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A Legendary Face

Swann Galleries’ September sale to feature a collection of Lincoln images amassed by a renowned collector

It’s not every day that meticulously amassed collections on one of the nation’s most iconic figures end up at auction, but that is precisely what will happen on September 27 when Swann Galleries hosts a sale of the Harold Holzer Collection of Lincolniana. Holzer, one of the best-known Abraham Lincoln scholars and whose work centered on Lincoln iconography, is now consigning the materials he’s collected for most of his life.

“It is hard to remember a time when I did not collect Lincolniana, and when I was not in pursuit of materials that informed and inspired my career-long research into the Lincoln image,” Holzer said. “In keeping with his research interests, a significant portion of the sale will be dedicated to portraits, cartoons, and engravings. This collection is unique because it was put together with a scholarly eye,” said Rick Stattler, director of printed scholars and whose work centered on Lincoln iconography, is now consigning the materials he’s collected for most of his life.

“This is a great example of the kind of work that Holzer has been able to make really important connections in his research through this collection. Because the collection is so deep, there might be several different versions of a print, and you can study how it has changed over time and why the change occurred.” Engravings in this collection show the way images of Lincoln were revised over time, such as in the print titled “Union,” by engraver H. S. Sadt. Originally created in 1852 to celebrate the Compromise of 1850, the owner of the plate updated it in 1861 for the outbreak of the Civil War. Faces of Southern statesmen were replaced with Union leaders, and the then-beardless head of Abraham Lincoln was placed on the body of John C. Calhoun. A third version was issued later, adding a beard to Lincoln and the image of Henry Clay remained although he had died nine years earlier.

“This is a great example of the kind of work that Holzer was doing in making these connections over time,” Stattler said. “We’ll be offering another high-light is one of the last known photographs of Lincoln, taken by Henry Warren, who is said to have tricked him into coming out onto his balcony just a month before he was assassinated (est. $4,000-$6,000).” That part of what we’re offering is the Lincoln image,” Stattler said. “He has a fascinating, mysterious, craggy face and no two images look the same.”

It was a face that captivated Holzer and became his life’s work and that holds the potential to captivate buyers in this sale. “I hope this collection demonstrates one way it remembered the greatest American hero of them all,” Holzer said. “I’m proud that I began acquiring Lincoln pieces nearly half a century ago, built the collection over the decades, and supplemented the acquisitions with research and writing. Most of all, I hope the pieces we’ve treasured bring as much joy to their new owners as they have to my wife and me.”

This collection is unique because it was put together with a scholarly eye,” said Rick Stattler, director of printed scholars and whose work centered on Lincoln iconography, is now consigning the materials he’s collected for most of his life.

Other key items include satirical anti-Lincoln cartoons, such as Miscegenation or the Millennium of Abolitionism (1864, est. $15,000-$20,000); an engraving by Franklin Brown created shortly after Lincoln’s nomination as the Republican presidential candidate, of which very few are available (est. $10,000–$15,000); paintings, including a beardless image of the president painted in 1860 by John C. Wolfe (est. $10,000–$15,000); and a commission signed by Lincoln for his secretary, William O. Stoddard, in July 1861 (est. $16,000–$20,000).

This is a great example of the kind of work that Holzer was doing in making these connections over time,” Stattler said. “We’ll be offering two versions of this engraving and two versions of its index key as one lot” (1852-c. 1862, est. $12,000-$18,000).

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On September 25, Bonhams will hold a travel and exploration sale that will include a significant portion of Americana, as well as the Fitzsimmons Antarctica Collection, which will make up the largest segment of the sale. This collection contains items from the Europeans, Americans, and Australians that made the trek to Antarctica. “At the time of these expeditions, Antarctica was the final frontier and still very much a great mystery,” said Ian Ehling, director of fine books and manuscripts at Bonhams. “Fitzsimmons was a very meticulous collector, and the collection covers everything from the first voyage across the Antarctic Circle by James Cook to Ernest Shackleton’s attempt to cross the region from sea to sea and everything in between.”

One item up for auction is Aurora Australis, published 1908-1909 by Ernest Shackleton, was the first book printed in Antarctica, and its binding was made from supply crates from the Shackleton expedition. “This copy included stenciled lettering spelling out ‘Oatmeal’ inside the front cover. Also included in the sale is a copy of The South Polar Times, a publication that was also overseen by Shackleton and published in London in 1907-1914 (est. $10,000-15,000).”

Bonhams’ sale will highlight the history of Antarctic expeditions.

