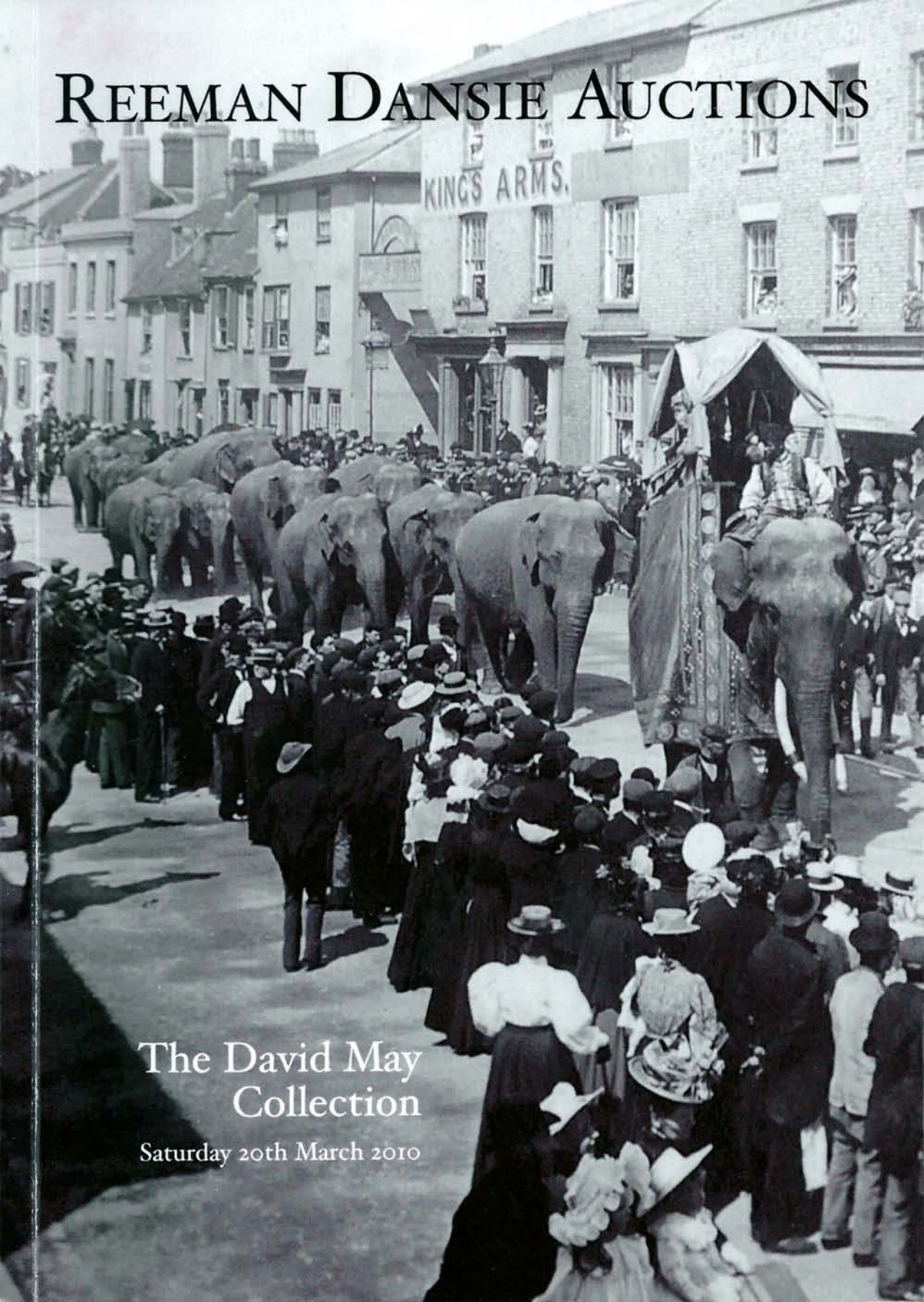


# REEMAN DANSIE AUCTIONS



The David May  
Collection

Saturday 20th March 2010

EST. 1881

REEMAN DANSIE

Auctioneers & Valuers

## The David May Sale

on

Saturday 20th March 2010

*Commencing at 10.00am*

Online bidding available via [the-saleroom.com](http://the-saleroom.com)



Pre-sale viewing

Thursday 18th March 2010 1pm until 5pm

Friday 19th March 2010 9am until 5pm

Morning of Sale from 9am

AUCTIONEER IN CHARGE OF SALE :

*MICHAEL BOWLES*

Entry to the saleroom is by catalogue only, available at £8.00 (admits two people).

Catalogue available by post at £10.00

Telephone Bids : Chris Leeson

E-mail enquiries: Pauline Pattison

Accounts : Jean Fatcher

Photography: Caroline Joy Watson

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BUYER'S PREMIUM 15%

Imperfections not stated

## The David May Collection



David May was born at No 9 Accommodation Road, Boxted in 1937. He had vivid memories of growing up during the War and developed a natural interest in local history.

His collecting instincts were started by an aunt who at an early age gave him her scrap album. This led on to him collecting cigarette cards, then postcards and other local ephemera and memorabilia which developed into a collecting passion that stayed with him for life.

David was a greengrocer by trade but his first love was his collection. He was respected and liked by all those who knew him and had dealings with him. He wrote three books on local history of Great and Little Horkesley, Mile End and Boxted, all of which were illustrated with postcards, mainly from his personal collection.

I first met David thirty years ago and through his enthusiasm he kindled my interest in local postcards and ephemera. He was very generous with his extensive knowledge and I have many happy memories of discussing his collection with him. Sadly he died in June 2009 aged 72. I am sure he would be pleased that his collection will continue to bring pleasure to future generations of collectors.

