

# Joseph Bonnar retires after half a century

Joe Bonnar, the master of the eyebrow raise and the wry smile, and also an expert jeweller, has closed his shop.

After 50 years, the fabulous independent jewellers which offered such grand gems from down the centuries lies empty on Thistle Street. The owner is now absent from outside in the street where he would smoke the odd cigarette during the day between his many customers.

This was an Edinburgh institution. Joseph Bonnar himself was an institution, and it is sad to think he is just not going to be plying his trade in Thistle Street any longer. He was always immaculately dressed with shoes polished to perfection, and a sharp wit ready to spar with anyone passing by.

There will be a spectacular auction of some of his stock at the Fellows Birmingham showroom on 23 October.

Have a look at what there is to buy [here](#).

The auctioneer said: "Joseph Bonnar is a name synonymous with quality in the world of antique jewellery. His influence has extended far beyond the doors of his esteemed shop in Edinburgh, Joseph Bonnar Jewellers. Bonnar's passion for unique and historically significant pieces, alongside his exceptional knowledge of gemstones, has left an indelible mark on the jewellery world.

"For five decades, collectors and enthusiasts alike have

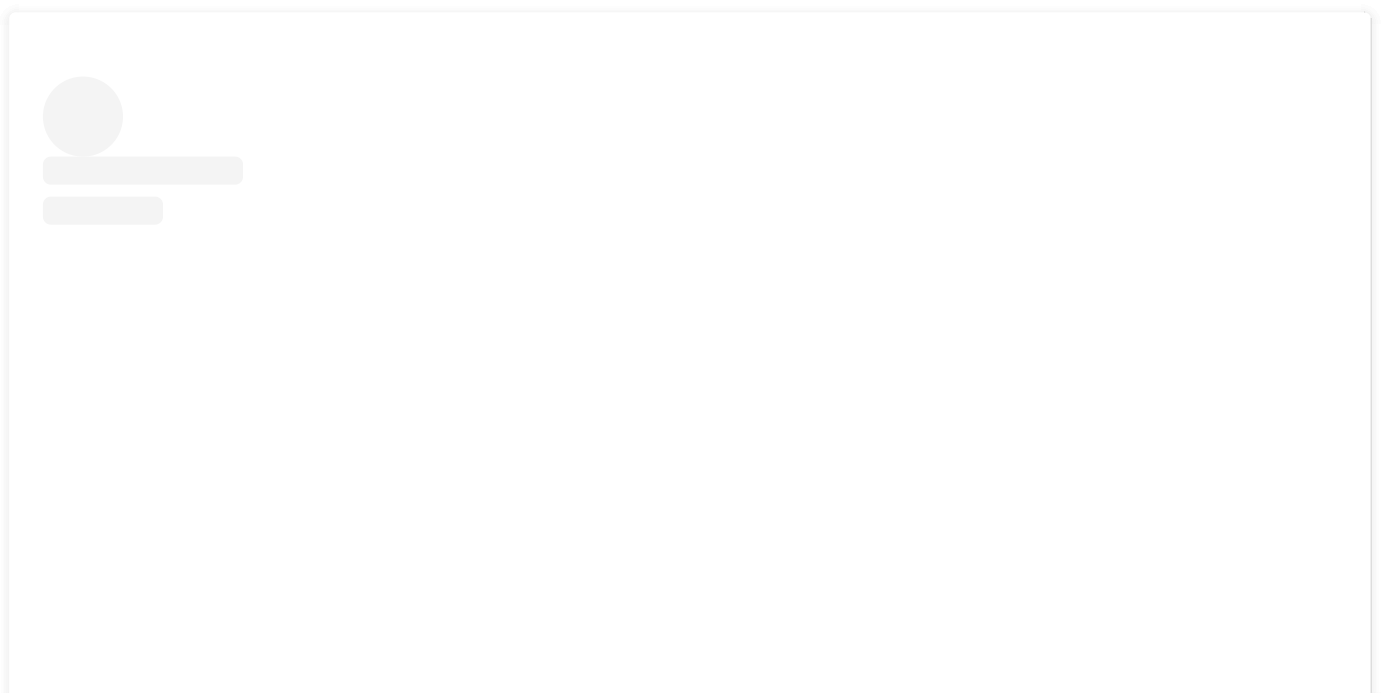
flocked to his Thistle Street shop, drawn by Bonnar's eye for the extraordinary. Joseph Bonnar Jewellers became a cherished institution, celebrated not only in Edinburgh but internationally. His eclectic finds have sparked intrigue, while his dedication to making antique jewellery fashionable gained recognition in esteemed publications like Harper's Bazaar.

"This extraordinary auction offers collectors a rare opportunity to acquire pieces from a carefully curated inventory spanning decades—ranging from bespoke creations to dazzling antique treasures, each carrying the hallmark of Bonnar's refined taste and expertise."

Stephen Whittaker, managing director and auctioneer, said: "We are delighted to handle the sale of such an esteemed collection.

"Joseph Bonnar has built an Edinburgh institution. For decades, he has curated an extensive and impressive collection. I feel privileged that we can give jewellery collectors the chance to own a piece of this legacy.

"The collection reflects a lifetime of passion and expertise in the world of jewellery."





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*Joseph  
Bonnar.*  
JEWELLERS

I wish to advise that after more than 50 years  
I have decided to retire.

As part of this process our shop at  
72 Thistle Street, Edinburgh has now closed.

I would like to thank all the customers we have  
welcomed through our doors over all those wonderful years.

*Joseph Bonnar*