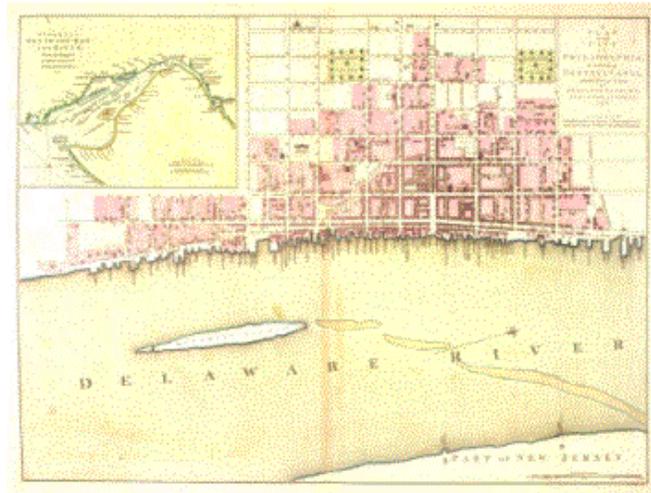


## SOTHEBY'S TO SELL THE AMERICANA LIBRARY OF LAIRD U. PARK, JR. ON NOVEMBER 29, 2000

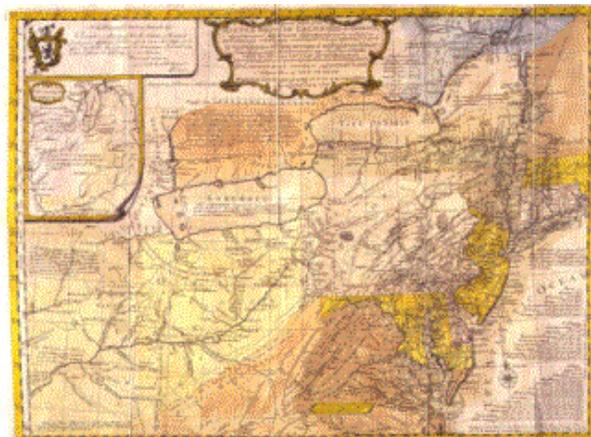
(William Birch, The City of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania, North America, 1800)

-- COLLECTION PROVIDES PARTICULAR INSIGHT INTO PHILADELPHIA HISTORY --

New York, N.Y. -- On November 29th Sotheby's in New York will offer for sale The Americana Library of Laird U. Park Jr. This wide-ranging collection of books, manuscripts and important letters incorporates all aspects of American history with a particular richness in western Americana and in items relating to the history of Philadelphia. Villanova native Laird Park, Jr. built his library upon a foundation of books and spectacular, historical manuscripts amassed by his mother Irene Dearnley Park; and he coupled that with his passion for items relating to the history of Philadelphia and its most famous son, Benjamin Franklin. The collection is estimated to bring \$4/6 million.



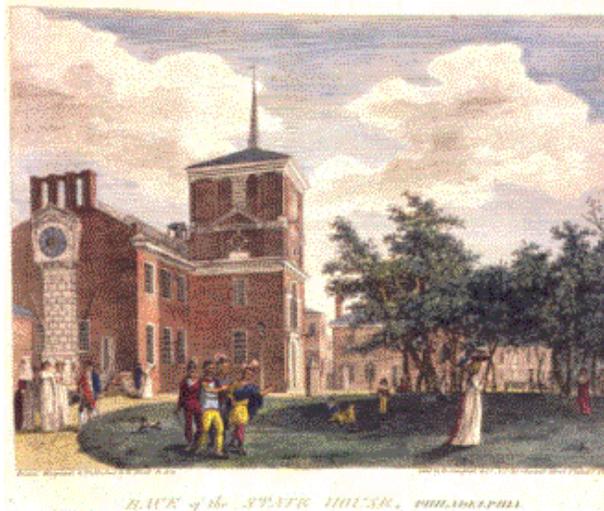
A highlight of the sale is the “first American color plate book celebrating Philadelphia as the new capital of an infant nation.” William Birch’s *The City of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania, North America* as it appeared in 1800, consists of twenty-eight drawn and engraved plates estimated to sell for \$70/100,000 (pictured on page 1). Birch emigrated from England in 1794 and settled in Philadelphia, bringing with him an academic training in art. He was awed by the city’s burgeoning growth and planned his portfolio of the views of Philadelphia not only to entice European settlers, but to “stand as a memorial of its [Philadelphia’s] progress for the first century.” With his son, Birch patiently recorded various incidents and impressions which gave the work the vibrancy and color of everyday life. Against a backdrop of elegant civil and private buildings, coaches, wagon, and wheelbarrows clatter along cobblestone streets, tradespeople hawk their goods and produce at market and well turned-out Philadelphians and American Indians leisurely strolling down pedestrian parks and through garden. For nearly thirty years after their creation, these images remained the sole record of Philadelphia as it appeared at the dawn of the new century, and a new era for Americans.



