

# All Things Auctioneering

With Cato Crane Valuers & Auctioneers and John Crane Fine Art

Assembling an auction of 650 lots means handling about 3,000 objects every month. It is not difficult to do if you have a well-organised auction room and a team who have worked together for many years and know the rules to follow. And as well, the job can be extremely stressful as hardly anyone enjoys parting with the lovely, familiar objects that may have been in their family for many years; the Cato Crane team are fully aware that the process can be worrying and even emotionally painful at times. The nice thing is that we do know how to deal with this as we have been assisting people for over 35 years and we have experienced most situations.

Good auction results are vital in this process and enable people to acquire different items – perhaps smaller pieces of furniture when downsizing after a large family residence has been vacated. Objects often put away in cupboards for years may do well if recognised by experienced auctioneers and valuers. The auction this week was no exception and ran true to what we expected. We like doing well for people.

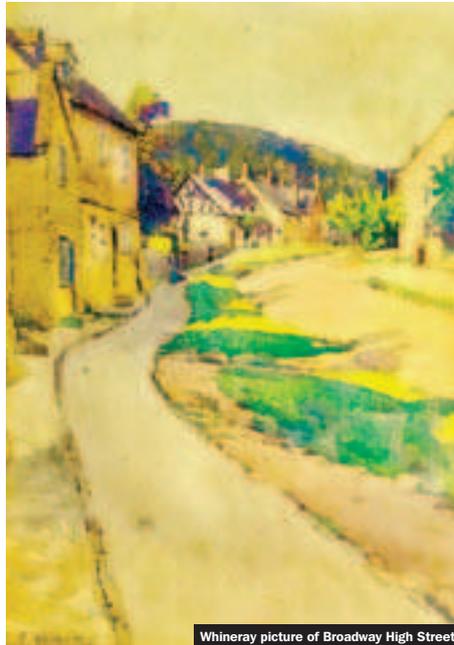


c19th Chinese

A pair of post-1900 Chinese composite tulip vases made just under £1,000 including commissions and VAT and a c19th Chinese bowl made over £1,250. Neither of these pieces were early, that is c18th or earlier; neither bore makers' or character marks to the base which would have made them worth ten times as much. However, they were catalogued correctly, carefully photographed and did very well. A very broken and 'poorly-glued-together' Chinese rice bowl in a famille jeune [yellow] glaze made £400, but it was c18th and made in the reign of Chien Leung which enhanced its rarity value. Despite being costly, most restoration is possible and we can advise on this. So, Oriental ceramics still rule the day and there are now many indications that auction prices are rising once more!

Do you have a sharp eye? Is there a story to tell about a painting or is it a fairly mundane amateur watercolour by someone with neither skill nor ability? The reverse side of some pictures can you a lot – sometimes more than the picture itself – if you have experience and knowledge. If there is a reputable dealer's label still attached, it can tell you the quality of the picture. Reputable dealers only sell and select the best artists to exhibit. This has always been the case, but you do need to know who the good dealers were for the last 100 years! A client brought the signed painting in the photograph to me at the Cato Crane Heswall Valuation Office; she thought the subject was possibly Burton Village in Wirral as she bought it in a local charity shop. The very faded label on

the back of this picture had the location of the street scene 'Broadway in Worcestershire', not Burton. It also had the artist's address in Heswall and the name of the house where she lived, which is still there.



Whineray picture of Broadway High Street

Eleanor Jane Whineray was the daughter of James Whineray who was a master mariner in Everton, Liverpool, and was born in 1871. As the family became more prosperous they moved to near the Kings Gap in Hoylake in Wirral and later to a property called Dinorben in Heswall where she died in 1962. Miss Whineray studied art at the Birkenhead School of Art and then at Liverpool under the tuition of Julius Olson and she exhibited at local art exhibitions, including those held at the Walker Art Gallery in those days. She had become reputable and produced pleasing landscape pictures suitable for furnishing the properties of the day.



So, let's get down to it! What is this picture now worth? Well, a similar one was sold at a local Wirral auction not so long ago for £30. Why so little? The subject has limited appeal unless you live in Broadway and the cleaning and framing costs are now extremely high for quality work. It would probably cost £350 to get it ready to hang on your wall and you have to know where to have it restored as there was an element of colour fade too. A bad restoration will render it totally worthless!

A dealer would have to sell the picture of Broadway High Street for £500 to make it worth his while, but that would be difficult as many watercolour pictures are now unfashionable for today's houses. The lady with the sharp eye still had a 'good buy' at £5 and I enjoyed doing the research and there was a good story to tell.

Bring pictures to me at our Heswall Valuation Office, by appointment please, and telephone me on 0151 342 2321 to do so. You can also send in email images to Sell@lowerpercent.co.uk to save travelling!



Chinese model

'Take your clothes off and show me where it hurts.' I don't know about you, but when a GP suggests I do that, I generally feel an irrational sense of unease; however, it's what they have to do to keep us alive! Some cultures have different views and so it was in China where, to avoid embarrassment, doctors used models to enable their patients to indicate areas of pain while remaining fully clothed. These models were either wood or more commonly carved from ivory. As with all objects they vary in quality. The model illustrated is about eight inches long and rests on the original polished hardwood stand. Ivory doctor's models are highly sought by collectors and this one could quite easily make up to £600 to £800 at auction nowadays – maybe more! A small price to pay to protect one's sensitivities?

Collinge Antiques in Llandudno Junction in North Wales is always well worth the drive for a visit. They have a wide variety of stock and all well prepared to a high standard for immediate use at home. The walled town of Conwy is nearby for the family to visit while you pursue your hobby! CollingeAntiques.com is their website address.

If you feel like venturing further, then a visit to Vienneta Hancock at Stow-on-the-Wold is worth the time and effort, or visit online at Englishcountryhouseantiques.com where you will discover selected 'good taste' items.

Buying antiques at auction is no risk, but many pieces need restoring and this can be an inconvenience to private collectors and you do have to find the right person to do the job.

We have a list of restorers for ceramics, pictures and furniture which you can have if you phone me on 0151 342 2321.



Brass detailed pedestal desk c1900 retailing at £1,800

A toy is not just for Christmas! The antique toy market is very much alive and well and is probably worth having a looking at this year if you are wondering where to spend any spare cash you just might have left over after the Christmas festivities!

Recently we discovered a small tinplate figure of Charlie Chaplin; it was in perfect working order and made by the German toy manufacturers Schuco in the 1930s. Schuco was founded in 1906 in Nuremberg and the name lives onto this