

# ANTIQUES TRADE gazette

THE ART MARKET WEEKLY

koopman rare art



info@koopman.art

+44 (0)20 7242 7624

www.koopman.art

## Chinese vase sets new online record

A Chinese blue and white vase achieved a hammer price of over £3m at an online auction that closed in Singapore last week.

The 15in (39cm) high bottle form vase, with an underglaze blue six-character Yongzheng (1722-35) mark to the base, featured in a timed sale held by HotLotz from April 18 to May 3.

The price is a house record for HotLotz and a record for any lot sold via online marketplace thesaleroom.com.

The finely painted vase is decorated with a striking design of nine five-clawed dragons among stylised clouds.

It is thought to be closely related to a 'mark and period' vase of the same size and similar (two-dragon and lotus flower) decoration that took a house-record £2.6m at Tennants of Leyburn in 2012 and was later resold by Sotheby's in Hong Kong in 2015 for a premium-inclusive HK\$75.8m (around £7.5m).

Pick  
of the  
week



Continued on page 6



**Above and right:** two views of a 15in (39cm) Chinese blue and white dragon vase with a Yongzheng six-character mark that reached **Sin\$5.5m (£3.1m)** at a HotLotz online sale that closed on May 3.



JAR gold-plated aluminium geranium leaf earrings, **\$9000 (£7200)** at Sotheby's New York, April 29.

## Jewellery feature

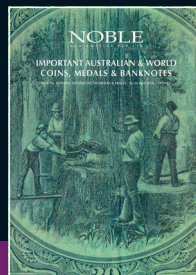
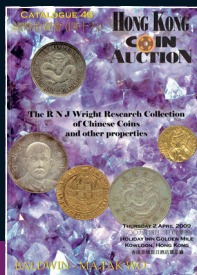
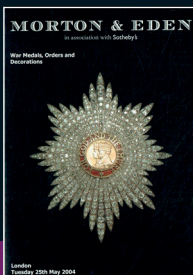
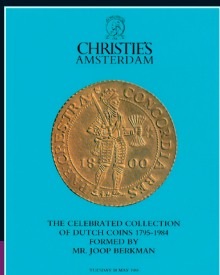
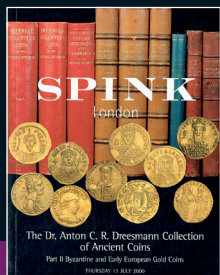
Includes:

- Why the cult of JAR blossoms
- The very latest auction updates
- Sale previews

See page 10-15



JAR anodised aluminium violet earclips, **\$7000 (£5600)** at Christie's, April 24.



50,000

Auction catalogues  
Scanned or hard copy  
**thecatalogstar.com**

Tel: 01225 829 090

★ **THECATALOGSTAR.COM**

PROOF OF PROVENANCE. INCREASE VALUE



42 >

9 770306 105051



## Pick of the week

# Yongzheng mark vase sails to £3.1m

Continued from front page

At the time it was said that no other Yongzheng example of this elegant slender form appeared to have been published – although the type is more common in the subsequent Qianlong period.

The Singapore discovery, in good condition, came with a 1950s provenance. It was offered for sale by descent from the family of the Sri Lankan statesman Sir Oliver Goonetilleke (1892-1978).

Having served as a key figure in the gradual independence of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) from Britain, he became the third governor-general of Ceylon from 1954-62. According to a letter from the vendor, the vase was presented by Zhou Enlai (1898-1976), premier of the People's Republic of China, while visiting Sri Lanka c.1956-57.

At auction the vase – which was undated and offered with an estimate of Sin\$1000-2000 – found many admirers, culminating in a feverish last two-and-a-half hours of bidding which at the final moments of the sale reached Sin\$5.5m (£3.1m) – around Sin\$6.9m

(£3.9m) including the 25% buyer's premium.

"We always hoped the vase would perform well given the provenance and the quality of the painting," said Matthew Elton, managing director at HotLotz.

"We included videos and an extensive suite of photos in the online catalogue and we received many enquiries as soon as it went live on thesaleroom.com. More than a dozen bidders competed and we are thrilled with the final price."

