

FineBooks & COLLECTIONS

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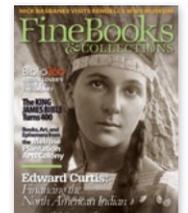
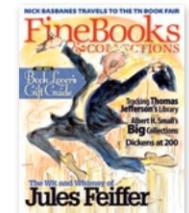
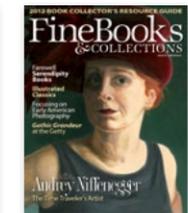
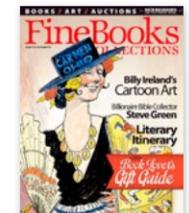
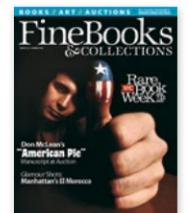
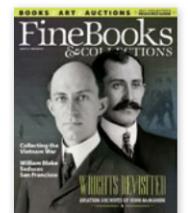


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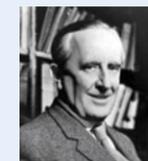
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ON THE COVER
Photograph of English author J. R. R. Tolkien, 1960.



Auction Guide

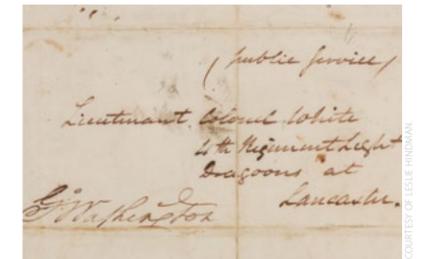
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HERITAGE AUCTIONS 2

The Mysterious Collection of Otto Penzler

Rare mystery fiction books from this renowned collection will be sold in Heritage Auctions' March sale.



LESLIE HINDMAN 4

Pilots and Presidents

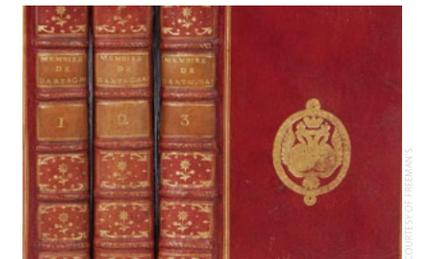
Leslie Hindman's wide-ranging May sale features a little bit of everything.



FORUM 6

Opening Gambit

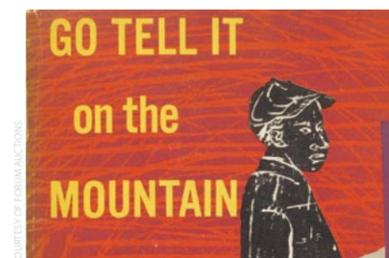
A March sale from Forum Auctions promises rare letters and unique manuscripts.



FREEMAN'S 8

French Literature by Way of the Commonwealth

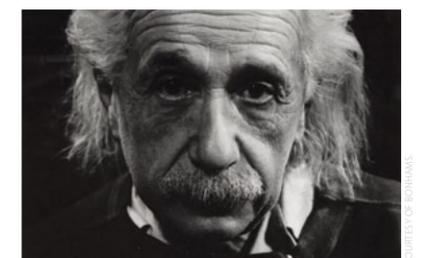
An upcoming sale by Freeman's features books from the highly curated library of a Virginia diplomat.



SWANN GALLERIES 10

Pride and Place

A new sale by Swann Galleries in New York will feature works celebrating LGBTQ+ creatives.



BONHAMS 12

Something for Every Collection

With three wide-ranging sales in a month, Bonhams will offer lots for every type of collector.

The Mysterious Collection of Otto Penzler

Rare mystery fiction books from this renowned collection will be sold in Heritage Auctions' March sale.

On March 6, Heritage Auctions will host a rare book sale in New York featuring items from the mystery fiction collection of Otto Penzler. "This is the largest, best, and most comprehensive collection of mystery and detective fiction to come on the market," said James Gannon, director of rare books for Heritage Auctions.

Penzler, who collected widely in his early twenties, began specializing in mystery fiction around age twenty-five. "Several good book sellers convinced me I couldn't collect all of literature," he said. "This was more than fifty years ago when the mystery world was relatively uncollected. I didn't have very much money, so I was able to collect mystery without a whole lot of competition in those days."

Now, however, mystery has grown in prominence among readers and collectors alike, and this sale will bring many rare finds to market. Penzler's collection was made up of 55,000 volumes—all first editions ranging from the late eighteenth century through the year 2000. Many

of the items were amassed through Penzler's bookstore, The Mysterious Bookshop, founded in 1979 and now in the Tribeca neighborhood of Manhattan. The shop specializes in new, signed, used, and rare books and provided Penzler with a platform to build his collection.

"Whenever someone brought in rare books, some of the better copies went to my personal shelves," Penzler said. "I was violating the basic rule of the field, which is you don't compete with your customers."

