

# CHRISTIE'S

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## AMERICANA WEEK 2015

MASTERPIECES OF RARITY AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO BE OFFERED  
ACROSS THE SALES OF IMPORTANT AMERICAN FURNITURE, OUTSIDER AND FOLK  
ART, SILVER AND CHINESE EXPORT ART

INCLUDING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ESTATES OF ERIC MARTIN WUNSCH, JANE SUPINO, VICTOR  
GAIL AND THOMAS H. OXFORD, ALLAN STONE  
AND THE SOWELL COLLECTION OF CHINESE EXPORT ART



Important American Silver  
January 22



American Furniture,  
Outsider and Folk Art  
January 23

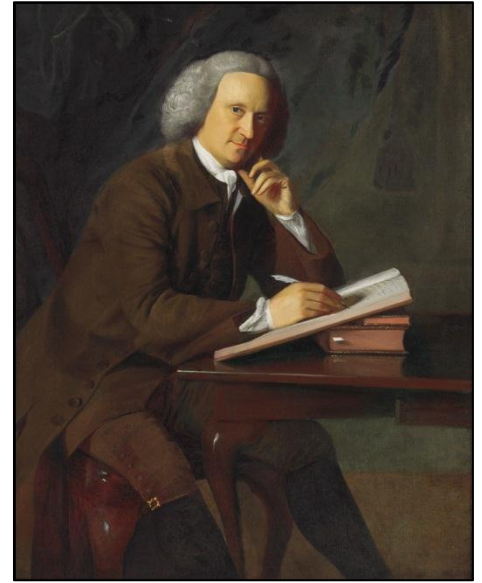


MANDARIN & MENAGERIE:  
The Sowell Collection and Chinese  
Export Art from Various Owners  
January 26

**New York** – Christie's is pleased to announce that *Americana Week 2015*, a series of auctions, viewings and events, will be held from January 16-26. The week of sales is comprised of *Important American Silver* on January 22, *Important American Furniture, Outsider and Folk Art* on January 23, and *Mandarin & Menagerie: The Sowell Collection and Chinese Export Art from Various Owners* on January 26. These sales are driven by important private collections, and include Property from the Estates of Jane Supino, Eric Martin Wunsch, and Victor Gail and Thomas H. Oxford as well as the Sowell Collection of Chinese Export Art. In all, *Americana Week 2015* will offer over 520 lots and is expected to realize upwards of \$6 million. In conjunction with the sales, Christie's will also host the third annual Eric M. Wunsch Award for Excellence in the American Arts on January 21, honoring Arnold Lehman and The Chipstone Foundation.

Christie's sale of *Important American Furniture, Outsider and Folk Art* will present more than 200 lots from the 17<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and is expected to realize in excess of \$3 million.

Leading the sale is American painter John Singleton Copley's 1764 *Portrait of Samuel Phillips Savage* (illustrated right; estimate: \$500,000 - 700,000). This portrait remained in the Savage family for 200 years over five generations. Patriarch Samuel Savage played an integral part of the events that led up to the American Revolution, as an active supporter in the American cause. He was the moderator of two open meetings held by Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty at the Old South Meeting House leading up to the Boston Tea Party, and he chronicled the event itself in his diary: "16 december - 342 Chests of Tea shipped [sic] by the E India Company and Consigned to Richard Clarke & Sons, Benj Faneuil junr & Govr Hutchinson 2 Sons, Tho.' & Elisha, was by a Number of persons unknown, disguised like Indians taken out of 3 Ships...& thrown into the Sea/ all done in 110 minutes." The painting comes to the sale from the Honorable J. William Middendorf II.



Following Copley's portrait in the sale is a Chippendale carved cherrywood desk-and-bookcase from Lancaster, Pennsylvania made circa 1785 (illustrated below; estimate: \$400,000 - 600,000). A masterful expression of American regionalism, this desk-and-bookcase is one of the most significant survivals of the distinctive school of craftsmanship that flourished in late eighteenth-century Lancaster County. Combining English and Germanic woodworking traditions, this school made a variety of case forms but few are as elaborate as the desk-and-bookcase offered here. Only four other desk-and-bookcases with relief-carved tympanums of comparable quality are known, three of which are in museum collections. The desk offered here is further distinguished by its old surface, Israel Sack provenance and ownership in the Coleman family for the past fifty years.



This sale tells the story of collecting and collections, and several prominent collections anchor the sale. Property from The Estates of **Eric Martin Wunsch**, **Jane Supino**, and **Allan Stone** offer fresh-to-the market works sought after for their excellent condition and rich provenance. Property from the **Gail-Oxford Collection of American Art** and **The Rosebrook Collection** are impressive in their scope and quality.

A Queen Anne parcel-gilt tall-case clock by William Claggett, circa 1740 (illustrated page 1; estimate: \$100,000 - 150,000) is a stunning object from the Estate of Eric Martin Wunsch. This tall-case clock is an unusually elaborate and rare survival of early Rhode Island craftsmanship, combining the talents of Newport's preeminent colonial clockmaker and a local cabinetmaker.

