

# FineBooks & COLLECTIONS

ISSUE 21.4 // AUTUMN 2023



## Joan Didion

Through the eyes of the  
curator and writer **Hilton Als**

POTTER AUCTIONS

Rare Nobu Shirase and  
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Titles in Fall Auctions

SWANN AUCTIONS

The State of Illustration  
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HINDMAN AUCTIONS

Complete Copy of Curtis's  
*The North American Indian*  
Heads to Auction



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**Summer 2023**

- Six Centuries of Dante
- Mapping Willa Cather
- National Collection of Artists' Books



**Spring 2023**

- Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio
- Toni Morrison
- Don Quixote



**Winter 2023**

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- Anne Lister Diaries
- Thomas J. Wise



**Autumn 2022**

- Prague
- Dalkey Archive Press
- Darwin's Notebooks



**Summer 2022**

- Collecting Romance
- RBG's Personal Library
- Women Who Helped Publish Ulysses



**Spring 2022**

- NYPL Treasures
- Johnson & Boswell Collectors
- Black Literature



**Winter 2022**

- PEN's centennial
- Sherlock Holmes
- Hispanic Society



**Autumn 2021**

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- Mark Catesby
- Artists Book House



**Summer 2021**

- Lewis Hines
- Wittliff Collections
- Gorgeous Bindings



**Spring 2021**

- Francisco Goya
- America's Grammmarian
- UNC's Wunderkammer



**Winter 2021**

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- Betye Saar
- Cholera Maps



**Autumn 2020**

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- Edith Rockefeller McCormick
- Beethoven Collections



**Summer 2020**

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- Shakespeare Society of America



**Spring 2020**

- David Rubenstein
- NYC Museum Libraries
- Building a Bibliosphere



**Winter 2020**

- Tulsa Music Archives
- Dana Gioia
- Edith Wharton's Library



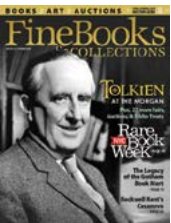
**Autumn 2019**

- Collecting Horror
- George Eliot
- Maritime Atlases



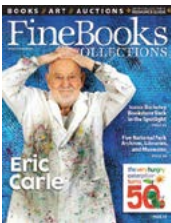
**Summer 2019**

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- Space Travel
- Melville's abode



**Spring 2019**

- Tolkien at 100
- Gothic Book Mart
- Rare Indian Books
- Casanova's Memoirs



**Winter 2019**

- Eric Carle
- National Park Libraries
- Moe's Books



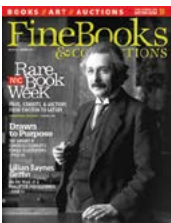
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- Tolkien
- McCloskey's Island



**Summer 2018**

- Tom Wolfe
- Steinbeck's *Western Flyer*
- Little Blue Books



**Spring 2018**

- Female Illustrators
- Spirit Photography
- Colonial Maps



**Winter 2018**

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- Tales from Shakespeare
- Bejeweled Bindings



**Autumn 2017**

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- Collecting Photobooks
- First Road Atlas



**Summer 2017**

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- Pop-up Books
- Bibliophile Letters



**Spring 2017**

- Otto Penzler
- Emily Dickinson
- Wycliffe Bible



**Winter 2017**

- Aviation Archive
- William Blake
- Collecting the Vietnam War



**Autumn 2016**

- Vintage Caricatures
- Holiday Gift Guide
- Puzzlemaster Will Shortz



**Summer 2016**

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- Women's History
- Brontë's 200th Birthday



**Spring 2016**

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- Mo Willems
- Chip Kidd's Creative Biosphere



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- Mapping the West
- Inside *Downton Abbey's* Library



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- 150 Years of *Alice*
- Coastal Art Maps



**Summer 2015**

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- Literary Ephemera
- "Stone Age" Maps



**Spring 2015**

- Manhattan's El Morocco
- Charting the Ocean
- Simon Winchester



**Winter 2015**

- Hemingway
- Famous Children's Books
- Book Arts for Kids

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# Auction Guide

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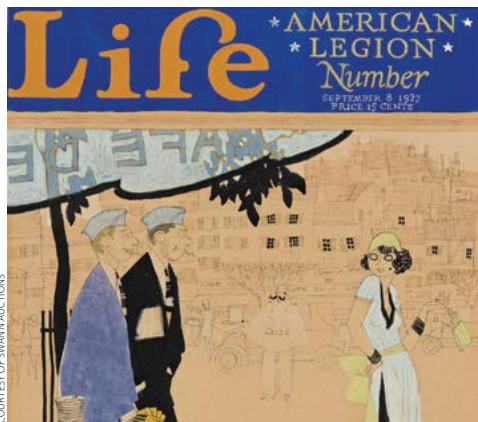
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COURTESY OF HINDMAN AUCTIONS



#### ON THE COVER

Brigitte Lacombe's  
black-and-white  
photograph  
*Joan Didion*,  
New York, 1996.

