

Princely sum paid for Limerick silver

By MIKE DWANE

SILVERWARE produced by Limerick labour has been sold in Cork for a princely sum of €22,000.

But rugby fans should not fear that the Corkonians lost the run of themselves after finally getting their hands on the Heineken Cup, as the silverware concerned is an extremely rare set of 18th century wine coasters fashioned by Limerick silversmith George Moore.

Auctioneers Joseph Woodward and Sons, of Cook Street, Cork sold the lot last week at an auction of Limerick and Cork silver, paintings and ephemera of Cork and Republican interest.

The coasters, Tom Woodward, explained were "owned by a Cork family that were handed down through the years."

"They didn't know what they had on their hands and they came in and asked us how valuable it was. They were very pleasantly surprised by what they got for it," he



Cork auctioneer Joe Woodward with the set of coasters by Limerick silversmith George Moore which were sold last week for €22,000

said. Woodward had been reluctant to put a guide price on the set as they

were so unique. They were eventually acquired by an anonymous collector of Irish silver.

Four inches in diameter they are described as "an extremely rare and important pair of George III

Limerick silver pierced and bright cut circular wine coasters with beaded rims".

George Moore is recognised as one of the foremost of the Limerick silversmiths and was granted the Freedom of the City in September 1748.

According to the Register of Births and Marriages, he was married in St Mary's to one Mary Foot in February 1752 and city records show him paying rates on a premises at Quay Lane, now Bridge Street, in 1784.

Joe Woodward explained that the golden age of the independent silversmiths in Ireland came after know-how in the craft was brought to these shores by Huguenots fleeing religious persecution on the Continent.

"They were refugees in a way and they brought with them to Cork and to Limerick their expertise as silversmiths," said Joe Woodward.

The early 20th century saw the decline of these craftsmen and Joe Woodward recalled that the last one in Cork, Egan's of Patrick Street, had closed down by the late 1970s.

LEADER BRIEFS

Online Museum

LIMERICK city museum's online service continues to attract viewers in their thousands. To view their catalogue, log onto: www.limerickcity.ie for more information.

New Houses

PERMISSION is being sought by property developer Tony O'Shea to build three four and five bedroom three-storey houses at The Haymarket, Limerick.

Tennis Star

LIMERICK'S biggest tennis star Conor Niland can be seen playing in his home town in the coming weeks when he steps on the court at Limerick Lawn to play in the international Men's Futures event.

Illegal Dumping

AN EPA survey showed that nine out of ten adults surveyed felt that illegal waste activity is still a major environmental problem and 86 per cent were aware of the environmental and health threats posed by illegal dumping.

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