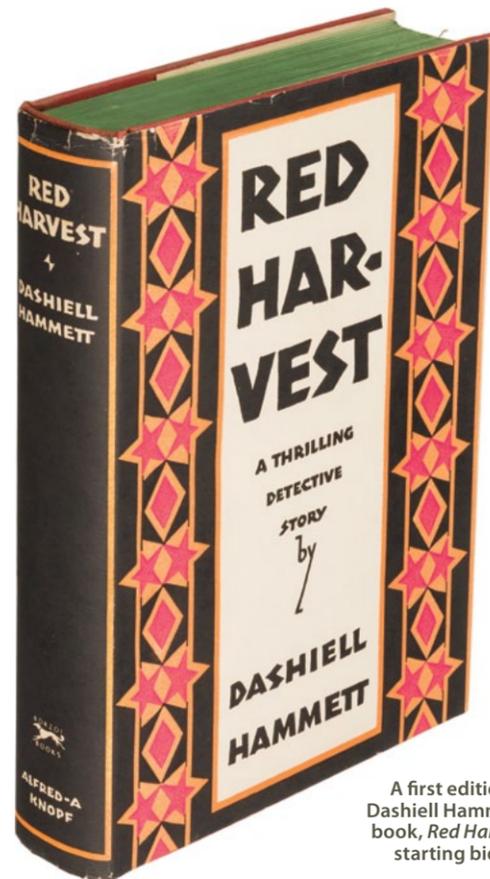
His obsession with mystery fiction went so far his friends said his store was just a front for his collection. "That was not entirely untrue, but that's why the collection got so big and so ridiculously good," he said. "I upgraded copies year after year."

Now older, Penzler is parting with his collection, and the timing is prime. "Mystery collectors have been an active group for at least twenty-five or thirty years, but the larger market has also morphed," he said. "Collectors and dealers specializing in modern literary fic-

tion frequently list a Dashiell Hammett or a Raymond Chandler without distinguishing that they are mysteries, because they are literary fiction that just happens to involve a mystery."

With such a massive collection, Heritage is dividing

sets of Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep* (1939, starting bid \$15,000) and *Farewell, My Lovely* (1940, starting bid \$10,000), will also be featured, along with what Penzler calls a "virtually perfect" copy of James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice* with a full-



A first edition copy of Dashiell Hammett's first book, *Red Harvest* (1929, starting bid \$30,000).

the best of the collection into several smaller sales, with the first set to be auctioned in the March sale.

Highlights include what Penzler calls the world's best copy of Dashiell Hammett's *Red Harvest* (1929, starting bid \$30,000), as well as a copy of Hammett's \$106,000 *Blood Money*, inscribed to his mistress, Lillian Hellman (1943, starting bid \$10,000). Signed, fine copies in fine dust jack-

page inscription (1934, starting bid \$3,200).

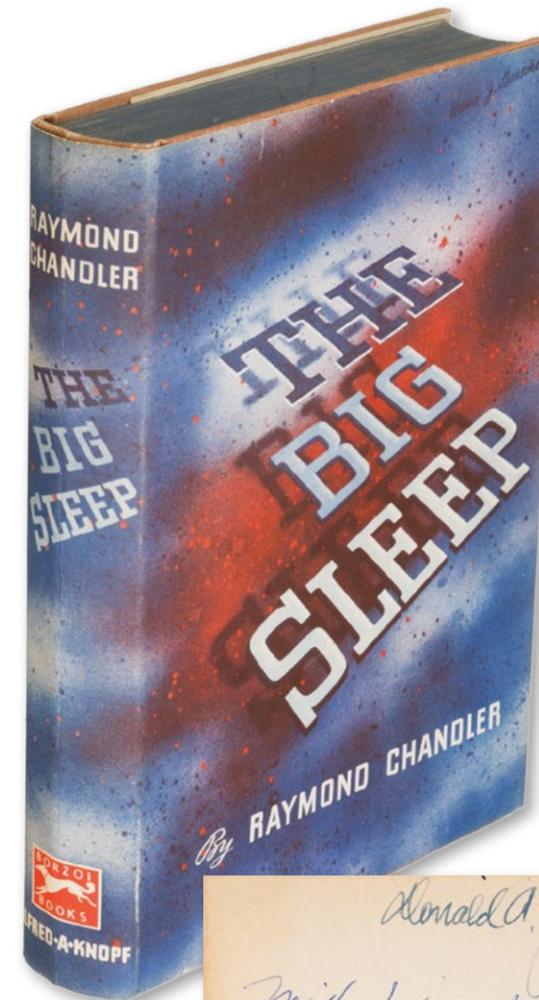
Three to four more sets of Penzler's books will be offered by Heritage in later sales, while another large portion of the collection will be sold in the future by Weiss Auctions in Long Island, New York. ●

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

RARE BOOKS AUCTION

March 6, 2019 | New York | Live & Online

Presenting THE OTTO PENZLER COLLECTION



Raymond Chandler.
The Big Sleep.

New York: 1933. First edition, signed.

