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Right Royal Occasion 1985 Melbourne Cup for Auction

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design
Auction in Sydney 25 October 2016



Prince Charles presenting the 1985 Foster's Melbourne Cup to Lloyd Williams.
Image courtesy of Victorian Racing Club, Melbourne

Sotheby's Australia is honoured to be entrusted with the sale of the historic 1985 Foster's Melbourne Cup won by *What A Nuisance*. Attended by Prince Charles and Princess Diana, the 1985 Melbourne Cup was presented by the Prince of Wales to Lloyd Williams thirty one years ago, and will be auctioned by Sotheby's Australia on 25 October 2016 in Sydney with an estimate of \$100,000-120,000 (pictured following). The cup has remained in the private collection of the late Dennis Gowing and his family, co-owner of *What A Nuisance*, since the great 1985 win and was on long-term loan to the Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame between 2003 and 2016.

The Melbourne Cup was sponsored for the first time in 1985 and it was the first race in Australia to have a prize pool of \$1 million, making it the most valuable race in Australia. Leading into the race *What A Nuisance*, just recovered from injury was at odds of 15/1. On a wet November day, with crowds at 80,000, *What A Nuisance* appeared to be overtaken and out of the race at the final stages, before a final surge took him over the line to win by a nose.

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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'The Melbourne Cup is renowned as the race that stops a nation. However, in 1985 it achieved ultimate international attention with the attendance of the Prince and Princess of Wales and a prize pool of \$1 million. Sotheby's Australia is honoured to offer the 1985 Melbourne Cup with its unique royal connections with Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, who charmed Australia during their Royal Visit, for the first time in its distinguished history.'



The 1985 Foster's Melbourne Cup, 18ct gold, Fortuanato Rocca for Hardy Brothers, won by *What A Nuisance*. Estimate \$100,000-120,000



VRC Chairman, Hilton Nicholas with Prince Charles holding and presenting the 1985 Foster's Melbourne Cup to Lloyd Williams (rear), with John Elliot and Princess Diana
Photo: © Rennie Ellis



John Elliot and Princess Diana with the 1985 Foster's Melbourne Cup.
Photographer unknown

AT A GLANCE

The 1985 Foster's Melbourne Cup, 18ct gold, Fortuanato Rocca for Hardy Brothers, won by *What A Nuisance*
894 gms, 29 cm high, 36.2 cm (with base)
Estimate \$100,000-120,000

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design
Auction in Sydney, The Hughenden, 14 Queen Street, Woollahra, 25 October 2016, 6 pm
Exhibition in Sydney, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra, 20-25 October, 10 am to 5 pm

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