
Melbourne | 03 9509 2900 | John Keats | john.keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au

Melbourne | 03 8416 5999 | Yumeko Leung | yleung@3dm.com.au

Australian Shearing History at Sotheby's Australia

MELBOURNE 29 OCTOBER 2013



THE JACKIE HOWE MECHANICAL SHEARS. ESTIMATE \$15,000-25,000

Sotheby's Australia is pleased to announce the forthcoming auction of the historic **Jackie Howe Mechanical Shears** in their Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design sale on 29 October 2013 in Melbourne (estimate \$15,000-25,000). Inscribed 'presented to Jack Howe by the Wolseley S.S.M.Co January 1893', the presentation follows Howe's award for the highest tally of sheep shorn with a shearing machine in 1892. Howe holds the record for shearing 321 merino sheep in 7 hours and 40 minutes with hand-shears, a record that remains unbroken for 121 years, which lead historian Patsy Adam-Smith to call him 'the Bradman of the boards.'

This particular machine handpiece was used by Jackie Howe for many years. Both the manufacturer Wolseley and the shearer Howe did well out of their relationship; the hand-piece lasted and Wolseley could promote that they contributed to Jackie Howe's success. Howe was a legend in the shearing industry, and was never shy of a challenge. Not only setting records for mechanical and blade shearing, Howe reputedly challenged an athlete to a running race, where it ended in a dead heat (Howe had completed his day of shearing 217 sheep!).

The sale of the Jackie Howe Mechanical Shears follows on from the sale of his shearing medals sold by Sotheby's Australia in 2008 for \$360,000 including buyer's premium.



JACKIE HOWE

'Sotheby's Australia is honoured to be entrusted with the sale of Jackie Howe's mechanical shears. While the man is no longer with us, his legacy remains through the tool of his trade,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'Jackie Howe was not only a champion of the shearing shed, but also a champion for the worker, and contributed strongly to the development of the Australian Labor Movement.'



Press Release Melbourne

2 October 2013

For Immediate Release

AT A GLANCE

FINE ASIAN, AUSTRALIAN & EUROPEAN ARTS & DESIGN

AUCTION IN MELBOURNE

29 OCTOBER 2013 | 6 PM

ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 1, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE

24-28 OCTOBER 2013, 10 AM TO 5 PM

ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 4, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

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For high resolution images, further information or to arrange an interview with Geoffrey Smith, Chairman, please contact John Keats or Yumeko Leung.

John Keats | 03 9509 2900 | john.keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au

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**Pre-estimates do not include buyer's premium.