《天价清代花瓶中国买家仍未付款》

Remember the heart-warming story of British family that found a valuable Chinese vase in the attic? Well, it hasn"t had a happy ending.

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Last year, the U.K. auction house Bainbridges sold a Qing Dynasty vase for more than $80 million ? the highest price ever paid at the time for a Chinese antiquity.

ReutersBainbridges???2010??????????????????Bainbridges? 8,000????????????????????????????????

The sellers were a British lawyer, Anthony Johnson, and his mom, Gene, who found the vase in Gene's late sister's attic. It was reported to have been brought back from China by an "adventurous uncle" in the family during the 19th Century Opium Wars, according to the Mail on Sunday.

??????????•???(Anthony Johnson)???????•???(Gene Johnson)????????????????????????????????????(Mail on Sunday)????????19??????????????“???????”????????

Yet the family's good fortune didn't last long. As the FT reported in February, the buyer of the vase who remained anonymous has yet to pay for the vase.

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The Mail on Sunday says the buyer is a Chinese billionaire who is a member of the Communist Party. His close ties to the government, which has been seeking to return what it calls "stolen treasures" of China, has led some to believe the government used the buyer as a front to sabotage the auction and prevent it from being sold. Items that fail to sell at auction or that become the focus of controversy can sometimes lose their value at future sales.

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The vase remains in storage until payment, according to Bloomberg.

???(Bloomberg)???????????????

A spokesman for Bainbridges couldn't be reached for comment. Bloomberg reports that French auctioneers have imposed new restrictions on buyers including deposits and strict payment terms to clamp down on nonpayments.

??????????Bainbridges??

In 2009, Christie's sold a pair of 18th-century bronze animal heads sold for more than $50 million to a Chinese bidder. The bidder never paid and the sale was canceled.

2009????? (Christie"s)?5,000????????????18????????????????????????????????????

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