Starting bid: \$15,000

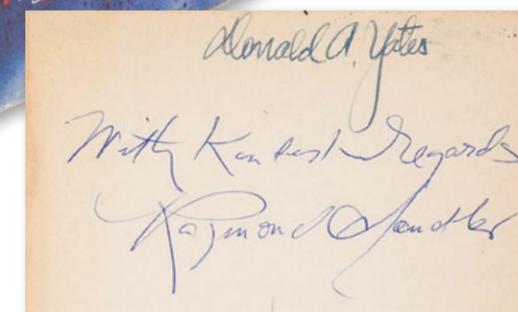
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COURTESY OF HERITAGE AUCTIONS.

From Pilots to Presidents

Leslie Hindman's May sale features a little bit of everything.

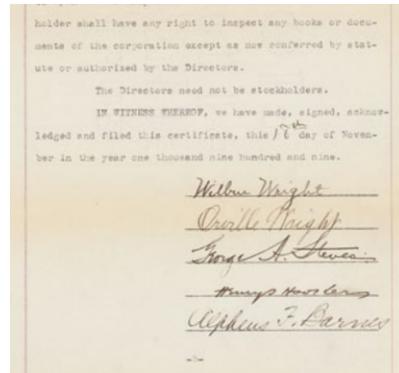
On May 1, Leslie Hindman Auctioneers will hold its Fine Books and Manuscripts sale in Chicago. The sale will feature items from literature and science to travel and exploration.

One of the highlights is a collection of free frank covers from presidents and first ladies. In the United States, franking privileges were first granted in 1775, when members of the Continental Congress bestowed the privilege on its members. This sale will include free franking notes from James Monroe, Dwight Eisenhower, Julia Grant, Jacqueline Kennedy, and Sarah Polk. Most notably, the sale will include free franks from George and Martha Washington.

George Washington's cover dates from 1779, when he was commander of the Continental Army (estimated at \$4,000-6,000). The Martha Washington frank, however, is especially rare. Mrs. Washington died in 1802, only two years after she was granted franking privileges. Only four of her frank signatures are known to have survived. This particular cover is estimated at \$30,000-40,000, and is on an integral leaf to a letter written by George's



George Washington free frank dating from 1779 (estimated at \$4,000-6,000).



The Wright Company's certificate of incorporation signed by Orville and Wilbur Wright (1909, estimated at \$20,000-30,000).

personal secretary, Tobias Lear. The letter was written in 1800, ten months after George's death, and requests that the recipients cancel Martha's newspaper subscription because she couldn't manage all her regular subscriptions.

"It's a really wonderful and rare example of Martha Washington's free frank that we're very honored to handle,"

said Gretchen Hause, senior specialist and director of the Fine Books and Manuscripts department.

The sale will also feature a substantial collection of aviation materials, including a signed photograph of Orville and Wilbur Wright. The photo was taken on September 9, 1908, in Fort Myer, Virginia, when Orville made the first

hour-long flight. The photograph—signed by both brothers—is estimated at \$8,000-12,000.

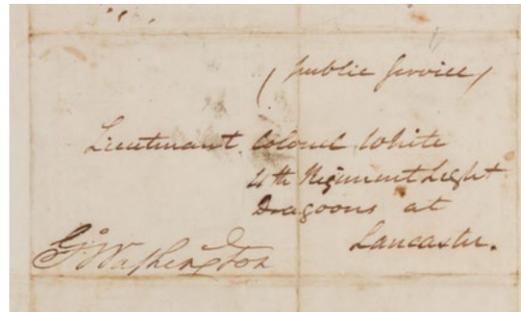
"It is more common to find photographs signed by only one of the Wright brothers," Hause said, "so it's very uncommon to see both signatures, especially on a photograph which captures one of their pioneering moments."

Another key aviation item up for auction is the certificate of incorporation for the Wright Company, dated November 18, 1909 (estimated at \$20,000-30,000). It contains

the signatures of both Wilbur and Orville, as well as their business partners.

"The Wright Company was created so the brothers could capitalize on their invention of the practical airplane, and it protected the rights of their other aeronautical inventions," Hause said. "In Dayton, Ohio, the company constructed the first building meant expressly for the purpose of building an airplane, and it continued to be a forerunner of aeronautical engineering and the manufacturing of planes until it

George Washington free frank dating from 1779 (estimated at \$4,000-6,000).



Martha Washington free frank dating from 1800 (estimated at \$30,000-40,000).

later merged with the Martin Company."

Though these are just a few of the extraordinary items buyers can expect at the sale, there will be many more across many different categories. "It will be a nice cross section of the books and manuscripts market as a whole," Hause said. "We're pleased to bring some of these highlights to market." ●

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

COURTESY OF LESLIE HINDMAN



**LESLIE
HINDMAN
AUCTIONEERS**

[WRIGHT BROTHERS]. Photograph signed ("Orville Wright" / "Wilbur Wright"), taken for Collier's Weekly, showing Orville Wright making the first one-hour flight at Fort Myer, Virginia, 9 September 1908. Sale Date: 1 May 2019 | Estimate: \$8,000-12,000

Upcoming Auction

FINE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS

MAY 1, 2019

INQUIRIES
Gretchen Hause
312.334.4229
gretchenhause@lesliehindman.com
lesliehindman.com

Opening Gambit

A March sale at Forum Auctions promises rare letters and unique manuscripts.