Also incorporated are a number of important early maps of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia. One item is Nicholas Scull's 1766 Map of the Improved Part of the Province of Pennsylvania humbly dedicated To the Honourable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn Esqrs. True & absolute Proprietors & Governours of the Province of Pennsylvania & Countries of New-Castle Kent & Sussex on Delaware which is estimated at \$12/18,000. This engraved map is quite rare and noted as the "first large scale map of Pennsylvania and one of the most important 18th century maps." Other maps and plans include a rare Scull plan of Philadelphia, from London, 1776 which was created to meet the English demands for information about the major colonial cities following the start of the American Revolution. The handcolored and engraved map is estimated to sell for \$7/10,000 (pictured at the top of the page).

A major strength of the Park Collection is a group of letters and books relating to Philadelphia's most famous son, Benjamin Franklin. A highlight of the Franklin property is a letter of introduction written by Benjamin Franklin to General Charles Lee characterizing Thomas Paine as "the real author of Common Sense," the impassioned pamphlet, published in Philadelphia, that helped ignite the American Revolution. Written in Philadelphia and dating to February 1776, this letter is particularly interesting because while Paine's authorship of Common Sense would have shortly become known, at the time Franklin wrote this letter, Paine had not yet been positively identified as the author. This 1 ½ page letter is estimated to fetch \$120/180,000.

Another Franklin item included in the sale with a particular connection to the history of Philadelphia is an early letter written by Franklin to Joseph Galloway, a fellow Philadelphian. This letter, estimated at \$35/50,000, was written from London during Franklin's first mission to England where he was representing the interests of the Pennsylvania Assembly. Franklin was writing to Galloway about his progress in convincing the King of England to allow the Assembly of Philadelphia the right to levy taxes. Franklin explains to Galloway that the process is slow and that he encourages his constituents to have patience... "God knows when we shall see it finish'd, and our Constitution settled firmly on the Foundations of Equity with English Liberty."



A particular Pennsylvania rarity is a first edition of Benjamin Franklin's scathing condemnation of the Conestoga massacre of unarmed natives. This Narrative of the late Massacres in Lancaster County apparently deterred the killing of more natives and helped to calm the hysteria instigated by the 1763 Indian rebellion against the British. It was during this rebellion that the Indians attacked and conquered all but three British posts scattered over 1,000 miles. Printed in 1764, this slim pamphlet is estimated at \$8/12,000.

Other interesting Philadelphia lots include the 1828 Stranger's Guide to the Public Buildings, Places of Amusement and Streets of the city of Philadelphia. This travel guide includes a handcolored street map, two folding plates and 10 pages of advertisements. This rare, first edition gives an excellent idea as to the physical layout of Philadelphia in 1828 and is estimated at \$800/1,200. Also included is the first separately published American Directory, entitled Macpherson's Directory for the City and Suburbs of Philadelphia. Published in October 1785, the directory also included a notation stating that it was "to be Corrected and Republished Annually." The directory, which included listings for such prominent Philadelphians as Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris and Francis Hopkinson, is estimated to sell for \$4/6,000. In addition to this directory is a List of Streets, Roads, Lanes, Alleys, Avenues, Courts, Wharves, Ship-Yards, Public Buildings, Manufactories, Places of Amusement...with their proper names, as well as Those They are Sometimes Known By. This uncommon, first edition guide includes a detailed folding map and is estimated at \$600/800.



