

Online Auction #184 Report: Paper Collectables (Stamps, Postcards, Cigarette-Cards, Books, Ephemera & Sporting); 31st July & 1st August 2020

This quick sale was intended to clear the larger bulk lots we had accumulated before and during lockdown; but with the addition of some other unusual items and collections, it turned up some interesting results in its own right. Total combined sales: £92,700

Large lots, and albums of stamps especially, were not ideal for selling during the early lockdown as customers were restricted from viewing or collecting in person. As restrictions were relaxed it became clear that a public viewing period would be possible (by appointment), as well as collection of purchases with protective measures in place.

It turned out our customers were particularly ravenous for stamps, which comprised the strongest performing sections of the sale. Stamp collections are ideal for sorting through during self-isolation. There were many stamp and cover lots achieving up to double their estimates or more.

The postcards and cigarette-cards were similarly favoured for the large unsorted lots. "Ebaying" from home is popular right now as you may well understand. The highest price of the sale was £1800 hammer for a large collection of cigarette-cards of many manufacturers, lot 580. The highest price for a single card was £440 hammer for an Edwardian photographic postcard of Riverside AFC, who later became Cardiff City (football).

We began the second day with a specialist collection of mountaineering-related books. This attracted attention from book dealers and turned out consistently high prices throughout the section. £380 hammer was paid for a first edition of Outline Sketches in the High Alps of Dauphine by T. G. Bonney. Altogether books performed strongly, which bodes well for our next book sale as there are some beauties. Collections of press photos and negatives were once again popular as was "glamour".

Our next auction will be 12-13 September: Coins, Medals & Militaria, followed by Banknotes, and then a Fine Sale in mid-October. Our next auction of 'Paper Collectables' will be 31st October (and 1st Nov. size-dependent). Consignment of stamps, cards, books and ephemera will need to be with us by 25th September for inclusion. We look forward to some great sales this Autumn, boosted by our new series of outdoor valuation roadshows. The new wave of consignments to be offered starts with the 12-13 Sept. Coins & Medals which we are really excited about, and which we hope to publish shortly.



Lot 115: Falkland Islands 1933 GV Centenary of British Administration set, sold for £1150 hammer.