Roland Arkell

**The vase was presented by Zhou Enlai, premier of the People's Republic of China, while visiting Sri Lanka in the 1950s**



**Left and above:** two views of a comparable Yongzheng blue and white dragon vase of the same size and form as the HotLotz example. This 'mark and period' piece, c.1730, sold by Tennants in 2012 for £2.6m and later resold by Sotheby's Hong Kong for around £7.5m, is decorated with two large five-clawed beasts amid scrolling lotus flowers and foliage.



## Precious metals

On Thursday, May 7, Michael Bloomstein of Brighton was paying the following for bulk scrap against a gold fix of:

\$1688.65 €1564.99 £1366.92

### Gold

**22 carat: £1208.59 per oz**  
(£38.86 per gram)

**18 carat: £988.85** (£31.79)

**15 carat: £824.04** (£26.49)

**14 carat: £769.10** (£24.72)

**9 carat: £492.42 per oz**  
(£15.89 per gram)

12 Month High: ▲ £16.36

12 Month Low: ▼ £11.38

### Hallmark Platinum

£16.60 per gram

### Silver

£10.00 per oz for 925 standard hallmarked

12 Month High: ▲ £12.35

12 Month Low: ▼ £8.75

## Books and Brum fairs cancelled

Firsts, London's Rare Book Fair 2020, has been cancelled for the summer and will instead be replaced with a digital version.

It was due to go ahead on June 5-7 but The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association said that the event was cancelled "due to the current situation and government advice". It will instead hold a digital event launching on June 5.

Also announced this week, the Art & Antiques for Everyone Fair planned for the summer has been cancelled. It had been scheduled for July 16-19. The NEC itself is now a Nightingale Hospital.

The next scheduled AAFE is on November 19-22.

## Original Astérix artworks on offer

Cartoons by the late Albert Uderzo (1927-2020) will be offered by his family at a charity auction hosted by Artcurial in Paris.

The five original page cartoons will be sold to raise money for the Paris Hospitals Foundation at the online auction at 2.30pm on May 26.

Uderzo died on March 24 'from a heart attack unrelated to the coronavirus' and his wife Ada and his daughter Sylvie would like to thank the hospital staff that looked after him.

The family have donated the cartoons to be auctioned. They comprise three Astérix pages, a Tanguy et Laverdure page and a page from Oumpah-Pah. No buyer's premium will apply on the sale.

Among the five lots are *Astérix et Latraviata*, page 18, volume 31 from 2001, and *Astérix's La Rose et le Glaive* from page 38, volume 29, from 1991, with an estimate of €80,000-120,000 each.

Uderzo created the famed

Astérix comics in 1959 with the writer René Goscinny.

## Unprecedented sale of French furniture

France's Mobilier National, the body that looks after the national furniture collection, is auctioning 100 pieces from its holdings in order to support to the country's health service.

The unprecedented sale is scheduled for September 20-21 and all profits will be entirely donated to the Fondation Hôpitaux de Paris-Hôpitaux de France, an organisation chaired by France's first lady Brigitte Macron.

The Mobilier National said the items will be selected by curators but that no 'treasures' will be part of the sale. Among the items likely to be sold are pieces which rarely leave storage and are considered impractical to keep.

As well as the auction, Mobilier National also announced that it is pledging €450,000 to support a range of professions in the art and antiques sector, including restorers, cabinet makers, upholsterers, gilders and weavers.

## ATG's Nickless-Allen promoted

James Nickless-Allen has been promoted to account director for Auction Technology Group's online marketplace thesaleroom.com as well as its commercial and industrial (I&C) websites.

Nickless-Allen joined the company in 2017 and has more than 10 years of auction experience having previously worked for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and in traditional and online estate agency.

Richard Lewis, ATG chief operating officer, said: "James has built strong relationships with our I&C auctioneers who



**Left:** Astérix *La Rose et le Glaive* original artwork for page 38, volume 29 from 1991, is estimated at €80,000-120,000 at Artcurial.