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## Results of Chorley's two-day sale 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

### PORCELAIN SMASHES RECORDS

Chorley's two-day sale on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September included a number of rarities and the prices realised were extraordinary. A number of items sourced from Lydney Park, Gloucestershire and sold by instruction of the Viscount and Viscountess Bledisloe generated international interest.

The collection included a number of mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century fruit shaped porcelain boxes by the Derby factory. A single box of apple form (**Lot 144**) reached £7,500 while a particularly rare pair of boxes modelled as bunches of grapes (**Lot 146**) saw a staggering £14,000. The Continental porcelain from Lydney Park was led by a historic plate (**Lot 86**) from a service that was created either for the Queen of Bavaria or Emperor Napoleon I in around 1810 by the Sèvres factory, this piece of history found a buyer at £6,000. A small group of Chelsea porcelain (**Lots 152-154**) from another private collection was hotly contested. Each piece was decorated by the renowned Jefferyes Hamett O'Neale and the saucer (**Lot 154**), with a scene of Leda and the Swan, saw the top porcelain price of the day at £16,000.

### PAINTINGS

Portraits with a known history are always of more interest than those in which the identity of the sitter has been lost to the mists of time. **Lot 578**, a pair of portraits by Robert Walker of Thomas Papillon and his wife Jane boasted a rich history. Papillon was of Huguenot descent and became a director of the East India Company, and was MP for Dover. When faced with a politically motivated lawsuit he chose to move to Utrecht rather than pay £10,000. Robert Walker was a favourite portraitist of Cromwell and the Parliamentarians which explains the rather austere look of the portraits. Despite this, the rich history helped them to exceed estimate and reach a £3,000 hammer price. Sourced from a local property in Gloucestershire, **Lot 604**, a pair of Venetian views after Canaletto were of more purely decorative appeal and achieved a within estimate price of £8,500.



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Lot 144 sold for £7,500



Lot 146 sold for £14,000



Lot 86 sold for £6,000



Lot 154 sold for £16,000

## UNUSUAL ITEMS FETCH A PREMIUM

There were a number of miscellaneous items that attracted the attention of collectors. One of these, **Lot 627**, a needlework sampler carried a low estimate and was of huge interest to collectors of Quaker needlework. This example was worked by the wonderfully named Mehetabel Smith who attended the Quaker Ackworth School in Pontefract between 1799 and 1806. This fine medallion sampler, dated 1804, was in untouched condition and attracted bidders from the USA and Canada, realising the hammer price of £5,500.

From further afield was **Lot 654**, a Tongan club with an interesting provenance. This club was probably collected by a seaman, Henry Jones, whose career began as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Engineer on the HMS Niger in 1854 and encompassed service on a huge number of vessels right up until 1883, by which time he was a Chief Engineer. Carved with intricate patterns, figures and motifs this was a good example of its type and sailed past its £2,000-3,000 estimate reaching a hammer of £9,800.

## FURNITURE FLIES

The furniture market is still deeply divided with the finest items achieving record prices while more ordinary 19<sup>th</sup> Century brown material struggles to get away. Chorley's were lucky to have a number of fine pieces on offer, including two lots of Anglo-Chinese furniture from Lydney Park. The first of these, **Lot 955**, a striking set of eight chairs with blind fret carved detail throughout, curved backs, cabriole legs and with mask carved feet were of a type that has come on the market in the past and which can be seen at Wilton House and in The Gerstenfeld Collection. Each chair was very heavy, being made of an Oriental hardwood, and the set reached a pleasing £80,000. The next lot was a pair of tea/card tables with triple tops and very much in the same style as the chairs; these were knocked down at £20,000 (**Lot 956**). Also from the Forest of Dean area came a fine Victorian oak partner's desk (**Lot 969**) formerly in the office of Arthur Watts at Watts of Lydney. The firm was founded over 150 years ago and is well known locally. The desk was impressive and had an unusual shaped top, and it was contested between the room and telephones eventually closing the sale at £26,000.

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Chorley's next sale is on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011.



Lot 578 sold for £3,000



Lot 604 sold for £8,500



Lot 955 sold for £80,000



Lot 969 sold for £26,000