

Not so romantic: sailor's valentines as souvenirs

Sailor's sweethearts or valentines were once thought to have been made by sailors as love tokens during their long trips away from home, as they passed the interminable hours at sea.

However, it is now known that the majority, at least, were created onshore in the West Indies and were sold to sailors as souvenirs.

In his book *Sailors' Valentines* John Fondas concludes that the primary source for sailors' valentines was the New Curiosity Shop, located in McGregor Street, Bridgetown, Barbados. The shop was owned by the English brothers BH and George Belgrave.

An unusual variation on the usual octagonal shell collage is the terrarium. A pair of these, intricately modelled as flower and birds under glass domes was included in the sale at **Mallams (25% buyer's premium)** in Cheltenham on June 29.

Standing at 18in (46cm) high and with wooden bases, these found a winning online bid of £3600, well above the £300-£500 estimate.

Barcaglia group

An early 20th century marble sculpture of a young girl with her hand raised by the Italian sculptor Donato Barcaglia (1849-1930) topped the sale sheets at £10,200 (estimate £5000-7000).

A regular at the international exhibitions from the 1870s, Barcaglia was renowned for his exceptional talent in



Left: Victorian terrarium pair – £3600 at Mallams.

Right: early 20th century marble group by Donato Barcaglia – £10,200.



depicting the female form in marble. His most famous work *Amore Accieca*, which won a gold medal in Florence, has sold at Christie's twice: for \$68,500 in 1999 and \$167,300 in 2004. Mallams' much smaller group measured just under 3ft 3in (1m) high.

A KPM plaque painted with a genre scene titled *The*

Violin Recital signed by J Foyle was estimated at £500-£700 but sold for £1400, while a pair of late 17th century English (probably London) delft baluster vases decorated in the Ming style, with figures and landscapes, doubled hopes at £1100.

Roland Arkell

Arts & Crafts necklace, c.1900, signed *Newlyn Enamel* to each plaque – £950 at Sworders.

Jewellery of distinction made in Newlyn

The artists' enclave of Newlyn in Cornwall was not exclusively a colony of painters. In the 1890s the Newlyn Industrial Class was established by artist John D Mackenzie to provide education and an alternative source of income for the local fishermen. Crafts such as jewellery, copper, enamel work and textiles were encouraged from workshops on Champion Slip. While beaten copper vessels, fashioned with fish, galleons and other marine motifs, are the best-known products of the Newlyn craft revival, the jewellery made there is equally distinctive. An excellent example came for sale at **Sworders' (25% buyer's premium)** Fine Jewellery & Watches sale in Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, on June 28. This Arts & Crafts necklace, c.1900, is set with plaques of shaded green and blue enamel and specimens of labradorite. Signed *Newlyn Enamel* to each plaque, it sold comfortably above hopes at £950 (estimate £500-700).

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Selection of items from the sale, including Sèvres two-handled pedestal vase, 14½ (36.8cm) high

Selection of items from the sale, including Satsuma vase, Ryozan Okamoto for Yasuda, 9½in (24.1cm) high

Viewing: Friday 5th August 1.30-4.30pm, Monday 8th August 10am-4pm and on the morning of sale from 9.30am

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