

5 March 2021 **Preview**

Sotheby's New York 17 March

Imperial Cloisonné & Jade:
Chinese Art from The Brooklyn Museum

Lots: 45. Low Estimate: \$3.15m.

Important Chinese Art

Lots: 184. Low Estimate: \$7.84m

Total Lots: 229. Total Low estimate: \$10.99m.

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Following on from other recent auction offerings from American museums, which has included the Metropolitan in New York, the Art Institute in Chicago and the Springfield Museums, Sotheby's will be selling 45 lots of jade and cloisonné from the Brooklyn Museum.

These are primarily from the collections of Samuel P. Avery Jr (1847-1920), who had donated 282 pieces of cloisonné items by 1919 and Colonel Robert B. Woodward (1840-1915), who donated 218 jades to the Museum in 1914.

The standout highlight of this group is lot 14, the exceptional Qianlong period white and russet jade brushpot. This is beautifully carved with a continuous mountainous landscape scene that is elegantly raised on five *ruyi*-form feet.

A highlight of the cloisonné enamel pieces is lot 20, the 'bats and clouds' vase. Designs of bats and clouds in cloisonné enamel are particularly rare and are believed to be inspired by similar designs in porcelain.



Lot 14. An exceptional white and russet jade brushpot Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 18.7cm high. \$1-1.5m



Lot 15. A large pair of spinach-green jade 'immortals' parfumiers,, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 24.7cm, high. \$150,000-250,000.



Lot 17. A large cloisonné enamel censer and cover, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 43.4cm high. \$200,000-300,000.

Lot 24 An exceptionally rare and large hexagonal cloisonné enamel baluster vase, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 34.7cm high. \$250,000-350,000.

Lot 20. An exceptionally rare cloisonné enamel bats and clouds vase, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 39.3cm, high. \$300,000-500,000.



Lot 129. A luminous white moon jar, Korea, Joseon dynasty, 18th century, 34.3cm high, \$400,000-600,000.

One of the early highlights of the *Important Chinese Art* sale is in fact not Chinese but Korean. Lot 129 is the wonderful Joseon dynasty luminous white moon jar. The introductory essay in the catalogue is entitled 'The shape of the sublime', which does encapsulate this wonderful combination of luminous white colour and beautiful rounded form. This piece, with its minimalist aesthetic, comes from a Japanese private collection that was acquired in the 1950s.



Lot 130. An exceptional and rare blue and white 'floral' bowl, Ming dynasty, Yongle period, 16cm diameter, \$300,000-500,000.

The highlight of the Ming ceramics is lot 130, the exceptional and rare Yongle period blue and white 'floral' bowl. The form is known as lotus bud (*lianzi*) or in China as chicken heart (*jixin*). It is beautifully potted with a sensuously rounded body rising from a short sturdy foot. The interior is painted with eight dianthus blossoms above a central medallion and below a band of leaf-shaped motifs at the rim. The cobalt is of a deep blue that breaks through the glaze in the classic early Ming heaped and piled effect and contrasts extremely well with the clear white ground.



Lot 137. A fine and rare coral-ground famille-verte 'peony' bowl, Yongzheng yuzhi mark and period, 11.4cm diameter. \$500,000-700,000.

The major highlight of the Qing imperial porcelain section is lot 137, the fine and rare Yongzheng *yuzhi* mark and period coral-ground famille verte 'peony' bowl. This style of bowl with its dark coral ground was originally pioneered in the Kangxi period. The four-character underglaze blue *yuzhi* mark or 'made for the imperial use of..' signified that it was made at Jingdezhen, rather than those with overglazed blue or pink enamelled marks of those that were made at the palace workshops in Beijing. The exterior of the bowl features three large peony blooms, two of which combine blue and yellow and the third in aubergine and green enamels. These are linked by bright green leafy scrolls which effectively contrast with the coral ground.