COURTESY THE ARTIST AND  
LACOMBE, INC.



## Rare Nobu Shirase and *Alice in Wonderland* Titles in Fall Auctions

Japanese Antarctic Expedition and  
Lewis Carroll close out year

**B**etween 1910 and 1912, Japanese explorer Nobu Shirase led the first non-European expedition to reach the South Pole. While the pole

attempt was ultimately unsuccessful, the Japanese Antarctic Expedition resulted in several notable achievements, including the first landing on the coast of King Edward VII Land and the fastest recorded sledging journey. Delegated to the sidelines of history until recently, Nobu Shirase's accomplishments were overshadowed

by the global attention on European expeditions led by Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott. An upcoming sale at Potter & Potter Auctions, however, will help shed light on Shirase's important contributions to polar exploration.

On October 12, Potter & Potter will offer at auction the Nobu Shirase and Japanese Arctic Exploration collection built by Chet Ross. Many

of the items offered at the sale will be coming across the auction block for the first time.

"This has been a sale sev-

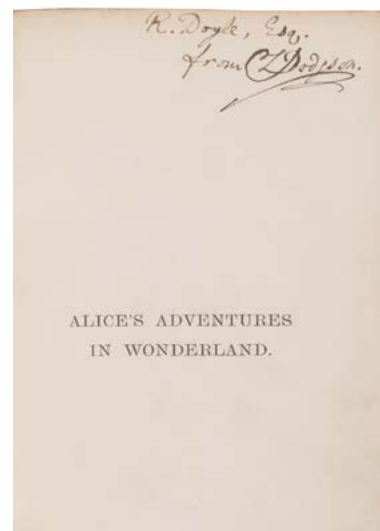


eral years in the making and a personal goal of mine since I started at Potter & Potter," said Chris Brink. "I wanted to put together a sale solely dedicated to exploration that would help expand our knowledge on the subject with items that have never come to market."

Collector Chet Ross has published the only bibliography on the Japanese Antarctic Expedition found in the ref-

erence library of any serious polar collector. The Potter & Potter catalogue will act as a revised bibliography of the expedition with new entries and insights.

"Ross has solely created a market with serious demands for these rarities by searching the farthest depths of the Japanese book trade, employing his own agents to help bring these items to North America," said Brink. Highlights include Shirase's personal military textbooks, which "helped him become the fearless leader of the small crew on the undersized *Kainan Maru* who became the first non-Europeans to reach



**LEFT:** The "original Alice's" own copy of Vladimir Nabokov's Russian translation of *Alice* that is considered almost as rare as the 1865 suppressed first edition of *Alice*, \$10,000/15,000.

**RIGHT:** First authorized edition of *Alice*, inscribed by Carroll to the British illustrator Richard Doyle, \$30,000/50,000.

Antarctica."

In addition to the Ross collection, the sale will include a second session of collections from various consignors, including the USS *Bear* auxiliary wheel, used in the Greely Relief Expedition and on Richard E. Byrd's second expedition to the Antarctic. Also on offer is the original camera taken on Byrd's first expedition to Antarctica. The documentary about the expedi-

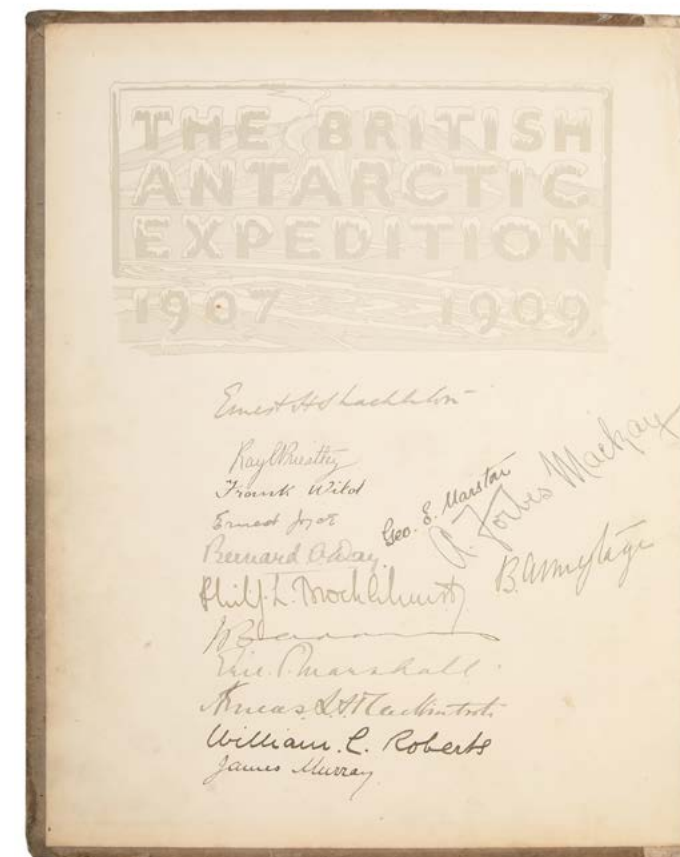
tion filmed with that camera would later win the Oscar for Best Cinematography, becoming the first documentary to win the coveted award.

