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SHARP-EYED COLLECTORS DISCOVER QING DYNASTY TREASURE
AT MAYNARDS ANTIQUES AND FINE ARTS AUCTION

VANCOUVER, B.C. – There are always well-priced treasures to be found at Maynards' Antiques and Fine Art showrooms, but on occasion there's a true showstopper to be discovered. On the second day of Maynards' December Auction (December 9th and 10th), there was a definite thrill of excitement in the room. Hugh Bulmer, the Director of Maynards' Antiques and Fine Art department, opened bidding on Lot 451 and noted the excitement on many faces in the room. "There was one bidder whose jaw dropped when he saw the lot," he said, "and bidding paddles shot up all over the room."

The auction catalogue listed Lot 417 as "a large Chinese double gourd vase" and briefly described the three clawed dragons and flowering lotus vines that decorated the 22"-tall piece. Dragons were a symbol of the Chinese Emperor and a common theme on Qing and early Ming Dynasty porcelains. The four preview days had clearly allowed the many interested buyers to closely examine the piece for authenticity. Of particular interest were the quality of the designs on the surface of the vase, and the "six-character mark" on the bottom. The latter denotes the period during which a piece was made: in this case, the mark was clearly from the reign of the Qing emperor

Qianlong (1736-1795), one of the most coveted periods in today's strong Chinese antiques market.

Mr. Bulmer oversaw a flurry of competing bids from buyers in the room as well as from those participating live online. As the accepted bids passed the \$50,000 mark, he realised that this would be a banner lot. After a few thrilling minutes, he brought the hammer down on the winning bid from a participant seated no more than thirty feet from the auctioneer's podium. As he recorded the final sale price of \$126,500, the room burst into spontaneous applause.

"It just goes to show that you can never anticipate what might happen on an auction night," commented Mr. Bulmer. "We love how much fun people have at our auctions, whether they're buying a small piece of silver or they're investing in an antique treasure." He laughed and added, "I can't wait to see what happens at our Spring Auction – we've got some true standout pieces."

Who: Maynards Antiques and Fine Arts

Where: 415 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver

When: December 10th.

Additional information: Print-ready image of the vase may be available upon request.

About Maynards:

Maynards was founded in 1902 and has grown to become one of the preeminent auction and appraisal companies in North America. The company operates from five permanent locations in North America, Europe and Japan. Maynards' expertise covers all aspects of sale transactions from consignment, transportation logistics, sale management, asset tracking, financial reporting, payment and final reconciliation.

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