

PRESS RELEASE

**JUNE ARMS & ARMOUR AUCTION HAS
STRONG LINKS TO THE USA.....**



Items from the Iconic Institutions of the USA such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago are among the highlights of Thomas Del Mar Ltd's auction of **Antique Arms, Armour and Militaria** which will be held at 25 Blythe Road, London W14 on **Wednesday, June 25, 2014**.

A composite North Italian etched corslet dating from the late 16th century, which was once owned by Prince Peter Soltykoff until 1860 and is now being sold by order of the Trustees of the **Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York** is expected to fetch £12,000-18,000. The corslet comprises a breastplate and a backpiece and is finely decorated with bands and borders of relief-etching on a stippled and blackened ground involving at the top of the breastplate the figure of St John the Baptist holding a banner with the abbreviated inscription AD for Agnus Dei (see *image above*).

More than 20 lots from the George F. Harding Collection are being sold by the **Art Institute of Chicago** to benefit the Harding Collection. Included is a mounted armour for the 'Jousts Real' in the Spanish style of circa 1500-10, consisting mainly 19th century pieces with some early 16th century elements of great weight, which is expected to fetch £15,000-20,000. The horse-bit is probably of 17th century date and is known to have belonged to His Imperial Highness, Archduke Eugen Veste Hohenwerfen of Salzburg, until 1927 (see *image above*). A fine pair of 16-Bore Liegeois Flintlock Holster Pistols by Jean Jaques Behr, circa 1720-

30, which belonged to Ernst August I, Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar (1688-1748), and subsequently Wilhelm Ernst, Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach (1876-1923), carry an estimate of £8,000-10,000 (see illustration – right).



Also from the United States is a group of English and European small-swords from the **Lattimer Family Collections of New Jersey**. The Lattimer Family Collections have been described as a virtual military museum, his late 19th century Federal style home being filled with numerous historic pieces including edged weapons, Revolutionary and Civil War rifles, swords and huge turret mounted machine guns from the first World War. Decorated small-swords, notably those with historic provenance, were an area of particular interest to Lattimer and a distinguished group from his collection is now on display in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York [See end of Press Release for full biography].



The auction will also include Part Two of the **Morton and Angela Stern Collection**. Angela and Mort, who lived in New York, shared a passion for antiques and in particular arms and armour. Together they travelled extensively, visiting museums, fairs, auctions and gun shows making many acquisitions together. The objects offered in Thomas Del Mar's Auction reflect their combined broad tastes, including some fine examples of European edged weapons, armour and a number of distinguished examples of the gunsmith's skill as both engineer and decorator. Mort had a particular interest in military firearms and Angela in Scottish firearms [See end of Press Release for full biography].

Among the notable pieces is a fine German sword-rapier with blackened iron hilt dating from the late 16th century which is estimated at £6,000-8,000 (see illustration – left), while a North Italian close helmet for heavy field use, probably Milanese, dating from circa 1580 carries a similar estimate and a fine pair of 38-bore Scottish flintlock belt pistols by I. Christie of Perth, and dating from circa 1780 is expected to fetch £5,000-7,000 (see illustration – right).





Also with a distinguished provenance is a fine and rare cased pair of 28-bore French silver-mounted flintlock pistols of presentation quality by Boutet, Directeur Artiste, Manufacture a Versailles, dating from circa 1802 which are expected to fetch £40,000-70,000. These are being offered by the descendant family of Don José de la Serna, Conde de Los Andres, **Viceroy of Peru**

(1770-1832). They are signed within a lozenge shaped framework of gilt pellets, decorated in gold with bands filled with contrasting matted and plain triangular panels at the muzzle (see illustration – left).

Elsewhere in the Auction is a rare East Tibetan decorated leather lamellar armour dating from the 15th/17th century, which is in very fine condition. Formed of two pairs of plates covering the chest and the back of the torso, open at the front and fitted with two slender plates at each side, it is decorated in gold with large flowerheads and foliage and is expected to fetch £5,000-7,000.



One of the larger and more unusual pieces in the sale is a rare example of the skull and antlers of an **'Irish Elk'** (*megalocerus giganteus*), measuring just over three metres and dating from the Pleistocene period (2,588,000 to 117,000 years before the present). It carries an estimate of £20,000-30,000.



Among the firearms is a fine pair of 20-bore Liegeois flintlock long holster pistols, dating from 1700 and probably by Philippe Desellier – the octagonal breeches chiselled with a classical warrior above a crowned heart impaled by a sword carry an estimate of £10,000-15,000. The Desellier brothers, Philippe and Gilles, are

recorded in Liege circa 1676-1740 and 1680-1710 respectively. A fine and rare 25-bore South German (Thuringia) Wheel-Lock Pistol, Suhl, circa 1580-90 - chiselled over its surface with a vertical arrangement of allegorical figures within an architectural framework surrounded by scrolling foliage inhabited by exotic birds is estimated at £8,000-12,000.

ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

John Kingsley Lattimer was born in 1914, the son of I. E. Lattimer who was a developer of the first telecommunications satellite and was a pioneer of what became the fax machine. His son inherited his thirst for knowledge and was admitted to Columbia University at fifteen years. At this early age he had already taken courses that included archaeology, astronomy, geology and biology and soon gained three degrees. In 1938, aged 24 years, he started work as a surgeon. However, this was interrupted soon after when the U. S. joined the Second World War and Dr. Lattimer served with the 82nd and later 101st Airborne divisions. At the end of the war Lattimer was among the contingent that shut down the camp at Dachau. He set up the 115th General Army Hospital in von Runstadt's old headquarters in Kassel and at the war's end was detached to Nuremberg to provide medical care for the participants in the trials. Following the war Lattimer returned to his medical career where, by the age of 39, he was both Chairman of the Department of Urology at Columbia and Head Professor at the School of Physicians and Surgeons. He was elected simultaneously as President of both the national and the international organizations, and his work laid the foundations for the first studies in the field of paediatric urology. Lattimer has been credited with the discovery of the cure for Renal Tuberculosis, until then a certain death sentence and now rarely seen as a result of his work. He pioneered a number of internal reconstructive techniques for babies and small children that gave many the opportunity for a normal life. His fascination with History led to his becoming a ballistics and assassination expert. In 1972, the family of John F. Kennedy chose him to be the first nongovernmental expert to examine X-rays, colour photos and black-and-white negatives taken during the autopsy of the late president. His findings were published on the front-page of the New York Times where he was quoted saying that the images "eliminate any doubt completely" about the validity of the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald fired all the shots that struck the president.

Morton Stern, the son of Jack and Lena Stern, was born in Jackson Heights, New York in 1931. From an early age Mort had an interest in both fine art and craftsmanship and he dreamt of life as a commercial artist. He joined the United States Air Force at the of age 19 and following his honourable discharge from service, Mort went into the family business, Miles Petroleum, to work with his dad Herman (Jack) Stern. However, later on his father suffered a heart attack and Mort was drafted into the full time running of the family business, consequently Mort's artistic career had to be put aside. He became president of the corporation in 1970 and as the company flourished, Mort was joined by his wife Angela who shared his business acumen having spent many years as the Administrative business Manager at Radiac Research Co., in Brooklyn, NY. Her knowledge brought a new perspective to Miles Petroleum and Mort was able to focus more energy on his now growing collection. Following their most acquisitive years a neo gothic armoury room was designed by a local architect and built by craftsmen from Europe. It was reminiscent of the great early collectors of armour and

arms: the walls were clad with armour, hafted weapons and swords and the alcoves filled with pistols and daggers. Prior to its completion Mort was diagnosed with cancer and it was with great sadness that he was only able to enjoy the new setting for two weeks before his untimely death on 14 June 1993. Since then Angela has maintained the collection and continued to follow the market and support museums with keen interest.

VIEWING:

Sunday, June 22 - 12 noon to 4pm

Monday, June 23 - 10am to 7pm

Tuesday, June 24 - 10am to 5pm

NEXT SALE: DECEMBER 3, 2014

**For further details of the sale, please visit www.thomasdelmar.com
or call 0207 602 4805**

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Thomas Del Mar Ltd was founded in 2005 and has been holding sales biannually entitled "Thomas Del Mar Ltd in association with Sotheby's" since then. Thomas was formerly Head of Sotheby's Worldwide Department of Arms, Armour and Militaria and assisted Sotheby's with sales in London, New York, Denmark, Zurich, Billingshurst and Hanover. The sale of works of art from the Royal House of Hanover included arms and armour which sold for £4,764,004 (\$8,392,610) which continues to stand as a World Auction Record for an ancestral collection in this field. Thomas continues to work as a Consultant to Sotheby's on valuations and sales of major collections. Thomas Del Mar works closely with his former Sotheby's colleagues, Peter Smith and Ian Eaves (former Keeper of Armour at the Tower of London) who have both been working as consultants since the founding of the company in 2005. The team at Blythe Road includes George Duckett and Leo Morris.

25 Blythe Road was founded in 2007 and now runs biannual auctions in five different categories. This includes two online auctions: British & Continental Pictures, and Islamic, Indian, Himalayan and South East Asian Works of Art which take place on this website. The three live auctions that take place in the 25 Blythe Road gallery, accompanied by online and telephone bidding, are Decorative Works of Art, Antique Arms, Armour and Militaria, and Maritime and Scientific Models, Instruments and Works of Art. Each online and live auction is preceded by viewing days at the 25 Blythe Road Gallery. More details can be found on www.25blytheroad.com.

For Press Information or images only,

Please contact Rachel Aked

Email: Rachel@rachelaked.co.uk

Tel: 07790 732448

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