Appointed to second lieutenant to Robert Falcon Scott’s Discovery Expedition from 1910-1912, Shackleton had planned to produce 100 copies, and Ehling says, “This copy of the first East-West crossing of the region from sea to sea and everything in between was made from supply crates from the Shackleton expedition.”

The sale will be on view in Bonhams New York galleries from Friday, September 21st through Monday, September 24th, with the sale taking place September 25th.
Mapping a Nation

Leslie Hindman’s upcoming sale traces the development of cartography in the United States during the time period from the seventeenth century to the American Revolution and through Westward expansion,” said Gretchen Hause, director of the fine books and manuscripts department at Leslie Hindman. “The collection includes many wonder-

ful maps and atlases tracing the period of development in our nation’s history. It also includes some of the first atlases printed of America.”

For example, the sale will feature a first edition and exceedingly rare first state of Justus Danckerts’ Novi Belgii Novaeque Angliae nec non Noris Virginia Tabulis, printed in Amsterdam around 1656. “This has been identified as a first state of this map because the names of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia have not yet been added,” Hause said. “So far, our research has shown that fewer than a handful of copies of this map are known, most in institutional col-

lections. It has never been seen on the market at auc-

tion.” The conservative provisional estimate for the map is $16,000-18,000.

Also included in the col-

lection is an engraved map in twenty sheets by Henry Popple called A Map of the British Empire in America (est. $40,000-60,000). Published in London in 1733, this is the first large-scale map of the United States of America—then called the British empire—ever produced,” Hause said. “These are just a few of the highlights of such an extensive collection of cartography. It’s really a won-

derful collection full of fine examples of books, maps, and atlases in their original condition,” Hause said. “The Newman collection includes not one but three Melish maps in three different issues (1816, 1818, and 1820) showing the development of the country at that time and the development in the way that information was pre-

sented in map form,” Hause said.

And these are just a few of the highlights of such an extensive collection of cartography. “It’s really a wonderful collection full of fine examples of books, maps, and atlases in their original condition,” Hause said. “The bindings are all contemporary or near contemporary, which is really appealing to buyers in the current market. The collection includes a number of really nice examples of the highlights of American cartography, and it traces the history of the American landscape from the birth of our nation through the age of Western expansion.”

John Melish’s Map of the United States…Entered… the 6th day of June, 1816… Improved to the 1st of Jan-

Selling a Library

Forum Auctions’ sale of a massive collection fetches two-and-a-half times its estimate

I n July of this year, Forum Auctions held a two-day sale of the Rothamsted Collection, made up of more than 3,400 books on agriculture from the Lawes Library offered across 800 lots. With a hammer total of just over £1.75 million—two-and-a-half times the low estimate—the collection had the rare distinction of being a “white glove sale,” in which every item was sold.

The collection was amassed between the first and second world wars by Sir John Russell, who wanted to create a world-class library of books on agriculture that would be accessible by all. The result of this enormous undertaking was a collection covering a wide range of subjects relating to rural affairs, originating in the early fourteenth century. It was written in Anglo-Norman and sold for £40,000. Because no other similar manuscripts had come to market in the past forty years, Powell said that it was a “once-in-a-lifetime chance.”

Another rare find, Crescenzio’s De omnibus agriculturae, was specially bound in Kraków for King Sigismund III of Poland and given to him in 1563. The book was estimated at £6,000–£9,000 but sold for £12,000. “This mid-sixteenth-century edition is quite scarce, but it has a very special binding in generally lovely condition that was done for a royal, so it sold extremely well,” Powell said.

Petrus de Creasentzio’s De omnibus agriculturae (1548). Sold for £32,000.

The Boke of Husbandry, written around 1394, is the only known copy of an early edition and the first book on farming printed in England. The book also belonged to William Lambarde, a translator of Walter Herley and the author of the first English topographical book, and sold for £4,000. “Lambarde was a sixteenth-century writer and scholar, and this copy contains his signature, as well as those of his son and grandson,” Powell said. “The book remained in the Lambarde family library from the sixteenth century through many generations until it was dispersed in an auction about the 1920s, when it went to Rothamsted. It was the association of Lambarde owning this book on husbandry that made it soar to dizzying heights beyond its estimate.”

Powell said that the strength of the collection that made it fetch such a high price at auction, but he said it was also due in part to the fact that Forum Auctions gave the collection the “sympathy and attention that it deserves.”

“It would have been very easy to cream off the top 100 or 200 books, but we pride ourselves on being able to handle everything,” Powell said. “Though we produced a catalogue with over 800 lots—some individual and some grouped—everything was treated with equality and according to its merits, and it showed in the results of the sale. We sold a whole library.”