Every other month, London-based Forum Auctions hosts a Fine Books, Manuscripts, and Works on Paper sale at the Westbury Hotel in Mayfair. Since 2016, Forum has curated fine books sales both in place and online, specializing in antiquarian books and manuscripts, as well as Old Master prints, drawings, and other works on paper. The company's March 28 sale will feature a wide array of books across collecting spectrums, as well



Pictorial title page of Greco's chess manuscript (1620).

nary item."

The 120-page manuscript is written in Italian by a scribal hand—not in Greco's own handwriting—and was likely produced as an instruction manual for a wealthy chess enthusiast. In addition to the pictorial title page depicting an angel holding two chess pieces, the manuscript also boasts seventeenth century gilt calf binding.



Chess manuscript with gilt French binding (1620).

Another noteworthy item at the Fine Books sale is an unpublished letter by Charles Darwin to his cousin Reginald, written in 1879—three years before Darwin's death. The letter, which is estimated at \$15,500-23,000, is three-and-a-half pages long and is an uncommon example of Darwin's personal life. In it, he expresses a "chief object to contradict flatly some calumnies by Miss Seward," likely referring to Anna Seward's 1804 book, in which she undercuts the legacy of Darwin's grandfather, Erasmus.

"This letter is a fresh discovery for the market," Hasler said. "There is a large body of Darwin collectors across the world, which will probably be

excited by the more family-focused nature of this communication, which we don't often see in his writings."

An additional piece of correspondence that will be at Forum's March sale is a letter from Edward Wilson, an English physician, natural historian, and polar explorer who undertook two expeditions to Antarctica—most notably the Terra Nova Expedition led by Robert Scott in 1910-1913, during which the group studied Emperor penguins and collected important research that contributes to our understanding of the animals today. Tragically, Wilson, Scott, and three others of their party died of frostbite on their return journey, but the letter, according to Hasler, provides insight into Wilson's explorer mentality.

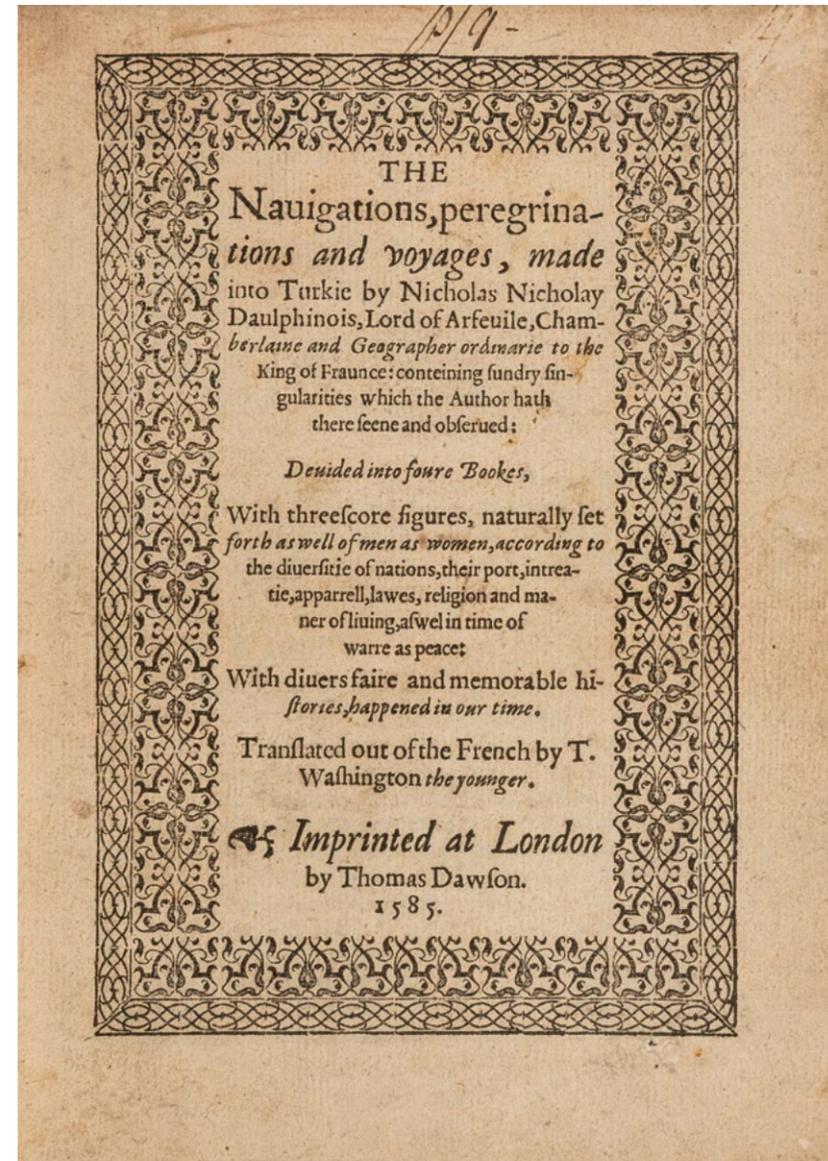
The letter (estimated at \$1,900-2,600) is dated March 15, 1910—the start of Wilson's fateful journey—and is written in response to well-wishing schoolchildren who have requested photos of the expedition dogs.

