

## For Immediate Release

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### DISCOVERING THE WORLD

### CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK TO OFFER THE FRANK S. STREETER LIBRARY

#### The Frank S. Streeter Library: Important Navigation, Pacific Voyages, Cartography, Science April 16 and 17, 2007

**New York** – Comprising over 500 lots of important navigation and voyages, the Frank S. Streeter Library will be offered at Christie's New York in a special evening sale on April 16 and two day sessions on April 17. Formed over the past forty years, this superb collection documents both the history of European exploration of America and Asia from the 15th century, and the scientific advancements devised to achieve these accomplishments.

After graduating from Harvard in 1940, Mr. Streeter (1918–2006) served as a lieutenant in the Navy, based in the Pacific – an experience which undoubtedly inspired his interest in collecting, as the library is particularly rich in accounts of the great Pacific voyages and discoveries. Following the War he began his career in finance, and would eventually become an associate and advisor to the investor and publisher of *The New York Herald*, John Hay Whitney.

The Streeter library follows the progression of exploration around the globe, from the early exploits of the Portuguese and Spanish to advances by the English, French and Dutch in the Americas, Russia, Asia and, particularly, in the Pacific. The great age of Pacific exploration takes shape in print from Cook and Vancouver to La Pérouse, d'Entrecasteaux, Malaspina and a host of others.

Among the many highlights is Joseph F. Wallet Des Barres's *The Atlantic Neptune* (Image right- estimate: \$400,000-600,000), a superb atlas showing detailed views and observations of landmarks and nautical directions.



Robert Dudley's *Arcano del Mare*, arguably the most sumptuous atlas ever produced, is the first sea atlas compiled by an Englishman (estimate: \$250,000-350,000). A particular strength in the collection is found in the outstanding number of early English voyages and collections, a prime example being the beautifully bound copy *Purchas his Pilgrimes In five bookees*, Samuel Purchas's important collection of travel and exploration narratives from ancient times to the accounts of John Smith (estimate: \$50,000-70,000).



The Streeter Library is notable for its rich collection of Pacific voyages. A rare fully colored copy of Louis Choris's *Voyage Pittoresque Autour de Monde, avec des portraits de sauvages d'Amérique, d'Asie, d'Afrique, et des îles du Grand Ocean* stands out as a magnificent visual record of California and Alaska (estimate: \$50,000-70,000). Numerous works relating to the three voyages of James Cook include James Webber's lavish *Views in the South Seas, from drawings by the late James Webber draftsman on board*

*the 'Resolution', Captain James Cooke, from the year 1776 to 1780*, one of the finest series of views of Pacific exploration (Image left- estimate: \$30,000-40,000).

In addition to narratives and atlases of voyagers, Frank Streeter also sought the important works of scientific thought which improved navigation. Galileo, Kepler, the Elizabethan and Stuart mathematicians John Napier and Henry Briggs, to name a few, are seen in the context of their practical application by navigators seeking to go further into new worlds. Included in the scientific texts is an exceedingly rare example of the announcement of John Harrison's solution to the problem of finding longitude at sea, with the plates printed on India paper (estimate: \$25,000-35,000).

**Auction:** The Frank S. Streeter Library

April 16 at 6 p.m.

April 17 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**Viewing:** Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

April 11-16

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*Images available on request*

*Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

More information about Christie's sale of *The Frank S. Streeter Library* can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.