

FineBooks & COLLECTIONS

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FB&C

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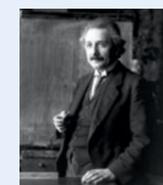
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ON THE COVER
Albert Einstein
during a lecture
in Vienna in 1921.

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Auction Guide

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A Once-in-a-Lifetime Sale

Bonhams sale highlights rare items from Beethoven biographer.

Bonhams Fine Books and Manuscripts sale on March 9 in New York will cover a variety of materials with thirty-three lots spanning from a book by Augustinus published in 1468 through materials from the twentieth century.

"Every lot in this sale is spectacular," said Ian Ehling, director of the Bonhams Fine Books and Manuscripts department. "The sale comprises exceptional items, like an early Ptolemy atlas, important Newton manuscripts, a prism that was used by Benjamin Franklin for his scientific experiments, Gardner's photographs of the Civil War, and a violin given to Albert Einstein shortly after he moved to the United States, in 1933. I leave it at that, you see, it is a sale of absolutely unique and important pieces."

Two important lots are consigned by a descendant of Alexander Wheelock Thayer, a nineteenth-century American journalist whose five-volume biography of Ludwig van Beethoven is still considered a go-to resource for historians today. "Thayer was enamored by Beethoven and did a tremendous amount of research with people who actually knew the composer," Ehling said. One

of the lots for sale is an autograph manuscript sketch leaf that contains part of the score of the Scottish Songs "Sunset" Op. 108 no. 2., once owned by Thayer and estimated at \$80,000-120,000.

This was part of a series

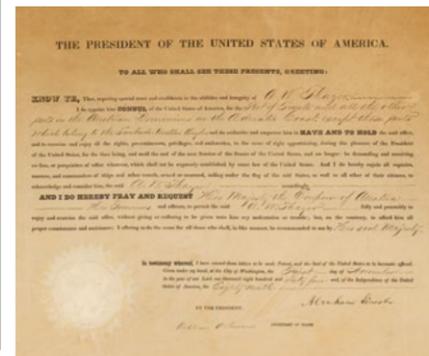


Ludwig van Beethoven autograph manuscript from the score of "Sunset" Op. 108 no. 2 (1818). \$80,000-120,000.

of Scottish, Irish, and Welsh folk songs composed by Beethoven and commissioned by George Thomson, a friend of Robert Burns. Thayer actually gave the leaf to Auguste Grimm, the daughter of Wilhelm Grimm of the Grimm Brothers. The leaf contains numerous corrections in Beethoven's own hand.

"To find a Beethoven manuscript on the market is

already very difficult, so buyers interested in music will be delighted to be able to have a go on this one, especially with this provenance," Ehling said. "This leaf shows a very simple piece of music, and you witness Beethoven's genius at work. Composing



Abraham Lincoln's signed appointment of Alexander Wheelock Thayer as consul to Trieste (1864). \$4,000-6,000.

mated at \$4,000-6,000. "The Lincoln appointment is interesting to anyone who collects Americana and anyone who is interested in music and Thayer and wants to connect to him through that document," Ehling said. "A collector of presidential signatures

could also have an interesting piece, as well as collectors of American history."

Both the Beethoven manuscript and Lincoln's appointment of Thayer are rare pieces up for auction for the first time. "These documents are both consigned by a descendant of the Thayer family and have never been offered before," Ehling says. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire something that was in the family possession for such a long time."

The Bonhams Book department in New York has nine sales scheduled this year and also expects a strong season in London. During the March preview, the department will also exhibit highlights from a private Dutch collection of natural history books to be offered at Bonhams in London on May 30, 2018. ●

Peggy Carouthers lives in North Carolina and is the editor of custom content at Journalistic Inc.

FINE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Friday, March 9, 10am
New York

GARDNER, ALEXANDER. 1821-1882.

Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the War.
Washington: Philip & Solomons, [1865-1866].
\$120,000 - 180,000

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In Search of Historic Ireland

Forum Auctions' March sale highlights the Emerald Isle.

On March 22, Forum Auctions will hold its second book sale of the year. Though the house is less than two years old, it is already holding sales for fine books and works on paper every other month. The March sale includes a wide variety of material, such as travel books, English and Continental literature and history, and manuscripts, with values ranging from about \$400-10,000.

