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Our main offices and two auction rooms are located in Stanhope Street, opposite the Liverpool Marina. There is free on-road parking. Visits to clients in Wirral, Chester and North Wales are made every week. Evening and weekend visits to clients homes can be made by prior arrangement.

To book your appointments simply telephone **John Crane** personally on either **0151 709 5559** or mobile **07836 209995**

Cato Crane Auctioneers
Liverpool Auction Rooms
6 Stanhope Street
Liverpool, L8 5RF

Chester and North Wales
Tel: 01244 680055
Wirral Tel: 0151 342 2321
Liverpool Tel: 0151 709 5559



CATO CRANE
AUCTIONEERS

Email: john@catocrane.co.uk

www.catocrane.co.uk



Doulton Red Haired Clown

when the war interrupted production of non-essential items. I remember auctioning one of these about thirty years ago when it made £1,400. These clowns (and there are also versions with white and black hair), do not appear frequently on the market. This particular example has been professionally restored on a large chip – bearing in both mind today's tastes and the fact that it is restored against the plusses of it being a rare piece, what do you think it is worth now?

Having said that mediocre furniture is not in demand and buyers are only seeking out the fine pieces, the same generally applies to clocks, though not entirely! I recently discovered two good clocks in Wirral. One was a high-quality London-made clock, but with only a 30-hour movement, which means you have to wind it up every day. Because it is early c1720 and small it is very desirable. Another long cased clock I have illustrated is about 1750 and made in the City of Bristol. Despite being a little tall and the case having had a hard life and requiring repair and restoration, it should

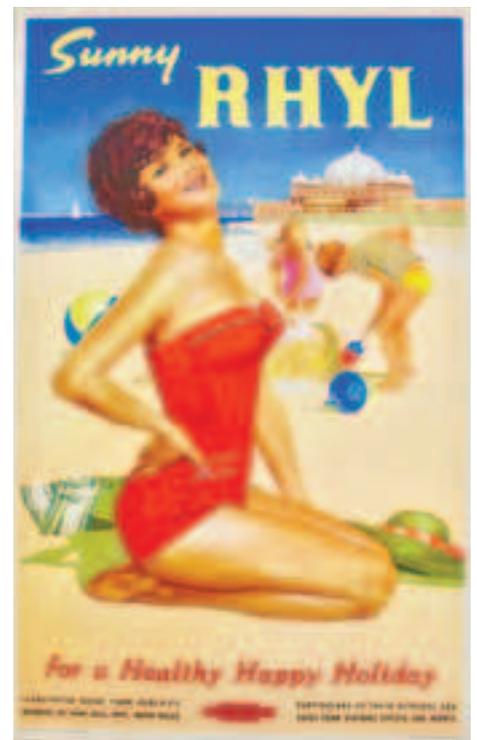


By William Smith of Bristol

still make £1,000 to £1,500 with a fair wind and good bidders behind it. So clocks seem to be one of the exceptions to the rule at the moment and long may it last.

Nearly finally, travel posters are the bright and breezy works of the skilled commercial artists and do brighten your days when framed at home to be enjoyed on those dull rainy days from November to March. They are worth considering as good examples may be acquired at a tiny fraction of the price of even mediocre canvases from even middle-range artists.

If, however, you submit to their beckoning to spend long sunny holidays in Rhyl or anywhere for that matter, **DON'T FORGET** to check out your home contents insurance valuations, as most of us are probably these days really underinsured for replacement values. Call me on 0151 342 2321 for appointments or to call in to our office on The Mount in Heswall.



So whether it is Llandudno or London, Rhyl or Rhodes have a good, well-insured holiday!

I'm off for my annual three-day workaholic break to see clients in Wales in my new car... Well... not actually, this was, unfortunately, only on display at the London Chelsea Antique Fair!



My new car...if only!