



INTERNATIONAL



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Antiques and The Arts Weekly
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Hermann Historica's Spring Auctions Offer Enigmatic Results

Auction Action In Grasbrunn, Germany



Review by
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Photos Courtesy Hermann Historica

Etched with the heraldry of the Cologne coopers' guild, this gilt helmet conquered at \$22,200.



Enigma machines are "exceptionally rare," and were used in military intelligence divisions from 1937; this example achieved \$118,900.

This set of salts was made for Napoleon I's brother-in-law by Giuseppe Valadier (1762-1839) who, in addition to silversmithing, was also a prominent architect and archaeologist. These sold for about \$26,000.



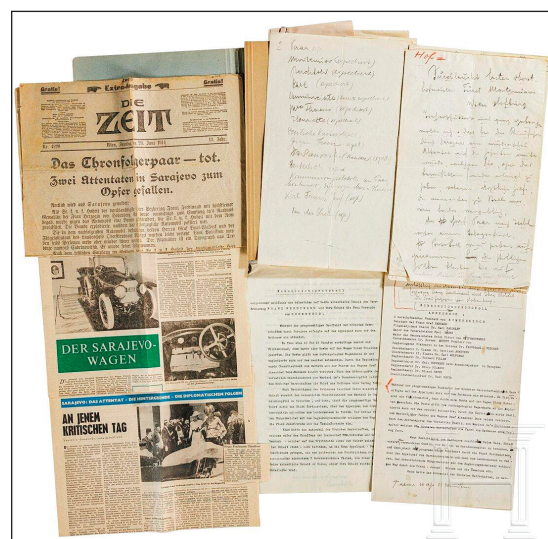
With all the pomposity of neo-Rococo flair, this table has the provenance of King Ludwig II to support its extravagance. Its buyer certainly believed so and purchased it for about \$44,510.



This group lot of a Gardes du Corps helmet and parade eagle marched home for \$83,780.



A single entry for five of these Kriegsmarine binoculars is written in a January 1937 Zeiss order ledger, but only one other example is known to exist. These spotted \$26,450.



Some of the group lot documents related to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife in 1914 are unpublished and were sold in the dossier for over \$37,960.

GRASBRUNN, BAVARIA, GERMANY — The assembled top lots of Hermann Historica's seven sales, May 16-20, paint a picture of an eccentric collector, self-isolated in a remote tower with ample funds to outfit their otherwise modest room with exquisite historic objects. Such was the range of these sales' offerings, including fine works of art and antiquities, militaria and weaponry from before the common era up to the Twenty-First century.

The first sale on May 16 focused on works of art, antiquities, Russian and Asian art. The final category came out first, with a red Eighteenth or Nineteenth Century lacquer plate that achieved \$143,000. Another historically notable top lot was a set of four silver salt cellars by Giuseppe Valadier that were seasoned at just under \$26,000. These were probably made for Camillo Borghese, Prince of Sulmano and Rossao and brother-in-law of Napoleon I.

An officer's helmet of a German coopers' guild, circa 1580 and attributed to Cologne, was victorious on the May 17 antique arms and armor auction at just below \$22,000. Also known as a morion, it sports a narrow, tapering brim with a turned edge and a tall, toothed comb with a compass etched in its center. The helmet is decorated throughout with tendrils on a gilt background surrounding the guild insignia, flanked by two rampant goats. Guilds helped to defend individual towns and cities, especially when Germany was divided into warring principalities.

On May 18, the fine antique and modern firearms sale aimed more towards the latter. The top gun was a Heckler & Koch P7 9mm Luger in a good state of preservation with original bluing. This model was originally produced from 1979 to 2008 and realized nearly \$35,600.

The Van Bosstraeten collection was up for sale on May 19, consisting of 424 lots of carefully curated pre-World War II militaria and related ephemera in mostly excellent condition. The front of the line was patrolled by an officer's helmet from the Regiment of the Gardes du Corps, circa 1900. The lot included a silverplated parade eagle with a gilt crown, and two leather storage cases for both objects with intact straps. Both are of "superb quality and nearly no longer available," and achieved \$83,780.

On the same day, Hermann Historica conducted a sale of military orders and collectibles from up to 1918, featuring 15 lots from the collection of King Ludwig II of Bavaria (r 1864-86). The top lot boasted this provenance and had the style to confirm it: a neo-Rococo wall console table from the Linderhof castle, which received almost \$44,510. Created by the royal court manufacturer Anton Pöschner in 1873, the table can be seen in a photograph of the first phase of the interior furnishings, captured by the royal court photographer in 1884.

The second highest-selling lot of this sale was an extensive group of documents related to the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Duchess Sophie of Hohenberg in 1914. From the estate of Lord Chamberlain Karl Freiherr von Rumerskirch (1867-1947), the documents included a handwritten draft of the autopsy report, manuscripts of notifications of the death and much more. The group filed away just over \$37,960.

