



# ANTIQUES TRADE gazette

THE ART MARKET WEEKLY

koopman rare art



12 Dover Street, W1S 4LL  
info@koopman.art | [www.koopman.art](http://www.koopman.art) | +44 (0)20 7242 7624



**Above:** a 17th century ebony and pietra dura table casket – £60,000 at Claydon Auctioneers on August 4.

## Bids tabled for £60,000 Prague pietra dura casket

Eight phone bidders competed for this splendid 15½in (39cm) wide ebony and pietra dura table casket offered by Claydon Auctioneers in Middle Claydon, Buckinghamshire, on August 4. It came for sale from a local source with an estimate of £3000-5000.

Although catalogued as a 19th century Grand Tour piece, it was quickly recognised by bidders as a 17th century object with the pictorial panels displaying the sort of lapidary work often associated with courtly Prague.

This particular style was pioneered by Florentine father

and son gem cutters Cosimo and Giovanni Castrucci who accepted an invitation from Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II to establish a workshop creating so-called *commesso di pietre dure* works of art in Prague. Although the atelier closed in 1624, the Castrucci style was emulated by subsequent generations of Bohemian artists.

The casket, which required some careful restoration, sold to a European buyer at £60,000 (plus 19.5% buyer's premium).

Roland Arkell

## Wales joins contest for Dyer archive

by Roland Arkell

**The National Library of Wales was among the successful bidders when an archive relating to the poet and painter John Dyer (1699-1757) emerged for sale in Yorkshire this month.**

Today John Dyer is little known, but in the 18th and 19th centuries he was feted as a pioneer of Romanticism. William Wordsworth himself penned a sonnet to the 'Bard of the Fleece' – a reference to Dyer's four-book genre poem *The Fleece* that championed the noble pastime of tending sheep in the British landscape.

### Poet, painter, parson

Much of what is known of Dyer's life comes from the book *Poet, Painter and Parson, the life of John Dyer* written by Ralph M Williams and published in 1956. Born and raised in Carmarthenshire (the family home was Aberglasney in Llangathen), he was educated at Westminster, apprenticed to the London portrait painter Jonathan Richardson and from 1724-26 continued his studies in Italy.

Continued on page 6

**Right:** detail of a portrait of the 18th century Welsh poet and painter John Dyer (1699-1757) – £6000 at Hawleys.



## Old Masters at shipping art and antiques



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**Right:** Pablo Picasso's *Buste d'homme*, 1969, is estimated at \$10m-15m.

entrepreneur Steve Wynn.

MGM is selling the works to raise funds to purchase Contemporary artworks and "diversify" its portfolio.

The pictures, valued at a total of \$70m, had been on display at a Picasso-themed restaurant at the Bellagio Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

The auction will be conducted live from Bellagio on October 23 – the first time Sotheby's has hosted an evening sale in the US outside



Sotheby's and MGM Resorts.  
Copyright Estate of Pablo Picasso.

its New York auction venue.

An exhibition of the pictures will take place at Sotheby's New York on September 7-13 and at the Bellagio on October 21-23. Some of the works will also be taken to exhibitions in Taipei (September 17-18) and Hong Kong (October 7-11).

## 'Canaletto' Venetian scene surfaces in Lewes

A painting of Venice's Dogana da Mar painted from the Bacino di San Marco which has been attributed to Canaletto (1697-1768) will be offered at Gorrings of Lewes in the autumn.

It has come from a property where it is believed to have hung for over 50 years and has been consigned to auction following the recent death of a family member.

The oil on canvas carries a label on the back for Mayfair dealer Arthur Tooth and Sons as well as an intriguing inscription: *Auguste Châtelain*.

Châtelain was a Swiss psychiatrist, writer and historian who became a rector at the University of Neuchâtel in the early 20th century. He is believed to have owned at least one other work by Canaletto: *The Lock at Dolo* dated to c.1755, which was offered by London dealer Robilant + Voena and had been inscribed in the same way with Châtelain's name on the relined canvas.

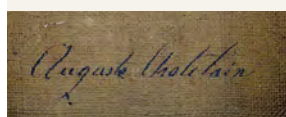
The Gorrings picture is believed to be that appearing in WG Constable's Canaletto monograph (1989 edition revised by JG Links) with the comment "probably once formed part of larger picture".

The auction house, though, stated: "The composition functions very well as it is and in the absence of technical evidence to demonstrate it may have been reduced in size, there is no reason to assume it was not conceived in its current format."

The painting is estimated at £100,000-150,000 at Gorrings's sale on September 28.

Alex Capon

**Left:** Venetian painting attributed to Canaletto – estimate £100,000-150,000 at Gorrings's (with detail of inscription).



