

## Cash in the Attic

A group of Chinese silver items including a tea and coffee service, which has been in the attic of a Dorset house for over 40 years, is expected to sell for thousands of pounds when they go under the Charterhouse hammer in their April auction of Asian Art.

“It is a classic case of the owner having inherited items and putting them up in the attic as they had little use or interest in them,” commented Richard Bromell. “The owner decided that having items stored in the attic for decades is perhaps not the best way to keep them, and not looking to store problems up later on in life bit the bullet, emptied the attic and called us over to look through the items which had been brought down.”

The Chinese silver tea and coffee set, one of a number of silver items found in the attic, are estimated to sell for £1,500- £2,500\* \*plus 25.2% buyers premium inc VAT and were originally a wedding present in 1915 to the owners grandparents, Mr & Mrs H Mousley.

Mr Mousley worked for the Shanghai Mutual Telephone Company. However, exactly what he did for the company is uncertain as he appeared to spend more time in British Consulate than he did in his company offices. Rumours of him being a spy have been muted by the family for years, not only because of his regular attendance at the consulate, that he worked for a telephone company with its listening possibilities, but also because he was known to have flown with Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin to Russia on one occasion!

The silver tea and coffee service was made by the well-known Chinese silversmith Luen Wo in Shanghai. Each piece has a simulated bamboo handle and spout and is embossed in relief with Chrysanthemums, a popular design in Chinese silver, ceramics, textiles and pictures.



**Chinese silver tea and coffee service, made by Luen Wo in Shanghai**

Accompanying the service are also a formal photograph of Mr Mousley with his staff, believed to have been taken outside the British Consulate in Shanghai, (see below) and a Chinese hardwood tray with a wedding presentation inscription and dated 1915, all adding to its provenance and intrigue.



**The Chinese hardwood wedding tray, with 1915 wedding presentation inscription.**

With live internet bidding, along with traditional telephone and commission bidding available, Charterhouse is expecting interest from China, Europe and America for the auction.

Charterhouse is now accepting entries for this April 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> auction of Chinese & other Asian silver, ceramics and works of art; followed by pictures, books and sporting items and their next sale of classic and vintage cars also in April.

For further information regarding these auctions or to arrange a home visit, please contact Richard Bromell at Charterhouse on **01935 812277** or email images for valuation at **[info@charterhouse-auction.com](mailto:info@charterhouse-auction.com)**

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