

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2012

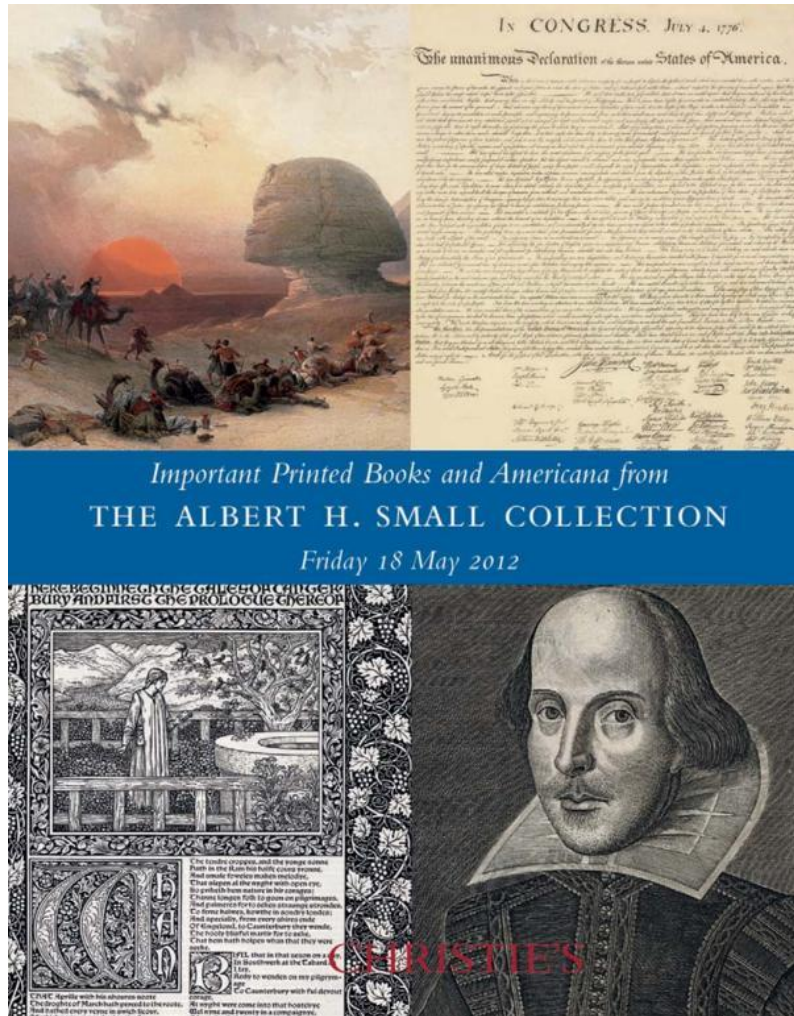
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IMPORTANT PRINTED BOOKS AND AMERICANA FROM THE ALBERT H. SMALL COLLECTION AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK



New York- On May 18, Christie's is privileged to offer the sale of *Important Printed Books and Americana from The Albert H. Small Collection*. This wide-ranging collection features original historical and presidential letters and documents including a hand-drawn survey by the 18-year-old George Washington. In another letter, written in 1789, Washington congratulates James Madison on his election to serve in the first Congress. An early edition of Thomas Paine's revolutionary *Common Sense* is part of the collection, as are letters and documents of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, with several large-format editions of the Declaration. The Small collection contains an excellent copy of a striking print by Paul Revere, depicting the Boston massacre in 1770, an incident which contributed to the rift between the American colonies and Great Britain. Revere's graphic, hand

colored print constitutes early political propaganda. London cartographer Thomas Jeffery published *The American Atlas* in 1776, and its 22 engraved maps constitute the most important 18th century atlas of America, depicting the early battles of the Revolution.

Among presidential items is a letter dated 1804 in which President Thomas Jefferson explains why he has been forced to limit his charitable contributions while serving as president. The collection also contains a very rare ship's passport, issued in April 1841, signed by President William Henry Harrison. Harrison served only 30 days in the White House before succumbing to influenza, which makes any item signed by him an exceptional rarity. From the Civil War era is a rare edition of Alexander Gardner's Photographic *Sketch Book of the War* (1865-1866), containing some of the most famous and harrowing images of the American Civil War.

