

Tiffany & Co. Sterling Silver Horse Racing Trophy.



Horse racing is one of the world's oldest sports, and the racetrack at Chester, England is the oldest horserace track still in operation. This makes the Chester Challenge Cup trophy, manufactured by Tiffany & Co. (the designer of the Vince Lombardi trophy amongst others,) an opportunity to own an important piece of thoroughbred racing history. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer the **Tiffany & Co.**

Sterling Silver Horse Racing Trophy (\$2/3,000) in our February Gallery Auction, held on Friday, February 16th.

This three-handled sterling silver trophy is a beautifully designed 9-pint cup incised with elegant designs and the history of the Chester Challenge Cup. A short stem and narrow foot extend into a broadening cup, which is further widened by the three handles, each of which tapers into a point before turning down to attach to the mouth of the cup. The cup features the history of the Chester Challenge Cup's winners from the years 1914-1933, including the names of both the horse and owner. The entire cup is sized approximately 12" x 12".

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The Chester Challenge Cup was established in 1824, although similar races had been held at the Chester Racecourse as early as 1512. Once an ancient Roman harbor, the sea eventually retreated, leaving a field of grass beyond the city's walls. These ancient walls, first built by the Romans in 70 CE and completed by the Angles in 907, still border the racecourse to this day, and offer spectators a free position from which to view the race. In the medieval period, it was the location of the Gotteddsday football match, a particularly violent celebration that is a precursor to American football and was banned by local authorities in 1533. Horse racing rose to prominence through the work of Mayor Henry Gee, who established the race on important Christen festival days.

The current Chester Challenge Cup is a flat race for thoroughbred

horses aged four and up. This differs from popular American races, such as those part of the Triple Crown (the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes). It is a handicap race, which means that each horse carries a different amount of weight, in contrast to a standard race which has a set weight for the jockey and tack. The differences in weight are determined by the age of the horse, as well as its sex and racing history. The Chester Challenge Cup is raced on turf and is over 2 miles, making it much longer than typical American races.

Only nine horses have won the Chester Challenge Cup twice, one of which, Chivalrous winner of 1922 and 1923, is featured on this trophy. Other notable winners include Dick Turpin, 1933 winner, and Brown Jack, one of England's most popular thoroughbreds and six-time consecutive winner of the

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world's longest race, who was the 1931 winner.

The trophy is manufactured by Tiffany & Co., the American fine jewelry and luxury design house headquartered in New York. Founded by the jeweler Charles Lewis Tiffany in 1837 and expanded under the direction of his son Louis Comfort Tiffany, Tiffany & Co. has expanded its product line to include fine jewelry, sterling silver, watches, porcelain, crystal, stationery, haute couture fragrance and personal accessories, and leather goods. The company has a long history of producing trophies, especially notable is its work with the NFL, NBA, and MLB but it now produces trophies for Major League Soccer, the PGA's FedEx Cup, and the World Baseball Classic, amongst others.

**Tiffany & Co. Sterling Silver
Horse Racing Trophy (\$2/3,000)**

will be offered at Michaan's Auctions February Gallery Auction on Friday, February 16th, which features fine diamonds in excellent condition in addition to notable examples from the Fine Art and Asian Art departments. The auction is led by the jewelry department, which will be offering an unmounted pear-cut 2.45 carats colorless diamond and an unmounted pear-cut 2.96 carats colorless diamond. Also included in the sale is a lithograph by Grant Wood, an Arnaldo Pomodoro hanging sculpture, and a jade insert table screen.

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