"He thanks them for their encouragement," Hasler said, "and writes back to them saying 'don't you think it would be much more educational if I send you a picture of a penguin?'"

These works will feature alongside many others in Forum's March sale, including a signature and framed photograph of Oscar Wilde, and various high spot works of literature. ●

Erin McPherson is a writer and editor based in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is an amateur collector of hardbound Dickens.

Where collectors meet.



Nicolay (Nicolas de)
The Navigations, peregrinations and voyages, made into Turkie, first edition in English, Imprinted at London by Thomas Dawson, 1585.
Est. £10,000-15,000

Books, Manuscripts and Works on Paper

Auction: Thursday 28th March 2019 | The Westbury Hotel, 37 Conduit Street, London, W1S 2YF

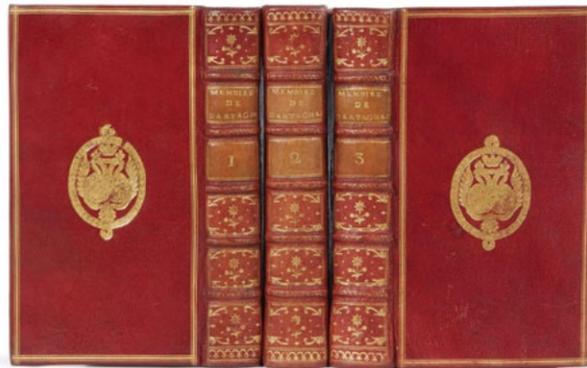
Bidding and information: info@forumauctions.co.uk | +44 (0) 20 7871 2640

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Buyer's premium (plus VAT if applicable) applies to all lots at 25% of the hammer price.

French Literature by Way of the Commonwealth

An upcoming sale at Freeman's features books from the highly curated library of a Virginia diplomat.



Memoires de Monsieur d'Artagnan (1700).

Despite its grand exterior and gardens, Virginia House—a Tudor manor dismantled in England in 1925 and rebuilt in Richmond, Virginia, by diplomat Alexander Weddell and his wife—occupies an unassuming position, nestled deep in a residential neighborhood called Windsor Farms. It fits well with the other homes, and barely betrays the cache of decorative arts and works on paper which has been housed within its walls for nearly a century.

The Weddells were avid collectors who outfitted their home with suits of armor, elegant works of art, and a library of 5,000 books—many

of which will be available for sale April 10 in Philadelphia.

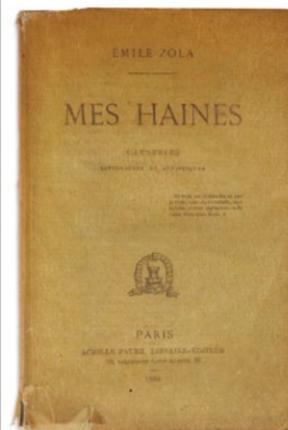
"There's a poignancy to the Weddell's vision in collecting, and also in the way their collection cuts off," said Darren Winston, head of books, maps, and manuscripts department at Freeman's. "The couple tragically died in a train wreck in 1948, so the books that they purchased that year are brand new—they're seventy-year-old volumes, but they haven't been touched."

Of particular interest are three books of French literature, including the three-volume *Memoires de Monsieur d'Artagnan* (estimated at \$1500-2500)—the 1700 book

by Gatien de Courtiz de Sandras, which served as the primary source material for Alexandre Dumas' nineteenth century classic *The Three Musketeers*.

"The story goes that Dumas found the book, read it, and was totally inspired," Winston said. "And what makes these volumes even more interesting is the really beautiful and clean armorial bindings, which we know to be original and not rebound."

On the front and back covers of each volume of *Memoires* are Russian arms of alliance: the crests of Holstein-Gottorp and Württemberg flanking the state arms of Russia. According to Winston, this was a common repre-



Mes Haines (1866).

sentation of the joint arms of Emperor Paul I and Empress Maria Feodorovna when they were tsesarevich and tsesarevna—at the time, heirs presumptive to the Russian Empire.

"These books are in amazing condition," Winston said. "It appears they have only had two or three owners since the eighteenth century."

Another work of inter-

est for collectors is a beautiful first edition of Gustav Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* (1857), in a morocco binding. With an estimated value of \$2,500-4,000, this volume is signed by the French binder and sports original wrappers bound in.

"This book is one of the highest-regarded works of French literature," Winston said. "This copy is so beautiful, I think it will attract a lot of interest from collectors who would want to add it to their leather library."

