



ANTIQUES TRADE gazette

THE ART MARKET WEEKLY



The stern face, luxurious moustache and pointing finger are instantly familiar – but the message below Kitchener's intense gaze not so.

Instead of the famous *Wants you* text on the classic First World War recruiting poster, the example offered at Dorset auction house Onslows on May 28 was subtly different: *Your country needs you*. Also confusing was the title *London Opinion* above Kitchener rather than *Britons* in suitably chunky red lettering.

This was the first news stand version created by Alfred Leete as an advert for the September 5, 1914, edition of *London Opinion* magazine, later adapted to the now much more well-known poster version.

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Right: First World War Kitchener image from the edition of *The London Opinion* magazine of September 5, 1914 – £11,000 at Onslows.

Pick of the week



The Kitchener call to arms that inspired a classic poster design

'Elegy' from 1836 reveals original John Constable watercolours

by Alex Capon

Discovered lying unrecognised on a bookcase in a Sussex cottage, a unique edition of Thomas Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* will be offered at Gorrings this month with a £100,000-150,000 estimate.

Not only is the 1836 first illustrated edition of the great poem a significant rarity in itself (very few, if any, copies have seemingly emerged at auction in the last 40 years), this particular quarto copy has 17 original drawings and watercolours, each bound in directly before the applicable

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Ming dish sets house record

by Laura Chesters

Copenhagen auction house Bruun Rasmussen achieved a house record with the sale of an early Ming porcelain dish.

Hammered down at Dkr35.5m (£4.1m) on June 2, it also became the most expensive piece of Asian decorative art ever sold in Scandinavia. The Chinese buyer will pay Dkr46.15m (£5.32m) including 24% buyer's premium and VAT.

Estimate was Dkr200,000-300,000.

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Kahle now Kansas City regional rep

Freeman's has appointed Tracey Kahle to the newly created role of regional representative in Kansas City. Kahle previously worked for luxury jewellery retailers as a senior gemologist and appraiser.

Suffolk lots set the exhibition standard

Ninety lots in the Lacy Scott & Knight auction in Bury St Edmunds on June 11 comprise the Damon Murrin Collection of medals, souvenirs and ephemera relating to great exhibitions, international expositions and world fairs.

Murrin joined the British World Exhibitions Study Group in 1987, nine years after it was formed by a small group



Above: a 15ct gold medal awarded to Mrs Nelson-Scott, maker at Elkington & Co, London, at The Scottish Exhibition of Natural History, Art and Industry, Glasgow 1911. It is estimated at £100-150 at Lacy Scott & Knight.

of collectors of exhibition memorabilia.

Murrin's medals range from the 1801 French Napoleonic Exposition Progress of the Arts to the most recent, the 1992 Universal Exposition of Seville.



Left: cigarette case and lighter given to Elvis by the king of Thailand – £3600 at Mallams.

Present from Thai king to King of Rock 'n' Roll

A combination cigarette case and lighter given to Elvis Presley by the king of Thailand sold for six times its top estimate at **Mallams (25% buyer's premium)** in Abingdon.

It was given to Elvis during King Bhumibol's 1960 visit to Hollywood's Paramount Studios where the 'King of Rock & Roll' was filming *GI Blues*.

The case and lighter sold to a phone bidder for £3600 during the May 24 Home Sale.

The cigarette case was inscribed inside and out, dated and stamped with Thai silver marks and 'sterling', and was sold complete with its original case.

Elvis later gave this cigarette case to the vendor's aunt, Ursula Nixon, who was working in the US in the 1960s as an English teacher and had come to know or work for the superstar.

Third film

Elvis made 31 films as an actor between 1956-69. Three years before *GI Blues*, he had starred in his third movie, *Jailhouse Rock*.

Auction house **Ewbank's (25% buyer's premium)** in Send, Surrey, sold a linen-backed, 2ft 6in x 3ft 4in (76cm x 1.02m) British Quad *Jailhouse Rock* poster (left) for a mid-estimate £750 on May 27.

Tom Derbyshire



Most read

The most viewed stories for week May 26-June 2 on antiquetrade gazette.com

1 Rare octagonal Cartier watch and a Victorian portrait feature in our pick of five auction highlights

2 Dewlish House yields 'good old-fashioned house sale with everything on offer'

3 Master forger Mark Hofmann's infamous work comes to auction

4 Archive of Stephen Hawking acquired by Cambridge University Library and Science Museum after tax deal

5 Stopwatch used by ref Jack Taylor in 1974 World Cup final comes to auction



In Numbers

5.75 million

The number of shares online dealer marketplace 1st Dibs intends to sell in a forthcoming flotation on New York's NASDAQ exchange, which is expected to value the company at about \$800m. The firm made a net loss of \$12.5m in 2020.

Bid Barometer

Online buying: realised prices at auctions on thesaleroom.com

TOP SELLING LOTS

Christian Hesse Auktionen, Hamburg, May 29

Elegies from the Castle of Duino by Rainer Maria Rilke, 1931, translated from the German.

Estimate: €13,000-20,000

Hammer: **€42,000 (£36,400)**



Wannenes Art Auctions, Genoa, May 28

French tortoiseshell wood bureau, first quarter 18th century.

Estimate: €3000-4000

Hammer: **€22,000 (£19,100)**

Hotlotz, Singapore, timed online sale ending May 30

Art deco-style 38ct emerald single-stone ring.

Estimate: Sin\$18,000-25,000

Hammer: Sin\$60,000 (£32,600)



HIGHEST MULTIPLE OVER TOP ESTIMATE

Halls, Shrewsbury, June 2

Signal Book for the Ships of War, 1794. Printed book with manuscript notes and hand-coloured flags.

Estimate: £400-600

Hammer: **£11,000**



Toovey's, Washington, West Sussex, May 27

George III needlework sampler by M Rudrum, dated 1804.

Estimate: £80-120

Hammer: **£2000**



Hannam's, Selborne, Hampshire, May 26

Seventeenth century boxwood nutcracker inscribed with a poem, 2½ x 2in (6.5 x 5cm).

Estimate: £50-75

Hammer: **£6000**



Source: Bid Barometer is a snapshot of sales on thesaleroom.com for May 26-June 2, 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