The sale will also include unique sections, such as books owned by or inscribed "to" or "from" Edward Jenner, whose vaccination to prevent smallpox paved the way for immunology. A group of playbills from plays in which Charles Dickens acted will also be included in the sale. "These are playbills of British provincial theaters where Dickens would be appearing," said Rupert Powell, deputy chairman and head of books at Forum. "It is really quite rare to have the playbills coming up for sale. There's quite a big group of those, including one that's actually annotated by Dickens himself, so that's a one-off that's very nice."

Nearly one hundred lots in the sale will contain Irish material, including imprints; books on Irish topography, lit-

erature, and religion; atlases; plate books; and fine bindings by Irish binders.



Jonathan Fisher's *Scenery of Ireland* (1740-1809). £3,000-4,000 (\$4,000-5,500).

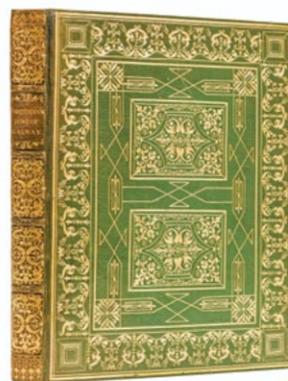
One lot is a collection of 125 drawings, watercolors, and sketches of Irish lighthouses by Robert Callwell, commissioner of Irish Lights and author of *A Short History of the Lighthouses of Ireland*. The estimated value is £6,000-8,000 (\$8,500-11,000).

"They are absolutely gorgeous," Powell said. "What research we've found, however, doesn't give much biographical information about Callwell, so I suppose this will give somebody who buys the lot something quite crunchy to get stuck into pictorially if not necessarily in his life."

A first edition of *The*

History of the Town and County of the Town of Galway by George Hardiman in a Mullen of Dublin binding will be auctioned and is estimated at £1,000-1,500 (\$1,500-2,000). "This is in spectacularly lovely condition," Powell said. "It's green morocco, as many Irish bindings are, and it's signed in gilt by Mullen along the fore-edge of each cover."

Jonathan Fisher's *Scenery of Ireland Illustrated in a Series of Prints of Selected Views, Castles, and Abbies* will also



A first edition of *The History of the Town and County of the Town of Galway* in Mullen of Dublin green morocco gilt binding (1820). £1,000-1,500 (\$1,500-2,000).

are rare because they were so attractive. Over the years they were broken up, and the individual plates were hung on walls, so to find a complete book is quite unusual. There are a few plates that have been trimmed and mounted, but generally they are in nice condition."

Whether buying or consigning, Forum Auctions offers a wide variety of material and a friendly, experienced team. "All of us here have a lot of experience in the auction world, so we're happy to help anybody who wants to either buy or sell rare books or works on paper at auction," Powell said. ●

Peggy Carouthers lives in North Carolina and is the editor of custom content at Journalistic Inc.



Robert Callwell's illustration of an Irish lighthouse (1860-67). £6,000-8,000 (\$8,500-11,000).

be up for sale, worth an estimated £3,000-4,000 (\$4,000-5,500). This book is one of the earliest collected views of Ireland and was so successful

when it was published that it inspired a new wave of tourism to the Irish countryside. The book also contains a list of subscribers showing that fewer than one-hundred copies would have been printed.

"It's a rare book, and not many copies have survived intact," Powell said. "I imagine some of these plate books



[Petrie (George) and others. *Picturesque Sketches of some of the Finest Landscape and Coast Scenery of Ireland*], 24 hand-coloured aquatint plates, [1835]. Est. £1,500-2,000 Part of an extensive collection of Irish books

**Forum
Auctions**

Fine Books and Works on Paper

Thursday 22nd March 2018 | The Westbury Hotel, London W1S 2YF

The sale will include Travel, English and Continental Literature, Manuscripts, Modern Firsts and wide-ranging Irish material covering Topography, Literature, Religion and bindings.

Full auction calendar and further details: www.forumauctions.co.uk
Contact: Rupert Powell | r.powell@forumauctions.co.uk | 020 7871 2640

A Personal Touch

Freeman's offers clients more than two centuries of book expertise.

