

# Halls



## Country House and Asian Art Auction (4134)

15th May 2019

### Viewing:

Sunday 12th May. 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Monday 13th May. 9.30am - 4.30pm

Tuesday 14th May. 9.30am - 4.30pm

## Lot 54

**Estimate:** £50 - £70 +Fees

### A 19th century Rouen faience plate

A Rouen faience French Revolutionary commemorative plate 19th century,

printed in polychrome with a head and shoulders portrait of Jean-Baptiste Kléber within cross hatch and floral border, dated 1753-1800 and inscribed Kléber, painted Rouen to reverse in red, 25cm diameter (glued repair)

Kléber was a French military general who accompanied Napoleon on the Egyptian campaign. While walking in the garden of the palace of Alfi bika, he was knifed by [Soleyman El-Halaby](#), a student living in Egypt. The assassin appeared to be begging from Kléber, but then took his hand and stabbed him in the heart, stomach, left arm, and right cheek, before running away to hide near the palace. He was soon caught, with the dagger which he had used to kill Kléber, and was later executed. The assassin's right arm was burned off, and he was [impaled](#) in a public square in Cairo and left for several hours to die. Suleiman's skull was shipped to France and used to teach French medical students what the French authorities claimed was the bump of "crime" and "fanaticism".

After his assassination, Kléber's embalmed body was repatriated to France. Fearing that his tomb would become a symbol of Republicanism, [Napoleon](#) ordered it held at the [Château d'If](#), on an island near [Marseilles](#). It stayed there for 18 years until [Louis XVIII](#) granted Kléber a burial place in his home town of [Strasbourg](#).

### Condition Report

There is no condition report on this lot at present. Please contact us for further details.