

Auction #165 Report

Our 18-19 May Auction of Coins & Collectables achieved total sales of £413,000.

Perhaps the biggest story surrounding the auction was that of lot 556, the medals and photo album belonging to Acting Colour Sergeant John Frederick Gerrard. Having been a member of the 25th London Cyclists during WWI he was based in Suffolk for most of the war and his photo album is an important record of local history. This superb lot was featured in national newspapers including the Telegraph, the Sun, and the Daily Mail:

This lot, estimated at £500 to £600, sold for £4200 hammer, an astonishing result. Certainly a unique and important cache of historic photographs.

Another important item of militaria was lot 314, the First World War Death Plaque (also called a 'Death Penny') to May Victoria Bishop, a female recipient. Death Plaques to women are much rarer than to men during WWI. Usually female casualties were nurses hit by aerial bombing. In this case May Victoria Bishop was a baling hand in the Women's Forage Corps. She was one of 16 members of the corps who died of exposure-related illness such as influenza. Their job was to provide hay for the horses on the front line, and due to working in all weathers it was considered that their health was compromised, and they are remembered among the war dead. May Bishop's plaque was estimated at £1000 to £1200, and sold for £3200 hammer.

Some fine guns were offered in the weapons section including lot 942: A British 'New Land Pattern' Musket c.1856, estimated at £800 to £900, the hammer went down at £2800.

Masses of banknotes were offered thanks to the efforts of our banknote consultant Kevin Watmough. These included some choice grade pieces, such as lot 1519: A Cyprus One Shilling note 25-08-1947 graded PMG 65EPQ Gem UNC. It sold for £650 hammer.

On the numismatic side we were proud to present the Phillips Collection. This was comprised of the finest collection of Welsh tokens we have ever seen, plus a strong assemblage of Roman and hammered coins. 17th Century tokens of Wales are rare, and therefore even though in only VG condition, lot 1211 the Thomas Baker Halfpenny of Wrexham sold for £280 hammer. Lot 1217, the 18thC Druid Head Farthing muled with the Spensonian 'Hanged Man' reverse made £320. One of the gilt proof Druid Head Pennies, lot 1239, went for £400, as did the early style copper Penny lot 1238. The unusual Ironworks at Carmarthen uniface Halfpenny, lot 1251 sold for £420. The 19th Century silver tokens were also highly sought-after, including lot 1290, the Carmarthen Bank Shilling 1811 in EF, which sold for £360 hammer. The historically important and very scarce 'Truck Tickets' sold well above estimate, such as lot 1319, the Two Shillings and Sixpence of Penydarren Ironworks, which sold for £600 against an estimate of just £200 to £300. There was a series of interesting Welsh pub tokens dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries. The highest price for one of these brass tokens was £130 for lot 1333, a Threepence of the Rising Sun Bowling Alley of Landore.

These were very strong prices for tokens. There were further coins from Mr Phillips superb collection in the Ancient and Hammered Coins sections. One outstanding result was for lot 2224, a silver Crown of Edward VI dated 1551. This was an exceptionally nice example and fetched £8200 hammer, against an estimate of £2000 to £2500.

The stamp sections featured some very nice collections such as 2604, the King George VI British Commonwealth collection in three albums, which made £2300. A collection of Persian stamps, lot 2653, went for £2100.

Overall this was a brilliant sale. We look forward to the June Fine Sale, a two-day auction absolutely jam-packed with quality. We will be exhibiting some of the June highlights at the Suffolk Show on the 29th and 30th May. Come and say hello if you are attending!

Consignments are very welcome for the July Auction of Coins & Collectables. Please get your lots to us by 31st May for inclusion.



Some highlights from the Phillips Collection.