

## GOLD TREASURES FOUND UNDER FLOORBOARDS

**T**wenty carat gold sheets used by dentists and in jewellery manufacture found in a box under floorboards of a deceased Elwood estate brought more than \$70,000 at Philips Auctions May sale.

The sheets were amongst a large number of gold jewellery items also found under the floorboards alongside 57 gold sovereigns minted from 1872 to 1925 by London, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth mints, 30 Austrian coronas dated 1915 and 12 South African kruggerands from 1975.

With no members of the family surviving, gemologist Tanya Philips can only speculate on how the gold came to be stored there.

"The sheets were manufactured by Engelhard Industries in Melbourne for jewellers and dentists and perhaps the former owner had something to do with these professions," she said.

The coins, all of which sold, fared equally well as the sheets with the gold sovereigns bringing an average hammer price of \$900 and the coins \$1200-\$1300.

"These results show that people are still determined to spend on gold because it is tangible wealth," Ms Philips said.



A gold link bracelet sold for \$1400 and a platinum diamond line bracelet for \$3000, while a pair of South Sea pearl and diamond earrings were knocked down for \$700 and a pair of diamond studs for \$5500.

**D**ecorative arts featured silver and porcelain from the late Mrs Marks (a member of a wealthy Toorak family) – several of whose items appeared in the March sale. Unfortunately, she died not long after the last auction and the remaining items listed for May fared particularly well.

One of these, a late 17<sup>th</sup> century William and Mary

secretaire decorated with quatrefoil marquetry panels of birds and butterflies, was knocked down for \$7000.



**T**he auction also featured an imposing Victorian mahogany four-door breakfront bookcase (which sold for \$12,500) from the 1870s from Catanach's Jewellers in High Street Armadale – the company founded in 1874 by English diamond setter George Catanach, who migrated to Melbourne to seek a better life, and still run by his descendants.

A Louis XVI style Second Empire marquetry table sold for \$6000, a large Royal Worcester creation from 1911 with a gilt and floral rimmed flared neck signed by A. Schuck for \$3900 and a Chinese shipwreck charger from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1643) for \$800.



### Next Sale

Philips July sale will feature a collection of antique jewellery, early Australian silver and a large Galle vase.