Founded in 1805, Freeman's is the oldest continuously running auction house in the United States. The house's first significant auction was a book sale, and it now uses more than two hundred years of experience and tradition to aid buyers and consigners alike. Freeman's now partners with Lyon & Turnbull in Scotland to foster an international connection and create focused auctions.

Benjamin Truesdale, a specialist in the Books, Maps, and Manuscripts department, explained what sets Freeman's apart.

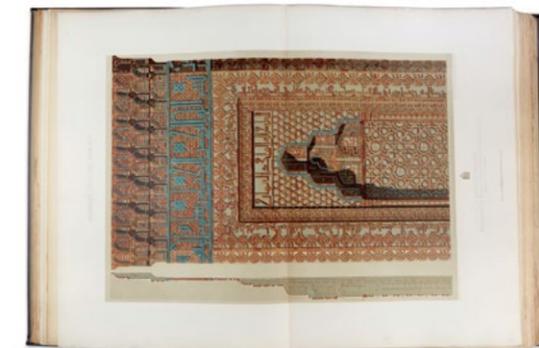
What makes the Freeman's Books, Maps, and Manuscripts department unique?

We have a relatively small department; between the three of us, we have diverse knowledge and considerable experience. One of my favorite parts of the job is going anywhere at anytime to look at people's books *gratis*. We talk with clients about what has auction potential and what doesn't. We offer as much personal contact as possible. We're also selective in what we take, and we have a competitive price point.



Emily Eden's *Portraits of the Princes & People of India* (1844). Est. \$12,000-18,000. Sold for \$26,250.

What are some of the highlights of the department?



Denkmaler persischer Baukunst by Friedrich Sarre (1901, 1910). Est. \$800-1,200. Sold for \$11,700.

These are seldom offered at auction as complete sets. The ones that do well have to do with continental African, Eastern Mediterranean, or Central Asian archaeology and architecture. That market is very strong because these are crucial source materials for places that are on everyone's minds. We'll be offering more of these types of folios in the future. We also have some manuscripts and presentation copies from Jorge Luis Borges, as well as some items from his friends, and reading copies of Thomas Mann. ●

Peggy Carothers lives in North Carolina and is the editor of custom content at Journalistic Inc.

ature, post-colonial literature, African-Americana, and historical ephemera that is reflective of today's events. A classic example for me is that a Sylvia Plath book would have sold for \$200 in the 90s, but we sold a comparable proof copy of her first book, and it brought in \$6,000. It shows where the market's at, and it's fun to offer items that will generate interest.

on these types of items, and I personally believe in them. I think we're more forward around these types of items because we don't just offer them as secondary.

What can buyers look forward to in upcoming sales?

We've been fortunate to offer early architectural folios from a single collection. A lot are from the early nineteenth century up to some of the great archaeological digs of the early twentieth century.

What types of items does your department like to offer?
I like to offer things that are challenging and topical and that relate to the current cultural climate. Anything with social historical value in printed books does very well, such as women's liter-

A schoolgirl's astronomical sketchbook belonging to Charlotte [Chauncey?] (1833). Est. \$800-1,200. Sold for \$2,250.

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VIEW OF THE QUARRIES OF ACRADINA.

BOOKS, MAPS & MANUSCRIPTS

AUCTION 03/28/18

Benjamin Truesdale | 267.455.5171 | btruesdale@freemansauction.com

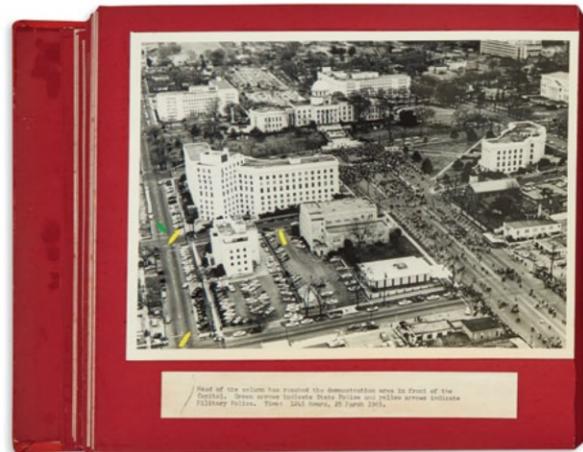


VIEW OF THE RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF JUPITER OLIMPIUS

1 Vol. Willkins, William. *The Antiquities of Magna Graecia*. Cambridge, at the University Press: Watts, Longman, Hurst, et al, 1807. First edition, with 73 views and plans of Sicily, Syracuse, Paestum, and the other Greek colonies of Southern Italy.

