

Hello Dolly!

A vast collection of porcelain half dolls are expected to sell for tens of thousands of pounds when they go under the Charterhouse hammer in their two day December collectors auction.

“It is certainly the largest collection of porcelain half dolls I have had the pleasure to handle in my 34 year career,” commented Richard Bromell. “They come in all shapes and sizes and were on display in the owner’s home in cabinets which went around the walls of a room.”

There are nearly 800 porcelain half dolls in the collection at Charterhouse. It took years of scouring auctions, antique shops and antique fairs to accumulate all the half dolls. Having enjoyed collecting them, the owner decided not is time to let other collectors enjoy them and entered them in to the Charterhouse collector’s auction.

There are over 220 lots of the half dolls. Dating mostly from the early 20th century and Art Deco period they are made of porcelain in Germany by companies including as Goebel, Karl Schneider and Dresser & Kister.







Selection of porcelain half dolls in the Charterhouse two day collectors auction

Values vary enormously and depends on the complexity of the mould used to make them. The more complex the mould used, generally, the more valuable the half doll. Simple half dolls with arms "close" to the torso, that is no separation of arms from the torso, made with two mould pieces, are generally the least expensive. Next are half dolls with "open and returning arms," which show some separation between the arms and the torso. The most desirable have "arms away," which have arms modelled completely away from the body of the half doll and which generally require complex moulds.

The painting of the half doll also contributes to price differences. Delicately and precisely painted half dolls are worth more than those with crude painting.

The third major factor in half doll desirability is the type and complexity of the modelled clothing and hair as well as the accessories the half doll is holding. More complex clothing (ruffles, hats, and feathers) and more complex hairdos add to the value and at the auction the half dolls are estimated to sell in lots and individually from £40 up to £500.

Viewing for this auction of porcelain half dolls, coins, medals, stamps, clocks and other collectors' items is on Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th December or you can view all the lots on www.charterhouse-auction.com where live internet bidding is also available.

Charterhouse are now accepting further entries for their busy auction programme with pictures, Beswick and automobilia in January followed specialist classic & vintage motorcycle and car auctions in February.

For further information regarding these specialist auctions, or to arrange a home visit, contact **Richard Bromell** and the team of experts at Charterhouse, The Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne **01935 812277** or email **info@charterhouse-auction.com**