

Rare Coin Minted In Colonial New England Sells For \$350,000

BOSTON (AP) — One of the first coins minted in Colonial New England, which was recently found among other coins in a candy tin, has sold at auction for more than \$350,000, more than it was expected to get, the auctioneer said Friday.

The one shilling silver coin made in Boston in 1652 — considered the finest example of just a few dozen such coins known to still exist — was sold to an anonymous online bidder from the United States, London-based Morton & Eden Ltd. said in a statement.

The auctioneer had expected it to sell for about \$300,000.

“I am not surprised at the amount of interest this exceptional coin attracted,” coin specialist James Morton said in a

statement. “The price paid, which was above estimate, reflects its extraordinary historic significance and outstanding original state of preservation.”

Before 1652, coins from England, the Netherlands, the Spanish Empire and other nations were used as currency in New England.

But a shortage of coinage prompted the Massachusetts General Court to appoint John Hull as Boston mintmaster, responsible for producing North America’s first silver coins. The mint, considered treasonous by King Charles II, was shut down in 1682, according to the auctioneer.

The simple coin has the initials NE for New England on one side, and the Roman numeral XII, representing the 12 pennies

in a shilling, on the other.

The coin was consigned for auction by Wentworth “Went” Beaumont, whose father found it recently in a candy tin containing hundreds of old coins in his study at his family’s estate in England.

Beaumont is a descendant of William Wentworth, an early settler of New England. The Wentworths became one of the most prominent families in New Hampshire.

Beaumont speculated that an ancestor brought the coin to the United Kingdom from the colonies.

Several other rare American



coins were also sold at the auction, including a pair of 1776 pewter dollars that fetched nearly \$80,000 each, and a Libertas Americana bronze medal that brought more than \$17,000.

Perso-Indian Shamshir Slashes Expectations For Hermann Historica

GRASBRUNN, BAVARIA, GERMANY — Hermann Historica’s November 22-25 auctions of art, Asian works, antiques, historical arms and armor, and military collectibles and orders were led by an Eighteenth or Nineteenth Century Perso-Indian shamshir, which sold for \$225,010, more than four times the opening bid. The piece had been made by Asadulla Isfahani and dedicated to Nadir Shah Afshar (1688-1747); it featured a slightly curved blade of wootz Damascus steel, the root and back of the blade inscribed with gold inlay. The gilt silver hilt was adorned with diamonds and polished rubies that was further embellished by a pommel in the form of a tiger head.



Shah Afshar was of humble birth and was a prisoner and sold as a slave upon his father’s death. Ultimately, he escaped and became a mercenary, eventually making a name for himself as a strategist. He ruled as the Shah of Persia from 1736 to 1747 and founded the Afsharid Dynasty; among his noteworthy conquests were the capture of

Delhi in 1739 and the seizure of the Peacock Throne.

Prices quoted include the buyer’s premium and have been converted from euros to dollars based on the exchange rate on the date of the auction. A more extensive sale review to follow.

Aaron Willard Clock Highlights Kaminski Thanksgiving Auctions



BEVERLY, MASS. — More than 700 lots were offered at Kaminski Auctions Annual two-day Thanksgiving sale November 27-28, with an Aaron Willard tall clock bringing one of the highest prices of the weekend. Standing 90 inches tall and with a signed dial, it had provenance to West Newbury, Mass., and had been estimated at \$8/12,000. It sold at the high estimate to a bidder in the room. Other highlights from the holiday weekend event included a Tiffany Studios lamp with turtleback shade at \$15,600, a portrait of a young woman with child by Felice Schneider at \$7,200, and a bronze figure of a roaring panther by Alfred Barye, which stalked off at \$4,800, four times its high estimate.

Watch for a more extensive review in a future issue.

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