



SUMMARY OF THE 89th AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014
HOTEL SHERATON, FRANKFURT AIRPORT

The European watch auction week 2014 kicked off in Frankfurt with the 89th auction of Auctioneers Dr. Crott on Saturday, May 10, 2014 and brought friends and connoisseurs of beautiful timekeepers from all over the world to the city on the River Main. In the course of the morning the Sky Loft at the Sheraton Airport Hotel filled up with all the collectors who came to see for themselves the exquisite pieces they had already become acquainted with a few weeks earlier, when the catalogues for this event had arrived on their doorstep. The heavy volume listed as many as 627 lots, as usual presenting a much diversified range of beautiful objects varying from enamel boxes to pocket and wrist-watches as well as table and long case clocks.

The auction started at 12 p.m. as scheduled and was opened by Steffi Muser making her debut at the auctioneer's desk. Almost all of the first 50 lots of fine gold pocket watches of German and Swiss origin found their new owners – an excellent start for Steffi Muser!

When Stefan Muser took over the podium, he immediately sparked the interest of all lovers of fine wristwatches with two exceptional pieces from the Glashuette manufactory A. Lange & Söhne, who had relaunched in 1990. One of the rare „small Lange 1“ models in a white gold case studded with brilliant-cut diamonds (lot 76) with moon phase indicator – from the limited „soirée series – was sold for 50,400 euros. A Richard Lange „Pour le Mérite“ (lot 80) from a limited edition of 50 pieces with a hand wound movement and power equalization with chain and fusée easily surpassed the 100,000 euros mark and was finally knocked down for 130,200 euros. Lot 434 was a diamond-studded lady's wristwatch by Le Coultre and went to a Swiss horological museum for 57,600 euros.

As was to be expected, a Panerai Radiomir reference 3646 (lot 289) made the hearts of the collectors beat faster – only 60 copies of these watches are known. This one originally belonged to a German navy diver whose initials „HV“ are engraved on the back of the watch together with the date „1944“; it found its new owner for a sum of 90,250 euros. 18,200 euros - an extraordinary high price for an Omega Speedmaster Professional Chronometer – were fetched by a very rare watch (no. 69 of 1014 pieces) that had been launched in 1969 in the honour of the American astronauts (lot 627) – a feat that perfectly symbolized the excellent performance of classic wristwatches at the auction.

When it came to the pocket watches, the international clientele quickly focussed on the precision watch by Johann Heinrich Seyffert that the auction house was able to present as lot 319; the pocket watch dating from 1800 boasts a power equalization mechanism with chain and fusée and two instead of one barrels! This unique piece of historical significance found its new home in a private Swiss museum for the sum of 111,600 euros.

A minute repeater with Westminster strike by Ulysse Nardin dating from the early 19th century still sets standards even today – striking mechanisms with four hammers are an extremely complicated design. The watch that came to the auction as lot 258 reflected this fact with its selling price of 86,400 euros. Similarly sophisticated but much more modern was a modern pocket watch created in the 1970s and 80s from a small range of pieces Patek Philippe made by hand for a selected group of customers. Lot 105 was equipped with a minute repetition mechanism and a perpetual calendar with moon phase indicator and sold for 89,300 euros.



Lot 76, Lange & Söhne
Sold for EUR 50.400



Lot 289, Panerai
Sold for EUR 90.250



Lot 627, Omega
Sold for EUR 18.200



Lot 80, Lange & Söhne
Sold for EUR 130.200



Lot 434, Gubelin
Sold for EUR 57.600



Lot 258, Ulysse Nardin
Sold for EUR 86.400



Lot 177, Breguet
Sold for EUR 96.800



Lot 105, Patek Philippe
Sold for EUR 89.300



Lot 319, Seyffert
Sold for EUR 111.600

Auctioneers Dr. Crott is the prime address for highly precise and technically interesting pieces in Europe and once again lived up to expectations at this auction. The original estimate was easily surpassed when a ship's chronometer dating from around 1802 came up for bidding (lot 317); the chronometer of museum quality was built by Paul Philip Barraud in Cornhill according to a design by Thomas Mudge and has three individual enamel dials for hours, minutes and seconds – a marvellous treasure for the Swiss private museum who purchased this refined piece for the sum of 273,000 euros!

The excellent reputation that Clemens Riefler's precision pendulum clocks have amongst the collectors was reflected in the sum of 43,000 euros paid for the A3 type clock in its unostentatious wooden case with electric winding system and Riefler slave clock, dating from 1947. Similar interest was sparked by a one-handed square cased table clock created by Ulrich Schniep in Munich around 1580 (lot 621); it is not only ornately decorated but has a complicated striking hour and quarter hour strike and displays moon phase and moon age in addition to time (39,700 euros).

In the last few years Auctioneer's Dr. Crott has emerged as the worldwide leader in auctioning fine enamel art on pocket watches, jewellery and musical boxes; so it was no surprise that there was great interest in the beautiful objects on offer on Saturday. One of the most striking pieces was an extremely rare diamond-studded oval gold enamel snuff box by Louis Galopin, Geneva (lot 176), which changed ownership for the sum of 46,000 euros. Directly after, lot 177 was sold for 96,800 euros – a nearly new gold enamel pocket watch signed by famous enamel artist Chenevard. The watch was originally created for the Ottoman market and its case shows a meticulously painted political map of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

The most valuable piece in this category, however, was a modern Fabergé egg from the Victor Mayer workshop in Pforzheim (fitted with a clock movement by Paul Gerber) that was designed around the turn of the millenium (lot 179). The exquisitely created „egg clock“ studded with diamonds and sapphires features a digital jumping hour, a three-dimensional moon phase and a musical movement with the tune of Debussy's „Clair de Lune“. The egg was part of a very small limited edition of only 12 pieces presented at Baselworld in 2001. At the 89th auction of Auctioneers Dr. Crott this treasure made from onyx, rose quartz and rock crystal fetched the princely sum of 248,000 euros.



Lot 179, Fabergé
Sold for EUR 248.000



Lot 281, Riefler
Sold for EUR 43.400



Lot 621, Ulrich Schniep
Sold for EUR 39.700



Lot 317, Barraud
Sold for EUR 273.000



Lot 176, Louis Galopin
Sold for EUR 46.000