

SOTHEBY'S TO OFFER AMERICAN FLAGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF TOM CONNELLY ON MAY 23, 2002



Thirteen-star American Shield Flag reportedly hung above George Washington during his inauguration as the first American President, 1789. Est. \$25/35,000

THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF HISTORIC AMERICAN FLAGS EVER OFFERED AT AUCTION

RARE EXAMPLES SPAN IN DATE FROM PRE-1776 TO 2000

On May 23, 2002 Sotheby's in New York will offer for sale Important American Flags from the Collection of Tom Connelly, Philadelphia. The offering of more than ninety flags, assembled over a period of 15 years, includes wonderful examples of flags used throughout American history ranging from an extremely rare Grand Union Flag, which pre-dates the Revolutionary War to a Peace Flag which reportedly was flown at the Woodstock Festival in 1969. Each example bears witness to not only the intrinsic role that the American Flag has played in the history of the United States of America, but also the personal artistic expression that went into the making of each flag. Prior to their sale and exhibition at Sotheby's, a selection of the flags will be exhibited in the Lower Manhattan offices of The Goldman Sachs Group, an investment bank. The offering of flags will be featured in an auction of Important Americana and is estimated to bring \$500,000/700,000.



Nancy Druckman, Director of Sotheby's Folk Art Department, said, "This collection is the finest offering of its type to ever come up for auction. It primarily includes 19th century flags which typify - and exemplify - the principles of Manifest Destiny which dominated American thoughts and actions throughout our post-Civil War history. The Collection also represents an explosion of graphic design - expressed in our most important national icon, the American Flag. They are extraordinary and unique works of art which have the ability to bridge any number of collecting areas."

Until Arizona and New Mexico were admitted into the Union in 1912, and President Taft wrote an Executive Order describing the design of the 48-star flag, there were no regulations as to how the stars in our flag should be arranged. Prior to this, the only guidelines stated that there should be thirteen alternating red and white stripes and a blue canton with a white star for each state. Most flags were handmade or produced by minor factories, resulting in an extraordinary range of inventiveness and creativity.

One of the earliest flags in the present collection is an extremely rare Grand Union Flag (pictured above right) consisting of a British Union Jack and thirteen alternating red and white stripes representing the thirteen colonies that separated from England. This is the only known example of this type of flag, save for the replicas made for the Centennial in 1876. Pre-dating the Revolutionary War, this incredible survivor of the colonial period is estimated to sell for \$60/70,000.



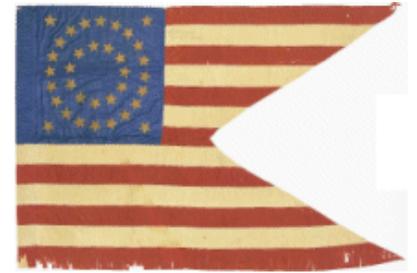
The strength of the collection lies in flags with unusual star configurations that vary from patterns of wreaths and circles to totally random scatter configurations. A highlight of the collection is the American Indian Peace Flag (pictured above left) which is estimated to sell for

\$15/18,000. This flag is one of only five known examples that were given by the Federal Government to the chiefs of Native American tribes to win over their loyalty in the mid-19th century. The unusual pattern features an eagle crowned by 13 stars, a poignant symbol because of the extremely important role the eagle plays in the heritage of the Native American people.



Another highlight from the collection is a Thirty-four star American National Flag, (pictured right) circa 1861-63, estimated to sell for \$45/60,000. The stars on this example are configured in a unique Southern Cross pattern with only nine stripes, indicating that the flag was probably utilized to indicate its owner's confederate sympathies, as there were nine states loyal to the Confederacy. Completely hand sewn, it was found near the Pennsylvania / Maryland border and likely signaled sanctuary to wounded Confederate soldiers.

The offering from Mr. Connelly's Collection is particularly rich in flags designed to commemorate a state's entry into the Union. Chief among them is a Twenty-one star American National Flag, created to commemorate Illinois' entry into the Union on December 3, 1818. The stars on this example are in the rare pattern of a starburst and the flag is estimated to sell for \$25/30,000.



The Thirty-one star American National Flag, which commemorated California's entry to the Union on September 9, 1850, is another highlight. This example bears an historical society label which names it as one of the flags used during President Lincoln's first election campaign in 1860. The flag, which was found on a farm located in what is now known as Cherry Hill, NJ, features a star configuration of a double wreath pattern, and is estimated to sell for \$10/15,000.



Another unusual flag included in the collection is a Peace Flag that was reportedly flown on the stage at Woodstock in 1969. The flag was discovered on a farm adjacent to the famous farm in Woodstock, NY that hosted the legendary concert series. On the blue canton of the flag are 46 stars arranged in the shape of a peace sign, the number of stars bearing no significance, as there were 50 states in Union in 1969. It would appear that the number of stars was chosen solely to achieve the pattern desired by the artist. This flag, which is completely hand sewn out of dyed denim, is estimated to sell for \$3/4,000.

Also included is a Thirteen-star American shield flag, (pictured on page 1.) dating to 1789 which reportedly hung from the balcony above George Washington during his inauguration as the first American President at Inaugural Hall in New York City. The flag is estimated to sell for \$25/35,000.

The collection also boasts examples of flags which would have been used for military purposes such as a Thirty-eight star Flank Guidon Flag (pictured right) used in military patrols to keep troops in line. This flag, which bears 38 stars in a double wreath pattern and dates to circa 1876, the period of General George Custer, would have been carried in the boot of a soldier on horseback and is estimated to sell for \$8/10,000. Also included is a Thirty-five star Swallow-Tail Guidon Flag (pictured top of page 3) which dates to the Civil War period, circa 1863. This flag, which would have been carried by one of the leaders of a mounted unit and is notched at one end to allow it fly straight in the wind, is estimated to sell for \$15/18,000.