A lesser-known work by French author Emile Zola will also be available for sale. An 1866 presentation copy of the author's third book *Mes Haines* (est. \$500-800) boasts an inscription from Zola "to monsieur É. de Girardin [a French journalist and politician], courtesy of the author."

Among the approximately 500 lots that will be available at the sale—including books, furnishings, and decorative arts from Virginia House—there will be several Jonathan Swift titles, a group of Emily Dickinson firsts, and works of Mexican and South American literature.

"We are specifically selling works that we find compelling," Winston said. "You can buy one item from this sale, and you'll have a piece of the Weddells' story. There's a romance in the history of certain objects—it's a tradition of things. Much like with an oral tradition, we have a responsibility to pass on the stewardship of these items." ●

Erin McPherson is a writer and editor based in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is an amateur collector of hardbound Dickens.

COURTESY OF FREEMAN'S



To be offered April 10, 2019:

Flaubert, Gustave
MADAME BOVARY

Paris: Michel Lévy Frères, 1857. In two volumes. First edition in book form. 12mo. Complete with half-titles in both volumes and 36 pp. publisher's catalogue in rear of first volume. Bound in early 20th century black three-quarter straight grain morocco over marbled paper-covered boards; marbled endpapers; top edges gilt, other edges untrimmed; original printed green wrappers bound in; by Henri Creuzevault. Ex-library: book-plate on front paste-down and pencil markings on title-page in each volume. A handsome set. **\$2,500-4,000**

FREEMAN'S

Property from The Collection of

Ambassador & Mrs. Alexander Weddell

The Virginia House Museum

INQUIRIES:

Darren Winston | 267.414.1247

dwinston@freemansauction.com

Pride and Place

A new sale by Swann Galleries in New York will feature works celebrating LGBTQ creatives.

June 29 marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York, and Swann Galleries is commemorating the occasion on June 20 with its first Pride Sale—an auction which aims to celebrate LGBTQ+ artists and authors over time.

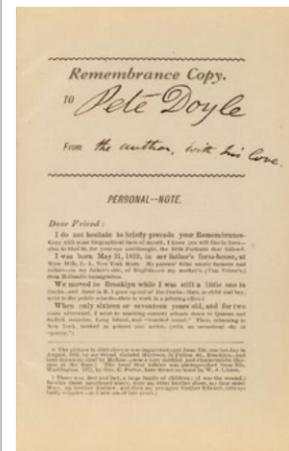
“We believe it’s the first time a sale like this has been organized,” said Nicholas D. Lowry, president and principal auctioneer for Swann. “We’re curating these pieces in an entirely new way and codifying an area of collecting for the market.”

Among the art, letters, literature, photographs, and cultural items that will be available at the sale are two first edition works by American author James Baldwin. *Go Tell It On the Mountain* has an estimated value of \$800-\$1,200 and was Baldwin’s debut—a semi-autobiographical novel written in 1953, which tells the story of a depression-era Harlem teenager.

“That book is not overtly gay,” Lowry said. “People say there are gay passages or indications that the protagonist is gay, but it is not a gay novel. On the other hand, Baldwin’s third book, *Giovanni’s Room*, is overtly gay and is very important to the oeuvre.”

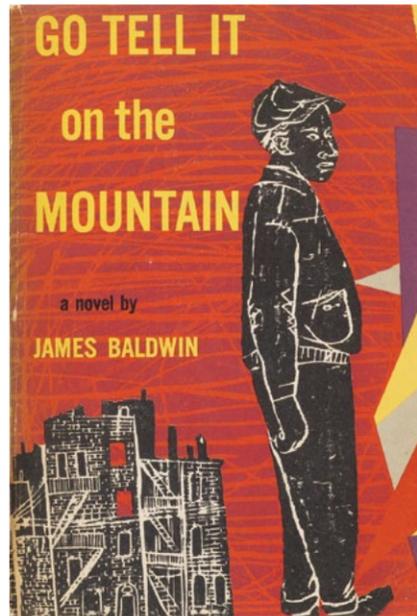
Written in 1956 and estimated at \$1,800-\$2,500 with hardcover and dust jacket, *Giovanni’s Room* was once listed by *The Advocate* as the second most-influential novel in LGBTQ+ literature.

Other works that will be available at the sale include a copy of Walt Whitman’s



Walt Whitman, *Memoranda During the War*, Remembrance Copy, inscribed to Pete Doyle, from “the author, with his love,” Camden, NJ, 1875-76. Estimate \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Memoranda During the War (1875, estimated at \$50,000-\$75,000), inscribed to Peter Doyle “with the author’s love,” letters from Harvey Milk, and the diary—an address and scheduling book with notes—of Candy Darling, a trans icon and favorite of Andy Warhol.



James Baldwin, *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, first edition, ARC in wrappers, Knopf, New York, 1953. Estimate \$800 to \$1,200.



Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People, extra-limited first edition, signed, London, 1899. Estimate \$40,000 to \$60,000.

