

Name _____ Date _____

Qianlong Chinese porcelain vase sold for £43m

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-11739781>

Adapted from BBC News 11/11/2010 © BBC MMXI

A vase found in a house clearance in London has been sold for £43m, thought to be a record for any Chinese artwork.



The 18th Century Qianlong porcelain vase, found in Pinner, had been estimated to fetch up to £1.2m for the brother and sister who inherited it.

Ivan Macquisten, editor of Antiques Trade Gazette, said the vase would have been made for the Qianlong emperor. The 16in high vase is yellow and sky blue in colour with a fish motif on the front and a perforated outer wall.

The private buyer - who is thought to have come from the Chinese mainland - paid £43m, with an additional premium of £8.6m to go to the auctioneer. The auctioneers found the vase in the bungalow which the brother and sister inherited from an uncle.

'Atmosphere electric'

Mr Macquisten said there was a "queue of dealers and collectors" to see the vase.

He said: "It dates to between mid to late 18th Century and it would have been made for the Qianlong emperor. He was the emperor in China when China was at its zenith, effectively creating the empire you see today. And this is one of the great works made for the emperor's palaces."

Peter Bainbridge, from Bainbridge's auctioneers, based in Ruislip, said the value of the vase was realised when items were being unpacked to be catalogued for sale. "When it was on the shelves ready to be catalogued our consultant valuer paused at it and said 'I have a feeling this is quite interesting'."

He said the atmosphere at the auction was "electric".

"The Chinese contingent had been in very smart sale rooms all week and I think found it rather curious to come out here, and mix amongst buyers who we were selling fridges and cookers to, and the like. Then the silence wrapped itself around the sale room as we progressed through this very exciting bidding."

Describing the reaction of the brother and sister duo Helen Porter, from the auction house, said: "They were hopeful but they didn't dare believe until the hammer went down."

"When it did, the sister had to go out of the room and have a breath of fresh air."

The ceramic vase was made during the reign of the fourth emperor in the Qing dynasty who ruled the empire from 1735 to 1796.

It is thought the vase left China in about 1860 and was acquired by an English family during the 1930s but how it made its way to the bungalow in Pinner is a mystery, the auctioneer said.

A posting on the auctioneer's blog said: "It is a masterpiece. If only it could talk."

Name _____ Date _____

Qianlong Chinese porcelain vase sold for £43m

A. Read the article and then answer the questions.

1. What was the original estimate of the value of the vase?
2. How did the brother and sister come by the vase?
3. What was the total cost of the vase to the buyer?
4. During which dynasty is it thought that the vase was made?
5. Who first realised that the vase might be of great value?
6. Where is the buyer of the vase from?
7. When is it thought that the vase left China?
8. How did the sister react to the sale?

B. There are twelve words that have been misused/misspelt in the text. Identify them and then correct them. They are all homophones.

Name _____ Date _____

Qianlong Chinese porcelain vase sold for £43m

C. The words below are anagrams of words in the text. The words are all nouns – i.e. people, places or things.

Example 'ride to' is an anagram of 'editor'.

- a) ace lancer
- b) herb rot
- c) am inland
- d) bowl a gnu
- e) sue creation
- f) more rep
- g) reshape tom
- h) sock roe

A.

1. 1.2m
2. Inherited from Uncle
3. £51.6m
4. Qing dynasty
5. The consultant valuer
6. Chinese mainland
7. C. 1860
8. She had to leave the room to get fresh air

B.

bean	should be	been
fore	should be	for
peace	should be	piece
wood	should be	would
maid	should be	made
too	should be	to
their	should be	there
sea	should be	see
won	should be	one
sail	should be	sale
weak	should be	week
forth	should be	fourth

C.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| a) ace lancer | clearance |
| b) herb rot | brother |
| c) am inland | mainland |
| d) bowl a gnu | bungalow |
| e) sue creation | auctioneers |
| f) more rep | emperor |
| g) reshape tom | atmosphere |
| h) sock roe | cookers |