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Trans-Tasman artefact sold to New Zealand Museums



The Te Pahi silver medal, presented by Governor King of New South Wales to Te Pahi [Tippahee] a Chief of New Zealand, 1806. Sold for \$366,000 April 2014

One of Australia and New Zealand's earliest and most significant colonial artefacts was sold last night at auction at Sotheby's Australia's Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design sale in Sydney. Presented by the third governor of New South Wales, Philip Gidley King in 1806 to Te Pahi, the first influential Maori leader to visit the colony, the medal attracted considerable attention and achieved \$366,000 including buyer's premium.

Symbolic of Australia and New Zealand's early colonial past, the Te Pahi medal (estimate \$300,000-500,000, lot 125, pictured) was consigned by a family who had owned it for more than a century. The successful room bidder was acting on behalf of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and Auckland War Memorial Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira, who purchased it in consultation with the Ngāpuhi iwi.

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‘Sotheby’s Australia was honoured to be entrusted with the sale of an item of such historical and cultural significance,’ said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby’s Australia. ‘We are delighted with the joint acquisition by the two distinguished New Zealand museums, with support from Te Pahi descendants, for the guardianship of the medal.’

AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design
Auction in Sydney, 15 April 2014, 6 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Lots on offer: 348
Total sold: \$2,294,210
Sold by volume: 72.99%
Sold by value: 134.15%

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**Estimates do not include buyer’s premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer’s premium.*

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