

Thimbleby & Shorland

SALE REPORT

THE READING CARRIAGE SALE – WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH 2008

There was the customary buzz in the air associated with the first specialist carriage sale of the year. Traditionally the first meeting place for driving enthusiasts in the calendar, Reading Market attracts clients who wish to meet up with friends as well as trade in their driving wares.

The spring sale is also associated with the sale of carriages suitable for the show ring, in anticipation of the season ahead. It was one of the smaller carriages of the day which had generated most of the pre sale interest. A delightful Spider Gig by Mills of Paddington which had been fully restored by the father and son team of Barry & Richard Wheelwright garnered lots of complementary comments and admiring looks. It also achieved the top price of £11,000 (44). A pair of square profile lamps, also by Mills, was purchased by the same buyer for £1,500 (2044).

At the opposite end of the carriage spectrum, a large and recently built Polish Five Glass Landau made the next highest price of £8,600 (116). Used for weddings and commercial work by the vendor, it was keenly contested by two bidders.

Trade had begun briskly with the first section of carriages, including the exercise and competition vehicles. A late entered Dutch competition vehicle made £2,500 (26), a Shetland size four-wheeler sold for £1,550 (28), as did a Bellcrown pony four-wheeler for all combinations (30). A German marathon four-wheeler sold for £1,850 (34) and a three year old Polish competition vehicle in excellent condition sold for £1,900 (36).

Inside, a modern but traditional looking Butcher's Cart sold for £2,500 (51), a four-wheeled Dog Cart by Crofords of Kent made £2,000 (53), a Stick Back Gig by Noale & Son of Peterborough sold for £1,800 (56) and a striking Delivery Van, which with the previous vehicle had been illustrated on the back of the catalogue, sold for £4,400 (57).

A delightful Private Omnibus in need of renovation sold for £3,500 (72), a late entered but immaculate Stick Back Gig by Sanders of Hitchin made £5,300 (73), an unusual and well crafted wicker bodied Wagonette sold for £2,200 (75) and a modern Sporting Wagonette made £2,900 (112).

Demand for well made traditional harness continues to be strong. A set of Geoff Dudley show harness sold for £1,000 (206), a set of Huskissons pair harness made £1,650 (256), a set of show harness mainly made by Geoff Dean sold for £1,600 (258), a set of full size team harness made in Walsall made £2,000 (276), another set of Huskissons pair harness for trade or private use made £1,400 (312), as did the next brown set (313).

In the carriage parts, a set of coach bars sold for £160 (481), as did a pair of axles and boxes (595). The next lot, a pair of shafts for a show wagon, sold for £180 (596), two turntables made £100 (650) and a pair of 54" wheels made £140 (696).

In the accoutrements, a driving whip with gold ferrule which had belonged to the family of Sir Walter Scott sold for £310 (836), a pair of screw stem lamps by Mills of Paddington sold for £980 (857), a child's side saddle habit made £250 (858), a pair of gig lamps by Hill & Boll sold for £230 (901), a hat box to take three hats made £170 (933), two silk top hats made £280 (948 & 950), a pair of South American decorative spurs made £350 (1157), a pair of miniature brass spurs sold for £160 (1158), a set of pair hames sold for £250 (1265), a Beaufort coach horn by Köhler made £320 (1355), a pair of lamps made £440 (1515) and a trade collar sold for £220 (1529).

The pictures section started well when the first lot, a coloured hunting print after Lionel Edwards sold for £120 (1601), followed by a delightful and unusual set of four tandem prints mounted in one frame which made £550 (1602). Another unusual lot, a coach painting on glass made £500 (1605) and a large Victorian print showing the Bedford Times made £100 (1659).

The models section was boosted by the inclusion of a good selection of Beswick models, some of which achieved excellent prices. A huntsman on rearing horse made £600 (1703), a pair of models of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh mounted on horses sold for £1,200 (1704) and two Dartmoor ponies sold for £250 (1724). A model of a Stanhope Gig sold for £200 (1766), a limited edition Royal Worcester model of Stroller & Marion Coakes made £750 (1767), a bronze stallion sold for £200 (1768), a scale bale elevator made £230 (1798) and a wooden threshing machine sold for £280 (1799). In the books, an 'Equine Album' no. 700 sold for £220 (1857).

The sale also included an interesting small collection of bygones and collectables consigned by the estate of the late Dr Margaret Evans. A Bakers Hand Cart with bowed sides and top sold for £520 (3), a miniature London Trolley made £200 (4), an old side saddle and two old GP saddles made £180 (404), a basket saddle sold for £120 (405), four horseshoe gauges sold for £60 (436) and a sparrow trap made £38 (446).

The next carriage sale will be held in Reading on Wednesday 7th May. Entries are now being accepted. Please contact us for an entry form, or download one from the web site.

For further information on the above sale or any future sales, please call 0118 950 8611 or email carriages@thimbleby-shorland.co.uk

The above prices do NOT include the 6% plus VAT Buyer's Premium. Full price lists for the sale are available from the Auctioneers for £2.00.