An Unsung History

Swann Galleries' sale highlights 300 years of African Americana.



View of the historic march on Montgomery taken by federal troops assigned to protect protesters (1965). \$3,000-4,000.

Founded in 1996, Swann Galleries' annual Printed and Manuscript African Americana auction is the only one of its kind in the country. Annual sales allow Swann to give in-depth focus to items and pick up those that might escape notice in a general Americana sale, according to Rick Stattler, director of Printed & Manuscript Americana at Swann.

"Having these dedicated auctions has given us a strong reputation as the place for this material," Stattler said. "They serve a real demand, and are among the most anticipated events on our calendar."

This year's auction on

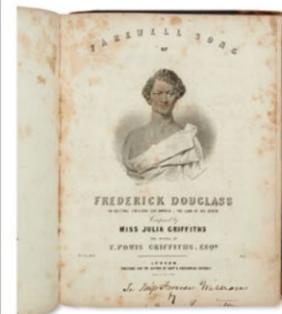
March 29 will feature items ranging over 300 years of American history. One of the most powerful lots is a collection of four letters relating to Gabriel Johnson, who was enslaved at Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate, when the property was leased by his great nephew, John Augustine Washington. The letters, estimated at \$12,000-18,000, recount an incident in which Johnson had a run-in with Washington's overseer.

"The overseer attempted to whip him, and Johnson wouldn't let that happen," Stattler said. "He was put in Bruin's Slave Jail in Alexandria, Virginia, for possible sale.

Three letters are written by the Washingtons and their overseer, but the final letter was written by Johnson to John Augustine Washington. In it, Johnson expresses regret for the incident and his affection for the Washington family but most pointedly does not apologize and states what he believes to be his rights boldly and firmly."

In the letter, Johnson wrote, "I pulled it [the whip] out of his hand and jumped off to the opposite side and told him that he could not whip me, as I didn't think any one but my master ought to do it, or at least authorize it."

Another unique lot is a piece of sheet music from 1847 called "Farewell Song of Frederick Douglass on Quitting England for



"Farewell Song of Frederick Douglass, on Quitting England for America—the Land of his Birth" (1847). \$5,000-7,500.

America—the Land of His Birth." Douglass, who had escaped slavery, went to England and embarked on a lecture tour. After two years, he returned to the United States. The song was written to express the danger Douglass would face upon his return. Though a cover for the sheet music was offered at auction a few years ago, Stattler says this is believed

to be the only extant copy of the complete music. It is estimated at \$5,000-7,500.

A more contemporary lot is an album of aerial views of the historic march on Montgomery in 1965. "It was done by the military unit that was tasked with protecting the marchers who were protesting for voting rights, and that was something which the federal government was behind, but the local government and populace was not," Stattler said. The album contains twenty-two photographs and a large map with arrows pointing to where



