



Fig 1. A Chanel couture cocktail suit, c1965, labelled and numbered 27160, of brown and ivory tweed-effect printed silk with gold lamé brocaded spots, the dress bodice and jacket lining of vibrant contrasting geometric printed silk, bust 106cm, 41in, waist 77cm, 30in, with a beaded floral evening gown, probably Hartnell, c1965. (3) £850.



Fig 2. A Chanel black and white checked dress, zip-fronted, edged in black leather, together with a grey and white wool coat with black flower pattern, chests 82-86cm, 32-34in. (2) £650.



Fig 3. A Chanel hot pink wool suit, 1990s, boutique labelled and size 36, the collarless jacket with gilt CC buttons to the four pockets, slim skirt, and silk blouse printed with clock faces, feathers and jewels, chest 86cm, 34in, waist 61cm, 24in. (3) £480.

Kerry Taylor Auctions: Antique and vintage fashion, textiles and accessories

By Zita Thornton

Sale date: 16th October 2012. I find it hard to think of the 1990s as vintage but to the many young (or at least, young to my mind) buyers, twenty years ago is definitely vintage. Stallholders at a vintage fair I visited recently, told me that a large proportion of their customers were in their twenties and early thirties. I, myself adore the design style of the 1920s and 1930s, which perhaps just shows my age! However, the latest Kerry Taylor Auction offered much to please both age groups and a lot more in between.

When the label is Chanel and the styles classic, the date is immaterial. Of the almost forty lots which featured Chanel clothes and accessories, around half of them were from the 1990s, but all of the lots sold well, with 50% achieving more than their estimates, such as those illustrated. (Figs 1, 2, 3.) The ubiquitous Chanel suit from different decades was well represented, along with a selection of jackets. There were also dresses, skirts and coats for all occasions. To complete the wardrobe one lot contained a selection of belts and another included Chanel scarves.

Slightly fewer lots offered garments from the 1930s and what a fascinating selection they were. Children's wear from the 1920s-1940s, included a sweet, boy's sailor suit complete with beribboned panama hat. (Fig 4.) There were evening gowns, bridal wear and daywear. (Figs 5, 6.) Four velvet and satin evening gowns, along with a quantity of other clothing, listed as 'the contents of an attic trunk', raised twice the high end estimate at £600. (Fig 7.) What a find for some lucky person! A lavish bridal or presentation gown in cloth of gold embroidered and appliquéd with rhinestones, silver and seed pearls, was included in a lot that sold for £550. Bags to complete the outfits were offered in groups, with others from the mid twentieth century, (Fig 8.) and underwear, essential some would say to achieve the correct look raised £130.

There was excitement when competitive bidding for one lot of menswear from the 1930s to 1960s wildly surpassed the high end estimate of £300 and raised £1,700. (Fig 9.) Naturally, there were many outfits from other eras and designers too. Ossie Clark, Pucci, Madame Grès, Valentino, Yves St Laurent, Vivienne Westwood, Worth, Biba, Thierry Mugler, Jean Paul Gaultier and others too numerous to name, added to the quality items we have come to expect from a Kerry Taylor sale. Notable here was a Givenchy couture sky blue, metallic brocatelle, princess line evening gown, circa 1965 which raised £1,600, four times the high end estimate.

With a reputation for including items from well known wardrobes, this sale included two 1950s evening gowns made for the singer Alma Cogan; one pale pink, satin and lace gown, with a provenance directly through the family, and another lemon satin and ivory lace gown. Each raised £250.

Falling into the antique rather than the vintage category were some fancy dress outfits. Representing 'Mary Queen of Scots' and 'Lord Darnley', circa 1900 from Russell & Allen of Old Bond Street, together with a photograph of Colonel Hugh Sinclair and Mrs Rosalie Sinclair wearing them, raised £220. A girl's fancy dress outfit, 1880s but made from striped 1770s silk, with polonaise skirt, edged in Bucks lace, with a quilted ivory satin petticoat, achieved £160. A pair of Berlin wool-worked and silk embroidered gentlemen's slippers, circa 1860 (Fig 10.) raised £150. A green felted wool capelet circa 1890, hand painted and with iridescent beading, along with two 1930s examples (Fig 11.) sold for £600. A general group of Victorian/Edwardian women's clothing, including the remains of a Valenciennes inset bridal gown circa 1900 (Fig 12.) sold for £120.

There was some interesting nineteenth century children and baby's wear which came from the collection of the late Pat Earnshaw, expert



Fig 4. Children's wear 1920s-40s, including boy's sailor suit with straw hat and painted sailor hanger; burgundy wool Utility marked dress, 1930s party dresses and pyjamas. (qty) £160.



Fig 5. Three 1930s evening/garden party gowns, of floral printed navy silk, orange and brown bias cut silk crepe, the third of floral printed muslin, busts 82-92cm, 32-36in. (3) £380.



Fig 6. Six 1930s evening gowns, including floral chiffon, black mesh, sapphire blue velvet, blue and black printed chiffon and others. (qty) £420.



Fig 7. The contents of an attic trunk, including four 1930s velvet and satin evening gowns, peasant-style embroidered blouses, two 1950s ball gowns, assorted gloves petticoats etc. (qty) £600.

**Kerry Taylor Auction
October 16th 2012
All prices hammer.**



Fig 8. Five evening bags, including a heavily beaded 1920s example, another with ivory ostrich feather and satin capelet, 1930s petit point with carved hardstone butterfly, and three belts. (8)



Fig 9. Menswear, 1930s-60s, comprising an Austin Reed voluminous brown plush 'teddy' coat, dated 1934, chest 112cm, 44in, two striped blazers, one by Jackson the Tailor, cravat, striped cotton swimsuit and a Radiac nightshirt, and a pair of Army issue white thigh high canvas boots dated 1943. (qty) £1,700.



