

The pair of silver coasters by George Moore which will be auctioned this Wednesday

These coaster lot!

By MIKE DWANE

A PAIR of wine coasters, fashioned by a renowned Limerick silversmith in the 18th century, go under the hammer in Cork this week.

The pieces by George Moore are so unique that the auctioneers are reluctant to even put a guide price

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 Mary Foot in February 1752 and in 1784 had a business at Quay Lane, now Bridge Street.

The coasters up for auction are four inches in diameter and are described by Woodward Auctioneers as "an extremely rare and important pair of George III Limerick silver pierced and bright-cut circular wine coasters with beaded rims."

They are believed to be the most valuable of the 200 lots of Cork and Limerick silver, paintings and ephemera of Cork and Republican interest going under the hammer at Woodward's Cook Street salesrooms at 2pm on Wednesday May 24.

Joe Woodward explained that the

golden age of the independent silversmiths in Ireland came after the persecution of the Huguenots following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV in October, 1685 and their subsequent emigration to other parts of Europe including Ireland.

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

George Moore was one of the most celebrated of the Limerick smiths and Mr Woodward admitted it was difficult "to put a guide price on these pieces because they are so rare"

The craft of the silversmiths went into decline in the 20th century and Mr Woodward recalled that the last one in Cork, Egan's of Patrick Street, had closed down by the late 1970's.

Other lots of interest up for grabs this Wednesday include a painting of deCourcey Castle, Kinsale by Robert Lowe Stopford, a John Steele map of Munster, a death mask of Seán O Riada and Republican/1916 pictures postcards and mementoes.

Articles cab be viewed on Tuesday until 9pm and from 10am to 1pm on auction day

Mr Woodward said prospective bidders should ideally be there in person, send a representative or lodge a bid in advance.

Full details and catalogue are available at www.woodward.ie

CHRONICLE BRIEFS

Limerick Schools

FIVE Limerick schools will screen movies they have made themselves as part of the FIS Project (Film in Schools) on Tuesday May 30. The five schools taking part include: St Patrick's BNS. Dublin Road: Presentation Primary School, Sexton Street: Killanure NS. Brittas. Boher; Gaelscoil O Doghair, Newcastlewest: and Patrickswell NS, Patrickswell.

Over 50s

GARDENING guru
Gerry Daly, TV painter
Frank Clarke, fashion
expert Celia Holman Lee
and GAA legend Micheal
O'Muircheartaigh are
just four of the stars at a
special senior citizens
event taking place at UL
Arena on May 27 and 28.
The Over 50s Show takes
place from 10am to 6pm
daily, Admissions is 65.

TV iob

A NEW music TV channel are calling on all Limerick Cat Deeley wannabe's to apply for the position of presenter for a new entertainment show. No previous experience is required. Send showreels and CVs to: I wanna be on Music TV, c/o Thinkhouse PR, 13 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2. Closing date is June 9.