

## **Harmers Auction Truly an International Event**

Featuring one of the most diverse offerings of worldwide postal history to appear on the market in recent years, Harmers three day auction drew enthusiastic interest from the world over. Phone bidders from various time zones found themselves up at all hours competing against the room and an unprecedented number of internet and postal bidders for the many rare and exotic items to come under the hammer. The keen collector who came to Lugano specifically for the Austria 1856 Newspaper stamp (6kr.) red Mercury was not to be deterred in his quest to acquire this wonderful example of a great world classic stamp, overcoming fierce room competition to secure it at CHF 32,400 (estimate CHF 20,000). Other European items of note were the remarkable Iceland 1892 5a. block of twelve with the "1 Gildi" surcharges se-tenant in red and black, which realized CHF 7,200, while the Great Britain Post Offices Abroad also saw excellent results. An 1881 cover from Grenada to France bearing Nicaragua 5c. and 25c. in combination with Great Britain 1½d. and 1sh. red-brown cancelled at Greytown brought CHF 8,400 against an estimate of CHF 6,000.

This trend continued with the fine offering of British Empire. The tremendous interest for all things Indian continues unabated. Three phone bidders raised the price of the 1852 Scinde Dawke ½a. scarlet wax seal to CHF 16,800 (estimate CHF 3,000) despite its being repaired and repainted on a piece to which it did not belong. An unused example of the iconic Trinidad 1847 Lady McLeod (5c.) blue originally from the famous Julius Steindler collection fetched CHF 14,400. In the Latin America section, the Argentina 1866 (c.) registered entire from Rosario to Buenos Aires franked with two examples each of the Rivadavia perf. 5c., 10c. and 15c. brought CHF 16,200 against an estimate of CHF 10,000.

The China market once again confirmed its status as the most vibrant market in world philately, with the postal history producing stellar realizations across the board. A 1900 "*Maus*" I.C.P. 1c. postal stationery card bearing a complete set of the Large Dragons thick paper 1ca. to 5ca. in combination with Hong Kong stamps finished at CHF 36,000 (estimate CHF 28,000), the three-color Small Dragon franking on an 1893 ornamental envelope from Tientsin to England unusually sent through the Japanese Post Office soared to CHF 12,000 against a pre-sale estimate of CHF 3,000, and an 1896 envelope from Peking to France bearing China Dowager Empress 60th Birthday 3ca. and 6ca. in combination with France "Chine" 25c. realized CHF 6,720.

The auction concluded with Near East and Eastern Europe. The magnificent matched

set of Egypt 1926 “Port Fuad” overprints in corner blocks of four brought CHF 16,800 (estimate CHF 12,500). The trio of extremely rare Russian Levant envelopes from the legendary Lipschutz collection saw spirited competition, with the unique example of the Russian Navigation Company Agency at Ineboli on cover bringing CHF 5,760 (estimate CHF 3,000).

Our next auction is scheduled for this coming autumn. Why not take advantage of our unparalleled tradition, unique strategic location in Switzerland, and extensive client list built up over years of experience and personal contact to consign your collection or rarities.