

PRESS RELEASE

**Sale Results of Morton & Eden auction of Coins, Medals and Banknotes
held on 25-26th May 2005**

The total realized for these came to £384,455 (£442,123 with the 15% premium) with less than 4% unsold.

A number of excellent results were recorded for the Islamic coins. An extremely rare Umayyad dirham from the town of Kaskar, dated 79h, sold to a private buyer from the Middle East bidding by telephone at £4,600 (estimate £3-4,000). Another Middle Eastern collector paid £2,200 for an exceptionally well preserved Abbasid donative dinar of al-Basra, 330h, issued by the caliph al-Muttaqi (estimate £2-3,000) and an English collector of coins of Ottoman Egypt paid £3,400 for a silver 20 qirsh and £2,800 for a 10 qirsh, both struck in the 11th year of the reign of Sultan Abdul Aziz at Misr (estimated at £3-4,000 and £1500-2000 respectively).

The current strength of the market for English coins was demonstrated when a five-guineas of Queen Anne, dated 1706, sold for £7,000 (estimate £4-6,000) and a proof set of the 1887 Jubilee coins of Queen Victoria fetched £5,600 (estimate £4-5,000). The Royal Mint, bidding through the London dealer Christopher Eimer, purchased an unusual pair of specimen pennies of 1894-5 for £950 (estimate £600-800). They related to the introduction of Queen Victoria's "old head" on the bronze coinage in 1895.

The sale included the collection of Coin Weights and Scales formed by the late Richard Turner (1881-1982) which sold for a total of £34,210. This was probably the best collection of its type to have ever appeared for sale by auction and a new record price for a coin weight was established when a silver striking of a crown weight of Elizabeth I sold for £1,800 (estimate £600-800). A fine 17th century set of coin scales (which was illustrated on the front cover of the catalogue) realized £2,500 (estimate £1,500-2,000). Mr. Turner's entire collection of Irish coin weights, which was housed in an ornate leather-bound box file, was offered as a single lot and realized £8,200 after much competition in the room versus a telephone bidder from the US, who was ultimately the successful buyer (estimate £2500-3500).

Banknotes included a number of rare provincial issue Bank of England high denominational notes of the thirties. A Catterns £100 issued at Leeds in 1933 sold for £3,200 and a Peppiatt £100 of Manchester, 1935, realized £2,800. In a specialist collection of Lebanese and Syrian specimen notes, a collector from the Middle East paid £1,500 for a 1925 issue 50 livres of the Banque de Syrie et du Grand-Liban.

The ancient coins were highlighted by an interesting group of Greek coins from the collection of John Ward (1832-1912). Ward sold his collection to the great American collector J. Pierpont Morgan who, in 1905, presented it to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. The Met de-accessed and sold Ward's collection at Sotheby's Zurich in 1973 and the present group of coins had not been on the market since then. A superbly preserved Ptolemaic gold octadrachm of Arsinoe II realized £7,200 (estimate £4-5,000). It had previously belonged to the famous archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans and had been sold by him at Sotheby's in 1898. A silver stater of Alexander, king of Epirus, bearing a particularly striking head of Zeus Dodonaeus, more than doubled its estimate to sell to a US private collector for £4,600 (estimate £1,500-2,000). Roman coins included an aureus of Trajan selling for £2,900 (estimate £2-3,000).

Among the substantial section devoted to foreign coins was a key date of the Austrian series – a gold 10 corona struck in 1893 in the reign of Franz Joseph. It realized its top estimate, selling for £10,000 (estimate £7-10,000). There was considerable interest shown in a number of early US coins with a half-cent of 1793 selling for £7,800 (estimate £3-4,000) and a dollar of 1799 making £5,200 (estimate £600-800).

Finally, historical medals included a silver satirical medal for the flight of James II in 1689 selling for £1,000 (estimate £600-800) and a silver coronation medal of Joseph I as King in Hungary (1687) and King of the Romans (1690) selling for £1,250 (estimate £1,300-1,500).

All the above prices are hammer prices, to which a 15% premium was applicable.

PRESS RELEASE

**Sale Results of Morton & Eden auction of War Medals, Orders and Decorations
held on 25 May 2005**

Morton & Eden's May auction of War Medals, Orders and Decorations achieved £328,164, with only a handful of lots remaining unsold.

Not surprisingly the highlight of the sale was the Great War Victoria Cross group to Private F.G. Miles of the Gloucestershire Regiment, which realized £82,800 (estimate £70,000-90,000). Private Miles showed conspicuous bravery and initiative in October 1918 during the advance on the Bois l'Evêque when he single-handedly put two German machine guns out of action, ultimately enabling his company to capture sixteen machine gun emplacements, one officer, and fifty other ranks. He remains the only private soldier in the Glosters to have received the VC.

Victorian campaign medals were in strong demand. Medals to six members of the Graham family, spread over three generations, realized a total of £15,605, with the Army of India 1799-1826 medal to Captain Charles Graham of the Bengal Artillery bringing £4,025 (estimate £2,800-3,200). A Crimean DCM group to Private Samuel Vickery of the Coldstream Guards, an orderly to Florence Nightingale, sold for £6,325 (estimate £6,000-8,000).

From World War II, a Bomber Command DFM group to Flying Officer Richard Pugh of 103 Squadron realized £5,060 (estimate £3,000-3,500). He carried out 32 sorties and on one night, returning from the Ruhr, managed to land his aircraft safely without wheels, the undercarriage having been completely destroyed by enemy fire.

Among the foreign Orders were a number of important Iranian pieces of the Qajar dynasty. Of these a late 19th Century diamond-encrusted Imperial Effigy of the Order of the Lion and Sun of Nasir al-din Shah realized the top price of £10,925 (estimate £7,000-9,000).

(Figures quoted include 15% Buyers' Premium).