

## READING CARRIAGE SALE REPORT – 23.10.24

The final Reading Carriage Sale of the year has long been associated with an end-of-season clear out as well as being an opportunity for restorers to purchase parts and trinkets for their winter projects. This sale was no different and so there was a great range of lots on offer to attract buyers and give clients an excuse to have a fun day out and catch up with their friends.

Now that the auctions have the online bidding service, T & S divides the auction into two overall sections – one for the sundries, sets of harness, books, models and pictures, and the other for carriages, parts and saddlery.

By rolling some of the formerly separate sections together, the auction now starts with the pictures, prints, books and models. Of note here were a signed and limited edition book 'Romany Relics' by John Barker and Peter Ingram which achieved an early high price at £250 (506), a model of a Bradford Cart sold for £300 (545) and a finely detailed model of a Gypsy Wagon scene on a base made £520 (583).

Next came the sets of harness and a cob size trade set made £500 (613); a pony set with red trim breastcollar by Huskissons sold for £800 (631); a Shetland or small pony set by Houghton of Lancashire made £500 (635); a donkey set by P J Market of Co. Cork sold for £550 (636) and a lovely set of cob harness with a full collar and two sets of reins made £1,450 (644). However, the top price in the section was £1,600 for a set of black and whitemetal horse pair harness (645) which had been used with the Marston Hearse.

Moving onto the sundries, a 10 inch apprentice piece collar with whitemetal hames sold for £520 (699); a set of four stainless steel dray chains made £400 (846); a pair of 22 inch patent leather collars with whitemetal hames sold for £340 (892); a fine silk top hat by Christys sold for £500 (981) and a set of three small lamps by Alfred Hales made £350 (1093). At the end of the section, three top hats – lot 1132 by Tress & Co. made £400, lot 1133 by David Gow made £300 and lot 1134 by Robertson & Son made £580 (1134).

Dealer's whips remain popular, and some remarkable prices have been achieved at the sales in recent years. The top price of the section was £3,000 for a whip by Lardner & Lardner (1026); examples by Crawley of Peterborough made £900 (1027 & 1029), £800 (997), £540 (933) and another stamped EG 1963 made £500 (1036).

Early on in the carriage section, a London Trolley to suit a pony sold for £2,000 (2) followed by a half size Bow Top Wagon for £2,100 (3), a scaled down Reading Wagon for £1,300 (4) and another pony sized London Trolley which made £1,700 (5). A three-phase Rene Schoop vehicle sold for £1,350 (20) and a four-wheeled Pleasure Driving or smart marathon type vehicle made £1,900 (21). A charming Demi-Mail Phaeton in need of restoration by Thomas Tilling of Peckham, London was purchased by a collector for £4,100 (30) and the elegant Hearse by John Marston which had been part of a commercial hire business sold for £7,000 (45). Towards the end of the section, a Stick Back Gig by Selby & Co of London sold for £1,450 (64).

At the wash up meeting after the sale, the T & S directors confirmed their commitment to continue with these popular and historical sales which is great news for the carriage world and the 2025 dates will be announced very soon.

*The above prices do not include the Buyer's Premium of VAT where applicable*