Fig 10. A pair of Berlin wool-worked and silk embroidered gentlemen's slippers, circa 1860, with shaped soles, the uppers worked in golden silk in tent stitch, and purple roses in cross stitch, 28cm, 11in. (2) £150.



Fig 11. Three attractive evening capes, comprising: green felted wool capelet c1890, hand painted with blooms, iridescent beading; an ivory ostrich feather and satin capelet, a magenta draped velvet evening jacket, both 1930s, together with a pheasant feather belt and a speckled ostrich feather boa. (5) £600.



Fig 12. A general group of Victorian/Edwardian women's clothing, including the remains of a Valenciennes inset bridal gown c1900, assorted bodices, all with wear. (qty) £120.

Continued from overleaf

and author in the field of antique lace. One such lot contained four nineteenth century christening robes (£550).

Another included an even earlier eighteenth century example (£340). A group of Regency baby wear, comprising a rare white cotton pelisse/coat circa 1810-15; four dresses including one circa 1805-10 with empire line bodice adorned with pulled and drawn threadwork; a plain cotton gown with Dorset buttons to the shoulders circa 1805; a Carrickmacross inset bodice, seven baby bonnets, some adorned with whitework, or of Valenciennes lace raised £460. Five Ayreshire work and cutwork infant dresses, mid nineteenth century, all with densely and finely worked embroidered skirt panels and bodices (Fig 13.) raised £260.

I have before reported on Hermès bags and scarves at auction but never on Hermès gentleman's ties. This sale included ten lots each offering a selection of eleven Hermès silk ties. Some were novelty printed ties whilst others contained classic patterns. Lots sold for between £120 and £240 which represented a bargain on the cost of a single silk tie from a quality designer. (Fig. 14.) Hermès was again represented in the sale of handbags. An Hermès wine crocodile 'Escale' bag, late 1960s sold for almost twice its estimated value, raising, £1,900. (Fig 15.) Yet two shoulder bags from a decade later sold for a mere £240. (Fig 16.) Moving on a decade an Hermès canvas and navy leather, envelope shaped clutch/shoulder bag, 1980s achieved £850. Gucci handbags also featured in the sale. Two black crocodile examples from the 1960s sold for £600 and £800. (Fig 17.) Another 'bamboo' handled example in mustard yellow leather from the 1990s was £380.

The sale included some groups of costume jewellery. Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche jewellery was included in two lots. One, from the late 1970s-80s, comprised of a faceted glass bead and wooden bead necklace, a lacquered pendant, (probably Chinese collection), a carved shell pendant and a chunky glass bead necklace on eau de nil silk rope. (Fig 18. £650) The second group, along with some accessories from the 1980s, comprised a black and gold crochet shawl with pom pom fringes and a matching pom pom necklace, three cork, wood or glass bead necklaces, two heart shaped pendants on silk thongs, a pair of gilt bow ear-rings and an Ungaro bead necklace. (£500)

Once again Kerry Taylor offered a number of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Chinese robes. Whilst a couple of these remained unsold, another sold for £4,800 and an earlier example (Fig 19.) sold for £6,000. These values were much higher than those achieved at the beginning of the year. However, others were below £1,000 which is more in keeping with expectations.



Fig 17. A Gucci black crocodile handbag, late 1960s, with Gucci stamp to the interior; with silvered metal and lapis lifter clasp, 21cm. 8.25in long. Provenance: Raine, Countess Spencer. £800.



Fig 18. Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche jewellery, late 1970s-80s, comprising: a faceted glass bead and wooden bead necklace; a lacquered pendant (probably Chinese collection), another with carved shell pendant, a chunky glass bead necklace on eau de nil silk rope. (4) £650.



Fig 13. Five Ayreshire work and cutwork infant dresses, mid 19th century, all with densely and finely worked embroidered skirt panels and bodices. (5) Provenance: The Pat Earnshaw Lace & Textile collection, Part I.



Fig 15. An Hermès wine crocodile 'Escale' bag, late 1960s, *Crocodylus Porosus*, stamped in gold 'Hermès Paris' below the front pocket, gilt rope-twist loop and button clasp, 27cm, 10.5in. £1,900.



Fig 19. A fine embroidered summer gauze dragon robe, *jifu*, Jiaqing period (1796-1820), dark blue silk gauze ground worked in counted stitch embroidery with nine five clawed dragons with white edged faces, claws and horns, in pursuit of large flaming pearls, the clouds worked in shades of pink, blue, yellow and green, with pink bats, above a deep hem of cresting waves tossed with auspicious objects and the *lishui* stripe, blue damask gauze sleeve extenders, with matching embroidered black gauze horse hoof cuffs and edgings, the neck opening and cuffs edged in gold and black brocaded bands, length from rear neck to hem, 141cm, 55.5in. Provenance: Brought to England by the eye senior specialist Dr Walter Jennings, who went out to China in 1884. He was based in Shanghai and worked there for 26 years. He returned to England due to ill health in 1910. His family has always believed that these robes were given as gifts by grateful patients. £6,000.



Fig 14. Hermès printed silk ties, novelty prints and large scale scarf-type prints, including jockey cap kipper tie, another with hunting horns and whips, both with H labels, also comets, hippos, JP Gaultier surrealist print and others. (10) £160.



Fig 16. Two Hermès shoulder bags, 1970s, each with maker's stamp to the closure, in tan and black leather; with cotton webbing straps and gilt ring closure stamped 'H', 31cm, 12in long. (2) £240.