



# Philips Auction Action

FEBRUARY 26, 2008



The sale of a magnificent four-door burr walnut Gillows bookcase was a major highlight of Philips February auction. Sold for \$13,848, this 1900 example is a lasting testament to the skills that Gillows – recognised as the doyen of English furniture making – has left for future generations to enjoy. Established in the early 1700s in Lancaster by Robert Gillow, the firm rose to prominence between 1750 and 1811 when English furniture production was second to none. It continued to play a significant role in fine furniture making until late last century when the firm was taken over by a major department store.

Other important furniture items to bring good results at auction were a 1680 oak coffer, reputedly to once have been owned by former Governor-General



Lord Casey, and a European chest on stand – each of which sold for \$3462.



A significant Donald Friend pastel *The Muleteer* sold for \$9693, almost twice the upper estimate, while local artist and Penguin Gallery owner at Phillip Island Rafael Gurvich's oil on canvas fetched \$1154.

Amongst the more unusual items was an impressive Austro-Hungarian "Havdalah" Jewish ceremonial silver

## GILLOWS LEGACY TO ENGLISH FURNITURE MAKING

cup with cabochon decoration and continuous inscription with a cautious upper estimate of \$1500 brought four times that amount at the fall of the hammer.



A magnificent Carlton Ware collection fared well with a pair of "rockery and pheasant" lustre vases selling for \$2077, a Chinoiserie for \$1380 and a "forest tree" creation for \$1730.

Silver items also featured strongly with a caviar knife bearing the Faberge mark bringing \$1615. A 19<sup>th</sup> century Japanese silver, enamel and ivory mounted vase also sold for a healthy \$7155.

The jewellery auction was equally impressive with several pieces bringing good prices, including a diamond set bangle that was knocked down for \$3000 and an amethyst necklace for \$2654 against an \$800 estimate. Other items to fare well were a pair of large diamond studs that sold for \$12,100, a diamond dress ring (\$8078) and an unusual gold cigar case (\$2800).

### NEXT SALE

Auction goers should find the April sale of great interest with French and Victorian baronial furniture, based on 17<sup>th</sup> century styles, from the one estate a main feature. Included is a hunting bookcase with carved doors, matching desk, two side chairs and a hall settle. From another estate comes Victorian and Georgian furniture featuring a French armoire, Louis XVI salon suite and silver and porcelain.



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