Rounding out their auction year, Potter & Potter will also offer an important collection of *Alice in Wonderland* material on November 30. Built over four decades by Stephen and Nancy Farber, the collection includes over 2,000 titles. Some highlights include a presentation *Alice* from Lewis Carroll to the English illustrator Richard Doyle (whom Carroll almost chose to illustrate *Alice*); a presentation *Alice* from Tenniel with an original sketch of the

## POTTER & POTTER AUCTIONS

# NOBU SHIRASE

THE IMPORTANT JAPANESE ANTARCTIC  
COLLECTION OF CHET ROSS,  
INCLUDING OTHER POLAR RARITIES



Rare proof copy of the limited issue supplement to Shackleton's "The Heart of the Antarctic", signed by all 16 members of the shore party.  
Est. \$10,000/15,000

## AT AUCTION: OCTOBER 12, 2023 AT 10AM CST



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The State  
of Illustration Art  
Collecting

Illustration Art Specialist Skye Lacerte  
discusses market



Charles Dana Gibson, *And you believed the guides*, illustration published in *About Paris* by Richard Harding Davis, 1895. Sold July 2020 for \$3,750.

Swann Auction Galleries will be closing out their auction year with an Illustration Art sale set for December 14. Swann’s Illustration Art Specialist, Skye Lacerte, discussed her background with us, some of her favorite illustrators, and what trends she is seeing in the illustration art market:

What illustrators are you thinking about lately? Who’s catching your eye?

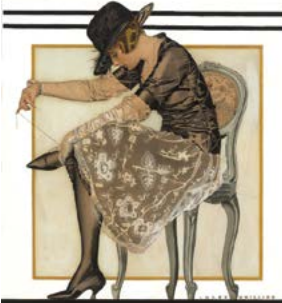
Lately, I’ve been interested in illustrators who were innovative in their approach to composition, efficiency, and artistry. A perfect example is Clarence Coles Phillips, better known as Coles Phillips

and the creator of “the fade-away girl.” What’s distinctive about Phillips? What about his style speaks to the contemporary collector, even though he was working 100 years ago?

Phillips is one of the most recognizable illustrators of the first half of the twentieth century. His first cover for *Life* appeared in 1908, the same year he debuted his signature design, which came to be known as “the fadeaway girl.” The fadeaway style refers to Phillips’s masterful use of shapes and edges to suggest a silhouette. In essence, a woman’s figure is rendered

with a detailed face, arms, and legs, but the clothing is a solid, flat color that blends into the background. The defined elements are placed within the negative space in such a way as to suggest volume and form.

The style was not only innovative in design but also



Coles Phillips, cover for *The Saturday Evening Post*, watercolor, gouache, and graphite, 1920. In the collection of the Delaware Art Museum.



Russell Patterson, *The Old Town Looks Just the Same*, preliminary study for *Life* magazine cover, 1927. Sold June 2021 for \$1,040.

in practice, as it allowed publishers to reduce the number of colors to print. Today’s collector will be drawn not only to Phillips’s resourceful invention that marks a significant advancement in American illustration but also to the modern, independent, and seductive “It” girl, following in the footsteps of Charles Dana

Gibson and Howard Chandler Christy.

Fade-away or not, Phillips’s illustrations have been known to go for 30–150% over the estimate at auction.

How did you get into this line of business? What draws you to illustration?