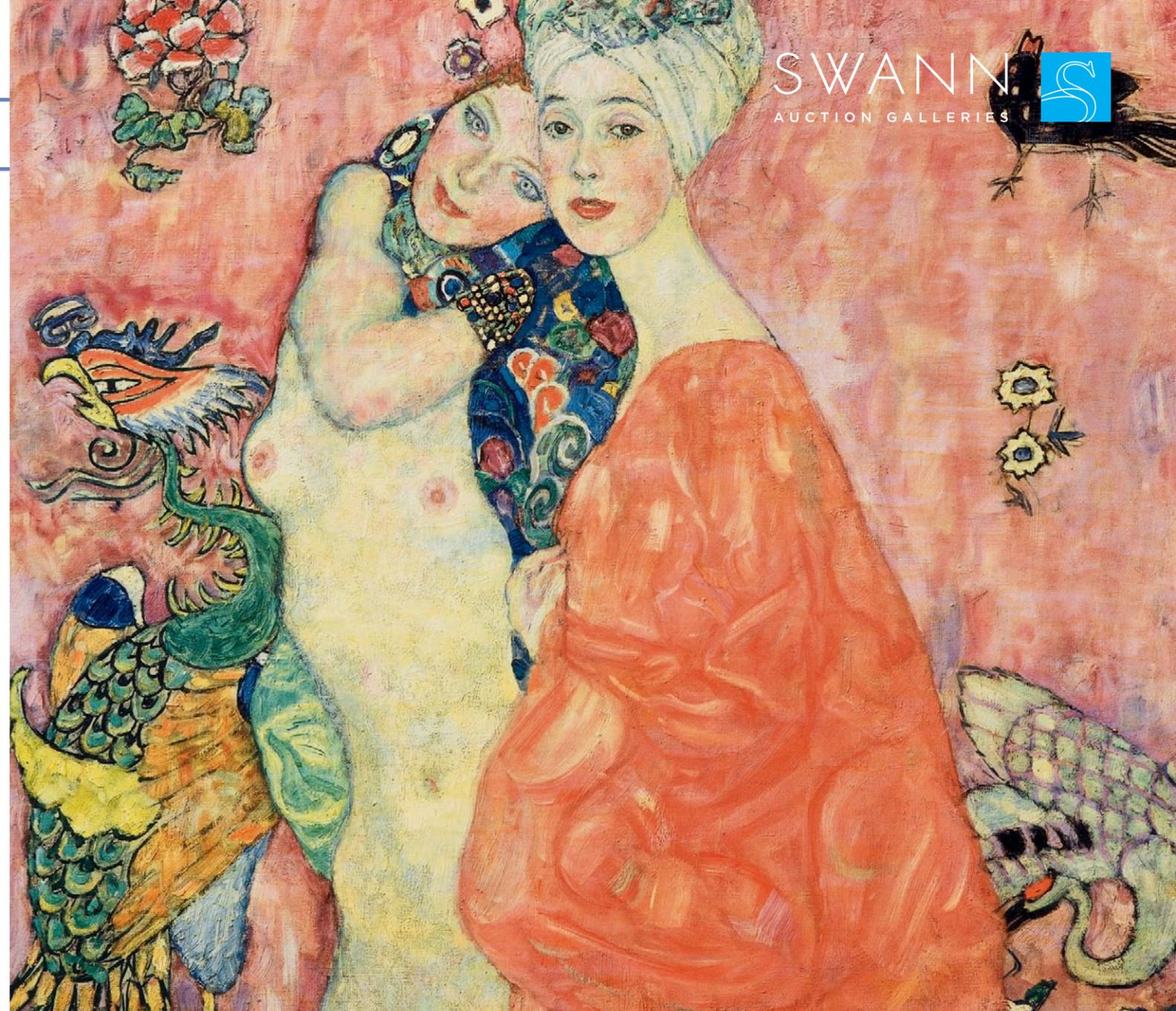
Letter from Gabriel Johnson, an enslaved man at Mount Vernon to John Augustine Washington (1842-1845). \$12,000-18,000.

the government planned to deploy troops. It is believed to be unique and is estimated at \$3,000-4,000.

Swann also offers expertise as the oldest books and paper specialist auction house in America. "We've been proud to offer these African Americana sales for the past twenty-two years," Stattler said. "It's important history, and we have a role in getting it out to the public." ●

Peggy Carouthers lives in North Carolina and is the editor of custom content at Journalistic Inc.

IMAGES COURTESY OF SWANN GALLERIES



Gustav Klimt & Max Eisler, *Eine Nachlese*, with 30 plates by Klimt, Vienna, 1931. Estimate \$15,000 to \$25,000. At auction April 26.

SPRING 2018 AUCTION SCHEDULE

MAR 8	Early Printed, Medical, Scientific & Travel Books	MAY 3	Graphic Design
MAR 13	19th & 20th Century Prints & Drawings	MAY 8	Old Master Through Modern Prints
MAR 22	Autographs	MAY 15	19th & 20th Century Literature
MAR 29	Printed & Manuscript African Americana	MAY 22	Contemporary Art
APR 5	African-American Fine Art	JUN 5	Illustration Art
APR 12	Printed & Manuscript Americana	JUN 7	Maps & Atlases, Natural History & Color Plate Books
APR 19	The Knowing Eye: Photographs & Photobooks	JUN 14	American Art
APR 26	Fine Illustrated Books & Graphics	JUN 21	Revolutionary & Presidential Americana from the Collection of William Wheeler III

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