

Lockdales' Auction #216 Report:

Coins & Collectables (Paper Collectables, Coins, Weapons, Medals & Militaria)

20-22 May 2022

Total prices realised: £555,477 (incl. prem.)

An incredible auction! The collectables market is flying high, attracting masses of interest as an avenue of alternative investment, and as a hedge against inflation. The combined hammer price was considerably higher than the estimate of the entire sale.

Starting with the Stamps on Friday 20th we saw strong demand for British classics and commonwealth issues. A group of Chinese Poems of Mao Tse-tung stamps made five times estimate. In the Postcard section lot 314, a collection of Irish political history cards reached £1600 hammer. The Cigarette & Trade Card section featured some, always-popular, early American cards: A lot of three 1888 baseball cards went from £70 up to £1200! (We have a fine collection of American cards to offer over the next two 'blue' sales so keep a look out!)

The Coin Room was in session Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd. Beginning with the English Gold, as expected there were no unsolds in this section. Gold is the time-honoured anti-inflation asset, and on top of this – English coins are soaring in price. A guinea with the date of American Independence (1776) went for £1700 – well-above 'book price' and estimate. The further English Coins section had almost no unsold lots either. Here we saw some choice early farthings fought over, and the enthusiasm for modern Royal Mint issues continues unabated. Among the World Coins the highlight above all was lot 775; a Fukien Province 20-Cash Y#101 with lustre, which ended up at £8400 hammer, having begun at £1000. This rarity was found sown into the back of an old album of mostly square-holed 'cash' coins. It practically leapt off the page (to this cataloguer!)

Moving on to the Ancient & Hammered section we sold a series of Anglo-Saxon sceattas; most notably lot 874, the 'Wodan head' (or head of Christ) which made £3000 (top est £2K). On Sunday 22nd we sold the Bulk Coins and Exonumia. A collection of commemorative medals aka "medallions" was very well-received. In fact the demand for British paranumismatic items seems vigorous, much like the regal coinage.

The Military Room was also in session 21st-22nd and this was quite the spectacle. Beginning with the Weapons, where we saw Japanese swords sell for up to £6800, we then followed with the Private Medal Collection. This magnificent life-time collection provided many four-figure results, such as £4200 for the DCM and trio to Sapper A. W. Pim – the intrepid communications line repairman at the Hooge; and £5200 for the rare and superb (War of 1812) 'Chateauguay' bar MGS to a Canadian militiaman.

On Sunday among the military offering further highlights were seen, including £6000 for the medals of Walter Lingen Allen, who commanded HMS Broke (pron. Brook) at the Battle of Jutland. His hand-written night orders book was included along with other accessories, and this was a true “sleeper”, and a privilege to administer the sale of. A few items of Polar and Antarctic interest brought stunning prices as usual. Some original “mess dress” miniatures of EdVII to QEII Polar medals brought prices up to £1150 (estimates around £40 to £70!), being exceptionally scarce. A pattern board of RRS Discovery’s 1925 Falklands Expedition insignia reached £1250 – another wonderful find.

Our next ‘Blue Sale’ (Coins & Collectables: Paper Collectables, Coins, Weapons, Medals & Militaria) will take place 20-21 July, or 19-21 July if three days. Consignment is open until 10th June. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of the scramble for alternative assets at present. Highlights already received include an outstanding collection of cigarette-cards featuring much American material; a collection of 18th Century firearms, and several large consignments of Royal Mint cased coins and sets.



Lot 1581: Japanese wakizashi with shibiyama style gold & laquer work: £6800 hammer.