

# Pot o' Gold: FAMILY'S OLD VASE FETCHES \$83 MILLION

By **JILL LAWLESS**  
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It was just an old Chinese vase that had been tucked away unnoticed for years when the woman found it while clearing out her late sister's modest suburban London home.

It turned out to be much more.

When the intricately painted 18th-century piece went on the block at Bainbridges, a small suburban auction house, it sold for a record \$83 million Thursday, scooped up by a Chinese buyer.

"How do you anticipate the Chinese market?" asked the shocked auctioneer, Peter Bainbridge. "It's totally on fire."

The sale price was more than 40 times the pre-sale estimate and a record for a Chinese work of art — an outcome Bainbridge called "a fairy tale" for the family who owned the vase.

The sellers, who wished to remain anonymous, are the sister and nephew of a deceased elderly woman in the West London suburb of Pinner. The vase had been in the family at least since the 1930s, though they don't know how it was acquired.

Many Chinese artifacts surfaced in Britain in the 19th century, having been looted from Beijing's Summer Palace when it was sacked by British and French troops at the end of the Second Opium War in 1860.

Painted sky blue and imperial yellow and adorned with medallions depicting leaping goldfish, the 16-inch vase dates from the Qing dynasty,

a time when Chinese porcelain-making was at its pinnacle. Made for the personal collection of Emperor Qianlong and bearing the imperial seal, experts said it was an exceptional piece.

Still, no one expected what happened when the delicate enameled vase went on the block.

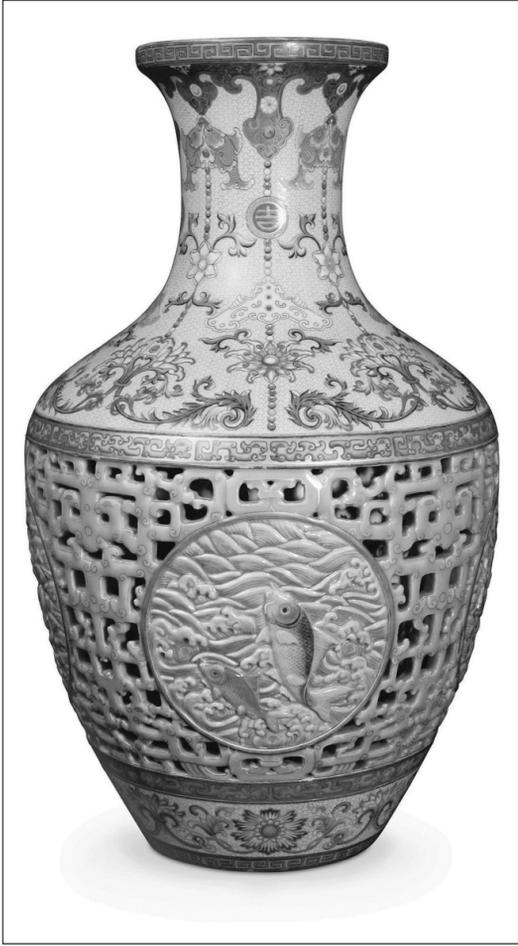
Bainbridge said the atmosphere was "electric," and when the hammer came down on the winning bid he struck it so hard the gavel broke.

"There was a silence that wrapped itself around the sale as the figure grew slowly but surely up to the sky," said Bainbridge, who specializes in house clearance sales — and whose previous record sold for \$161,000.

"I'm an auctioneer, so at that point I'm just doing the professional job I'm paid to do. But once the hammer's down you do take stock slightly and think, 'Oh, wow, that's really rather a lot of money,'" said Bainbridge, whose \$13.9 million buyer's premium is included in the sale price.

The vase, bought by a Chinese bidder on behalf of an undisclosed buyer, beat the previous record for Chinese art. A 45-foot-long 11th-century scroll elaborately decorated with calligraphy sold for almost \$64 million in Beijing in June.

While the vase sold Thursday is not extremely old — it dates from around 1740 — it comes from a period whose works are coveted by Chinese buyers. Last month, Sotheby's sold another Qing dynasty vase in Hong Kong for \$32 million.



