Online Auction #179 Report: Coins, Medals & Militaria; 30-31 May 2020

Another 'lockdown' sale proves to be a huge success: Total sales of £406,000 – beating the top estimate of the auction overall.

We began with the Ancient & Hammered Coins, seeing some strong results for Anglo-Saxon silver pennies. The 'Property of a Suffolk Gentleman, Part 1' was offered next. This extraordinary collection of British Coronation commemorative medals attracted considerable attention. The earliest piece; that of the Coronation of James I, 1603, struck in silver, fetched £2200 hammer. High grade cased gold medals of the late 19th and 20th Centuries near doubled their estimates. The impressive and rare 103mm silver medal for the Coronation of George V 1911 sold for £1700 hammer. Further Exonumia, and then the Bulk Coin Lots were offered on the first day, with the bulk lots once again proving to be highly sought-after by all the 'lockdown' online sellers.

In the Militaria room on Day 1 we began with Weapons. There were some fine pieces on offer, and some fine prices such as £2000 for a Mail Coach blunderbuss, £1600 for a William Maud flintlock pistol, and £1700 (over double estimate) for a Colt, British Navy revolver 1851.

We proceeded on to the other part of the 'Property of a Suffolk Gentleman'; the military and police issue Coronation medals. Scarce items such as lot 1207: The GV Coronation 1911 Police, Royal Parks medal to I. Bennell, sold for £1300 hammer; and the very rare, lot 1216, QV Diamond Jubilee 1897 medal in gold (one of only 73 issued) went for £1900.

The Roy Griffin Collection of medals turned up many fantastic results including £3600 hammer for lot 1308: Frank Evans Segar, Forest of Nieppe, Military Cross and Trio. Other results included £2300 hammer for lot 1324: Ostend Raids DSM and Pair to A.J. Davis.

On Day 2 in the coin room the gold was spectacularly successful owing to the boom in demand for gold worldwide. Royal Mint cased proof sovereigns and sets seemed the most in-demand. Lot 576, the 1989 four-coin set achieved £4500 hammer.

The rest of the English Milled sold strongly, and further Militaria was well-received in the second room for the duration of the sale.

Overall this was another resounding success. It gives us another boost to see us through this difficult time until we can 'get back out there' and resume our valuation day and evening roadshows, which we are eager to do.

In the meantime, we are keenly accepting consignments by post, and from 15th June we will be able to offer on-site valuation appointments once again (with all anti-viral precautions in place). Alternatively we have a new Remote Valuations service we can offer, whereby we send you a special kit including packaging and postage-paid labels. Upon receipt of your items we can provide an online Zoom or Skype conference valuation with your goods to hand. Otherwise a telephone discussion can be conducted.

We urge you to make use of the fierce demand for collectables presently, by selling through Lockdales' auctions. Cash offers are also available.

Lot 230: James I, Coronation 1603, struck silver medal; sold for £2200 hammer.