



Homes and Interiors (including Asian Art & Militaria) - Live Online (A929)

25th November 2020

Viewing:
VIEWING

Due to Government guidance around social distancing, we are unable to offer general viewing of all items in our auction rooms. All lots are extensively illustrated and carry detailed condition reports on our website www.sworder.co.uk. Should you require further images or photographs, please do not hesitate to contact us at auctions@sworder.co.uk or telephone 01279 817778.

Lot 2

Estimate: £400 - £600 + Fees

A Diplomatic Corps uniform, belonging to Dadiba Merwanji Dalal (1870-1941),

A Diplomatic Corps uniform, belonging to Dadiba Merwanji Dalal (1870-1941), who was the second high commissioner for India and the first of Indian Parsi origin in 1923-4, comprising as listed by Hill Brothers, London Ltd, 25 Bruton Street, and dated 28-12-1938 to Sir DM Dalal: sword in bag, 1 pair boots, 1 pair white stockings, 1 white gauge, 1 pair gold lace trousers, diplomatic coat, 1 pair black court knickers, 1 pair white gloves, cocked hat, 1 pair black stockings, 1 pair black gauge, black frog and belt, 1 pair white knickers, in a trunk, (no black frog and belt)

A justice of the peace, he was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE) in the 1921 New Year Honours List. As a Member of the Council of India, he was appointed the first Indian High Commissioner for India to the United Kingdom in January 1923, succeeding the first High Commissioner Sir William Stevenson Meyer, who had died in office the previous year. He arrived in London in April, and his appointment was noted by the Spectator as 'a fresh proof of the British Government's wish to conciliate Indian opinion...the fact that an Indian will now represent India in the heart of the Empire shows that the process of 'Indianizing' the Services in India is no empty phrase.'

The uniform belonged to his daughter Gooli, who had a romantic relationship with the vendor's uncle. She was disowned by her family and remained friends with the vendor's uncle until her death.

Dalal was knighted in the 1924 New Year Honours List and was invested with his knighthood on 10 July, having missed his original investiture date 28 February. He retired at the end of the year, and was succeeded by Sir Atul Chandra Chatterjee.

On 4 March 1941, he died in the American Hospital of Paris during the German occupation of France, aged 70. He is buried in the Parsi Section of Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey.

Condition Report

Obviously packed for many years - all pieces are OK. The white goods are somewhat darkened. The shoes dried on. Trunk worn.

Approximately 75cm inside leg.

Approximately 117cm waist. Hat internal 23.5cm x 15cm.
Chest size from armpit to armpit approximately 54cm
Collar of jacket approximately 15cm diameter.