for a pair of magnum decanters against an estimate of £500-800 (Lot 525).



Lot 503

The **Oriental section** was unusual in that the highest prices were all for Japanese items. In recent times the Japanese market which peaked in the 1980s has been completely overshadowed by the boom in the Chinese economy which has propelled prices sky high. As ever quality will attract bids and this was certainly the case for Lot 622. This pair of tusk vases, decorated with Samurai, were unsigned but they looked impressive and the quality of the carving was good. They found a buyer at £3,200. Among the porcelain a very large Imari jar (Lot 640), circa 1700, (which had to be emptied of 100 year old pot pourri prior to sale) went to a new home at £2,000.



Lot 622 & Lot 623

Very few pieces of Limerick **silver** come up for auction owing to its rarity. Having sold three Limerick spoons earlier in the year the auctioneers were not expecting to come across another so soon but Lot 779 emerged from a large quantity of flatware seen on a valuation. Marked for Joseph Johns (working circa 1730-1735) this spoon was in good condition and bore the family crest of Hamilton of Donegal, this time there was less surprise in the saleroom as the spoon fetched £1,700.



Lot 779

Lot 794, a small Chinese silver cannon, generated interest at home and abroad owing to its quality and provenance. The cannon was presented to Rear Admiral Sir Christopher George Francis Maurice Cradock KCVO CB RN (1862-1914) after commanding British, German/Prussian and Japanese sailors during the capture of the Taku Forts and the defeat of the Boxers during the Boxer rebellion. The combination of this provenance with the voracious appetite of Chinese buyers saw it reach £3,000 against a pre sale estimate of £1500-2000.

The clocks performed well and it was slightly surprising to see a Lancashire clock lead the way. These clocks are characterised by wide mahogany cases that have often proved difficult sellers. This example (Lot 919) by Nathaniel Dumrite was very decorative and benefitted from a moon-phase which helped it to £1,600.

For further press information or jpeg images please contact Iona Sale, IONA PR, 01451 832 268, 07721 030 825 or iona@ionapr.com

Chorley's next sale is THURSDAY, 21ST OCTOBER 2010