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Australia's Gilded History Acquired for the Nation

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



The highly important 1881 Adelaide Hunt Club Cup, 18ct gold, by Henry Steiner. Sold for \$207,400 October 2016 to the National Museum of Australia, Canberra

Sotheby's Australia is pleased to announce that the 1881 Adelaide Hunt Club Cup by Henry Steiner was sold at auction last night to the National Museum of Australia, Canberra for \$170,000 hammer (\$207,400 including buyer's premium). The 18 carat gold cup was the only known surviving 19th century South Australian gold trophy that remained in private ownership. Modelled to a neoclassical form, the cup features an elongated scroll handle and an inverted spout, the collared neck consists of a band of acanthus leaves above a tapered body, and was made by Australia's preeminent silversmith, Henry Steiner of Adelaide.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Sotheby's Australia was honoured to be entrusted with the sale of an item of such historical and cultural significance. For the last 15 years the cup has been on long-term loan to Geelong Art Gallery, National Gallery of Victoria and most recently the Art Gallery of South Australia. We are delighted that it has now been secured permanently for the nation by the National Museum of Australia.'

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Catriona Donnelly, Curator at the National Museum of Australia commented: 'We are delighted to acquire such a rare gold horseracing trophy which showcases both the traditionally English pastimes of colonial Adelaide and the beautiful work of Mr Steiner, who was one of the most important gold and silversmiths in the country at that time. Many gold cups of this era were melted down, so it is wonderful to add this trophy to the National Museum's collection, for all Australians to enjoy.'

The golden sale of Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design on 25 October achieved strong results of \$1,303,509 with 102.7% sold by value for the diverse collection of international arts and design from the 10th century to the present.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'We welcomed the world to our Sydney gallery this week for a celebration of the rich artistic traditions from Asia, Australia and Europe. The cultural and stylistic cross-pollination presented in our exhibition and sale was reflected in the way that collectors participated in the auction. The huge success of this week's sale was underpinned by the strength of the works on offer.'

A ROYAL MELBOURNE CUP

The 1985 Foster's Melbourne Cup was the first attended by a member of the Royal family and achieved \$109,800 (estimate \$100,000-120,000, lot 29, pictured). The Cup remained in the private collection of the late Dennis Gowing and his family, co-owner of *What A Nuisance*, since the great 1985 win.



THE 'DAVID REED' GOLD NUGGET

Discovered in the mid-1970s near Kalgoorlie, Western Australia was the 'David Reed' gold nugget was sold for \$48,190 with proceeds to assist with the St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide organ restoration (estimate \$40,000-50,000, lot 37, pictured). Weighing 620 grams, it measured 11.5 cm in length.



ARTS OF ASIA

The sale featured an outstanding selection of Chinese and Japanese ceramics, furniture and works of art. An impressive blue and white 'Three Friends' jar, Wanli mark and period, tripled the high estimate and achieved \$67,100 (estimate \$18,000-22,000, lot 109, pictured). The jar was of baluster form, the sides are painted in deep cobalt blue with pine, prunus and bamboo rising from the base.



Other highlights include:

- A pair of huanghuali horseshoe-back arm chairs, Quanyi sold over 5 times the high estimate for \$54,900 (estimate \$8,000-10,000, lot 142)
- A pair of embellished black lacquer plaques, Qing dynasty, 19th century, inlaid with jade, polychrome painted bone and ivory sold for \$31,720 well above the high estimate of \$20,000 (estimate \$18,000-20,000, lot 175).

LAZAR KRESTIN

Rare to the Australian market was Lazar Krestin's insightful portrait (*Shepard's Rabbi at Study*) 1921 which sold for \$14,640 (estimate \$12,000-18,000, lot 195, pictured). Consigned by the Temple Beth Israel, Melbourne proceeds will assist with continuing the Temple's outreach activities and social justice services.



AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design
Auction in Sydney, The Hughenden, 14 Queen Street, Woollahra, 25 October 2016, 6 pm

Lots on offer: 260

Total sold \$1,303,509 including buyer's premium

Sold by value: 102.70%

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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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