### Most read

The most viewed stories for week August 5-11 on [antiquetrade gazette.com](http://antiquetrade gazette.com)

- 1 **Top-selling railway clock stars in our pick of five auction highlights**
- 2 **Chinese table topper from private Scottish collection sells 70 times over estimate in Glasgow**
- 3 **Eugène Boudin painting sparks ownership mystery**
- 4 **Pick of the week: sleeper in Norfolk as Worcester coffee cup is flagged up**
- 5 **Plea for help to recover late artist's medals stolen from Macclesfield museum**



### In Numbers

## 61st

The edition of the *New York International Antiquarian Book Fair* now been postponed because of coronavirus. It was due to take place on September 9-12 but cancellations from exhibitors have led to the organisers calling it off and aiming for a new date in April 2022.

# Bid Barometer

Online buying: realised prices at auctions on [thesaleroom.com](http://thesaleroom.com)

## TOP SELLING LOTS

### Stroud Auctions, August 5

Pair of James Purdey & Sons 12-bore self-opening sidelock side by side ejector shotguns, built for Lord Ramsey and presented to him on July 25, 1925.

Estimate: £6000-10,000

**Hammer: £12,000**



### John Nicholson's, Haslemere, August 5

Gold mounted ivory toothpick box by Stephany and Dresch with micro carved naval battle scene titled *The Mediterranean Campaign of 1778*.

Estimate: £2000-3000

**Hammer: £9500**

### Elmwood's, London, August 5

Emerald cut and step cut aquamarine and round cut diamond 'bib' necklace in 18ct white gold, no assay marks.

Estimate: £10,000-15,000

**Hammer: £10,500**



## HIGHEST MULTIPLE OVER TOP ESTIMATE

### Amersham Auction Rooms, August 5

George III mahogany veneered and gilt metal sarcophagus form tea casket.

Estimate: £70-100

**Hammer: £2500**



### Gorrings's, Lewes, August 9

English oak linenfold panel coffer, probably 16th century.

Estimate: £150-250

**Hammer: £5000**

### Hotlotz, Singapore, online sale ending August 8

Qing or later white jade censer and cover on carved hardwood stand, 6in (14cm) wide.

Estimate: Sin\$500-1000

**Hammer: Sin\$15,000 (£8000)**



Source: Bid Barometer is a snapshot of sales on [thesaleroom.com](http://thesaleroom.com) for August 5-11, 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](http://thesaleroom.com)  
 'Top selling lots' = Our selection of items from the top 20 highest hammer prices paid by internet bidders on [thesaleroom.com](http://thesaleroom.com)





# Kashmir sapphire shines bright in Monte Carlo

The Hôtel des Ventes de Monte Carlo (25/23/20% buyer's premium) held a sale series in mid July that featured auctions devoted to jewellery, watches and accessories, antiquities and modern art.

A highlight of the series came in the fine jewellery auction on July 19: a Kashmir sapphire weighing 27ct mounted as a ring in a diamond setting sold for a hammer price of €2.1m (£1.8m) against an estimate of €2m-3m.

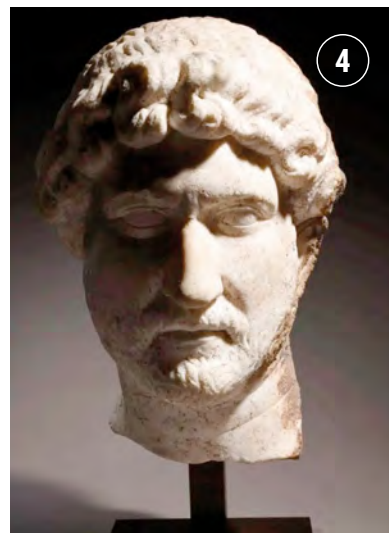
## Head heights

A number of notable results for ancient sculpture appeared in the antiquities sale on July 21.

These included a 9½in (24cm) high basalt head of a young, bald man with an oval face and almond shaped eyes dated to the 4th century BC. This had a provenance to a French collection from the 1950s. It last appeared at auction in 2008 at Artcurial and featured in a 2012 exhibition titled *Le Crépuscule des Pharaons* at the Musée Jacquemart André in Paris.

In Monaco it sold within the €200,000-250,000 guide for €210,000 (£181,035).

The sale also included a large Roman marble portrait head of the Emperor Hadrian dated to the 2nd century AD measuring 12 x 9 x 10in (32.5 x 23 x 25.5cm). The emperor is shown facing slightly to the left



with hair in layered waves and with a short, thick curly beard. This had a provenance to a Swedish collection, acquired in the 1970s. It also sold

1. Kashmir sapphire ring – €2.1m (£1.8m) at HVMC.

2. Egyptian basalt head of a young man – €210,000 (£181,035).

3. Hellenistic period carved rock crystal intaglio mounted as a ring – €41,000 (£35,345).

4. Roman head of the Emperor Hadrian – €100,000 (£86,205).

within its estimate, at €100,000 (£86,205).

