

8 December 2020

## Auction News

A large zitan brushpot sells for £262,500 at Woolley & Wallis sale on 7 December.

Photographs © Woolley & Wallis.

Lot 38, the unusually large brushpot was dated cautiously as Qing dynasty, but included a date in the inscription to the second year of Chongzheng (1630), the final Ming dynasty emperor.

With the significant bidding interest, it was clear that buyers had their own ideas on the dating of this and it was left to two telephone bidders to ultimately battle it out to £210,000 hammer (£262,500 with buyers premium).

Looking at the detailed condition report images on their website, the quality of the carving is particularly fine and depicts three animated birds seated on branches of prunus besides bamboo in a rocky landscape. At the rim, there is a thin band of key-fret inlaid with silver wire. The inscription refers to a Chen Meigong admiring this piece at the Xiang Yi An temple in Jiaxing and is signed Dong Qichang.

The second highest price of the day was for lot 47, the large Qing dynasty Chinese gilt-lacquered bronze figure of Manjusri. This large figure is seated in *dhyanasana*, with his hands in the teaching gesture, *dharmachakra mudra*. It sold for £100,000 against a £15,000-20,000 estimate.

The two days of sales, which included Japanese Art and Asian Art II, realised at total of £1.87m.



Lot 38. A large zitan brushpot, *bitong*, Qing dynasty, 30cm diameter, sold for £262,500 hammer. (Estimate £8,000-10,000).



Lot 47. A large Chinese gilt-lacquered bronze figure of Manjusri, Qing dynasty, 35.3cm high, sold for £125,000. (Estimate £15,000-20,000).

## Sale Diary

8, 9 & 11 December - Nagel Stuttgart. Fine Asian Art

10 December - Christie's Paris. Art D'Asia.

10 & 11 December - Bukowski. Important Winter Sale: including Asian Art.

11 December - Sotheby's Paris. Arts D'Asia.

15 December - Lempertz. Cologne: Asian Art, China, Tibet, Nepal.

## Hansons damaged Qianlong deer vase sells for £200,000.

Photographs © Hansons Auctioneers

The Qianlong seal mark and period underglaze-blue and copper-red 'deer' lantern vase went under the hammer on Monday 7 December at Hansons auctioneers in Derbyshire.

It was discovered in a private Leicestershire house with a group of 11 more modest 18th century pieces. It apparently lived under a table and was damaged at a party some years previously.

There was a number of telephone bidders on the piece and after a colourful preamble, the bidding quickly rose to £80,000 on commission with the auctioneer. A number of telephones then took over and quickly took the bidding to £100,000 and then from £110,00 it rose in £5,000 bids to £200,000, where after nearly ten minutes of bidding, it was sold to a mainland Chinese bidder.

This price represents a really significant result for a vase that was broken into a number of pieces and glued together, but this essentially reflects the rarity of its type and the quality of painting.

Large lantern vases of this type were an innovation of the Qianlong period and the wide central section was an ideal format to show off the skills of the painter. The dominance of the cobalt blue and the understated use of the copper-red is a particularly effective way of creating a certain rhythm and emphasis to certain parts of the design.

A similar shaped vase, with the design of a mountainous landscape in underglaze blue was sold with Dukes auctioneers of Dorchester in February 2010 for £625,000 hammer.



An underglaze-blue and copper red 'deer' vase, Qianlong seal mark and period, 46.5cm high, sold for £200,000 hammer. £15,000-20,000.



An underglaze-blue and copper red 'landscape' vase, Qianlong seal mark and period, sold for £625,000 hammer at Dukes auctioneers in Dorchester in February 2010. Photographs © Dukes Auctioneers

Millon auctioneers sell an important Yongzheng mark and period famille rose dish for €200,000 hammer.

Photographs © Millon Auctioneers

On 7 December, Jean Gauchet acting as the expert for this sale introduced the lot prior to it being auctioned and acted as the winning telephone bidder during the auction.

His main competition was his Chinese colleague seated next to him and between them, they drove the price to the top estimate, where his bid was ultimately successful at £200,000.

It was particularly finely painted with sprays of peony branches to the centre of the interior in different coloured enamels, below sprays of rose and prunus at the rim.

This dish was of the same ogee shape and large size as the large Yongzheng mark and period dish that had sold at Sotheby's *Important Chinese Art* sale in London a month earlier. This example was painted to the centre of the interior with two dragons in bright pink and green enamels around a central *shou* character. The more striking design of two dragons amongst cranes and cloud scrolls, as well as its noble provenance perhaps contributed to the stronger result of £486,900, but it is an interesting comparison.



Lot 40. A large famille rose 'peony and butterflies' dish, Yongzheng mark and period, 54cm diameter, sold for €200,000 hammer price. (Estimate €150,000-200,000).



Lot 197. A large famille rose 'dragon' dish, Yongzheng mark and period, 53.5cm diameter, sold for £486,900 at Sotheby's *Important Chinese Art* on 4 November 2020. (Estimate €260,000-360,000). Photographs © Sotheby's



Lot 40. The reverse of the Millon dish.



Lot 197. The reverse of the Sotheby's dish.