“This is not an auction where we’re taking artists and authors and outing them,” Lowry said. “These are openly and proudly gay creatives whose works we are celebrating. In the case of Whitman,

scholars widely accept that he was gay, and Peter Doyle is generally considered to have been his lover.”

Another rare find collectors will be excited to see at the Pride Sale is an extra-limited first edition of Oscar Wilde’s play *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1894).

“There were only 1,112 first editions total,” Lowry said. “Twelve of those were printed on Japanese Vellum, and only six of those are known—this is one of the six.”

Estimated to sell at \$40,000-\$60,000, the volume is also signed by the author.

This year, a portion of the proceeds from the sale will go to the Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art. In the future, the auction house hopes to develop a new department specifically aimed at curating LGBTQ+ creative works and to continuing the Pride Sale as a yearly event.

“This is all very smart, exciting stuff,” Lowry said. “We expect the event will be attended by people who don’t even know they’re collectors yet.” ●

Erin McPherson is a writer and editor based in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is an amateur collector of hardbound Dickens.

COURTESY OF SWANN GALLERIES.



Norman Lewis, *Shapes*, oil on masonite board, circa 1947. Estimate \$60,000 to \$90,000. At auction April 4.

WINTER/SPRING 2019 AUCTION SCHEDULE

MAR 5	19th & 20th Century Prints & Drawings Featuring Property from the Ismar Littmann Family Collection	MAY 2	Old Master Through Modern Prints
MAR 7	Early Printed, Medical, Scientific & Travel Books	MAY 14	19th & 20th Century Literature
MAR 21	Autographs	MAY 16	Contemporary Art
MAR 28	Printed & Manuscript African Americana	MAY 23	Graphic Design
APR 4	African-American Fine Art	JUN 4	Illustration Art
APR 16	Printed & Manuscript Americana	JUN 6	Maps & Atlases, Natural History & Color Plate Books
APR 18	Classic & Contemporary Photographs	JUN 13	American Art
		JUN 20	The Pride Sale

Download the App

Something for Every Collection

With three wide-ranging sales in a month, Bonhams will offer lots for every type of collector.



LEFT: A first-edition copy of *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem* by Andreas Vesalius exemplifies an age of discovery in human anatomy (1543, estimated at \$300,000-500,000). RIGHT: Walt Whitman's working copy of *Leaves of Grass* will be sold just in time for the bicentennial of the author's birth (1855, estimated \$200,000-300,000).

This March, the Bonhams Fine Books and Manuscripts department will hold four sales, featuring items ranging from science and medicine to literature and art. The first sale occurs on March 11 in New York and is comprised of around 400 lots from the Medical and Scientific Library of W. Bruce Fye. After the live sale is complete, an additional 400 lots will be sold in an online sale from March 12-21. Items up for auction will span from the beginning of medical studies to the present, including a section on cardiology with

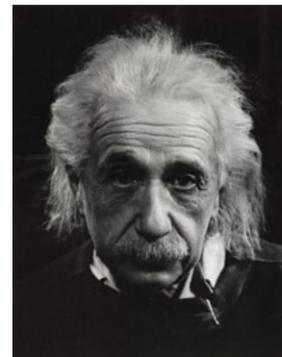
books and manuscripts ranging from Harvey to modern day pioneers of cardio-vascular surgery and heart care.

Most notable is the sale, of the first edition of *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem*, by Andreas Vesalius published in 1543 (estimated at \$300,000-500,000).

"Vesalius was a surgeon at the University in Padua, where he dissected corpses" said Ian Ehling, director of the fine books and manuscripts department at Bonhams. "This book is hugely important and changed the way we looked at the human body."

This copy is particularly interesting for collectors, however, because "it is an association copy from the library of Achilles Pirmin Gasser, who has inscribed this copy, he was a doctor from Augsburg and a friend of Vesalius."

The third sale features a large collection of Americana from the collection of Eric C. Caren and will take place online from March 6-14. It includes a variety of items, from the highest ranking John Hancock commission procurable, that of Major General Benjamin Lincoln, to the first article to mention Babe Ruth, in a Baltimore paper calling him a "St. Mary's schoolboy." Additionally, the



A letter by Albert Einstein in which he contemplates the existence of God will be sold at auction (1945, at estimated \$100,000-200,000).

sale will offer a letter on the death of Joseph Smith, with an account of the Prophet's final words (1844, estimated at \$10,000-15,000).

The most interesting lot in the Caren sale is a typewritten letter signed by Albert Einstein about his relationship with God (1945, estimated \$100-200,000).

"It's a kind of culmination," Ehling said. "It's exactly what

you'd want Einstein to think and write about, and it's very beautiful."

The fourth sale, Extraordinary Books and Manuscripts, will be held live on March 12. Perhaps the most exciting item is a first edition in a first issue binding of *Leaves of Grass* (1855, estimated \$200,000-300,000). Unlike other first editions, however Whitman referred to this one as his working copy, signing it in block letters in a presentation to friend, artist, and book collector, William James Linton. It was then sold to renowned collector, Frederick W. Skiff.