The sale featured an estate collection of ancient intaglios formed by a Parisian jeweller working in the 1950s that attracted the attention of bidders. One particularly sought-after piece was a Hellenistic period rock

crystal intaglio from the c.3rd to 2nd century BC. Measuring ¾ x 1in (2 x 2.5cm), this was carved with a finely detailed profile portrait of a ruler and set on a massive gold swivel mount.

It was pursued well past the €10,000-15,000 guide to take €41,000 (£35,345).

## Mangle angle



On August 19 Pook & Pook will sell the collection of Barbara A and Fred Johnson of Rockford, Illinois, owners of Barbara A Johnson Antiques.

The couple spent decades travelling the US and Europe specialising in Swedish and Scandinavian folk art and furniture and the sale mixes Scandinavian pieces with examples of American furniture from south-east Pennsylvania.

Among the smaller objects are a group of 18th century and 19th century decoratively carved and painted Swedish mangle boards, such as this example which measures 2ft 7¾in (80.5cm) in length, is dated 1785 and features incised pinwheel designs and a handle fashioned as a lion.

Estimate \$300-400.

► pookandpook.com

## George I coffee pot

Thomaston Place is holding one of its extensive multi-discipline summer sale over three days from August 27-29 featuring a wide mix of American, European and Asian paintings, furnishings and objects.

Among the silverwares is this George I period side-handled octagonal coffee pot by Thomas Parr I, a Britannia standard piece marked for London 1717 measuring 9¾in (24cm) high and weighing 26oz. It has a wooden scrolled side handle (reglued) and a bird's head spout and is engraved with a crest. The estimate is \$2000-3000.

► thomastonauction.com



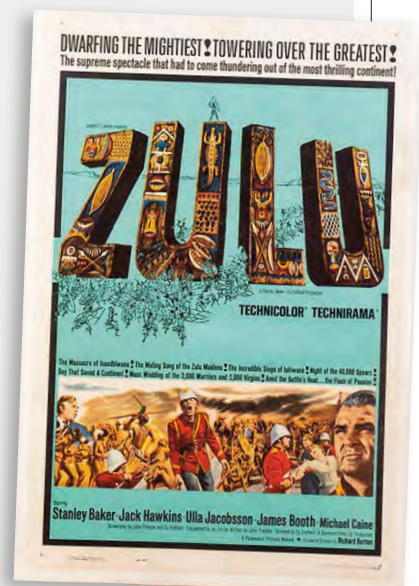
## Film classic

Hotlotz in Singapore holds a single-owner online auction on August 22 featuring the 'property of a gentleman'.

The wide-ranging ensemble of items includes a selection of film posters among them this US one sheet from 1964 for *Zulu*.

The 3ft 5in x 2ft 3in (1m x 68.5cm) linen backed framed poster has an estimate of SG\$500-800.

► hotlotz.com







A COLLECTION OF LALIQUE CRYSTAL INCLUDING A BACCHANTES VASE

HOME & DECOR - SEPTEMBER



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## UPCOMING SALES

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A GUANGXU PERIOD PINK GROUND TEAPOT WITH XIA BAI XUE MARK

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A PAIR OF CHINESE FAMILLE VERTE FIGURES OF BOYS, KANGXI

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### SPECIAL TERMS FOR BUYERS FROM OUTSIDE SINGAPORE

Hammer Price and 24% Buyer's Premium are inclusive of 7% GST. Hotlotz can remove all GST for buyers who are non-resident in Singapore, providing we manage the export and it is completed within 60 days of the auction closing date.



'A GROUP OF CHINESE GAMBLERS' FROM A COLLECTION OF WORKS BY GEORGE CHINNERY

PROPERTY OF A GENTLEMAN



A PAIR OF CHINESE BLUE AND WHITE PORCELAIN DISHES, KANGXI

ASIAN CERAMICS & WORKS OF ART



AN IMPORTANT ARTS & CRAFTS PLAQUE BY W.J. NEATBY FROM THE COLLECTION OF CHARLES HOLME AND THENCE BY DESCENT

HOME & DECOR - SEPTEMBER



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### UPCOMING CALENDAR

Property of a Gentleman:	10 - 22 August
Single-Owner Antique European Porcelain:	17 - 29 August
Home & Decor - September:	24 August - 5 September
Jewellery & Watches:	31 August - 12 September
Asian Ceramics & Works of Art:	14 - 26 September



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