

# Grand tour of Germany

Stand-out lots at auction include cork Colosseum in Cologne, writes Jonathan Franks

This year's auction season is well under way now in Germany with sales in all the regional centres.

Pictured and discussed on these pages is a selection of interesting and unusual lots from sales in February and early March, ranging from a Russian enamel jug in Saarbruecken and an aristocratic de Lászlo portrait in Heidelberg to an early Grand Tour souvenir in cork in Cologne.

£1 = €1.1



## Heidelberg

A central part of the sale at Kunst & Kuriosa (24.99% buyer's premium) in Heidelberg on March 2 comprised the contents of Schloss Nussdorf in Baden Wurttemberg.

It was originally built in the 16th century, but was largely replaced in the 19th century with a new building in medieval style. Nussdorf was the long-time residence of the German aristocratic family Von Reischach.

Among the sought-after paintings was a *Portrait of Hugo von Reischach*, executed in 1899 by the Anglo-Hungarian portrait painter Philip Alexius de Lászlo (1869-1937).

The list of his sitters reads like a 'Who's Who' of European royal houses and included the emperors of Austria and Germany, kings and queens of Greece, Spain, Romania and England (including the current monarch, when still a princess), not to mention several archbishops, a pope and the US President Calvin Coolidge.

Hugo von Reischach (1854-1934), the subject of the painting sold in Heidelberg, who posed for de Lászlo in historical ceremonial costume, was the *Oberhofmarschall*, the official in charge of the Imperial Court of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

On the reverse is an uncompleted oil sketch of the same subject. The signed and dated painting in oil on board, measuring 2ft 5in x 20in (73 x 50cm), was accompanied by several interesting documents, including a photo of artist and sitter proudly positioned in front of the painting (left).

The auctioneers underestimated the demand for the portrait, which rose from the reserve of €450 to its hammer price of €21,000 (£18,585), bid by a buyer from England.



**Above:** Philip de Laszlo's portrait of Hugo von Reischach, sold for **€21,000 (£18,585)** at Kunst & Kuriosa in Heidelberg and the accompanying photo of artist and sitter, **left**.