

Native American Mezzotint Leads Early Print Sale At Tremont

SUDBURY, MASS. — On February 25, Tremont Auctions sold a selection of Old Master Prints, all from the Winfield Robbins Collection, which included works spanning the Seventeenth to the Nineteenth Centuries and a selection of Japanese woodblock prints. Earning \$36,830 and top-lot honors was a 1710 mezzotint portrait of On Nee Yeath Tow No Riow, a Mohawk chief and one of four who traveled to England to seek Queen Anne's military aid in combatting the French forces in the Great Lakes region. She commissioned paintings of each of the four chiefs and mezzotints from the portraits. "Thirty Six Ghosts," a complete album of 36 Japanese woodblocks by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, realized \$20,320; it was one of a few other complete albums by the artist. The sale included the first mezzotint published in America: a portrait of Cotton



Mather that was done in 1727 by Peter Pelham and brought \$5,334. The collection included works by Rembrandt and Durer, as well as a wide variety of American and European subjects. Prices quoted include the buyer's premium as reported by the auction house; watch for a more extensive report in an upcoming issue.

Washington Portraits Bring High Prices For Thomaston Place

THOMASTON, MAINE — Kaja Veilleux and Thomaston Place Auction Galleries held its Winter Enchantment three-day sale on February 23-25. Bidders vied for more than 1,075 lots of everything from fine and decorative arts to collectibles, Asian antiques and jewelry. Two portraits of George Washington cataloged as "after Gilbert Stuart (MA/RI/UK, 1755-1828) were among the top lots and led the second day of the sale.



The first to cross the block was a 59-by-43-inch full-length oil on canvas painting titled "Washington on Dorchester Heights," (pictured) after the original that hangs in the MFA Boston. Estimated at \$57,000, it found a new home with an online bidder for \$33,750. The other painting — a copy of Stuart's "Atheneum" portrait — sold to a bidder on the phone for \$32,400, a significant gain over its \$35,000 estimate. Both prices include the buyer's premium as reported by the auction house and both will be discussed in greater detail in an upcoming issue along with more of the highlights from this sale.

Nineteenth Century Oushak Rug Tops Lewis & Maese Auction

HOUSTON, TEXAS — Lewis & Maese took bidders on a magic carpet ride on February 25 with two choice carpets leading the day's auction of 531 lots. Top lot, at \$15,625, including buyer's premium, was a Nineteenth Century Turkish Oushak rug that measured 220 by 164 inches (shown). Runner up was an antique hand-knotted Oushak rug of the same dimensions, which went out at \$10,625 with premium. In the realm of hand-knotted rugs, Oushaks, woven in a method known as the Turkish knot, are created by passing the colored weft yarn over the two warp yarns, which is then pulled through between them and cut to form the pile. Watch for a further review of this sale in an upcoming issue.



Frank Benson Eagles Top Strong Copley Sale At \$210,000

HINGHAM, MASS. — "Bald Eagles (The Eagles)" by Frank Benson, dated 1941, a large oil on canvas painting depicting soaring eagles earned \$210,000, the highest price realized in Copley Fine Art Auctions' sale of decoys and sporting art on February 24 and 25. One buyer paid a total of \$211,200 for an important pair of pinch-breast pintail decoys by the Ward Brothers of Crisfield, Md., which had always been sold as a pair but were, in this sale, sold separately. Boasting impeccable provenance to the collections of William J. Mackey, Andy Williams and Ronald J. Gard, the drake sold for \$108,000, the hen \$103,200. The highest price for a single decoy, \$168,000, was achieved by a hooded merganser by Lloyd Tyler, also of Crisfield, Md. Numerous other paintings and decoys sold for more than \$10,000 each. The sale included an outstanding selection of decoys from the Masterworks of the Illinois River Collection, additional Benson paintings and etchings, West Coast decoys, decorative carvings along with decoys by Elmer Crowell, Gus Wilson, Joe Lincoln, Charles Perdue and numerous other sporting paintings and bronzes. A full report will follow; prices quoted include the buyer's premium as reported by the auction house.



Henry Clay Flag Flies Highest For John McInnis



AMESBURY, MASS. — John McInnis Auctioneers conducted three sales in the span of just four days, selling "Fine Interiors" on February 22, an estates auction on February 24 and a "Fine Antiques Estates Collection" auction on February 25. Bidders had a total of 945 lots of antiques, fine art, collectibles and general household furnishings to compete for. The top lot of the event at \$16,120, including buyer's premium, was an extremely rare 1844 Henry Clay silk parade flag that featured 13 stars, an image of a raccoon — the Whig Party symbol — a slogan and the names "Henry Clay and Frelinghuysen." Measuring 24¼ by 29 inches, it had descended in the family of James Snodgrass Jr and was illustrated in Herbert Ridgeway Collins' *Threads of History* (Smithsonian Press, 1978). Watch for a more extensive sale review in a future issue.

Holy Trinity Retablo Leads At Turner Auctions

SAN FRANCISCO — "Retablos: The Art of Devotion" was the title of the auction that took place at Turner Auctions & Appraisals on February 24. The unique 232-lot auction featured various retablos — Spanish folk art paintings and sculptures depicting religious figures — as well as crucifixes, wood carvings, painted altars and other lots crossed the block. The top lot was an unsigned Nineteenth Century Mexican School framed oil on canvas retablo, from a Northern California private collection, that featured the Holy Trinity with angels. Devoted bidders drove its total up to \$2,064, including buyer's premium, far exceeding the \$400/600 estimate. A more in-depth sale recap will appear in a future issue.



Sworder's Sleeper! Indonesian-Dutch Print Soars In Warner Dailey's Collection



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET, U.K. — Anglo-American art and antiques dealer Warner Dailey's collection was the highlight of the day at Sworders on February 22. Nearly 340 lots of antiques, art and oddities were presented in a sale that yielded more than \$250,000. Alex Froggatt, senior specialist at Sworders, noted, "The Warner Dailey Collection provided many exciting results commensurate with the nature of the quality and breadth of the offering. The top lot was taken by the Indonesian-Dutch artist Jan Toorop's work, titled 'The Three Brides'; it went off to achieve well over estimate." That was an understatement as the £300/500 realized \$25,258 (£20,000). Prices quoted include the buyer's premium as reported by the auction house. A review of the auction will follow in an upcoming issue.