



Silverwoods

of Lancashire

The County's Leading Antiques Auctioneers and Valuers

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SILVERWOODS SPRING CATALOGUE AUCTION

'Wonky Blue Pot' Sells for £14,500

There were gasps of amazement as a battered blue pot believed to be early English Delft Ware, used as a planter and then hidden in a Ribble Valley attic for years, sold for £14,500 at the Silverwoods Spring Catalogue auction sale on Thursday. It was originally estimated to fetch just £100 – largely because of its terrible condition and the naivety of the decoration.

It has subsequently emerged that the very early (est. sixteenth century) date of the piece and its rarity meant that at least four major dealers were interested and the bidding went through the roof. It was eventually purchased by a West Country specialist. The oval trough is blue earthenware, handpainted with Chinese scenes, overglazed, with bun feet and lion mask handles. The bun feet are not equal in size causing it to lean.

Said Silverwoods Auctioneer, Wilf Mould: “It became clear during viewing that this piece was rather more valuable than we had originally thought – but this price for a pot in its condition really shows that there can be money in your attic when you least expect it. Regional Auction houses such as Silverwoods, and their websites, are the hunting ground for the really canny dealers and often prices reached can rival the major national auctioneers”.

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Blue pot/2

The earliest known producers in England of English Delft Ware were immigrants from Antwerp who first settled in Norwich in 1567 and then moved to London to escape religious persecution by the Spanish. Added Wilf Mould: “The market for Chinese, Indian and Islamic ceramics is particularly strong at the moment and we are anticipating more pieces coming onto the market in time for our special Autumn Country House sale”.

A French heavily carved sideboard also exceeded its sale estimate of £1,500 - £2,000, selling for £2,250.

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Photograph attached. For further information, please contact: Olivia Assheton on: 01200 440492.