

Thimbleby & Shorland

SALE REPORT

THE READING CARRIAGE SALE – WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2008

****NEW RECORD PRICE FOR CARRIAGE AT AUCTION****

READING GYPSY WAGON BY DUNTON OF READING - £69,000

Recession? What recession? Having experienced the caution of clients at most of the carriage sales in 2008, something changed at the September sale and there was a buoyancy and confidence of bidding which hasn't been seen for the last 12 months. Several factors may have contributed to this – the wonderful Reading Gypsy Wagon by Dunton was certainly a draw to the sale, as was the John Mauger coaching memorabilia collection, the R W Short collection of wood working tools and the three original carriages from a Hampshire stately home, which were exceptional examples of carriage building at its finest. Not the fullest sale for a few years, but what was lost in quantity was certainly made up in quality.

Trade started well in all sections of the sale but most present waited with baited breath for the exceptional Gypsy Wagon by Dunton of Reading, lot 44. A good crowd gathered round to witness the bidding and after a few butterflies in the stomach of auctioneer Sarah Needham, the hammer fell at £69,000, a new record for a carriage at the Reading sales, beating by £1,000 the Travelling Barouche bought in June 2004 at the George Shaw sale, part two. The result was greeted by a large round of applause for all concerned. The wagon was the finest to have come to auction, being a work of art in itself and complete with all the fittings inside, stove and wonderful decoration throughout. Well known as the wagon owned and carefully restored by the late, great Tony Harvey of Suffolk, this was always going to attract a great deal of interest, coming onto the open market for the first time.

Three carriages had been consigned by one of the country's most established collectors and two sold exceptionally well. The Spider Phaeton by Lawton of London & Liverpool, in need of refurbishment, was hotly contested between three leading showing families, and sold for £6,000 (21). A superb and very traditional Wagonette by Hooper, sold with its original lamps, which had originated from an estate in Scotland, went back to Scotland for £4,750 (22). From the same home, a pretty little Sleigh, for refurbishment, sold for £310 (20). The three wonderful carriages from a stately home, which were in need of full restoration, were all purchased by the same coaching enthusiast. The Brougham by Aldebert of Oxford Street & Long Acre sold for £1,500 (29), the Victoria by Laurie & Marnier made £3,300 (30) and the eye-catching Body Brake by Arnold of Lymington sold for £5,000 (31).

In the same seated area of the sale, two of the prettiest vehicles to have come to Reading for a long time also sold well. A delightful small Four-wheeled Dog Cart by H Gold of Windsor sold for £5,100 (24) and a superb Four-wheeled Ralli Car by Moor & Son of South Molton made £4,100 (25). The Dennett Gig made so famous in the show ring with Major Joseph, but now in need of refurbishment, sold for £2,900 (23) and a Landalette which had been sent over from Holland for the sale made £2,600 (33). There were about 20 late entered carriages on the end of the sale and of these, a pretty Bow Fronted Brougham by Pink & Sons of Fareham sold for £2,900 (80).

In the sets of harness, Major Joseph's show harness by Anthony Green sold for £820 (212), a set of large pony pair harness by Huskissons made £800 (207), a set of cob harness by the same maker sold for £700 (192), a set of pony pair harness by Zilco made £690 (185), a set of charming

miniature trade harness to suit a Shetland sold for £620 (152) and a set of pair harness with breastcollars used with Dartmoor ponies by E A Blackburn made £600 (163).

At the start of the carriage parts section of the sale, the R W Short collection of wood working tools and country memorabilia attracted good interest. A 1940 Lister engine made £170 (276), a 6 ft. Victorian water pump sold for £180 (277), a presentation wooden milkman's yoke made £170 (286) and some copper washing coppers sold for £80 (360). Later in this section, a wagon stove made £100 (402), two saddle stones made £120 each (410 & 411), laminated shafts made up to £140 (430) and an axle with springs & 'U' bolts made £100 (490).

In the sundries, a side saddle by Champion & Wilton sold for £300 (572), a postillion whip made £230 (707), as did a whip on board (710), a pair of lamps suitable for a Drag sold for £300 (721), a rare crocodile hat box sold for £400 (761), a dealer's whip by Zair sold for £250 (830), a pair of brass trim lamps sold for £240 (838), a set of team coach bars made £340 (891), a pair of coach or brake lamps by Hooper & Co. sold for £480 (961), a pair of lamps by Shand Mason sold for £250 (962), a whip by G Holland made £380 (975), a pair of lamps by Pickering sold for £300 (1034) and a pitch pine saddle horse by Musgrave sold well at £2,100 (1048). A 6" splitting machine sold for £200 (1096), a holly whip sold for £220 (1125), three black silk top hats made £210 (1182), £320 (1183) and £200 (1184) and at the end of the sale, four buxton bits sold for £300 (1246).

The 44 lots consigned by the founder and father of the carriage sales, and former senior partner of Thimbleby and Shorland, John Mauger, were of especial interest to coaching enthusiasts and driving historians. A photo of the Greyhound coach sold for £440 (1318), an original advertising poster for the Old Times coach made £1,200 (1321), a large photogravure of the 1882 meet of the four in hand club sold for £900 (1322), an extremely rare Mail Coach licence plate made £850 (1323), a scale model of a London Omnibus made £430 (1329), two superb scale models by Eric Homewood of a C-Spring Brougham and a C-Spring Victoria each sold for £1,100 (1331 & 1332), a key bugle by Arnold sold for £780 (1338) and three fine holly whips, each with inscriptions sold for £550 (1339), £500 (1340) and £700 (1341).

An original signed Vanderbilt print sold for £100 (1354), a Standing watercolour showing a Shire horse, dated 1907 made £500 (1381), as did a Victorian advertisement for S & H Harris Harness (1385). A limited edition model by Country Artists 'Trooping of the Colour' made £190 (1433) and a Beswick Suffolk Punch sold for £110 (1439).

The next Reading sale is on Wednesday 5th November and 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