A collection of Philadelphia newspapers, dating from 1740-1790, provides an insider's look at Philadelphia at the birth of the nation. Issues of the Evening Chronicle, The Pennsylvania Evening Post, The Federal Gazette and the Philadelphia Evening Post preserve not only the general ambiance of Philadelphia at the time, but also the unique combination of experiences and opportunities that contribute to the flavor of everyday life. These pages record everything from noteworthy Revolutionary sentiment to handkerchiefs for sale from Barcelona. The earliest newspaper here, from 1749, contains suggestions of freedom with its several announcements about runaway servants, slaves and apprentices. The group of 38 items is estimated at \$1,200/1,800.

One newspaper of particular interest is the Pennsylvania Journal; and Weekly Advertiser published on October 31, 1765, the day before the provisions of the Stamp Act took effect. This critical and visually dramatic issue of William Bradford's Pennsylvania Journal announces temporary suspension until a way can be found "to elude the Chains forged for us, and escape the insupportable Slavery" that the act represented. This edition is particularly dramatic with its tombstone masthead, representation of the "fatal Stamp" as marked by a death's head, and a vignette of a coffin, captioned "The last Remains of The PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL, Which departed this Life, the 31st of October, 1765. Of a STAMP in her Vitals, Aged 23 Years." This charged, folio edition of 2 leaves is estimated at \$10/15,000.

Highlights from the collection are not limited to Philadelphia history, and perhaps the most important letter included in the sale is from George Washington to James Madison dated 12 June 1784. In the letter, Washington invites Madison to establish a fund to help support their countryman Thomas Paine as he had fallen on hard times. This letter, estimated at \$200/300,000, is rare in that it links together three great patriots and founders of the United States.



The Park Collection is also particularly strong in western Americana. Included in the sale is the series of dramatic nineteenth-century color-plate books that still define the iconography of the American frontier: George Catlin's *North American Indian Portfolio* (est. \$80/120,000). Other western highlights include Thomas L. M'Kenny and James Hall's *History of the Indian Tribes*, published in Philadelphia and estimated at \$70/90,000; and Prince Maximilian Alexander Philipp zu Wied-Neuwied, *Travels in the Interior of North America*, handcolored and estimated to fetch \$250/350,000 (pictured). In addition, included are Henry Lewis' essentially flawless copy of the first edition of *Das illustrierte Mississioithal*, "one of a half-dozen great and rare illustrated books relating to North America," estimated at \$50/70,000; and James O. Lewis' *The Aboriginal Port Folio; or a Collection of Portraits of the most celebrated Chiefs of the North American Indians*. Published in Philadelphia in 1836-38, this work was "the first attempt made in the United States at a large scale work devoted to the American Indian", and is estimated at \$100/150,000.

Possibly the most important book about the American West is the account of Lewis and Clark's expedition to the Pacific. The Park Collection includes nearly a dozen accounts of their momentous exploration including a rare first edition of "the definitive account of the most important exploration of the North American continent." Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's *History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark, to the Sources of the Missouri, thence across the Rocky Mountains and down to River Columbia and the Pacific Ocean*, published in 1814, is estimated at sell for \$40/60,000. Although the expedition made its way from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean and back from spring 1804 through the fall of 1806, a myriad of circumstances, including the mysterious death of Lewis, conspired to delay the publication of the official narrative for eight years. Another interesting point about this edition is the inclusion of a well-preserved map of the 8,000-mile trek that is missing from most of the unofficial accounts of the exploration published between 1806 and 1814.

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