In the printed book section, the earliest item is a full-page from Johann Gutenberg's Latin Bible, 1455, the first substantial book printed with movable type. Small's collection contains an elephant folio copy of John James Audubon's *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* (1845-1854), with superb hand colored depictions of American mammals, several finally bound sets of the smaller size editions of Audubon's *Birds and Quadrupeds*, and an original painting by John Woodhouse Audubon, for a print in the *Quadrupeds*. The artist George Catlin is represented by a fine copy of his *North American Indian Portfolio*, with detailed depictions of the buffalo hunt and other aspects of Indian life. Another fine color plate volume is Maximilian zu Weid-Neuwied, *Travels in the Interior of North America*, with many finely executed plates after Carl Bodmer.

Some 400 years later, another printer, William Morris, at the Kelmscott Press, printed a celebrated edition of Geoffrey Chaucer, illustrated with striking woodcuts by Edward Burne-Jones, in its original white pigskin binding. Finished in 1896, it is a unique achievement. Albert Small was especially interested in the works of Humphry Repton, a British designer of the early 19th century specializing in landscape architecture. He prepared detailed renderings of proposed gardens, and used movable over-slips to highlight the proposed renovations. These beautifully prepared "red books," bound in red leather, are now rare. The Small collection features a remarkable series of manuscripts and imprints of Repton. The artist David Roberts traveled in the near East and published an extensive collection of hand-colored lithographs of *The Holy Land, Syria, Idumea, Arabia, Egypt and Nubia*, (London 1842-1849), comprising six large folio volumes. The collection also contains excellent copies of the second, third and fourth editions of William Shakespeare's *Comedies, Histories and Tragedies* (1623, 1664, 1685), containing all of Shakespeare's dramatic works.

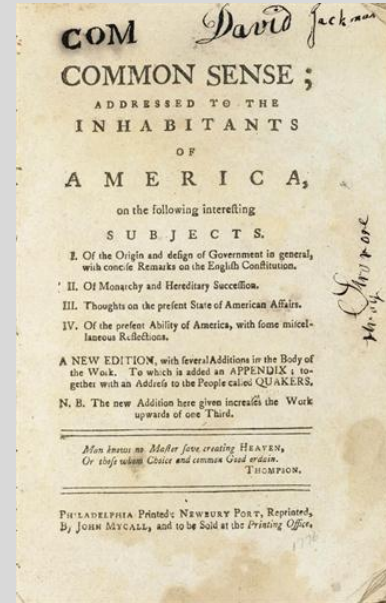
Albert Small, a native Washingtonian, studied engineering at the University of Virginia, and launched a highly successful engineering and architectural firm, Southern Engineering. Over the last half-century, Albert Small has given many impressive collections to public institutions. In 2004, he gave to the University of Virginia his many editions of the Declaration of Independence, highlighted by his copy of the 1776 John Dunlop broadside (and six other early printings). In addition to his extensive gifts, Small has served on many civic and cultural boards, including the Madison Council of the Library of Congress, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian, the National Archives, the National Symphony, and others. In 2009, the nation recognized his many years of generous public service when President Barack Obama, at the White House, awarded Small the Presidential Humanities Medal. Christie's is honored to have been chosen to handle the dispersal of this final portion from Albert Small's extensive collection.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



Paul Revere (1734-1818). *The Bloody Massacre perpetrated in King Street, Boston, on March 5th 1770, by Party of the 29th REG^t.* Boston: Engrav'd Printed & Sold by Paul Revere, March 1770.

Estimate: \$120,000-180,000



Thomas Paine. *Common Sense; Addressed to the Inhabitants of America, on the following interesting Subjects...* Printed Philadelphia. Re-printed Newburyport: John Mycall, [1776].

