

JULIA'S FINE ART, ASIAN & ANTIQUES AUCTION EXCEEDS \$3.5 MILLION

Review and Onsite Photos by W.A. Demers



(Previous) A rare set of 25 A.E. Crowell miniature shore birds, with original receipt, went to a private collector for \$82,950.

F AIRFIELD, MAINE — Jim Julia's winter auctions always do well, despite the icy grip that Old Man Winter puts on the state of Maine in

early February. His firm's three-day winter fine art, Asian and antiques auction conducted on February 4-6 extended the trend, totaling more than \$3.5 million. Presented over three separate sessions, the array of fine art, antiques, folk art, Asian artifacts and historical items from various collections and estates from across North America, included more than 300 paintings and other artworks.



Unsigned (American, Nineteenth Century), "Liberty Releasing the Slave from Bondage," soared to \$21,330.



(Left) A natural jadeite Guanyin and diamond pendant was bid to \$54,510.

Still, the Asian category continued to dominate the high-dollar arena, with seven out of the sale's top ten lots stemming from the third day's exclusive session devoted to a selection of Asian antiques — jade carvings, soapstone seals, porcelain export, bronzes, scrolls and watercolors, furniture and more.

Peacefully surveying the auction results from rarified heights was a magnificent bronze figure of Guanyin on a lotus stand coming out of a California collection, which realized \$189,600. Bidding action started on the floor, then continued with phone and Internet bidders. There were six to eight active bidders

competing for the Chinese Ming dynasty period figure, measuring 33 5/8 inches high and 16 1/8 inches wide. Cast seated in the dhyanasana pose on the detachable lotus base with hands in abhaya mudra, she was shown wearing a long and loose robe, her chest bejeweled with an elaborate beaded necklace.

The magnificent bronze figure of Guanyin on lotus stand was the sale's top lot at \$189,600.



A pair of large carved cinnabar lacquer vases finished at \$32,588.

A rare set of 25 A.E. Crowell miniature shore birds — with its original receipt — left its \$10/15,000 estimate on the ground, soaring to \$82,950 in Session 2, going to a private collector. “Crowell miniatures have come to auction before, but it’s rare to find a complete set because they were not usually bought that way, and the provenance

is excellent,” said Julia, referring to the fact that the set was purchased directly from A.E. Crowell by the grandmother of the consignor rather than through a retail outlet like Abercrombie & Fitch. Made in the early to mid-Twentieth Century in Massachusetts, the 25 extremely well painted miniature shore bird figures are mounted on carved

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wooden bases. Each bird is individually marked with a number in pencil and with the impressed carver's mark "A.E. Crowell - Maker - East Harwich, Mass." Accompanying the lot was an original receipt with the inventory of the 25

birds, which ranged in size from 3 to 5 inches each.

Julia's next sale is the advertising, toy and doll auction in June.

For information, 207-453-7125 or www.jamesdjulia.com.



A hardwood altar table rose to \$56,288.