



PRESS RELEASE

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OLYMPIA AUCTIONS TO SELL FINE ANTIQUE ARMS AND ARMOUR FROM THE PHILIPPE MISSILLIER COLLECTION



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An extremely rare Italian armet (combat helmet) is expected to fetch up to £80,000 when it is offered on **Wednesday, September 9, 2026**, at Olympia Auctions, 25 Blythe Road, London W14. Dating from the mid-late 15th century, it was made by the Missaglia Workshop, who were Milan's leading armourers and made armour for the d'Este and Sforza families [lot 53].

The helmet is part of a collection of almost 60 items of Fine Antique Arms and Armour from the Collection of Philippe Missillier (1949-2022), which is expected to fetch in the region of £350,000.

As **Experts Thomas Del Mar and David Williams** explain in the introduction to the catalogue: "Over a period of half a century, Philippe became one of the leading connoisseurs and independent scholars in the field of antique arms and armour from Europe, India and the Islamic world. Consulted by the world's leading museums and collectors, Philippe possessed a remarkable eye for quality and rarity which is reflected in the objects offered in this sale."

They continue: “His company was enjoyed at countless exhibitions and sales around the world, where he would greet colleagues with a hummed fanfare, invariably followed by a profound observation imbued with wit and scholarship in equal measure. Philippe belonged to a generation that truly mastered its subject, visiting every museum and attending as many auctions as he could while simultaneously assembling an important library. A number of the pieces offered here were published in 'Splendeur des Armes Orientales', a landmark exhibition catalogue co-authored in collaboration with Howard Ricketts in 1988 and remains a standard reference today.”

Elsewhere in the collection is a fine and rare early 19th century French 15 bore flintlock silver-gilt mounted wildfowling gun of presentation quality by Boutet a Versailles which is estimated at £20,000-30,000. With a very long tapering barrel emblazoned with gold stars on a matted blued ground, it is also decorated with a pair of engraved gold Ottoman tassels [lot 57].

As Del Mar and Williams add: “Nicholas Noel Boutet (1761-1833) is credited with being the principal innovator of the dramatic change in the design and decoration of French firearms that took place from the Revolution of 1789 through to Napoleon’s reign as Emperor (1804-14). Boutet was named directeur-artiste of the newly formed Versailles Arms Manufactory in 1792. The Versailles factory was the principal producer of regulation weapons for the French armies, additionally Boutet was charged with creating richly decorated arms for presentation to military heroes and foreign heads of state.”

Among the Indian items is a heavy sabre blade from the Talpur Armoury that carries an estimate of £15,000-20,000. The blade dates from the 18th century, and the hilt is 19th century [lot 6]. While a rare late 17th/18th century Khanjar with an agate (sardonyx) grip is estimated at £3,000-5,000 [Lot 8].

Also of note is a rare and unusually complete late 17th/early 18th century French or Italian light cavalry officer’s cuirass (armour that covers the torso) in exceptional condition which is estimated at £7,000-10,000 [lot 54]

Olympia Auctions, 25 Blythe Road, London W14 0PD

www.OlympiaAuctions.com

Tel: 0207 602 4805

NEXT SALE OF ANTIQUE ARMS, ARMOUR AND MILITARIA

December 2 & 3, 2026

About Olympia Auctions

Our experts have years of experience working at the top of their fields and have come together to form a new kind of auction house. At Olympia Auctions we believe in research, knowledge and taking time to share our expertise with clients, no matter what the value. We hold sales in almost all specialist areas: paintings, silver, jewellery, European, Indian and Islamic, Chinese and Japanese works of art, books, prints, posters, arms and armour and 20th century design and are innovators in the sale of artists studio estates, contemporary Chinese, Indian, Middle Eastern and African art

Thomas Del Mar founded his specialist company, in association with Sotheby's in 2005. Thomas was formerly Head of Sotheby's Worldwide Department of Arms, Armour and Militaria and assisted Sotheby's with sales in London, New York, Denmark, Zurich, Billingshurst and Hanover. The sale of works of art from the Royal House of Hanover included arms and armour which sold for £4,764,004 (\$8,392,610) which continues to stand as a World Auction Record for an ancestral collection in this field. Thomas continues to work as a Consultant to Sotheby's on valuations and sales of major collections. The sales are now held at Olympia Auctions, founded by Thomas Del Mar.

For further information about this sale, as well as images please contact:

Rachel Aked

Tel: +44 (0)7790 732448

Email: rachel@rachelaked.co.uk

For all other press enquiries regarding Olympia Auctions please contact Antonia Grace
at press@olympiaauctions.com

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