

8 June 2021

Auction News

Photographs © Bruun Rasmussen.

An early Ming dynasty Yongle period blue and white dragon in reserve dish sells for 35.5m Kr hammer (US\$5.8m) at Bruun Rasmussen on 2 June.

The sale took nearly fourteen minutes to complete whilst the auctioneer, Jasper Bruun Rasmussen, took multiple bids from the room and the telephone. The bidding commenced at 200,000 Kr but quickly rose in 100,000 increments to 5m Kr. From 10m Kr, the pace quickened in 1m bids to 31m Kr and was eventually knocked down for 35.5m Kr (US\$5.8m). This sale represents the highest auction price in the 70 years history of the auction house.

The dish had come from an old Danish private collection and was believed to have been originally purchased by the Malmo architect Salomon Sörensen (1856-1937) who was a keen collector of Chinese and Japanese works of art.

There is a very similar dish to this in the National Museum of Iran in Teheran, which was originally in the Ardebil Shrine. Similar style dragons in reserve on swirling waves can also be seen on flasks of the same period in the Topkapi Saray and British Museum.



Lot 203. An early Ming blue and white reserved 'dragon and waves' dish, 15th century, 40cm diameter, sold for 35.5m Kr (US\$5.8m) at Bruun Rasmussen on 2 June 2021. (Estimate 200,000-300,000 Kr).



Jesper Bruun Rasmussen selling the Yongle dish to one of the many telephone bidders in the saleroom.



A Blue and white reserve 'dragon' dish originally in the Ardebil Shrine.



A metal-mounted Blue and white 'dragon' flask, Ming dynasty, Yongle period, 53cm high, Topkapi Saray Museum, Istanbul

Photograph © Regina Krahl, John Ayers, Chinese Ceramics in the Topkapi Saray Museum.



A Blue and white 'dragon' flask, Ming dynasty, Yongle period 44.6cm high, Percival David Collection. British Museum.

Photograph © British Museum



Salomon Sörensen (1856-1937).