

AROUND *the* HOUSES

A review of recent sales ranging from a campaign chest to Freddie Mercury's maracas



The twin carved doors open to reveal eight drawers

JOHN NICHOLSON'S, HASLEMERE

A rare 18th-century Ceylonese carved ebony campaign table, sold for £13,000 – more than 15 times its low estimate – at the Surrey auctioneer's recent sale.

The cabinet was mounted on gilt metal mounts, carrying handles and came with removable feet as befits the style.

Most campaign chests date to the mid 19th century onwards and include brass corners and straps. They break into two parts and have removable turned feet.



The well depicted background helped secure the high price

The portrait had the unusual Western theme of the Virgin Mary

CANTERBURY AUCTION GALLERIES

Two 18th-century Chinese paintings on glass purchased at a London market stall in the 1950s sold for a total of \$8,700, spurred on by a bidding battle between Hong Kong and London buyers.

The more valuable of the two, which sold to the London bidder for £5,900 – almost double its low estimate – was a portrait of the Virgin Mary, in its original black lacquer and gilt decorated frame. The Hong Kong telephone buyer secured the second portrait also in its original frame, which sold for £2,700 against an estimate of £1,000-£1,500.

Reverse painting on glass flourished in the Qianlong period, with both pictures made for the export to European collectors.

The top seller was a Qing dynasty rhinoceros horn libation cup from c. 1700 which made \$30,000.



The intricately carved cup measured 17.7cm (7in)

CHORLEY'S, PRINKNASH ABBEY PARK

A dated Barnstaple slipware harvest jug made £4,800 at the Gloucester saleroom's recent sale – midway between its estimate of \$4,000-£6,000.

The 24cm (9½in) piece read *The ring is Round and Hath no End so is my Love unto my Friend/Evan and Elanor Dalton, Aberystwith 1826.*

Harvest jugs, used to carry cider or ale at harvest time, are made from slipware, with decoration



Harvest jugs are traditional in the southwest of England, especially the port of Barnstaple

carved through stained clay layers, a technique known as sgraffito, from the Italian for 'scratched'.

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A 1638 book on life in the East Indies sold for £9,500 at the same sale