The most significant piece in the latter part of the sale is lot 202, the superb and important Tang dynasty parcel-gilt silver 'lotus and pomegranate' bowl. This is of a particular rare type, being fully gilded to the exterior and the interior with a gilded rim and medallion to the base. The contrast of the silver and gilded areas to the interior is particularly effective. The medallion to the interior base is finely incised with a pomegranate flower flanked by two fan-shaped leaves. The exterior is incised with a design of lotus into each of the four lobes, which are each framed within leaf borders. The overall effect is particularly luxurious and sumptuous and would no doubt have been an expression of the status of its owner at the Tang court.



Lot 202. A superb and important parcel-gilt silver 'lotus and pomegranate' bowl, Tang dynasty, 24.3cm diameter, \$1-1.5m



- Lot 504. A very rare bronze ritual wine vessel and cover, *fangyi*. Late Shang dynasty, 12th century B.C. 8 3/4 in. (22 cm.) high. \$600,000-800,000.
 Lot 502. A bronze ritual wine vessel, *hu*. Late Shang dynasty, 12th century B.C. 13 3/4 in (35 cm) high. \$200,000-300,000.
 Lot 505. The Luboshez Gong. An exceptional and highly important bronze ritual wine vessel and cover, *gong*. Late Shang dynasty, Anyang, 13th-12th century B.C. 11 1/4 in (29.8 cm) long. \$4-6m.
 Lot 503. A bronze ritual wine vessel, *pou*. Late Shang dynasty, 13th-12th century B.C. 13 in (33 cm) diam. \$200,000-300,000.
 Lot 501. A finely cast bronze ritual wine vessel, *gu*. Late Shang dynasty, Anyang, 12th-11th century B.C. 12 in (30.4 cm) high. \$80,000-120,000.

Christie's New York

18 March

Shang: Early Chinese Ritual Bronzes from the Daniel Shapiro Collection

Lots: 5. Low Estimate: \$5.08m.

Important Chinese Art from the Junckunc Collection

Lots: 86. Low Estimate: \$2.56m.

Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

Lots: 191. Low Estimate: \$6.47m.

Total Lots - 282. Total Low estimate - \$14.11m

Photographs © Christies.

Christie's sales will be held the following day on Thursday 18 March and get underway with the five lot offering: *Shang, Early Chinese Ritual Bronzes from the Daniel Shapiro Collection*. These bronzes were exhibited at J.J. Lally's exhibition *Chinese Archaic Bronzes, the Collection of Daniel Shapiro*, which was held during Asia Week in New York in 2014.

The highlight of this group is lot 505, the Luboshez Gong. It is so named as it had belonged to Captain S. N. Ferris Luboshez (1896-1984), a barrister and lawyer that became interested in Chinese art when he was posted to Shanghai for the US State Department after the war. The bold casting, the crisp detail and the patina of this piece is of the first order.



Lot 620. A very rare pale beigish-white and yellowish-brown jade figure of a standing Bactrian camel, Tang-Yuan dynasty, 6.7cm high. \$300,000-500,000.



Lot 624. A rare miniature yellow jade archaistic faceted jar and cover, fanghu, Qianlong period or earlier, 8.6cm high. \$100,000-150,000.



Lot 646. A finely carved white jade figure of a mythical beast, 17th/18th century, 9cm long. \$100,000-150,000.

The second sale features 86 lots from the Junkunc Collection, which comprises primarily jade and archaic bronzes. The most significant highlight of the group is lot 620, the very rare Tang-Yuan dynasty jade figure of a Bactrian camel. Illustrated on the front cover of the catalogue, camels are rarely depicted in jade. Only one other example of this size is recorded, that is in the Tianjin Museum, which is dated to the Tang dynasty. This example has a subtle colour variation from a warm yellowish-brown to a beigish-white colour.

The first part of the sale of *Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* features a 36 lot collection of Chinese ceramics from an important private New York collection. The offering ranges in date from the monochrome wares of the Song dynasty to monochrome and enamelled wares of the Qing. One unusual and rare piece is lot 715 the Yongzheng mark and period Ru-type vase. The unusual proportions of a relatively short wide neck on a squat globular body, combined with a pale blue glaze is particularly successful.

