

PRESS RELEASE

## **SCULPTURE OF PEACE PRIZE-FOUNDER ALFRED NOBEL SELLS FOR THREE TIMES ITS ESTIMATE**

**- Bought by the National Museum of Stockholm -**



A BRONZE bust of Alfred Nobel by Swedish Sculptor Erik Lindberg, identical to that which is displayed at the Nobel Prize ceremonies sold in London, yesterday (Wednesday, December 9, 2009) for £31,200 at Thomas Del Mar (in association with Sotheby's) in his auction of Antique Arms, Armour and Militaria. It had been expected to fetch £8,000-10,000.

The sculpture, which measures over a one metre high, dates from between 1910 -13 and was bought by the National Museum in Stockholm. It was sold by the administrators of Nobel Enterprises in Ayrshire, Scotland and is one of only two cast at the Herman Bergman foundry.

Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833-1896) was born in Stockholm and is most famous for his pioneering work with explosives. Nobel amassed an immense fortune and the bulk of this was left in trust after his death for the establishment of five prizes in the fields of physics chemistry physiology or medicine literature and peace. The distribution of prizes was begun on the 10th of December 1901 the anniversary of Nobel's death. Erik Lindberg was a medallist and sculptor who produced a number

PRESS RELEASE

of medals for the Nobel prize and other institutions.

Magnus Olausson, Director of the National Portrait Gallery and the Royal Castles Collections in Stockholm, commented: "For a long time, we've been searching for a representative portrait of Alfred Nobel to display at the National Portrait Gallery. Therefore, we are very pleased to add this sculpture of one of the most famous and significant Swedes to the portrait collection. The bust will be displayed together with other famous portraits at Gripsholm Castle, where both Swedish and international visitors may enjoy and appreciate it."

Other notable pieces in the sale which fetched a total of £941,610 was a very fine and rare Turkish Gold, enamelled and gem-set dagger with Lapis Lazuli Hilt dating from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, which sold for £60,000, against an estimate of £25,000-35,000 [Lot 53]; while a very fine and rare pair of 22-bore French flintlock holster pistols by Piraube aux Galeries a Paris, dated 1697, also sold for £60,000 [Lot 266].

After the sale, Expert in Charge and Auctioneer, Thomas Del Mar, said: "We were extremely pleased with the overall success of this sale and the very low unsold rate. The pre-sale exhibition was very well viewed by our fully international clientele. The sale included a number of exceptional pieces from private collections which represented some of the finest objects in this field to be seen on the auction market for a number of years, so it was no surprise that there was some extremely competitive bidding from collectors and a number of institutions. We look forward to our next sale in June 2010."

For further details of the sale please visit [www.thomasdelmar.com](http://www.thomasdelmar.com)  
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