

# CHRISTIE'S

**Dr. James D. Watson's Nobel Medal and Related Papers**

**New York, 4 December 2014, Sale #11122**

[All sold prices include buyer's premium]

Lot	Description	Estimate (\$)	Price Realized	Buyer
<b>3 lots sold</b> <b>3 lots offered</b>		<b>Total: \$5,367,000/£3,434,880/€4,347,270</b> <b>£0.64= \$1 / € 0.81=\$1</b>	<b>100% sold by lot</b> <b>100% sold by value</b>	
<b>1</b>	Watson, James Dewey. 1962 Nobel Prize Medal in Medicine or Physiology for his work on the discovery of DNA's structure. 23 carat gold, 66 mm diameter (approx. 2 5/8 in.). <b>WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR ANY NOBEL PRIZE</b>	2,500,000 - 3,500,000	<b>\$4,757,000</b> <b>£3,044,480</b> <b>€3,853,170</b>	Anonymous
<b>2</b>	Watson, James D. The Nobel Prize "Banquet" Speech . Manuscript draft notes for the Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech. 5 pages on four leaves, small 8vo (170 x 135 mm), in blue ink on Grand Hotel Stockholm stationery. Stockholm, December 9, 1962.	300,000 - 400,000	<b>\$365,000</b> <b>£233,600</b> <b>€295,650</b>	Anonymous
<b>3</b>	Watson, James D. "The Involvement of RNA in the Synthesis of Proteins." Original Holograph Manuscript for Watson's Nobel Lecture delivered on December 11, 1962. 46 pp.	200,000 - 300,000	<b>\$245,000</b> <b>£156,800</b> <b>€198,450</b>	Anonymous

**Francis Wahlgren, Christie's International Director of Books & Manuscripts**, comments: *"We are honored to have been entrusted with the sale of the Nobel Prize medal awarded in 1962 to Dr. James Watson for his part in one of the most pivotal scientific discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the structure of DNA. The bidding opened at \$1.5 million and proceeded swiftly upward as a three-way battle between clients on the phone, until one bidder dropped out at the \$3.8 million mark. The remaining two phone bidders battled on in increments of \$100,000, until the final, record-setting price of \$4.76 million was achieved – more than double the previous price realized for a Nobel Prize medal at auction. These historic prices, as well as the strong prices achieved for Dr. Watson's Nobel acceptance speech and lecture manuscript, demonstrate the growing strength in the market for the iconic pieces related to the early understanding and development of the implications of DNA and its growing relevance today."*

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**Next Sale:** Paris, 9 December, Livres et Manuscrits

Please click [here](#) to view the full international schedule of upcoming sales from the Books & Manuscripts department at Christie's

*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.*