Peggy Caruthers lives in California and is the auction content manager at journalists Inc.

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We are now welcoming consignments of Books, Maps and other works on paper into our Autumn sales calendar. Our team of experts would be delighted to provide a free, confidential and no obligation valuation on your items.

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Contact: Richard Carroll | r.carroll@forumauctions.co.uk | +44 (0) 20 7871 2640
The Rarest Edition

Heritage Auctions to sell a seldom-seen edition of The Federalist

Published in New York newspapers between October 1787 and April 1788, The Federalist Papers, penned by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison under a pseudonym to persuade the New York delegation to vote in favor of the Constitution, were some of the most politically important documents in the early history of the nation.

It was probably the most significant set of statements put out in favor of the ratification of the Constitution, which was very much up in the air at the time,” said Michael Zinman, a collector specializing in the history of printing in America from the Federalist period through the year 1800.

Due to their importance, these essays and articles were collected and reprinted by J. & A. McLean in a volume titled, The Federalist: A Collection of Essays, Written in Favour of the New Constitution, as Agreed upon by the Federal Convention, September 17, 1787.

Despite the historical and political significance of the text, copies of these books are not particularly rare. All of the early Federalist Papers were first printed in newspapers before they were assembled in a book,” Zinman said. “From the point of view of a political importance or historic importance, the book was not as important as the articles in the newspapers.”

But on September 13, Heritage Auctions will sell something far rarer—the 1799 edition.

“Goodspeed in Boston listed it in their catalogue in the 1920s and noted that it was the only one that they had ever seen,” Zinman said. “No other copy has surfaced in the trade, except for this one and a loose volume two that I happen to have in my collection.”

Zinman, who conducted a survey of the institutional holdings of the 1799 edition, said that only around fifteen institutions have a 1799 edition, including those that have the complete set or only volume one or volume two.

“This copy that came up is extraordinarily rare, but rare does not necessarily equal a lot of money in this case,” he said. “This copy is likely to sell for about $50,000, whereas a 1787 edition might sell for $200,000-220,000.”

Despite these wildly different prices, the truly interesting thing about this edition is that aside from the title page, the 1799 edition is actually a 1787 edition. In the years after the 1787 volumes were printed, J. & A. McLean closed up shop, and the remaining stock was sold to fellow printer, John Tiebout, who reissued the remaining Federalist stock with his own title page.

“Collectors want a 1787 that says ‘1787,’” Zinman said. “But if you had a loose title page from the 1787 and switched it with the title page of a 1799, you would have a legitimate 1787. And relative to the 1787 edition, the 1799 is extraordinarily rare and is significant in the sense that it’s a neat edition.”

This edition will be sold in Heritage Auctions’ rare books sale in Dallas, which will include a floor auction followed by an internet-only session.

Peggy Carouthers lives in California and is the custom content manager at Journalistic Inc.

Heritage@Auction
An Explorer’s Eye

Leslie Hindman to sell the travel and exploration collection of adventurer Steve Fossett

While items relating to Antarctic expeditions, circumnavigation, and aeronautics are frequently seen at auction, it isn’t often that one can buy these items from the collection of a true adventurer. On October 31, Leslie Hindman Auctioneers will host part of the sale of the Adventure & Exploration Library of Steve Fossett, with part II to be held in March 2019.

“Steve Fossett was a record-setting adventurer and explorer,” said Gretchen Hause, director of the fine books and manuscripts department at Leslie Hindman. “He was the first person to complete a solo circumnavigation of the Earth in a hot air balloon. He broke records of speed and distance as a sailor, and was one of the sport’s most prolific distance record holders. He set many world records in aviation and exploration. In addition to the1908, this book was the first to be published in Antarctica and was bound using boards and temporary vellum, which makes it more appealing.”

The Fossett collection also includes work relating to some of the people Hause called “the most important figures in circumnavigation and exploration.” This includes works about the voyages of Captain James Cook, Antoine Brun D’Entrecasteaux, Charles Darwin, Sir Francis Drake, F. H. Alexander von Humboldt and Aime Bonpland, Jacques le Mara, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, and William Cornelius Schouten. With such a wide focus and so many important works, Hause said that she expects to see a great deal of interest from private collectors and institutions. “This is such an exciting field, and we expect that the important provenance of this collection will resonate with buyers,” Hause said. “It’s pretty remarkable to handle a modern-day explorer and adventurer’s collection.”

Peggy Carouthers lives in California and is the auction content manager at Jonkers Inc.

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The adventure & exploration library of Steve Fossett.
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