The main highlight of this group is lot 723, the rare and finely decorated Jiaqing mark and period 'landscape' vase, which depicts scholars in an idealised mountainous river landscape. The vase is particularly striking with its ruby enamelled ground at the neck and the foot.

The highlight of the 22 lot furniture section is lot 830 the important and exceptionally rare 17th century hexagonal huanghuali incense stand. It is believed to be the only hexagonal stand published, with round examples being the most common. The apron to each side is finely carved with confronting *chilong* above beaded cabriole legs that terminate in *ruyi*-form feet.



Lot 715. A very rare Ru-type vase, Yongzheng mark and period, 17.8cm high. \$70,000-90,000.



Lot 723. A rare and finely decorated 'landscape' vase, Jiaqing mark and period, 30.5cm high. \$200,000-300,000.

One of the most significant pieces of Qing imperial porcelain in the sale is lot 857, the extremely rare Kangxi mark and period copper red 'dragon' vase, *sanxianping*. There are only three other examples of this type of vase published from three American museums, one in the Metropolitan in New York, another in Taft Museum in Cincinnati and one in the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore.

The name *sanxianping* or 'three string vase' refers to the three raised lines at the base of the neck. The two three-clawed dragons painted on this vase are quite different to the majority of dragons that appear on Kangxi porcelain and they appear quite archaic in form. The upper part of the body appears out of delicately carved breaking waves, with the tail emerging further back which cleverly suggest a part of its body being submerged beneath the water. Large areas of the vase are left undecorated, which allows the eye to focus on its delicate, well proportioned form.

Another highlight from this section is lot 858, the magnificent Yongzheng mark and period famille rose charger. It is beautifully painted with a design of peonies and branches of flowering magnolia and crabapple. The design cleverly emanates from the reverse of the dish, where it wraps around the base. The shading of the peonies is created by the use of an opaque white enamel, which successfully contrasts with the leaves, which are painted in translucent green and turquoise enamels. The estimate is somewhat conservative on this lot and it should sell for significantly higher than this on the day.



Lot 830. An important and exceptionally rare hexagonal huanghuali incense stand, *xiangji*, 17th century, 88.9cm high. \$800,000-1.2m.



Lot 857. An extremely rare copper-red-decorated 'dragon' vase, *sanxianping*, Kangxi mark and period, 21cm high \$450,000-650,000.



Lot 858. A magnificent famille rose charger, Yongzheng six-character mark in underglaze blue within a double circle and of the period, 50.8cm diameter. \$80,000-120,000.



Lot 859. A very rare celadon-glazed 'chrysanthemum vase', Yongzheng mark and period, 26.4cm high. \$200,000-300,000.

Bonhams New York

15 March

Chinese Works of Art and Paintings

Lots: 234. Low Estimate: \$1.64m.

Photographs © Bonhams.



Lot 78. A grey limestone head of a bodhisattva, possibly late Northern Wei dynasty, 6th century, 23.5cm high. \$60,000-80,000, from the collection of James and Marilyn Alsdorf.



Lot 79. A rare black stone figure of Maitreya, Northern Wei Dynasty, Longmen Caves, 5th/6th century, 44cm high. \$70,000-100,000, from the collection of James and Marilyn Alsdorf.



Lot 86. A Rare Imperially-Inscribed white-glazed ingot-shaped pillow. The pillow Song Dynasty (960-1279), the inscribed poem dated 1746, 21.2cm long. \$50,000-80,000, from the collection of Rosalind Ching Pastor.



Lot 130. A Magnificent mother-of-pearl-inlaid black lacquer (*bao Luodian*) octagonal oblong tray Ming Dynasty, 15th-16th Century, 35.5cm long. US\$25,000-35,000, which is part of the 40 lot offering from the Mee-Din and Robert W. Moore Collection of Chinese Lacquer.



Lot 223. Qi Baishi (1862-1957), Mice and Candlestick, ink and colour on paper, 102cm by 34cm. \$70,000-90,000.