



OCTOBER 2006

Philips Auction Action

QUALITY AUCTION WOWS BUYERS

WHITE HUNTER FEVER GRIPS ANIMAL RELICS COLLECTORS

White hunter fever gripped Philips Auctions October sale as keen buyers jockeyed for the right to own probably the largest pair of elephant tusks ever seen at an Australian auction.

The tusks, from an 80-year-old bull elephant born in the late 1800s, were eventually knocked down for \$28,850 – more than twice their higher reserve.

Managing director Tony Philips attributed much of the tusk sale success to lead up newspaper publicity which traced the history of the items to 92-year-old former Western Districts farmer Fred Olver.

“He went on a three-week safari in east Africa to hunt elephant and other animals in the early 1950s and returned with these beauties,” he said.

“The animal heads (pictured) sold for \$5770 and the leopard skin rug for \$5308.”

The auction also was notable for the extraordinarily high price achieved for a 1934 Steinway baby grand piano. With a high reserve of \$20,000, frenzied bidding took the sale price to a staggering \$40,390.

Other items to fare well included an 1800 Georgian mahogany long case clock complete with a moon face dial and date aperture, which sold for \$17,310 against a high estimate of \$12,000, an



1880 French walnut extension dining table (with 18 matching chairs) that changed hands for \$16,156 and a Queensland collection of 18th and 19th century oriental ceramic pieces with two of the Chinese vases selling for \$4846 and \$3231 respectively. The remainder of a large New South Wales scent bottle collection (much of which was sold at the September sale) also proved popular and demonstrated that buyers respond favourably to innovation on the auction scene.

“We are not static,” Tony Philips said. “As a progressive auction house, we display the items for sale in their most favourable light and encourage our buyers to purchase quality at all times.”

Tony said, with his daughter Tanya now back on deck and in charge of the jewellery sale after the birth of son Spencer, coloured stones were in strong demand.

“There is no doubt we are confident of a bright future as we continue to attract quality stock from vendors,” he said.



Next Sale

The next Philips Auction sale on December 3 will be the last sale for the year and includes a Geelong estate with top drawer French cabinets and English and French grandfather clocks. A Maribyrnong collector also is placing her extensive collection of Indonesian and Chinese porcelain on the auction market.



Website: www.philipsauctions.com.au

Email: tony@philipsauctions.com.au

Telephone: 61 3 9509 6788 Fax: 61 3 9509 3455