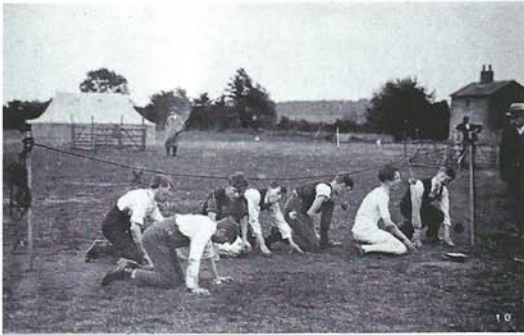
Michael Bowles

March 2010





Lot 390 (detail)

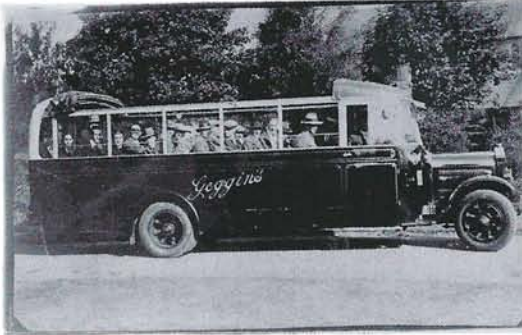




Lot 363



Lot 365



Lot 366



Lot 367



Lot 368



Lot 369



Lot 370

# Rural way of life captured in collection of postcards

**£100,000-PLUS:** East Anglian events depicted in collection built up over 40 years

By Paul Geater

THEY are incredible images of East Anglian life which were part of a collection accumulated by one man over a 40-year period.

And on Saturday the whole collection of postcards and cigarette cards – which includes an image of the famous 1917 Zeppelin crash in Suffolk – raised more than £100,000 at auction.

The David May Collection went under the auctioneer's hammer in Colchester at an all-day event which far outstripped the original estimate for the sale.

Auctioneer Michael Bowles knew Mr May, and was surprised and delighted by the success of the sale.

He said: "David died in August last year and it has taken us a long time to collect up and catalogue all the lots for the auction.

"We had put an estimate of £40,000-£45,000 on the sale – but the final total was a



real surprise to us." Most of the postcards featured north Essex – Mr May lived in Great Horkeley – but there were also pictures of Suffolk scenes including the famous 1917 Zeppelin crash at Theberton, near Leiston.

The Zeppelin – L48 – was shot down on June 17, the last to be brought down over Britain during the First World War.

It came down on fields which were part of what is now Theberton Hall farm, near the village church and the incident attracted national attention.

Postcards showing the crashed airship became quite common and it made front-page news in national newspapers.

The collection also included postcards of the Stour valley and pictures of railway stations across the region – including the Southwold line which closed in 1929.

Among the Essex pictures were some real social history – including the eviction of a smallholder from Boxted who was removed from his home by his Salvation Army landlords after a dispute which led to a rent strike.

**GOING, GOING, GONE:** Collection consultant Michael Bowles, left, with the catalogue of the auction, which drew great interest, right



Mr Bowles said he was particularly pleased that many of the pictures were bought by communities which had a direct link to them.

He said: "In many cases they will now be a community resource – so people can see how their town or village has changed over the years."

There were a total of 544 individual lots.

The highest price for a single lot was £2,600 for an album of postcards capturing the social history of north Essex.

The lot containing the picture of the Boxted eviction fetched £920 – more than 10

times its estimated value before the sale.

Mr Bowles said: "That is a great piece of history for the village, capturing a moment in time – the eviction happened in 1912 and came at the end of quite a long dispute between the smallholders and the Salvation Army.

"There was a lot of sympathy for the smallholders in the village, and the local police who had to carry out the eviction had quite a tough time afterwards."

Another good price was paid for a sweet cigarette card from Crescent sweets in 1928

featuring cricketer Walter Hagen. It made £400.

Mr Bowles said Mr May, a bachelor, had been collecting for more than 40 years and it took months to catalogue his entire collection.

He said: "I knew him for 30 years and I knew that he had built up a fantastic collection – the kind of thing you find very rarely these days.

"It was full of the kind of thing we all throw out at some point – it is absolutely fascinating and it is so good that many pieces have now gone to places they were originally associated with.

"However, there was interest in this sale from across the country."

As well as the postcards and cigarette cards, the collection also included other items such as enamel advertising signs, kitchen equipment, crockery and even old Christmas decorations.

"It was a wonderful sale. We were very pleased at how it all went," said Mr Bowles.





**NOTABLE:** The Zeppelin shot down, left, over Theberton in 1917; the eviction of smallholders, above, in Boxted in 1912; and the Colchester Railway disaster of 1913



COLCHESTER RAILWAY DISASTER JULY 12 1913

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Invoice

Mrs A Carver  
 12 Mill Street  
 Nayland  
 Colchester  
 CO6 4HU

**Number:** 25  
**Auction:** 6801  
**Title:** DAVID MAY COLLECTION  
**Venue:** No 8 Wyncolls Road  
**Date:** 20/03/10  
**Reference:** 317  
**Client VAT No:**

**VAT Number:** 948872265

Lot	VAT	Wnl Description	Hammer Price	VAT	Premium
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Lots marked 'Margin' are included in the auctioneers VAT margin scheme, lots marked 'Yes' are vatable at the current rate, lots marked 'Inc' are VAT inclusive and lots marked 'Zero' are zero rated.

The 'Premium charge' on margin items includes VAT which must not be shown separately or reclaimed as input tax. Input tax has not been and will not be claimed by me in respect of the margin goods sold on this invoice.

Hammer	£1,025.00	Including VAT
Premium	£180.66	
Charges	£0.00	
Charges VAT	£0.00	
Hammer VAT	£0.00	
Total due	£1,205.66	
Cheque	£1,205.66	
Balance	£0.00	

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Reeman Dansie

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