During my childhood in Southern California, I was exposed to classic Hollywood movies and the visual culture that they spawned. I later discovered and grew to appreciate contemporary art, specifically artists who were inspired by popular culture and the combination of image and text, such as Barbara Kruger, Carrie Mae Weems, and Cindy Sherman. This admiration of art and pop culture, as well as my education in library and information science, led me to the role of curator of the Dowd Illustration Research Archive at Washington University in St. Louis. For fifteen years, I expanded my knowledge and appreciation of illustration art, building the collection and revealing its significance to students, faculty, and the public.

What’s an exciting thing coming up this season?

We are offering two original illustrations by Arthur Rackham that are new to the market. In addition to being pristine examples of Rackham’s work, one of the pieces has an exceptionally unique story. After publication, Rackham altered the work, arguably evidence that he preferred the new composition to the one seen on the printed page. ●

Nate Pedersen is a writer in Savannah, Georgia. He is the co-author of *Quackery* (2017) and *Patient Zero* (2021).

COURTESY OF SWANN AUCTIONS



Samuel Levi Jones, *Construct of Colour Vision*, deconstructed medical books on canvas, 2018. Estimate \$20,000 to \$30,000. At auction October 19.

Upcoming Auctions

SEPT 21	American Art	NOV 2	Old Master Through Modern Prints
SEPT 28	Printed & Manuscript Americana	NOV 9	Rare & Important Travel Posters
OCT 5	Fine Photographs	NOV 16	Contemporary Art
OCT 12	Early Printed Books	NOV 30	Modern & Post War Art
OCT 19	African American Art	DEC 7	Maps & Atlases, Natural History & Color Plate Books
OCT 26	Fine Books & Autographs	DEC 14	Illustration Art

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# Complete Copy of Curtis’s *The North American Indian* Heads to Auction

Dorros Family Collection features Americana and ornithological highlights



On November 9, Hindman Auctions will offer Fine Books from the Dorros Family Collection, with significant works in the fields of Americana, ornithology, travel and exploration, literature, and color plate books.

A major collection highlight is a complete copy of Edward S. Curtis’s monumental ethnographic work, *The North American Indian* (1907–1930). One of the most ambitious—and most expensive—publication efforts ever undertaken, the complete edition contains forty volumes, including 723 pho-

togravures in sepia. The extraordinarily beautiful and haunting sepia photos have become iconic images of the American West.

“It is a privilege to handle such a monumental work,” said Gretchen Hause, Hindman’s Vice President and Director of Books & Manuscripts. “*The North American Indian* is among the most important literary projects of the twentieth century and complete copies in any condition are rare on the market.”

J. P. Morgan, a financial backer for Curtis’s documen-

tary project, originally commissioned 500 sets; however only about half were ever completed. On offer at the Hindman sale is copy number eighty-eight, signed by Curtis, and originally sold to the public library in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The estimate for the Curtis is \$700,000–\$1,000,000.

The Dorros family auction also includes George Catlin’s *North American Indian Portfolio* (1875), with hand-col-

son, John Woodhouse Audubon, to reproduce the book at a lower price by utilizing chromolithographic reproductions of the original plates. With the outbreak of the American Civil War, production was interrupted, and the financial backing fell through. Only one-third of the work, consisting of 150 plates, was completed and published. The included plates, however, contain many of the best-known images from Audubon’s work. The second folio edition also has the distinction of being the most ambitious color plate book attempted in the nineteenth century.

Gould’s beautiful book on hummingbirds stands out for his use of a special metallic coloring technique to capture the birds’ iridescent plumage. Most of the birds featured in the book came from Gould’s own extensive collection of specimens that were exhibited at the Regent’s Park Zoological Gardens in 1851.

The Dorros Family Collection also contains several Melville works, including a first American edition of *Omoo* in the very rare original wrappers. Also included are thirty-four works illustrated by Arthur Rackham in fine condition, including the rarest of all the Rackham-illustrated titles, *Poor Cecco*.

Fine Books from the Dorros Family Collection will be offered on November 9, at 10:00 a.m., with bidding available online as well as in person at Hindman’s location in Chicago. ●

Nate Pedersen is a writer in Savannah, Georgia. He is the co-author of *Quackery* (2017) and *Patient Zero* (2021).

COURTESY OF HINDMAN AUCTIONS

# Fine Books from the Dorros Family Collection

November 9 | Chicago | Live + Online

# Fine Printed Books & Manuscripts, including Americana

November 10 | Chicago | Live + Online



CURTIS, Edward S. (1868–1952).  
The North American Indian. 1907–1930.  
40 volumes. FIRST EDITION.  
Estimate: \$700,000 - 1,000,000  
To Be Offered November 9 in Fine Books  
from the Dorros Family Collection

HINDMAN

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