May 20 hosted two auctions, the first was the binocular collection of a single anonymous Viennese patron. Of the 324 lots, the highest was a pair of Kriegsmarine binoculars from C. Zeiss, made in 1937. The lot included an original tripod adapter and both were in excellent condition, selling for \$26,450.

The second auction consisted of orders and military collectibles from 1919 onwards, with an Enigma machine that deciphered the top price at \$118,900. The machine had wartime use but seemed untouched since then, resulting in good condition with some restoration required to be fully operational. The original wooden case was included in the lot, with instructions and spare parts, some original and some reproductions.

Prices quoted include exchange rates as calculated on the sale date and include the buyer's premium as reported by the auction house. Hermann Historica's next sales of the same categories will be conducted June 20-24. For information, www.hermann-historica.de.





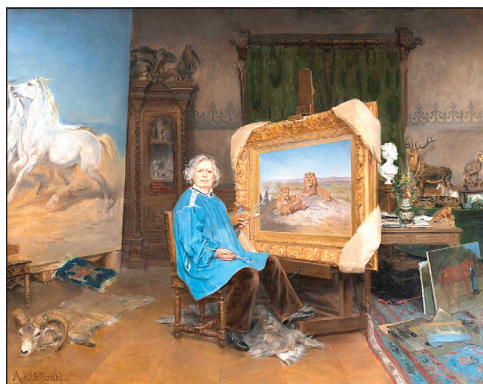
Bordeaux Museum Celebrates 200th Birthday Of Rosa Bonheur

BORDEAUX, FRANCE — To mark the bicentennial of the birth of Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899) in Bordeaux, the Musée des Beaux-Arts in her native city and the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, are organizing a major retrospective of her work. The Château Musée Rosa Bonheur in Thomery (Seine-et-Marne), where the artist lived for almost half a century, is a guest partner in the exhibition.

With her great technical mastery, Bonheur was able to render both the anatomy and the psychology of animals. This exhibition allows the public to rediscover the power and richness of her art, as well as her life as a free woman, which has become mythical, and her work, which is formidably popular in the United States and England.

This exhibition will be presented in Paris upon its conclusion in Bordeaux on September 18. It brings together some 100 works — paintings, graphic arts, sculptures and documents — from some of the most prestigious public and private collections in Europe and the United States. Born into a family of artists, Bonheur produced an abundant body of work, drawing her inspiration from the rural world of the French provinces, but also from the imagination of the great spaces of the American West, as evidenced by her meeting with Buffalo Bill in 1889, the Pyrenees and Scotland. Rosa Bonheur used her talent to the fullest and had an exemplary career. She competed with the greatest masters of the animal genre, long reserved for men, and took on monumental formats, giving her works the grandeur of history painting.

The exhibition plays on differences in scale, the artist having painted both very small formats and monumen-



"Portrait de Rosa Bonheur" by George Achille-Fould, © Musée des Beaux-Arts, Photo by F. Deval.

tal works, most often panoramic and dynamic, as well as true full-height portraits of animals.

Celebrated during her lifetime on both sides of the Atlantic, the exhibition aims to reveal little-explored or even unknown aspects of this fascinating personality, who was able to assert herself both as a free woman and as an officially recognized artist in a very constrained century. The first woman artist to receive the Légion of Honor, Bonheur was able to develop a genuine commercial strategy very early on and to associate herself with some of the most eminent dealers and collectors in order to

dominate the art market and to win her financial and creative independence. A true "star" of her time, her career that was crowned with the greatest awards. A virtuoso and demanding artist, she organized her life around her work and the relentless quest for perfection, supported by women, especially her lifelong friend Nathalie Micas, who lived by her side for more than 50 years, and her last companion, the American painter Anna Klumpke, to whom she entrusted her legacy.

One of the original features of the exhibition is the presentation of a large selection of studies and sketches, both painted and drawn, which allow us to appreciate the role of drawing in the artist's creative process, and to see pages of rare beauty.

Two hundred years after her birth, Bonheur's art and personality resonate with many societal issues that are relevant today more than ever: the place of women in art and society, homosexuality, the animal cause, rurality and ecology.

The Musée des Beaux-Arts is at 20, Cours d'Albret. For information, www.musba-bordeaux.fr/en.

Chinese Imperial Vase, Discovered In An English Kitchen, Brings \$1.9 Million

LONDON — A rare Chinese vase created in the Eighteenth Century for the court of the Qianlong Emperor and bought for a few hundred pounds in the 1980s, sold at Dreweatts auctioneers on May 18 for a staggering \$1.9 million, ten times its high estimate and, in the process, set a house record for Dreweatts Auctioneers. The vase was found in a kitchen in England, with its owner not realizing its true value, as it had been inherited from his father. It was only when a visiting antiques specialist spotted it that its true value and history was revealed.

