



**SOTHEBY'S**

**6 NOVEMBER, LONDON**

Those who predicted the dispersal of the George Daniels horological collection would be the single-owner watch sale of the century (so far) were proved correct when more than 300 people crammed into Sotheby's Bond Street rooms to see a large part of the lifetime's work of the master hammered down for an estimate-busting £8.2 million. As expected, the top seller proved to be the remarkable Space Traveller's pocketwatch (A), which went to an anonymous buyer for £1.3 million (after some spirited underbidding by the legendary London watch retailer and collector Marcus Margulies), with £1.2 million being paid for Daniels' beloved Joseph Knibb striking table clock (B). The third, fourth, fifth and sixth most expensive pieces were Daniels-made

pocket watches which ranged in price from £914,850 for the Grand Complication (C) to £349,250 for his open-faced, one-minute spring detent chronometer tourbillon of 1970, while his superb replica of a Breguet weight-driven, three-wheel skeleton clock fetched £217,250 (D).

Several examples of the Daniels 'Millennium' wristwatches, created in a series of 50 to mark the arrival of the new century and containing the first commercially-produced versions of the Co-axial escapement, included a prototype that fetched £91,250 and one of just seven white-gold versions which realised a respectable £145,250.

Mediocre items also made notable prices, with a mixed lot of four inexpensive pocket watches (including one picked up by Daniels in Geneva simply because it was so cheap that he didn't believe it

**A**



**B**



**C**



**D**



could possibly keep time) making £3,250 against a pre-sale low estimate of £800, and a German cuckoo clock which hung for years in his kitchen drew £2,500 – 10 times expectations.

Conventional wristwatches, which Daniels modified with experimental versions of his Co-axial escapement ranged from an Urban Jürgensen chronograph which was acquired for the Danish firm's museum for £61,000 to a Rolex Datejust which sold for £21,250, four times estimate.

All of the proceeds from the sale will go to the George Daniels Educational Trust, which also benefited to the tune of more than £8 million from the sale of Dr Daniels' car collection dispersed by Bonhams in June. The house also sold his collection of Leica cameras in Hong Kong on 23 November. It made around £18,000.