

## Chinese Censer Creates a Commotion at Charterhouse

A Chinese censer, which Charterhouse Auctioneers discovered on top of a wardrobe in a Dorset farmhouse, sold for a massive £154,250 in their October auction.

“When I first spied the censer it was sitting on top of a wardrobe, rather like a wise old owl. Having taken it down, and cleaned off numerous layers of dust built up over the years I thought what a beautiful design the all over repeating floral pattern was. However, I also noticed that one of the handles had been repaired with a staple and that the cover might not quite fit the base.” commented Richard Bromell.



**The Chinese censer sold for £154,250.**

The Chinese censer was then featured on the cover of the Charterhouse catalogue and featured in an international trade paper. Estimated at up to £3,000, primarily due to the old repair and having an associated cover, there was huge interest from London, China and the USA in the lot before the auction on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. With a bank of ten telephone lines booked with bidders from around the world, along with strong internet bidding, the hammer finally fell to a London client who parted with £154,250. Although considerably higher than the Charterhouse estimate, the owner

had the censer looked at by another firm of auctioneers a few years before who advised him it was worth just £400!

This is the second time this year Charterhouse in Sherborne has sold a damaged piece of pottery for a six figure sum. In February, they sold an Italian istoriato maiolica plate with a chip for £565,000. Rather bizarrely, both pieces of chipped pottery have spent decades living less than 2 miles away from each other.

Charterhouse is now accepting for their forthcoming programme of antiques auctions with specialist sections of ceramics, silver, watches & jewellery in November and for their December collector's auction including coins, stamps, medals and clocks.

For further information regarding these auctions, or to arrange a home visit, please contact **Richard Bromell, Partner** at Charterhouse, The Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne, Dorset **01935 812277** or via email on **info@charterhouse-auctions.co.uk**