

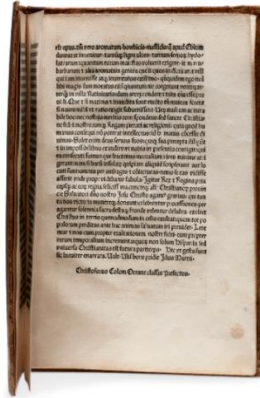
CHRISTIE'S

RESULTS | NEW YORK | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 19 OCTOBER 2023

FINE PRINTED BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS INCLUDING AMERICANA TOTALS \$7,313,198

147% HAMMER AGAINST LOW ESTIMATE | 84% BY LOT

COLUMBUS LETTER SETS WORLD AUCTION RECORD



Epistola de insulis nuper inventis

Christopher Columbus, 1493

Price Realized: \$3,922,000

New York – Christie's **Fine Printed Books and Manuscripts including Americana** online totalled \$7,313,038, selling 147% hammer against low estimate, and 84% by lot. The sale showed great strength for the category in terms of both prices realized and range of participants. Bidders and buyers from 30 different nations from all corners of the globe took part, including from Asia, the Middle East, North and South America, as well as across Europe. One in five bidders and buyers was new to the books and manuscripts category at Christie's, and almost 10 percent of bidders and buyers were millennials.

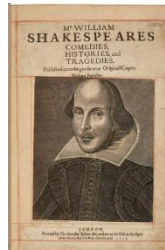
Christie's international head of books and manuscripts, Margaret Ford said: *"Offering one of the most important documents in history – Columbus's announcement to Europe of the Americas – and setting a world auction record of almost \$4 million is a career-defining moment for my Christie's colleagues and me. It has been especially gratifying to see our own passion for books matched by collectors, who continue to appreciate such historical documents with all their nuances and complexities. We are also thrilled to see the diversity of collectors who participated in this sale, a sign of the healthy future of our category."*



The Wealth of Nations

Adam Smith, 1776

Price Realized: \$151,200



The Second Folio

William Shakespeare, 1632

Price Realized: \$138,600



Leaf of the Gutenberg Bible

from Wells' A Noble Fragment

Price Realized: \$119,700

The top lot of the sale was **Epistola de insulis nuper inventis**, the earliest obtainable edition of Christopher Columbus's letter to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella announcing his "discovery" of the American continent. The printed edition of the letter in Latin realized \$3,922,000, 392 percent of its low estimate. Other top lots included the first edition of Adam Smith's **The Wealth of Nations, 1776**, which made \$151,200; Shakespeare's **Second Folio, 1632**, containing the first appearance in print of John Milton, which brought \$138,600; and a **Leaf of the Gutenberg Bible, from Wells' A Noble Fragment**, which realized \$119,700.

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About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business with a physical presence in 46 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, and flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. Renowned and trusted for our expert live and online-only auctions, as well as bespoke [Private Sales](#), Christie's unparalleled network of specialists offers our clients a full portfolio of [global services](#), including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$500 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction, launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art and manages [an investment fund](#) to support innovative startups in the art market. Christie's is also committed to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide. To [learn more](#), browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at [christies.com](#) or by downloading Christie's apps.

** 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.*

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