

CHRISTIE'S

Important Chinese Lacquer From The Lee Family Collection, Part II

Important Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art

Hong Kong – Tuesday, 1 December, 2009 - Sale no: 2730, 2731 - Top Ten

[All sold prices include buyer's premium]

Sold: HK\$ 370,968,250	US\$ 47,854,904	£ 29,083,911	€ 31,829,075.85
Lots Sold: 147	Lots Offered: 220	Sold by Lot: 67%	Sold by HK\$: 89%
Exchange Rate: HK\$1 = US\$ 0.129/£ 0.0784/€ 0.0858			

Lot/ Sale	Description	Estimate (HK\$)	Purchase Price	Buyer
1818, Sale 2730	A magnificent early Ming large carved cinnabar lacquer square tray Hongwu Period (1368-1398) WORLD AUCTION RECORD PRICE FOR A CINNABAR LACQUER TRAY	10,000,000 – 15,000,000	HK\$ 25,300,000 US\$ 3,263,700 £ 1,983,520 € 2,170,740	Littleton & Hennessy Asian Art
1823, Sale 2730	A magnificent and highly important octagonal inlaid mother-of-pearl lacquer box and cover Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368) WORLD AUCTION RECORD PRICE FOR A CHINESE MOTHER OF PEARL INLAID LACQUER	<i>Estimate on Request</i>	HK\$ 20,820,000 US\$ 2,685,780 £ 1,632,288 € 1,786,356	Littleton & Hennessy Asian Art
1868, Sale 2731	A highly important and extremely fine early Ming underglaze-blue vase, <i>Yuhuchunping</i> Hongwu Period (1368-1398)	<i>Estimate on Request</i>	HK\$ 20,820,000 US\$ 2,685,780 £ 1,632,288 € 1,786,356	Asian Private
2009, Sale 2731	A magnificent white jade water buffalo Qianlong Period (1736-1795)	<i>Estimate on Request</i>	HK\$ 20,820,000 US\$ 2,685,780 £ 1,632,288 € 1,786,356	Asian Private
1919, Sale 2731	A fine and very rare <i>Doucai</i> and <i>Famille Rose</i> 'Boys' jar Qianlong six-character sealmark and of the period (1736-1795)	3,000,000 – 5,000,000	HK\$ 18,580,000 US\$ 2,396,820 £ 1,456,672 € 1,594,164	Asian Private
1942, Sale 2731	Two rare imperial gilt-bronze archaistic ritual bells, <i>Bianzhong</i> Kangxi cast seven-character marks, corresponding to 1715 and of the period	5,000,000 – 7,000,000	HK\$ 16,340,000 US\$ 2,107,860 £ 1,281,056 € 1,401,972	Asian Trade
1886, Sale 2731	A superb Ming-style blue and white vase, <i>Meiping</i> Yongzheng Period (1723-1735)	4,800,000 – 6,500,000	HK\$ 14,100,000 US\$ 1,818,900 £ 1,105,440 € 1,209,780	Asian Private
1872, Sale 2731	An important and very rare early Ming underglaze-blue pear-shaped bottle vase, <i>Yuhuchunping</i> Yongle Period (1403-1425)	8,000,000 – 12,000,000	HK\$ 11,860,000 US\$ 1,529,940 £ 929,824 € 1,017,588	Asian Private
1904, Sale 2731	A fine and extremely rare 'Black' teadust glazed vase Qianlong incised six-character sealmark and of the period (1736-1795) WORLD AUCTION RECORD PRICE FOR A TEADUST GLAZED PORCELAIN	<i>Estimate on Request</i>	HK\$ 11,860,000 US\$ 1,529,940 £ 929,824 € 1,017,588	Asian Private

1893, Sale 2731	A fine and extremely rare blue and white vase Qianlong six-character sealmark and of the period (1736-1795)	3,000,000 – 5,000,000	HK\$ 9,620,000 US\$ 1,240,980 £ 754,208 € 825,396	Asian Private
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Pola Antebi, Senior Vice President, Specialist Head of the Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art Department, Christie's, commented: "This season's sales of *Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* totalled HK\$371million, an increase of 15% over the Spring 2009 season. The sale's strong focus on works of impressive provenance, including a number from well-known collections, and many items being offered at auction for the first time, attracted bids from all over the world. There was active participation in the sale room in Hong Kong, on the phone and online through Christie's LIVE.

The sale of *Important Chinese Lacquer from the Lee Family Collection, Part II* totalled over HK\$90million (US\$11.6million) and was 87% sold by lot, 95% sold by value. Works from this much-respected collection attracted tremendous pre-sale interest from collectors around the world, who were eager to acquire museum-quality pieces which had been selected with enormous care over a 30 year period by one of the most knowledgeable collectors in this field, K.T. Lee. Enthusiastic bidding came from a range of international clients, with noticeable participation from established collectors in the West. Among the impressive prices achieved is that for the top lot of the day, a magnificent carved cinnabar lacquer square tray depicting figures in a landscape from the Ming dynasty, Hongwu reign (1368-1398). Superbly carved and formerly in the collection of Sir John Figgess, this work fetched HK\$25.3million (US\$3.3million), a record for a cinnabar lacquer tray. An outstanding and extremely rare Yuan dynasty (1279-1368) mother-of-pearl inlaid octagonal box and cover sold for HK\$20.8million (US\$2.7million), establishing a world auction record for a Chinese mother-of-pearl inlaid lacquer.

The sale of *Important Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art* that followed totalled HK\$281million (US\$36.4million). International bidding was noticeable throughout all collecting categories, with participation from Mainland Chinese clients even more prominent this season - by comparison with Autumn 2008, the number of successful Mainland Chinese buyers increased 63%. Among the sale's most sought-after works were important ceramics made for the Qing court- a collecting category that is a perennial favourite with today's collectors. Works of significant provenance performed extremely well, as evidenced by the superb white jade buffalo from the Qianlong period (1736-1795) formerly in the collection of the famous Dutch industrialist and collector Hugo Tutein Nolthenius which sold for HK\$20.8million (US\$2.7million). The well-established provenance of this work, combined with its freshness to the market, helped ensure that this delightful sculpture was the highest sold jade in the sale. Another example of the importance of provenance can be seen with the two rare imperial gilt-bronze ritual bells from the Kangxi period that more than tripled their high estimate to sell for HK\$16.43million (US\$2.1million). Formerly in the Thomas B. Clark Collection, these bells were acquired by the Trevor family of New York in 1925."

Images of the top ten lots and select auction shots can be downloaded here:

(Sale 2730) http://cshk.myftp.org/Fall%202009%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/WorksOfArt/Lee%20Family%20Lacquer%20Collection_Fall%2009/Results/

(Sale 2731) http://cshk.myftp.org/Fall%202009%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/WorksOfArt/Ceramics&WOA_Fall%2009/Results/

To view auction results, please click here:

(Sale 2730) <http://www.christies.com/LotFinder/searchresults.aspx?intSaleID=22767#action=refine&intSaleID=22767&sid=16adadb1-1e56-412a-80e7-8f4df8632fc0>

(Sale 2731) <http://www.christies.com/LotFinder/searchresults.aspx?intSaleID=22768#action=refine&intSaleID=22768&sid=5ebcc897-9ed1-4ad5-ba8e-059969f42b36>

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