

Thomas Del Mar Ltd

PRESS RELEASE

DECEMBER AUCTION OF ANTIQUE ARMS & ARMOUR INCLUDES AN ECLECTIC RANGE OF RARE AND IMPORTANT ITEMS FROM A MAORI CANOE TO A HORSE HARNESS MADE FOR A LORD MAYOR

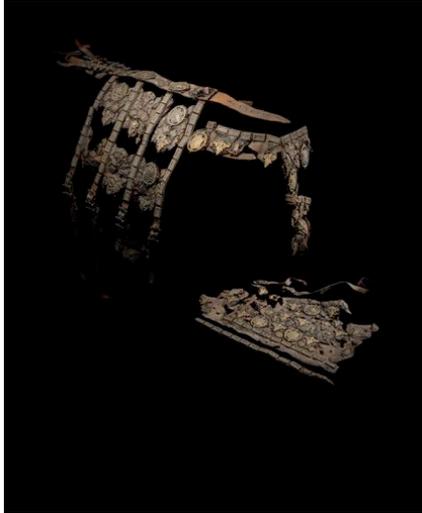
- SALE ALSO INCLUDES AN INTERESTING SELECTION OF SPANISH AND ENGLISH FIREARMS -



A rare carved Maori large model canoe, otherwise known as a Waka, dating from the 19th century and measuring over 2 metres in length and a horse harness made for a Lord Mayor of London are among the eclectic array of objects with fascinating provenance that will be offered in **Thomas Del Mar Ltd's** sale of Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria at *25 Blythe Road, London W14 0PD* on **Wednesday, 5th December, 2018** at 12noon. Viewing will take place on the preceding Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and online bidding is available via the-saleroom.com and invaluable.co.uk. Created from a single piece of wood, the canoe is carved with traditional masks and was listed in the inventory of Worden Hall in Lancashire – it is estimated at £4,000-6,000.



Also from Worden Hall is an English or Flemish close helmet, circa 1560, which carries an estimate of £4,000-5,000 and is believed to be part of a collection amassed in the 18th century by Sir William ffarington (c. 1704-81), as is a late 17th century English saddle and pair of holsters which is expected to fetch £2,000-3,000.



Another interesting equine piece are elements of a rare horse caparison (an ornamental covering spread over a horse's saddle or harness) dating from the first half of the 18th century which is estimated at £700-1,000. The velvet-covered leather retains eight gilt-brass plaques decorated in an openwork design with the owner's arms, which are those of Sir John Parsons (1613-1717) and his son Humphrey, who were part of the prosperous London brewing family that owned the Red Lion Brewery in East Smithfield. Sir John was knighted by James II and became a prominent figure in civic London, ultimately being Lord Mayor (1703-4) and then MP for Reigate in 1685 and from 1689 until his death in 1717. Humphrey continued his father's success and made

the brewery one of the largest in London in the second quarter of the 18th century.

Sir William Macnaghten, baronet (1793-1841) was a key figure in British/Afghan history in the first half of the 19th century and is depicted in many portraits in Britain's national collections. A fine Coorg gold-hilted knife which carries an estimate of £6,000-8,000 and has a pommel that bears an inscription for Ling Rajender Wadeer, Raja of Coorg, dated 1808/10, is being offered by a descendent of Macnaghten.



Sir William Hay Macnaghten joined the Madras Army as a cavalry cadet during which time he spent his hours learning Persian and Hindi followed by several other languages, and subsequently gained a place in the Bengal Civil Service. His two monumental works, Principles and Precedents of Mohummudan Law (1825) and Principles and Precedents of Hindu Law (1828-9) were both used by generations of British-Indian judges. In 1831, Macnaghten became secretary to the governor-general Lord William Bentinck and later Lord Auckland. With the crisis on the north-western frontier looming, he argued that the British should befriend Afghanistan to counter balance the Sikhs, believing that Tanjit Singh (the aged ruler of the Punjab) could not live for much longer. Unfortunately, his plans failed and Mohammed Akbar Khan claimed that the British, particularly Macnaghten, were not to be trusted and summoned him to an exposed plain outside Kabul along

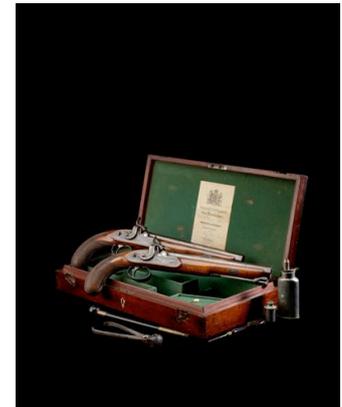
with three officers, who were all seized and Akbar Khan shot Macnaghten with a pistol. Days later, the entire garrison of some 4,000 soldiers met with a similar fate.

Also included in the sale is 17 lots from the collection of James D. Lavin Ph.D (1929-2013), whose doctoral dissertation *A History of Spanish Firearms* remains the standard reference on the subject. In his introduction to that book, Claude Blair (then Keeper of Metalwork at the Victoria & Albert Museum) noted Lavin's rare combination of qualities including his outstanding research, first class knowledge of the Spanish language and his wide grasp of the history of firearms in general that make the book one of outstanding importance in the field. Items from the collection include several firearms, notably a rare 34 bore Spanish miquelet-lock belt pistol, circa 1645 which is estimated at £2,500-3,000.



Also in the sale is a collection of almost 20 Japanese edged weapons including a *wakizashi* sword dating from the Shinshinto period (est: £4,500-5,500), which has a blade decorated with an elaborate engraving of a dragon and a scabbard lacquered with Kabuki masks in red and gold.

The final section of the auction is devoted to English and European firearms which includes a fine cased pair of 16 bore percussion officer's pistols by Westley Richards, dating from 1840 and estimated at £5,000-8,000, while a cased pair of 20 bore silver-mounted flintlock duelling pistols by James Barbar, London, 1758 is estimated at £10,000-15,000.



VIEWING:

Sunday, December 2 – 12noon to 4pm
Monday, December 3 – 10am to 7pm
Tuesday, December 4 – 10am to 5pm

NEXT SALE: June 26th, 2019

**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.

25 Blythe Road, founded in 2007, is a collective of specialists who run auctions twice a year, many of whom have worked at Sotheby's. The specialists will willingly sell good quality low value lots to open up the doors to first time collectors, starting at £50, going up to many tens of thousands. Curators, collectors and dealers from around the world buy from the various fields of expertise. The auctions also include Posters, British & Continental Pictures, European and Asian Works of Art which includes Silver, Ceramics, Jewellery and Objects of Vertu and Sculpture. Also Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria, and Maritime and Scientific

Models, Instruments and Works of Art. Each auction is preceded by viewing days at the 25 Blythe Road Gallery.
www.25blytheroad.com

For further information about this sale, as well as images please contact:

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For all other press enquiries regarding 25 Blythe Road, please contact Antonia Grace at press@25BlytheRoad.com



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