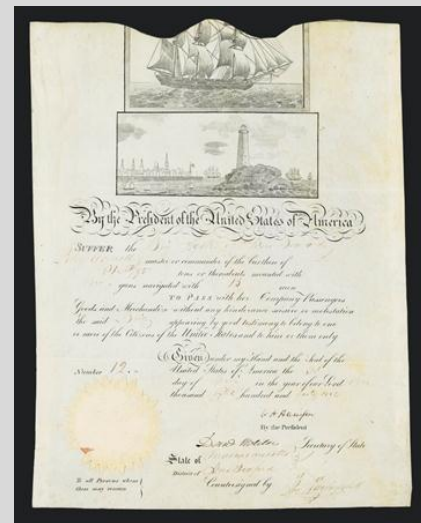
Estimate: \$10,000-15,000



Alexander Gardner (1821-1882), *photographer. Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the War.* Washington: Philip & Solomons, [1865-1866].

First Edition of Gardner's Collection of Compelling Civil War Photographs

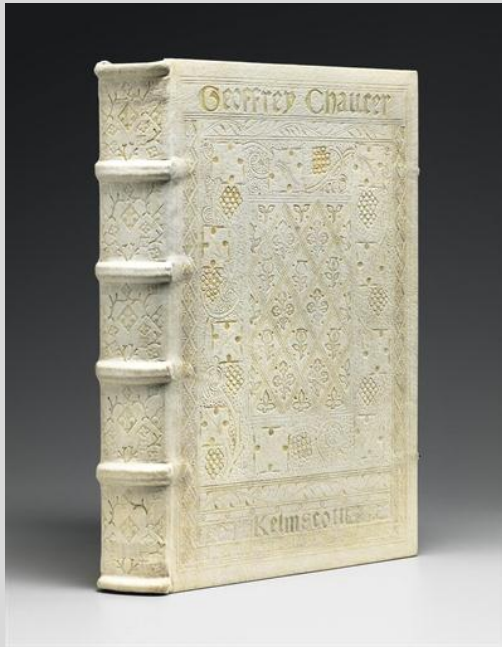
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000



William Henry Harrison (1773-1841), President. Engraved document signed ("W.H. Harrison") as President

Documents signed by Harrison while President are extremely rare as a result of his short term. It is thought that no more than two dozen such documents exist.

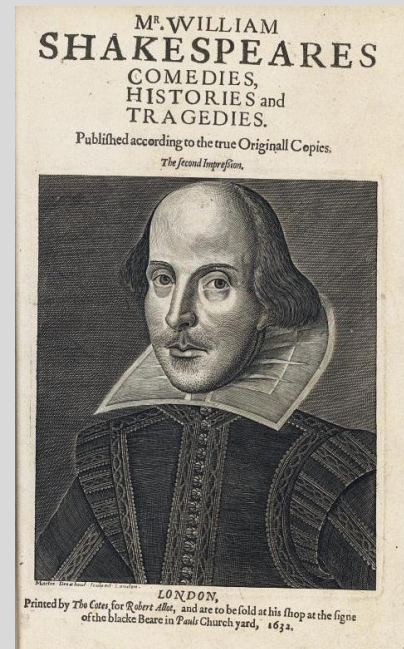
Estimate: \$80,000-120,000



[Kelmscott Press]. Geoffrey Chaucer. *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*. Edited by F. S. Ellis. Hammersmith, 8 May 1896.

The Masterpiece of The Kelmscott Press. Limited Edition, One of 425 Copies On Paper From A Total Edition Of 438, and one of approximately 50 copies commissioned in this binding.

Estimate: \$120,000-180,000



William Shakespeare (1564-1616). *Comedies, Histories and Tragedies. Published according to the true Originall Copies. The second Impression*. Edited by John Heminge (d. 1630) and Henry Condell (d. 1627). London: Printed by *Tho Cotes*, for *Robert Allot*, and are to be sold at his shop at the signe of the blacke Beare in *Pauls Church Yard*, 1632 [i.e., ca 1641].

Second Folio Edition, third (and rarest) issue of the second collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, known as the Second Folio.

Estimate: \$250,000-350,000

Auction: *Important Printed Books and Americana*
from *The Albert H. Small Collection*

May 18 at 2pm

Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

May 11- 17

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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Images available on request

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