The colossal vase is 2 feet tall and bears the distinctive six-character mark of the Qianlong period (1736-95) on its base. It is believed that its Imperial past and exceptional quality and craftsmanship is what caused such spirited bidding today with interest peaking from around the world. It was an international buyer on the telephone that won out in the end.

Commenting on the extraordinary result, Mark Newsstead, specialist consultant at Dreweatts for Asian ceramics and works of art, said, "We are delighted with this exceptional result! We saw widespread interest from China, Hong Kong, America and the UK, which resulted in very competitive bidding. The result shows the high demand for the finest porcelain produced in the world. A fabulous result and we are privileged to have sold this at Dreweatts."

For additional information, www.dreweatts.com.

This rare Imperial Qianlong porcelain vase sold at Dreweatts on May 18 for \$1.9 Million.



After A String Of Adventures, Ancient Gold Ring Back In Greece

ATHENS, GREECE (AP) — A more than 3,000-year-old gold signet ring that was stolen from an Aegean island in World War II, crossed the Atlantic, was bought by a Nobel Prize-winning Hungarian scientist and ended up in a Swedish museum has found its way back to Greece.

It was the latest in a series of coups by Greek authorities seeking the return of works plundered from the antiquities-rich country — even though an initial effort by the Swedish museum to return the ring apparently fell between the cracks of 1970s bureaucracy.

The Greek culture ministry said Friday, May 20, that the gold Mycenaean-era work from Rhodes, decorated with two facing sphinxes, was willingly returned by Swedish officials who provided full assistance with documenting the artifact and its provenance.

Greek experts confirmed the identification, and the piece was handed over in Stockholm by Vidar Helgesen, executive director of the Nobel Foundation, to which the ring had been bequeathed by the Hungarian biophysicist.

The foundation, which presents annual awards for outstanding achievement in several fields, had given it to the Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm.

Greek Culture Minister Lina Mendoni thanked the Nobel Foundation and Swedish authorities for the repatriation, saying it "shows their respect for modern Greece and our constant efforts to fight the illegal trafficking of



This undated photo provided by the Greek Culture Ministry on Friday, May 20, 2022, shows a gold Mycenaean-era ring which was willingly returned by Swedish officials who provided full assistance with documenting the artifact and its provenance. (Greek Culture Ministry via AP).

cultural goods."

The ring, which would have been a status symbol for a local nobleman in the Third Millennium BCE, was discovered in 1927 by Italian archaeologists in a Mycenaean grave near the ancient city of Ialysos on Rhodes. The southeastern Aegean island belonged to Italy until it was incorporated in Greece after WWII.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports said the ring was stolen from a museum on Rhodes during the war — with hundreds of other pieces of jewelry and coins that remain missing — and surfaced in the United States.

It was brought to the United States during the 1950s or 1960s by Georg von Békésy, a biophysicist and art collector whose collection was donated to the Nobel Foundation after his

1972 death and from there distributed to several museums.

The Nobel Foundation's Helgesen said there was no doubt where the ring belonged.

"To us, it was obvious that the ring should be returned," he said. "This artifact is of very great cultural-historical value for Greece."

The Stockholm museum had initially identified the ring from Ialysos in 1975 and contacted Greek authorities, the ministry said.

"But it remained in Stockholm for reasons that are not clear from existing archives," Friday's statement said. The artwork will now be displayed in a museum on Rhodes.

Photographs Removed From Museum Of Art São Paulo Exhibition

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL — The administration of the Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP) has been accused of censorship by removing photographs and documents associated with the Landless Workers Movement (MST) from its upcoming installment of the exhibition series, "Histórias Brasileiras" (Brazilian Stories). With the opening already delayed by a month, museum officials have claimed that the photographs weren't submitted by the four-to-six-month deadline necessary to process loans for the year's flagship exhibition, a date which co-curators Sandra Benites and Clarissa Diniz deny being informed. Benites, of the Gurani Nandeva people, is the first indigenous curator to be hired by the museum.

The removal follows the cancellation of a book launch by Guilherme Boulos, founder of the Homeless Worker's Movement, that was supposed to take place at the museum. Boulos is the leader of the Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL) and the MST, and the museum vetoed the launch on the grounds that it was too close to a political event.

The MST is a mass land reform movement that occupies land parcels with the aim of forcing local governments to combat homelessness and develop land responsibly. With 1.5 million members, MST has organized 2,500 occupations and is currently operating nearly 900 encampments. The six photographs by João Zinclair, André Vilaron and Edgar Kanayko that were removed all focused on the MST, but the museum complied with the curators' requests to include seven posters and documents from the movement. According to curators and the MST, this does not offset the extraction of the "nucleus" works of the exhibition. Diniz withdrew from the project, and Benites resigned from her position. The museum has revised its position and is currently proposing another postponed opening, perhaps including the removed photographs.

The museum is at 1578 Avenue Paulista. For more information, www.masp.org.br/w