





Left: Portrait of Napoleon by Andrea Appiani, c.1800 – estimate £40,000-60,000 at Bonhams on October 27.







Above, I to r: Napoleon's stockings ($\mathbf{\epsilon}21,500/\mathbf{\epsilon}18,700$), his shirt ($\mathbf{\epsilon}80,000/\mathbf{\epsilon}69,600$) and items including a 'strip stained with his blood during his autopsy' ($\mathbf{\epsilon}27,000/\mathbf{\epsilon}23,500$), all sold at Osenat on May 6.

Napoleon: great for sales at least

Bicentenary of his death boosts demand for relics

by Tom Derbyshire

In France, Napoleon's reputation and legacy remain the subject of debate.

Some see him as a great military leader and founder of the modern French state, others focus on a dictator who reintroduced slavery to islands in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean.Marking the bicentenary of the emperor's death, French President Emmanuel Macron last week said slavery was a grave mistake, while highlighting the "genius" of a man who "is a part of us".

Whatever your opinion, in collecting terms the name Napoleon stands for high demand and prices. This anniversary year in particular has inspired auction houses and dealers to hold sales and exhibitions.

One of the most extensive auctions was held on May 6 by Osenat in Fontainebleau – a day after May 5, the date

when 200 years ago the former emperor died in exile on St Helena.

Items that belonged to Napoleon or had an intimate connection brought significant interest.

A shirt he owned had been estimated at €30,000-40,000 but sold at €80,000/£69,600 (plus 25% buyer's premium). At the top of the opening of the right side is embroidered the famous mark N under the imperial crown in red silk thread. This shirt comes from Genappe where it would have been taken after Waterloo by Carl, Baron von Plotho (1780-1820). It had been in

private collections and was sold at Sotheby's in 2008. A pair of Napoleon's woven stockings in red dyed silk made £21,500/£18,700 (estimate £8000-12,000).

Another intriguing item, sold for €27,000/£23,500 (guide €10,000-15,000), was a small white silk bag with a note from the Duke of Bassano dated October 20, 1875, stating it "contains the hair of H.M. the Emperor Napoleon I, a handkerchief, marked with his number, belonging to him and a strip

Continued on page 4







Books, Maps & Prints 2021

Our latest special report on this ever-popular collecting field – see pages 21-60



Right: Going to the Match by LS Lowry - estimate £2m-3m at Sotheby's on June 29.



Lowry rugby work drops in to auction

LS Lowry's (1887-1976) Going to the Match is coming to auction next month at Sotheby's in London. It dates from 1928 and Sotheby's said it is among the earliest known of Lowry's depictions of a sporting occasion and one of only a small handful of paintings of

rugby known to have been executed by the artist.

The picture had remained in the same family since 1972 and it has been exhibited only once before (in 1966). Estimated at £2m-3m, it will go on show in New York, Edinburgh and Dublin before a preview at Sotheby's New Bond Street from June 22 ahead of the June 29 sale.

Two of The Few: Battle of Britain medal groups

Medal groups awarded to two of The Few – the heroic RAF and Fleet Air Arm pilots of the Battle of Britain – are on offer at auction this month.

The highest-estimated group, guided at £120,000-160,000 by Gloucestershire saleroom Dominic Winter on May 20, comprises honours including CBE, DSO, DFC and Bar (and logbooks) awarded to Air Commodore Peter Malam 'Pete' Brothers (1917-2008), pictured right.

He flew 875 operational hours and is credited with 16 aerial victories, 10 of which

he achieved during the Battle of Britain with 32 Squadron.

He had a relatively long career as a combat pilot, achieving
his first two kills in May 1940 during the Battle of France and his
last in August 1944 when he shot down a Focke Wulf 190 over the
River Loire. After rejoining the RAF in 1949, Brothers even flew

operations during the Malayan Emergency of the 1950s.

That sale follows a group of seven medals including a DSO and bar and DFC being offered by London auction house Dix Noonan Webb on May 19. Estimated at £30,000-40,000, they were

awarded to RAF Group Captain Brian Kingcome (1917-94), pictured **left**.



