

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Results from Morton & Eden's auction of 13-14 November 2002**

**Morton & Eden sale of Coins, Medals and Banknotes, 13-14<sup>th</sup> November 2002, realised £863,880 with only 3% left unsold.**

High prices were paid for coins and medals from the collection of James Watt, son of the famous engineer and a partner of the Soho Mint in Birmingham in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Estimated to fetch in the region of £50,000, their provenance and pristine condition attracted huge interest from collectors both in this country and America and they realized a total of £121,095. The top price in this section was paid for a proof striking of a Kentucky token at £5,980 (lot 324, estimate £2-3000). A bronze portrait medal of Matthew Boulton, founder of the Soho Mint, brought £1,840 (lot 267, estimate £300-400).

Strong prices were paid for British coins. Of special interest was a trial striking of a pattern halfcrown of Edward VIII designed by W. McMillan before the king's abdication in early 1937. This sold to the London dealer Christopher Eimer, acting for the Royal Mint, at £4,830 (lot 156, estimate £4-5000).

Greek and Roman coins were highlighted by an exceptionally well preserved 5<sup>th</sup> century BC tetradrachm of Akanthos at £6,900 (lot 526, estimate £7-10,000) and an aureus of Marcus Aurelius at £3,105 (lot 553, estimate £2000-2500).

The sale also included a remarkable and previously unrecorded group of 17<sup>th</sup> century Baltimore sixpences, discovered in a silver counter box by James Morton, a director of the auction house. Keen bidding from American buyers of early colonial coins drove prices to new heights, with five telephone lines open throughout the section. One sixpence bore an error in its legend (a variety only previously known in two other specimens) and realized £32,200 (lot 785, estimate £20-30,000), a world record price for a coin of Baltimore. The other eighteen pieces sold between £2,530 and £10,925 depending upon condition and the whole group (together with the counter box) realised £141,967. The majority of lots were bought by either Stack's or Anthony Terranova, both specialist coin dealers from New York, with several single specimens selling to other US buyers. The box was acquired by the London firm Knightsbridge Coins at £1,322 (lot 786, estimate £400-600).

An extensive offering of historical medals included a unique gold medal commemorating the execution of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1645. Laud was impeached for High Treason by the Long Parliament, imprisoned in the Tower, tried in 1644 and executed on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1645. On the scaffold he gave gold coins to the value of 11 unites (equivalent to £11) to the son of his counsel. Those gold coins were subsequently melted and cast into the medal in the auction. It realized £24,150, selling to a UK institutional buyer (lot 806, estimate £20-25,000).

The war medals and decorations included some notable pieces. The outstanding Victoria Cross awarded posthumously to Lance-Naik Sher Shah in 1945 for action in Burma realised the highest price in the entire sale, selling to a private collector for £97,750 (lot 522, estimate £80-100,000). Considerable interest was shown in the C.B. group of campaign medals awarded to Col. R.W.C. Winsloe. He was Commander during the Siege of Potchefstroom (1880-1) and the lot included much related material, including his swords and various documents and photographs. After a lengthy bidding contest the lot realized £20,700 (lot 393, estimate £4-5000).

**COIN & MEDAL SALE: 13-14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2002**

**Top Prices – Coins**

<b>Lot</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimate (£)</b>	<b>Sold (£)</b>	<b>Buyer</b>
785	Baltimore sixpence	£20-30,000	£32,200	Stack's (US dealer)
806	Archbishop Laud medal	£20-25,000	£24,150	UK institution
778	Baltimore sixpence	£8-10,000	£10,925	Stack's
775	Baltimore sixpence	£3,500-4,500	£9,775	Stack's
769	Baltimore sixpence	£3,500-4,500	£8,280	Stack's
772	Baltimore sixpence	£2,500-3,500	£7,705	Terranova (US dealer)
768	Baltimore sixpence	£2000-2,500	£7,360	Terranova
622	Iran, 25 tomans, AH 1301	£4000-6000	£7,360	Private
526	Akanthos, tetradrachm	£7000-10,000	£6,900	Private

**Top Prices – War Medals and Decorations**

522	Victoria Cross	£80-100,000	£97,750	Private
393	C.B. group to Col. Winsloe	£4-5000	£20,700	Daniel Fearon (London dealer)
521	Edward Medal pair	£3-5000	£7,625	Private
511	Egypt 1801 group	£5-7000	£7,625	Private
441	MSM group	£250-300	£5,750	Private

**N.B. All prices realised are the hammer price plus 15% buyer's premium.**