

Client: James Adam & Sons
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Magnificent masterpieces from great Irish homes at Adam's

Adam's Country House Collections sale offers the chance to buy at a timed auction on October 17 followed by a live auction on October 18 at its showrooms on St Stephen's Green



Philip Carto
Fine Arts

Adam's is treating us to both a timed auction, which ends on Monday, October 17, and a live auction the following day, Tuesday, October 18, of outstanding pieces of furniture and works of art until Monday at Townley Hall, Drogheda, Co Louth.

I don't think I can find enough superlatives or space on the page to wax lyrical about the masterpieces from great Irish homes over the centuries in this sale. I will share my wishlist from it, starting with the timed auction.

Lot 181 is an unusual walnut octagonal Syrian table which is adorned with Islamic geometric patterns accented with brass and ebony stringing (€400-€600).

From day two, Lot 370 is a pair of Irish George II Bas-

so-Relievo pictures of birds and flowers by Samuel Dixon. In original and untouched condition, these delicate gouaches were the height of fashion in the late 18th century (€6,000-€8,000).

Lot 372 is an imposing Irish silver model of the Battle of the Boyne Obelisk with the maker's mark of Samuel le Bas, Dublin 1861. The obelisk was erected on an outcrop of rock just across the river from Oldbridge in 1756, almost 50 years after the battle that took place nearby.

The base, which was 20 feet square and 150 feet high, was a significant landmark in the landscape until blown up in the 20th century (€15,000-€20,000).

Also with links to the infamous Battle of the Boyne is the cover lot, 406, a painting attributed to William Van der Hagen, which depicts the fleet of King William III off the coast of Ireland in 1690. He landed in Carrickfergus

on June 14 and marched his army down to Drogheda where he met King James II in battle. This highly animated painting is estimated at €20,000-€30,000.

Returning to furniture, Lot 427 is an imposing a pair of George III mahogany pedestals, urns and covers, each six-sided urn with boxwood strung turned tops and finials raised on stepped hexagonal socle base standing on square topped pedestals (€8,000-€12,000).

Lot 428 is a highly important and widely referenced Irish yew wood library table by Arthur Jones & Co of Stephen's Green. Made for the Great Exhibition of 1851 and forming part of an 18-piece bog yew suite, it is a tour-de-force of craftsmanship (€10,000-€15,000).

On the decorative front, Lot 449 delivers a rather playful and charming polychrome painted wooden figure of a fisherman wearing a red tunic (€600-€900).

Another novel item is Lot 452, a 19th-century Swiss Black Forest Linden wooden



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bear stick stand, which would add a sense of theatre to one's hall (€1,500-€2,000).

One of the most magnificent mirrors in the sale is Lot 524, a fine Irish architectural carved giltwood mirror attributed to the famed looking glass merchants Francis and John Booker circa 1760. The arched plate with a scrolled cresting within a triangular pediment, supported on leaf embellished corbels, is just incredible (€30,000-€40,000).

Lot 532 is a handsome 19th-century George III style mahogany framed two-seater library sofa (€2,000-€3,000).

Lot 567 is my personal favourite, described as an Irish mahogany side table from about 1750.

It has a white marble top with moulded rim above a plain frieze with central carved scallop shell on raised cabriole legs and personifies the elegance and simplicity of great Irish furniture (€25,000-€35,000).

My last pick is Lot 694, a Victorian mahogany collections specimen cabinet with twin fielded cupboard drawers enclosing 42 graduated short drawers with brass ring handles (€1,500-€2,000).

All in all, a visit to Townley Hall between Saturday and Monday, October 15-17, is highly recommended.

*Country House Collections at Townley Hall, October 17 & 18.
See: adams.ie*



A 19th-century Middle Eastern walnut octagonal table (€400-€600), which forms part of the Country House Collections sale at Adam's which will be staged at Townley Hall, Drogheda, Co Louth



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Clockwise from above: two pictures of birds and flowers by Samuel Dixon (€6,000-€8,000); an Irish silver model of the Battle of the Boyne Obelisk €5,000-€20,000); painting attributed to William Van der Hagen, which depicts the fleet of King William III off the coast of Ireland (€20,000-€30,000); a giltwood mirror attributed to John and Frances Brooker (€30,000-€40,000); a painted wooden figure of a fisherman (€600-€900); yew library table by Arthur Jones & Co (€10,000-€15,000)