

Previews *Our weekly selection from salerooms*

Four sofas from a suite of seat furniture made for Raynham Hall, Norfolk, in the 1790s form part of Sworders' Fine Interiors sale on September 14-15.

The grey painted sofas in the 'French antique' or 'Grecian' style with beaded frames were almost certainly commissioned by George, 1st Marquess Townshend (d.1807). He enjoyed a glittering military career serving under General James Wolfe at the siege of Quebec in 1759 and was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1767-72. His second wife, Anne Montgomery, was Mistress of the Robes to Caroline, Princess of Wales, from 1795-1820.

These sofas were part of a suite recorded in the drawing room at Raynham in an inventory taken after the untimely death of the 2nd Marquess in 1811. It was inherited in the Victorian era by Captain John Townshend (d.1863), a Royal Navy rear-admiral, and MP for Tamworth from 1847-55, and has since come by descent to the 8th Marquess Townshend at Raynham Hall.

Sworders will offer the sofas as two pairs, estimated at **£5000-8000** a pair.

A set of 16 chairs from the same set was sold at Christie's for £31,250 in 2013.

sworder.co.uk *



The unique group of six medals to SAS trooper Roger Tattersall is guided at **£9000-12,000** at the Richard Winterton auction in Lichfield on September 6.

Tattersall (1938-2020) was a member of the Canadian Guards, the Parachute Regiment, 22 SAS Regiment, Rhodesian SAS and South African Forces.

His medals, which come to sale by order of the family,

reflect this diverse experience.

Alongside the group in the lot are Tattersall's SAS beret (Rhodesian issue); Parachute Regiment beret, Rhodesian issue; non-marked 1st type dress uniform blue 'stable' belt; and more than 20 photographs featuring Tattersall and comrades in places such as Aden, Radfan and Borneo.

The lot also includes regimental plaques and other personal items including cufflinks, tie pins, Paras metal insignia and two commemorative SAS medallions.

richardwinterton.co.uk *



This rare Charles I broadside referencing the 'prizing' (pricing) of wines in the moments before the English Civil War is one of just two recorded – the only other copy is in the British Library.

The royal proclamation with a woodcut arms and tail-piece is dated at Windsor, the two and twentieth day of January, in the seventeenth year of our Reign for 1642. It sets prices for the best Gascoign and French wines at eighteen pounds the Tun, and the Rochel wines, and other small and thin wines at fifteen pounds the Tun.

It has a guide of **£800-1200** at Forum in London on August 26.

forumauctions.co.uk *

Dreweatts is to offer an impressive private collection of rare pianos on September 23. It was amassed by David Winston, who holds a Royal Warrant as Restorer and Conservator of Pianos to HM the Queen. It is comprised of 26 instruments dating from the 18th century to present day.

Among the lots expected to achieve the highest bids is a rare 1925 Pleyel grand piano fitted with an original 'Auto Pleyela' self-playing mechanism, in a chinoiserie Louis XV case (estimate **£40,000-60,000**, pictured) and a double piano from Pleyel, which is one of only 50 ever made. This model, which has a guide of £30,000-50,000, was once owned by the concert pianist wife of French writer and minister of culture André Malraux.



It is the first time the collection – many of which are one-off pieces with 'significant historic importance' – has been offered in its entirety.

Winston has restored some of the most valuable pianos in the world, including those owned and played by the greatest names in classical music, including Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt.

dreweatts.com *



A late 18th century cello made by Benjamin Banks of Salisbury in 1786 is estimated at **£50,000-70,000** in Tennants' sale on September 29.

Banks, known as the 'English Amati', was one of the finest English instrument makers of his age with his cellos being particularly sought-after.

He was born in Salisbury in 1727 and unusually, for such a fine craftsman of the era, remained based there for the rest of his life rather than moving to London. However, he probably had close links with the capital, and certainly sold instruments through dealers there.

The cello bears the original maker's label printed with a decorative scrolling border and *BENJAMIN BANKS, Salisbury, Fecit 17* with the last two digits of the date *86* written in by hand. The label and handwriting of the last two digits of the date are typical of other known examples by the maker.

The instrument was sold by LP Balmforth & Son of Leeds to a gentleman in the north-east England for £165 in 1965, with paperwork certifying its authenticity issued by William E Hill & Sons of New Bond Street, London, in 1938.

tennants.co.uk *

A single-owner collection of corkscrews and wine memorabilia is going under the hammer at Special Auction Services in Newbury.

The vendor, François Touzin, started collecting in 1976 when he took his girlfriend, now wife of 44 years, to a BYO restaurant. As the restaurant did not have a corkscrew he purchased one for £4 from the antiques shop next door and from then his interest in them was piqued.

Pictured here is William Burton Baker's patented double lever corkscrew, first made in 1880 by James Heeley & Sons of Birmingham. As Heeley quickly found fault with the mechanism (he realised the concept worked better by attaching the arms to a collar and patented his own design in 1888), manufacturing was abandoned after just a few years.

This scarce example of Baker's model, indistinctly marked *James Heeley & Sons Patent Double Lever*, forms part of the sale on September 14. Estimate **£370-400**.

specialauctionservices.com *

