

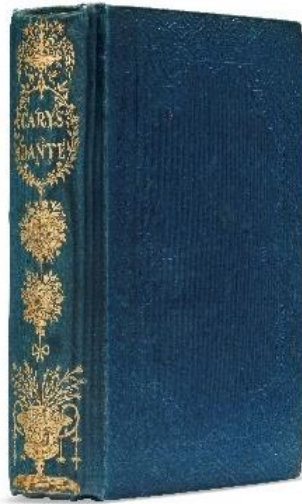
CHRISTIE'S

RESULTS | NEW YORK | 15 SEPTEMBER 2022 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE HERMAN MELVILLE COLLECTION OF WILLIAM S. REESE

SALE TOTAL: \$2,783,214

MORE THAN DOUBLE THE LOW ESTIMATE

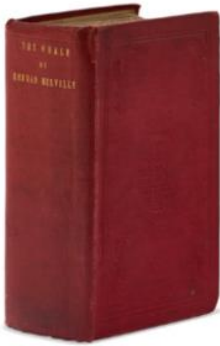


Melville's annotated copy of Dante's Divine Comedy
Price realized: \$441,000

New York – Christie's continued its sales of the fabled private library of the most prominent antiquarian book dealer of his generation with the online sale of the **Herman Melville Collection of William S. Reese** (1 –14 September), which totaled **\$2,783,214**, achieving 171% hammer price above the low estimate. The sale saw global participation, with buyers from five countries. First-time registrants accounted for 38% of bidders. The top lot of the sale, *Dante's Divine Comedy*, heavily annotated by Melville and with his ownership signature, achieved \$441,000 against a pre-sale estimate of \$100,000-150,000. Other notable highlights included an incredibly rare remainder issue of *The Whale*, as the London edition of *Moby-Dick* was titled, which realized \$327,600, far eclipsing the previous auction record for a book by Herman Melville. Another copy of *The Whale*, this one in the first issue and rare publisher's binding, fetched \$302,400; Melville's self-published volume of poetry, *John Marr*, made \$302,400; *Illustrations For Moby Dick*, by Rockwell Kent realized \$201,600; *Battle-Pieces*, inscribed by Melville, made \$138,600; and the Doheny copy of Melville's *Clarel*, achieved \$107,1000.

- [Press images can be downloaded here.](#)
- [Browse full sale results here.](#)

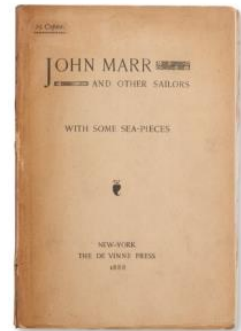
THE HERMAN MELVILLE COLLECTION OF WILLIAM S. REESE | 1 SEP – 14 SEP | NOTABLE RESULTS



The Whale, Bentley remainder issue
Herman Melville, 1853
Price realized: \$327,600



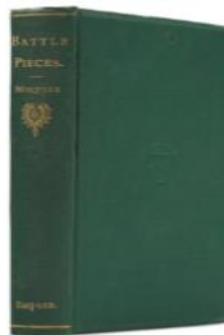
The Whale
Herman Melville, 1851
Price realized: \$302,400



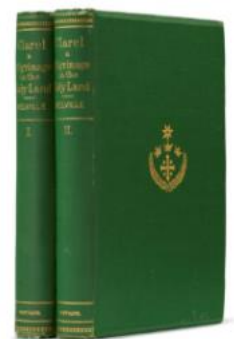
John Marr
Herman Melville, 1888
Price realized: \$302,400



Illustrations For
Moby Dick
Rockwell Kent, 1930
Price realized: \$201,600



Battle-Pieces,
Inscribed
Herman Melville, 1866
Price realized: \$138,600



Clarel, The Doheny Copy
Herman Melville, 1876
Price realized: \$107,100

About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi*](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's *Shot Sage Blue Marilyn*](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*](#), 2019). Christie's is also recognized as a reference for prestigious single owner collections, having auctioned 8 of the 10 most import

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Recent innovations at Christie's include groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house ([Beeple's *Everydays, March 2021*](#)), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

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**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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