This undated photo released by Bainbridge Auctioneers shows a Chinese vase which was sold for 43 million pounds (\$69.3 million) in London Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010. The vase is decorated with a fish motif and is 16 inches high. Auctioneers Bainbridges said the vase is believed to have been acquired by an English family during the 1930s or earlier. (AP Photo / Bainbridge Auctioneers ho, via PA)

## MOORE:

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recommends. According to Lori Younker, American Lung Association in Illinois Program Services and Development Director, Taylorville Community Unit School District has been raising funds for the American Lung Association in Illinois for the past four years, due to the efforts of Jenny Moats, RN, School Nurse. Each year, the schools choose one week in the fall to host "Change Makes A Difference." During the week, the students are encouraged to bring a different form of change each

day (pennies on Monday, nickels on Tuesday, dimes on Wednesday, quarters on Thursday and of course, dollars and/or checks on Friday). In addition to the benefit of the students getting involved in philanthropy, the class that raises the most money at each school wins a pizza party.

November is lung cancer awareness month. According to the American Lung Association, lung cancer is the second-most commonly diagnosed cancer in both men and women and is the leading cancer killer in the United States. "In 2010, more than 222,000 new cases were expected to be diagnosed and about 157,000 Americans were

expected to die from lung cancer." Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis, is a term used to describe the obstruction of airflow. The American Lung Association reports that COPD affects more than 13 million Americans and is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States.

To prevent lung cancer, the American Lung Association recommends no smoking. "Smokers should quit smoking. Avoid exposure to secondhand smoke, be aware of industrial compounds, dust, pollution, and fumes, and make sure the living environment is

free of radon." Radon test kits are sold at hardware stores.

"Youth philanthropy initiatives provide authentic opportunities for young people to develop skills and knowledge that will make them better students and citizens in the present and increase the chances that they will continue to play active roles in the community in the future," states Younker.

The American Lung Association commends the efforts of all the students for their dedication and support towards our vision — a world free of lung disease. *Kendra Crede can be reached at kcrede@breeze-courier.com or 824-2233.*

## PALIN:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

have that duo message or this will read as if it's a political ad."

In a scene outside the family's Wasilla home, viewers see the 14-foot-high fence the Palins erected when author Joe McGinniss moved next door to work on a book about Palin.

"By the way, I thought that was a good example," Palin says on TLC. "What we just did, others could look and say, 'Oh, this is what we need to do to secure our nation's border.'"

The intent of the series is not clear — is she merely showing off a state she truly loves with off-the-cuff remarks, or are these the opinions of the paid Fox News consultant subtly laying the groundwork for a presidential bid?

Of course, with a produc-

tion of this magnitude, money also could be a powerful motivation.

Palin, who could not be reached for comment, reportedly was seeking as much as \$1.5 million per episode in pitching the show earlier this year, according to The Hollywood Reporter. TLC, a division of Discovery Communications, has refused to divulge Palin's cut from the series, which is produced by Mark Burnett of "Survivor" fame.

Alaska has a fairly new film office that offers incentives including a 30 percent tax credit to qualifying productions filming in the state. It's not clear if TLC's Palin series is tapping into the program — Burnett's office did not respond to requests for comment — which could mean the show ultimately would be subsidized by the state.

Alaska film office manager Dave Worrell said he could discuss only productions

that have already received incentives and Palin's show is not among them. The program is open to any production that spends at least \$100,000 in Alaska, with added incentives for Alaska hires, as well as off-season and rural shoots.

History's "Ice Road Truckers," for example, spent almost \$1.2 million in the state, earning almost \$400,000 in incentives, according to Worrell.

As far as TLC spokeswoman Laurie Goldberg is concerned, the series is "a love letter to Alaska."

Well, except for one temporary Alaskan.

In the debut episode, viewers catch a glimpse of McGinniss reading on his balcony as Palin and her family make snide remarks about the author they say has intruded on their privacy. They charge that he is writing a hit piece on them. McGinniss, who has since moved out, says he was

filmed without his knowledge or consent and he's demanding through his attorney that it be removed from the episode, according to Slate.com.

The California attorney, Dennis Holahan, did not return multiple calls seeking comment. Goldberg said she had no comment and referred questions to Burnett's office, which also did not return calls.

If the series is about more than Palin's love for the state, it would be hard to overlook the irony of a former governor who abruptly resigned in July 2009 with 17 months left in her first term. Take the footage of Palin struggling to climb a steep rocky slope in Denali National Park.

"About halfway up the rock, I did not know if I was going to be able to finish the task," she tells the camera. "But I didn't want to quit. I didn't want to quit in front of other people."

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