"This year marks Whitman's two-hundredth birthday, so I expect a lot of press and interest in his works this year," Ehling said. "He produced world-class poetry that was quintessentially American, and *Leaves of Grass* has been called the 'second Declaration of Independence' by critics. This is an important copy with an incredible provenance."

This sale will also include other unique items, such as a collection of letters and postcards written by Brassai, the famous 20th century photographer and sent home to his family in Romania between 1947 and 1978 (estimated \$40,000-60,000).

With three strong, diverse sales, the Bonhams Fine Books and Manuscripts department promises a strong showing. Covering an array of topics and centuries of historical insights, these sales promise something for every collection. ●

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

COURTESY OF BONHAMS

Extraordinary Books and Manuscripts

New York | March 12, 2019

INQUIRIES

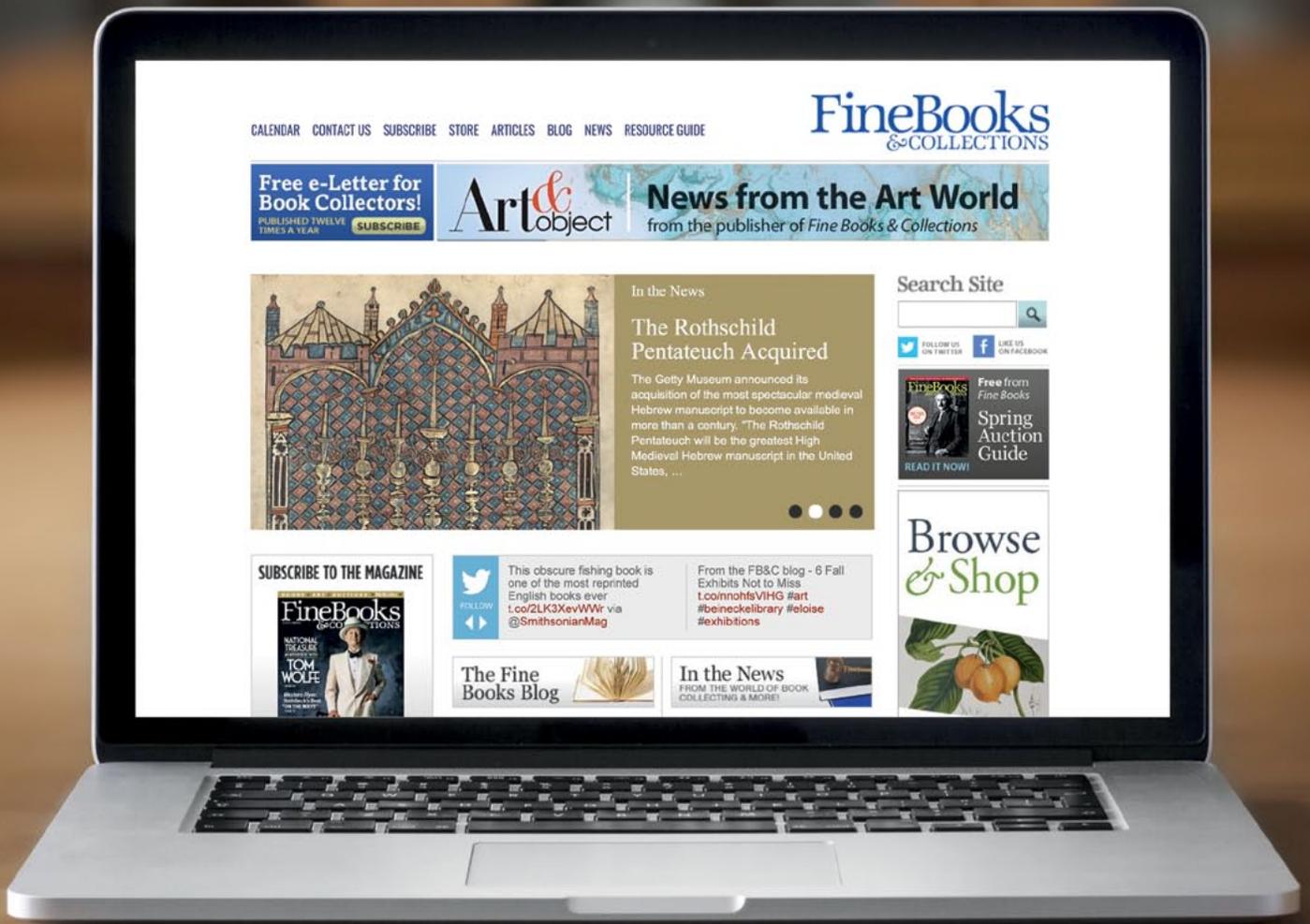
Catherine Williamson
+1 (323) 436 5442
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bonhams.com/auctions/25491

WHITMAN, WALT. 1819-1892.
Leaves of Grass. Brooklyn:
[Printed for the author], 1855.
First edition, first issue, signed
by Whitman in block letters
\$200,000 - 300,000

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