

news

Fine result for Eton College

"FOOTBALL'S coming home" was what the fans sang at Euro 96. It didn't for England fans that year, sadly, thanks to the inevitable words 'Germany' and 'penalties'.

But a world record football programme has definitely come home thanks to a winning £30,000 bid at Graham Budd's sale in May (see full report in *ATG* No 2092), which shattered the previous auction high of £20,000.

The 1882 FA Cup final programme for Old Etonians v Blackburn Rovers has now been handed over to Eton College. Old Etonians won that game 1-0 – the last 'gentlemen amateur' side to clinch the trophy.

Mr Budd said: "The college was able to bid at the auction through pledged donations by 25 members of the Old Etonians Association Football Club. The programme will be housed in the Museum of Eton Life, which is open to the general public and local community as well as the boys. It will join an existing exhibit, which is the gold winner's medal awarded to the Old Etonian goalscorer in this very match, Reginald Macaulay."

Clarion issue warning over scam guide

OLYMPIA organisers Clarion Events have issued a warning to exhibitors after they were targeted by another of the scam guides so often reported on these pages.

"It has been brought to our attention that a company trading as Expo-Guide is claiming to be publishing a guide for the fair and they may contact you to sell advertising," say Clarion. "Please note, this company is NOT the official publisher and you are advised to ignore their correspondence. Expo-Guide has no connection with Clarion Events and their guide will not be distributed at the fair."

ATG have seen copies of the forms sent out by Expo-Guide, giving a Mexico-based address, under the title Exhibitors Directory for Fairs and Exhibitions, which ask recipients to confirm the accuracy of details listed. However, in the small print just above the signature strip lies the true purpose of the exercise, an order for expensive and useless advertising.

It is accompanied by the usual caveats on cancelling orders so as not to incur further charges down the line, as well as reserving the right to take legal action in cases of non-payment.



Aymeric Rouillac with the Japanese lacquer chest, €5.9m (£5.26m).

Rediscovered Japanese coffer snared by Rijksmuseum at £5m

AN exceptional piece of 17th century Japanese export lacquer with a provenance to match has produced the highest auction price in France this year when it was sold to the Rijksmuseum for a hammer price of €5.9m (£5.26m).

The coffer was discovered by auctioneer Philippe Rouillac in the Loire valley earlier this year, converted into a drinks bar. M. Rouillac's brother Aymeric then traced its remarkable history and it duly featured as the star lot in **Rouillac's** 25th auction at the Château de Cheverny on June 9.

Measuring a substantial 4ft 8in (1.44m) wide, the coffer was produced in the Edo period c.1640 probably in the Kyoto workshop of Kaomi Nagashige. It is decorated inside and out in various gold lacquer techniques on a black ground with Japanese myths and views including the Tale of Genji. Another craftsman, Goto Kenjo, probably did the metalwork on the cover.

It is thought to come from a group of high status Japanese lacquer export pieces, around ten of which have survived, commissioned by François Caron, head of the Dutch East India Company's office in Japan, from the Kyoto lacquer studios. Caron's order included "four extraordinarily fine coffers".

Due to the 30 Years War and other factors, these remained in the company's entrepôt until 1658. The coffer was one of several lacquerwares (including a similar, smaller chest) that were then purchased by the French ambassador in Amsterdam on behalf of Cardinal Mazarin (1602-61) for his extensive works of art

collection. Mazarin's coffers passed down by descent and were sold at separate contents sales, both ending up being acquired by the famous English collector William Beckford, in 1801 and 1802. Later owned by Beckford's daughter Euphemia, wife of the Duke of Hamilton, they formed part of the famous Hamilton Palace contents sale in 1882.

At that Hamilton sale the small companion coffer was purchased by the Victoria and Albert Museum, while this larger example was purchased first by Sir Trevor Lawrence then Sir Clifford John Cory (1859-1941), after whose death it disappeared off the radar. Its re-emergence at the Rouillac's sale fills in the gaps.

It was probably purchased at the Cory auction by a London-based collector, Dr Zaniewski, then went to Zaniewski's friend, a French engineer for Shell Petroleum, ending up in the Loire valley on his retirement in 1986.

At the Cheverny auction, the coffer was offered with a tempting starting price of €200,000 and no reserve but expectations were much higher (€3m-5m). It was the subject of a battle between the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and a major American museum who were the underbidders. The Rijksmuseum's purchase (€7.31m including buyer's premium) was made with sponsorship from the Jaffe-Pierson Stichtung; the BankGiro Loterij and the Vereniging Rembrandt.

It is thought to be the second-highest price paid at auction for a Japanese work of art, behind the \$12.8m (£6.7m) bid by the Japanese company Mitsukoshi Co Ltd for a late 12th/early 13th century gold lacquered cypress wood of the supreme Buddha Dainichi Nyorai at Christie's New York in March 2008.

Anne Crane

Carless succeeds Viney at SOFAA



Above: at the Society of Fine Art Auctioneers biennial dinner at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge on June 28 Paul Viney of Woolley & Wallis officially handed over the chairmanship of the association to Helen Carless, managing director of Lawrences Crewkerne. They are pictured here. Guest speaker at the dinner was BBC arts correspondent Will Gompertz and guests included *Dragon's Den* investor Deborah Meaden. Prior to the dinner many members also opted for an afternoon guided tour followed by tea at the Wallace Collection.

Win champagne!

YOU should have found our latest Readership Survey in last week's issue. It is aimed at finding what ATG means to you and how we can make it a better and more useful read.

Please help us by spending a little time filling it in and returning it to us – postage is pre-paid.

Those who include their name and address will be entered into a prize draw to win a case (six bottles) of champagne.

If, for any reason, your copy of the survey was missing and you would like one, please contact us at editorial@atgmedia.com

Summer double issue

ATG No 2101, cover dated 27th July & 3rd August, will be our usual summer double issue. Advertisers wishing to promote events taking place up to and including Tuesday, August 6, will need to be included in this issue or in ATG No 2100.

The final advertising copy deadline for the double issue is Wednesday, July 17.