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RAGO'S DECEMBER 2009 ESTATES, SILVER AND JEWELRY AUCTIONS BRING THE YEAR TO A CLOSE IN SPECTACULAR STYLE

Bidding opens at \$2,500 for a pair of American Aesthetic Movement armchairs and closes at \$390,400.

Lambertville, NJ Rago Arts and Auction Center ended the year in spectacular style with a two day sale that totaled \$2,536,499 (reflects buyer's premium of 22%.)

- Bidders in-house: 354
- Bidders on phone: 245
- Bidders online: 782
- # of lots: 1100
- % sold: 91%

"I joked before the auction that the chairs would definitely sell for between \$20,000 and \$200,000," said Tom Martin, the Rago Estates specialist who brought the chairs to auction. "Now David Rago will be making jokes about how low I estimated these for years to come."

Saturday, December 5, 2009: Great Estates

- Hammer: \$827,465
- Hammer + b.p. \$1,009,507
- Top Lot: 133 - Pair of American Aesthetic Movement armchairs, ca. 1880/early 1890, similar to furniture associated with or executed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Sides, front, back and stiles embellished with glass mosaic. Sale Price: \$390,400

Stored in a boiler room for 40 years, a pair of American Aesthetic Movement chairs with missing panels and parts sold for a hammer price of \$320,000 + 22% buyer premium. The chairs were part of a larger consignment of property collected by a Philadelphia area couple whose hobby was weekend antiquing, inherited by their son and sold by his 70-year-old widow. The approximately 15 house and phone bidders came from throughout the Northeast, as well as California and Florida and were joined by more bidders online. A number were established clients at Rago's, as it ranks in the top five of auction houses selling late 19th C./20th C. design in the U.S. Others had been contacted directly by Rago's or found the sale online. Many bidders were still active in the \$200,000 range, bested at the close by Mr. Eric Streiner, a New York collector.



1. Lot 44 Jade and cloisonne shrine, 18/19th C. seated Buddha \$103,700
2. Lot 60 Pair of Chinese cloisonne elephants, 19/20th C. \$34,160

3. Lot 133 Pair of American aesthetic movement armchairs, ca. 1800 \$390,400
4. Lot 498 Three Japanese Kutani vases, 19th C. \$8,540
5. Lot 130 Regency style tortoiseshell chairs with horsehair upholstery \$9,760
6. Lot 398 Dorflinger cut glass punch bowl set, early 20th C. \$6,710
7. Lot 189 Grain-painted Pennsylvania Dutch cupboard, 19th C. \$6,710
8. Lot 194 American red wash corner cabinet, ca. 1830-40 \$6,100
9. Lot 264 William E. Skilling "Zebra" oil on canvas \$5,795
10. Lot 317 Dog's Head and Old Judge Cigarettes baseball cabinet card \$5,185

Sunday, December 6, 2009: Jewelry, Silver, Watches, Currency

- Hammer: \$1,251,633
- Hammer + b.p. \$1,526,992
- Top Lot: 1327 - Cartier diamond platinum ring, circular brilliant cut, 3.15 cts. (G.I.A. certificate #15658339 states color grade F, clarity VS1, cut grade excellent, very good polish and symmetry, faint fluorescence), with eighteen round brilliants pave set in band, approx. .80 ct. TW. In original box. Size 6."\$67,100



1. 1059 Wearable art collar by Art Smith, ca. 1950 \$13,420
2. 1095 T150 Patek Philippe 18k yg wristwatch by Tiffany & Co, 2001 \$42,700
3. 1174 French Belle Epoque diamond and pearl platinum brooch, ca. 1900 \$7,930
4. 1194 Cartier NY Platinum Stars & Stripes brooch, Ca. 1923 \$7,320
5. 1329 Tiffany & Co. diamond & sapphire ring, approx. 4.50 cts \$28,060
6. 2001 Fedor Ruckert Plique-A-Jour enameled silver sherbet set \$31,720
7. 2031 Tiffany & Co. "Olympian" silver flatware service, 1877 \$19,520
8. 2057 Erik Magnussen for Gorham art deco silver & ivory covered bowl \$8,540
9. 2077 American coin silver water pitcher by Gorham, 1859 \$5,180

Consignments are now being accepted for all 2010 auctions: 609.397.9374 or info@ragoarts.com.

TO THE EDITOR

High resolution images/more information available on request.

About Rago Arts and Auction Center

Since 1994, Rago's has served thousands of sellers and buyers with a singular blend of global reach and personal service. First specializing in 20th century design, Rago's expertise now covers centuries of fine art, decorative arts, furnishings, jewelry and ethnographic artifacts. It is a world-class venue through which to buy and sell. It is also a destination for those who seek to learn and share knowledge about art, antiques and collecting, with free valuations for personal property (from a single piece to collections and estates) and auction exhibitions in house and online.

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