

Design for Albury war memorial makes £1500 at auction of former V&A director's collection

A watercolour design for a First World War memorial in the village of Albury in Surrey was among the works bringing demand at the auction of former V&A director Dr Alan Borg's collection.



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📷 A watercolour on board by Gerald Fenwicke Metcalfe for the design of the war memorial in Albury Church. Part of the collection of Dr Alan Borg, it sold at £1500 at 25 Blythe Road.

Offered at London saleroom 25 Blythe Road at the end of last month, the 49 lots raised a £10,500 total (including premium).

Pictures and designs for war memorials featured prominently in the collection. One of his great passions, he published a book on the subject during his time as director general of the Imperial War Museum from 1982-95. He was also the driving force behind the creation of the National Inventory of War Memorials, with the IWM recently launching a searchable register of 74,000 war memorials on its website.

Metcalfe's memorial

The watercolour on board of the Albury memorial was by Gerald Fenwicke Metcalfe (1871-1953), a portrait painter, miniaturist and mural painter who lived at Albury Heath. The arch and decoration reflect the Romanesque character of the Church exterior, while the model for the figure was a local postman.

Estimated at £700-1000 for the auction on March 28, it sold at £1500 and posted the second highest price in the group of lots from the Borg collection.