During the height of the Battle of Britain he led 92 Squadron with great success from Biggin Hill. Shot down and hospitalised in October 1940, he returned to fly with the squadron until appointed to command 72 Squadron in February 1942, leading them as the fighter escort of Eugene Esmonde VC's Swordfish

detachment for their ill-fated 'Channel Dash' action.

One of the youngest group captains in the RAF, aged 25 Kingcome commanded 244 (Spitfire) Wing, Desert Air Force, providing fighter support for the Eighth Army from Africa into Sicily and then through the campaign in Italy.

He destroyed a total of 11 enemy aircraft, probably destroyed a further five and damaged 13. Tom Derbyshire



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In Numbers

\$150,000

The price (£108,000) an advertisement for a 1953 Hank Williams show in Ohio made at Heritage in Dallas on May 1-2, setting a world record for the most expensive concert poster at auction. Found in 1981 in a Canton, Ohio, barn, it is one of only three known existing copies. Williams never made the concert – he died of a heart attack in the backseat of a car en route, aged 29. The concert still took place, as a tribute.



Bid Barometer

Online buying: realised prices at auctions on thesaleroom.com

TOP SELLING LOTS

Sheppard's, Durrow, Co Laois, April 29

Six bentwood chairs and glasstopped dining table by Joseph Walsh (b.1979), purchased from the artist's studio in 2001. Estimate: €40,000-60,000

Hammer: €60,000 (£51,200)



Charterhouse, Sherborne, May 5 Late Victorian shepherd's hut of

traditional design on metal wheels, for full restoration. *Estimate: £800-1200*

Hammer: £13,000



Dawsons, Maidenhead, April 29

Tiffany & Co glass and gilt bronze mounted standard lamp stamped *Tiffany Studios*, *New York*, 1927.

Estimate: £3000-5000 Hammer: £9800

HIGHEST MULTIPLE OVER TOP ESTIMATE

Hotlotz, Singapore, timed sale ended May 2

Republican-era blue and white porcelain landscape plaque in the manner of Wang Bu, 16 x 12in (45 x 30cm) in hardwood frame. Estimate: Sin\$300-500

Hammer: Sin\$200,000 (£108,700)



Hannam's, Selborne, Hampshire, May 4

Daoguang period famille rose porcelain plaque with temple scene, 20 x 14in (50 x 36cm) in a hongmu frame. Estimate: £200-300

Hammer: £17.000

East Bristol Auctions, May 4
Star Wars 'prototype' lightsaber for
Darth Vader by Microflash Micro
Precision Products, from the
estate of Dave Prowse.

Estimate: £80-120

Hammer: £9000

Source: Bid Barometer is a snapshot of sales on thesaleroom.com for April 29-May 5, 2021.

'Highest multiple over top estimate' - Our selection of items from the top 20 highest hammer prices as a multiple of the high estimate paid by internet bidders on thesaleroom.com

Top selling lots' - Our selection of items from the top 20 highest hammer prices paid by internet bidders on thesaleroom.com

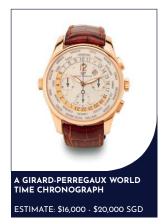
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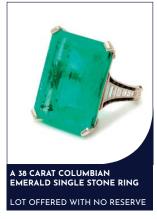
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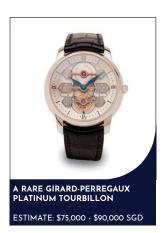
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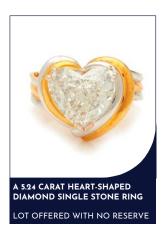


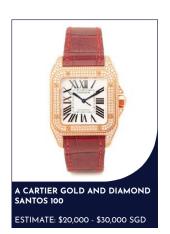


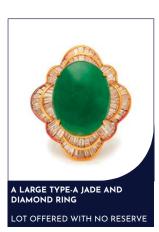


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