

FORTUNES FOR FURNITURE LEAD TO STOCK CHASE

Philips Auctions sales have become so successful in these troubled economic times that the company's greatest challenge is to keep attracting good quality stock, particularly from estates and private vendors. The latest April auction was no exception with many items selling well above reserve, often sending many of the 149 bidders present into overdrive as Philips did its best to live up to its resolve of "turning furniture into fortunes".



One of the major items to sell to a keen interstate and knowledgeable collector was a 1940s Jules Leleu French art deco rosewood nine piece dining setting for \$40,390. The Leleu setting comprised a dining table with six matching rose coloured velvet upholstered chairs, a cocktail cabinet with brass detail and a large and impressive sideboard. A giant 1870 Victorian Cuban mahogany extension table with 20 matching chairs and leaf holder sold for \$20,772 while the 1870 Parian sculptured figure that featured on the catalogue's front cover changed hands for \$3462 – more than six times its reserve.

"Other items were equally

impressive," said managing director Tony Philips. "For example, a Belleek teapot sold for \$980 (on a \$400 reserve) and the amounts paid for Japanese Satsuma items were mind boggling."

A vase and a cloisonné each changed hands for \$1384, a bowl for \$1269 and two Imari chargers for \$808 and \$865 respectively.

The amounts paid for Chinese porcelain were equally astounding with some of the pieces fetching three to four times the estimates. A lidded wine jug sold for \$1096 while a Ming Dynasty (1368-1643) stem cup changed hands for \$505 and a Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) vase for \$634.

Tony Philips said silver also was popular with a George III wine jug selling for \$2192 and bachelor tea set for \$692.

Several paintings changed hands for good prices with one Italian painting in particular bringing \$1500 on a \$50 estimate, a John Olsen print (\$3231) and an Ernest Buckmaster oil on canvas (\$4500).



ERNEST BUCKMASTER
Delphiniums in a Silver Jug

JEWELLERY FRENZY CONTINUES

Once again, the following night's jewellery sale was strong, easily reaching or surpassing estimates as buyers took the opportunity to invest in items outside the share market.



A diamond line bracelet sold for \$6924, a pair of diamond stud earrings for \$1962 and a diamond set pendant for \$1846 amid spirited bidding from the 100 buyers present. Among the rings an argyle and white diamond stood out, changing hands for \$6116, while an impressive diamond solitaire sold for \$51,930. Other items to do well were a ladies gold rolex wristwatch (\$2077) and a fabulous diamond set ladies Omega (\$4847).

