

PRESS RELEASE

PROPERTY OF THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY
TO BE OFFERED AT OLYMPIA AUCTIONS IN AUCTION OF
ARMS, ARMOUR AND MILITARIA



A collection of almost 30 items removed from Plas Newydd, Anglesey – the home of the Marquess of Anglesey - will be included in Olympia Auctions sale of **Fine Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria** on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026**, at Olympia Auctions, 25 Blythe Road, London W14 (Lots 73-100).

As **Experts Thomas Del Mar and David Williams** explain: “Over five centuries the Paget family has included an array of eclectic and eccentric characters, including many key players in global diplomacy and Britain’s military history.”

Among the highlights of the collection, which mainly comprises swords and firearms, are two items from the late 18th century. A Turkish kilij (curved sword) with a gold blade is estimated at £6,000-8,000 [lot 74]; while an Indo-Persian mounted shamshir (long sword) is estimated at

£3,000-5,000 [lot 73]. A 22-bore percussion sporting rifle of Henry, 1st Marquess by Westley Richards, dating from 1853 carries an estimate of £1,000-1,500 [lot 98].

William Paget, 1st Baron Paget, served Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I, and was sufficiently prominent in European affairs to be favoured by the Emperor Charles V. William Paget, the 5th Baron, was equally prominent and fought for the King in the Civil War; his namesake, the 6th Baron, served as ambassador-extraordinary to the Ottoman court at Istanbul and played a notable part in the negotiations that led to the Treaty of Karlowitz in 1699, ending a long conflict between the Ottoman Empire and the Habsburgs, Poland-Lithuania, Venice and Russia. Paget's Istanbul embassy gave the family one of its most exotic chapters. He appears to have enjoyed marked favour at the Ottoman court: the Sultan is said to have pressed William III to leave him in post and, when Paget eventually departed, to have loaded him with gifts including shamshirs and twelve magnificent Turkish horses. The latter were presented to Paget by the Sultan, and in turn given to Queen Anne, while the former were retained by the family and later kept at Plas Newydd. In the 18th century the Pagets' fortunes were transformed. The 7th Baron was created Earl of Uxbridge by George I, and the subsequent union with the Bayly inheritance brought with it Plas Newydd and the great Anglesey estates. This acquisition came at a moment of exceptional opportunity. As the Industrial Revolution gathered pace, the iron, copper and coal beneath the family lands greatly increased their wealth.

Henry William Paget, later 1st Marquess of Anglesey (1768 – 1854), was a brilliant cavalry officer in the Peninsular War, who rose rapidly through the ranks to command the British cavalry in the Waterloo campaign and to serve as Wellington's second-in-command. His appointment was not without irony as some years earlier he had caused a scandal by eloping with the wife of Wellington's brother. Uxbridge's more instinctive, even romantic, idea of how to use cavalry proved critical. In the early afternoon of 18 June 1815, as d'Erlon's corps pressed hard against Wellington's centre-left and threatened to break the Allied line, Uxbridge ordered the British heavy cavalry forward. The charge was magnificent, uncontrolled and costly; but it came at a key moment and helped shatter the French assault at a time when success seemed possible. He is also famously remembered near the close of the battle, when a cannon shot struck his leg.

“By God, Sir, I’ve lost my leg,” he is said to have remarked to Wellington, who replied, with characteristic economy, “By God, so you have.”

Anglesey returned from Waterloo a hero. He was created Marquess of Anglesey, appointed to the Order of the Garter, and fitted with an innovative articulated wooden leg. He lived for another thirty-two years, active in politics and public life (see lot 98), twice serving as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and supporting Catholic emancipation. He lived in corresponding splendour, between Plas Newydd, Beaudesert, Uxbridge House, Burlington Gardens and his yacht Pearl. His gift to the Royal Yacht Squadron of the “Gold Mug” became part of the early history of what is now the America’s Cup.

The martial tradition did not end with him. Lord George Paget, following his father into the cavalry, served in the Crimea. He became famous as Lord Cardigan’s second-in-command during the Charge of the Light Brigade, remembered, with almost theatrical composure, for smoking a cigar as he rode. Lord Clarence Paget joined the Royal Navy, fought at Navarino in 1827 and later became Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet. Lord Alfred Paget served Queen Victoria as Chief Equerry. The later Marquesses belonged to the world of the Victorian court, sport and dynastic marriage, culminating in the 4th Marquess’s marriage to the American heiress Mary “Minna” Livingston King.

For more information: See Alex Anglesey, The Great Survivor of the Tudor Age: The Life and Times of Lord William Paget, 2023.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Olympia Auctions, formerly known as 25 Blythe Road, was founded in 2007. Conveniently located at London's Kensington Olympia, the auction house has sold more than twenty-nine thousand lots over the last decade. Over twenty specialists and consultants enables the company to offer the highest possible level of service to clients. The auction house sells good quality low value lots to open up the doors to all collectors, starting at £50, going up to many tens of thousands. Curators, collectors and dealers from around the world buy from the various



fields of expertise. Online bidding is available for free via the new platform Olympia Live at olympiaauctions.com and bidding is also available, with charges, via the- saleroom.com and invaluable.com.

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:

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