

Sotheby's Geek Week Auctions TOTAL \$7.4 Million in New York

Richard P. Feynman's Nobel Prize, Papers & Books
Are 100% Sold | Total \$3.8 Million

Led by the Beloved Physicist's Nobel Prize Medal,
Sold for \$975,000

Papers Spanning the Full Length of His Career
Nearly Triple Their High Estimate

Auction Dedicated to Space Exploration Led by:
The Only Known Documented Moon Rocks in Private Hands
Fetch \$855,000

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A Complete Gemini Spacesuit Brings \$162,500

NEW YORK, 3 December 2018 – Sotheby's *Geek Week* auctions concluded Friday in New York with a total of \$7.4 million, featuring sales dedicated to Space Exploration and The History of Science & Technology.

Cassandra Hatton, Vice President & Senior Specialist in Sotheby's Books & Manuscripts Department commented: "It was so exciting to see such enthusiasm for our first ever 'Geek Week' auctions. I am incredibly honored to have been entrusted with the sale of the Nobel Prize, papers, and books of Richard P. Feynman, one of my personal heroes, and I am thrilled with the outstanding results. The depth of bidding and impressive prices achieved are a clear indicator that Feynman's work and legacy

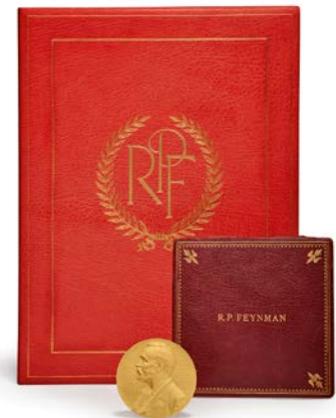
continue to resonate with collectors today, and in particular, the prices achieved for the manuscripts would indicate that Feynman's scientific work is more precious than gold. It was also especially exciting to become one of only two people, along with Sotheby's former Vice-Chairman David Redden, to have sold the only known documented samples of the moon available for private ownership."

Below is a look at some of the highlights that drove these results.

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Auction Total: \$4.9 Million

Sotheby's second annual History of Science & Technology auction was led by the Nobel Prize, papers and books of the brilliant, inspiring, and much-beloved theoretical physicist Richard P. Feynman, which were offered across 42 lots. Spanning the full length of his career – from his early days at Los Alamos and Cornell through his final days at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and covering topics such as the atom bomb, QED, Nanotechnology and Computing – the remarkable and enlightening collection of papers are the only known archive of Feynman manuscripts to exist outside of the archive at Caltech, where he taught for nearly 4 decades.

In the year of the centenary of Feynman's birth, his **1965 Nobel Prize in Physics** achieved \$975,000. The prize was awarded to Feynman along with fellow physicists Julian Schwinger and Shin'ichiro Tomonaga, "for their fundamental work in quantum electrodynamics, with deep-ploughing consequences for the physics of elementary particles." The three physicists independently developed different ingenious methods to reconcile the electromagnetic field theory of the 19th century with the quantum mechanics theory of the 20th. Feynman's method involved his invention of the revolutionary 'Feynman Diagram' – innovative pictorial representations that provided a clear visual explanation of every possible interaction between electrons and photons.



Leading the collection of Feynman manuscripts was a group of papers showing his derivations of the Schrödinger Equation via the Feynman path integral. Illuminating the equivalence of these distinct but complementary formulations of quantum mechanics, the papers fetched \$399,000.

Another top lot of the collection was an autographed draft for Feynman's famous lecture "There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom; An Invitation to Enter a New Field of Physics." Widely credited with sparking the field of Nanotechnology, the draft sold for \$387,000. In his address Feynman imagined "that we could arrange atoms one by one, just as we want them," and in this spirit he posed two challenges that would lead to the development of the field of Nanotechnology, offering \$1,000 dollars each to whomever could 1) construct a tiny motor, and 2) to whomever could fit the entire Encyclopedia Britannica on the head of a pin.

SPACE EXPLORATION
Auction Total: 2.5 Million

Held just a month before the 50th anniversary of Apollo 8 – the first mission to orbit the moon – Sotheby's second-annual Space Exploration sale was led by the only known lunar samples with clear and documented provenance to be available for private ownership – three moon rocks returned to earth from the unmanned Soviet Luna-16 Mission in 1970, which sold for \$855,000. That price nearly doubles the amount achieved when the samples were offered at auction in Sotheby's iconic Russian Space History sale in 1993.



The present lunar samples have remained in the same private American collection since Sotheby's iconic Russian Space History auction in 1993, when they sold for \$442,500 – marking the first time that a piece of another world had ever been offered for sale to the public. The samples were consigned to the 1993 sale by Mme. Nina Ivanovna Koroleva, widow of Sergei Pavlovich Korolev – the former "Chief Designer" and director of the Soviet space program and had been presented to her as a gift on behalf of the USSR in recognition of her late husband's incalculable contributions to the program.

Another highlight of the auction was the exceptionally rare full **Gemini Spacesuit** – the only known complete American spacesuit to come to market, which fetched \$162,500. Built specifically for conducting spacewalks the present suit features gloves that were made for Pete Conrad, the 3rd man to land on the moon, and boots that were made for Frank Borman, one of the first men to ever orbit the moon.

About Sotheby's

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*

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