In addition, Property from the Gail-Oxford Collection will offer more than 60 lots from Victor Gail's (1929-2014) and Thomas H. Oxford's (1927-2008) home in the Belmont Heights section of Long Beach, and includes examples of early American furniture, folk art and metalware. The proceeds of the sale of the Gail-Oxford Collection will benefit the American decorative arts collection at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, an organization the duo long supported.



**Property from the Estate of Jane Supino**

Attributed to Ruth Whittier (1803-1882) and Samuel Addison (1803-1836) Shute  
*Portrait of Sarah Chandler Emerson*  
 graphite, gouache and watercolor on paper  
 Estimate: \$20,000 – 50,000

With an hypnotic stare and distinctive, exaggerated almond-shaped eyes, this work is one of the celebrated large-format portraits produced by the short-lived husband and wife partnership of Samuel Addison and Ruth Whittier Shute.



**Property from the Rosebrook Collection**

A Queen Anne Mahogany Turret-Top Card Table With Drawer  
 Boston, 1740-1760  
 Estimate: \$30,000 – 50,000

This table represents one of the best examples of the form favored by Boston cabinetmakers in the decades before the Revolutionary War. Distinguished by its rich old surface, the table has graceful cabriole legs below bold turret-top corners and ogee shaping along the apron and knee returns. The work is a rare survival of a small group, probably numbering less than ten in total.



**Property from the Gail-Oxford Collection**

A Carved, Painted And Polychrome-Decorated Figure Of Abraham Lincoln  
 Probably American, 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
 Estimate: \$5,000 – 10,000



**Property from the Allan Stone Collection**

A Carved, Painted And Polychrome-Decorated Cigar Store Indian Princess  
 Attributed To Samuel Anderson Robb (1851-1928),  
 New York, Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
 Estimate: \$30,000 – 50,000

Rounding out the sale is a selection of superb Outsider Art by some of the most important American self-taught artists, including William Hawkins, Bill Traylor, and Thornton Dial, among others. This sale offers collectors the opportunity to acquire rare works from these critically acclaimed, widely-exhibited artmakers.

OUTSIDER ART SALE HIGHLIGHTS



William Hawkins (1895-1990)  
*White Elephant*, dated to 1989  
 enamel and collage on Masonite  
 Estimate: \$20,000 – 40,000

Renowned self-taught artist William Hawkins is known for his graphic, large-scale images depicting animals, architecture, religious scenes and historic events. In 1989, the artist was particularly interested in both animals and grayscale work, though these two areas of exploration are not often found within the same composition. *White Elephant* is an excellent and unusual marriage of the technical and content-based concerns that mark this period of the artist's creation. This piece is a study in texture and paint manipulation. A collaged, printed human eye, likely drawn from a magazine, brings the elephant to life and adds a humorous pop of color to the form.



Bill Traylor (1854 -1949)  
*Black Mule*, dated circa 1939-42  
opaque watercolor and graphite on found card  
Estimate: \$20,000 – 40,000

This large-format mule renders a strong and solid animal through bold opaque watercolor. After a lifetime on a plantation, former slave Traylor moved to Montgomery, Alabama, in his old age. Crippled with rheumatism, he began to draw. Traylor worked on found cardboard, and per later accounts would hang his drawings by a small loop of string along a nearby fence. *Black Mule* retains this string fastened through a puncture at the top of the composition.



**Property from the Collection of Calynne and Lou Hill**  
Thornton Dial, (b. 1928)  
*Got Big. Picking Up*, dated 1999  
charcoal and graphite on paper  
Estimate: \$3,000 – 5,000

Dial's works on paper address more intimate subjects than his mixed-media constructions, and the solid, sweeping lines paired with subtle highlights of color in *Got Big. Picking Up* create a sophisticated balance of strength and softness.

## IMPORTANT AMERICAN SILVER - JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>



The **Important Silver** sale on January 22 will offer more than 50 lots of American Colonial silver from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The selection includes four pieces consigned by Old South Church in Boston, and many other pieces fresh to the market, including examples by America's earliest silversmiths, John Hull and Robert Sanderson, and their successors Jeremiah Dummer, John Coney, Jacob Hurd, and Paul Revere. The silver craft in New York is represented by works by Jurian Blanck Jr., the city's earliest silversmith, and the important makers Peter Van Dyck and Myer Myers.

Highlighting the Colonial section, and among over 40 lots from the Estate of Eric Martin Wunsch, is a silver teapot by Paul Revere made for his important patron Moses Michael Hays (estimate: \$200,000 - 300,000). *The Andrew Diamond silver serving plate* by Jeremiah Dummer, circa 1690, is a new discovery; this previously unrecorded plate features extremely rare and elaborate baroque engraving, and is only the fourth known serving plate of the early Colonial period (illustrated left; estimate: \$250,000-350,000). Also by Jeremiah Dummer, who was America's first native-born silversmith, is a massive 17<sup>th</sup>-century silver wine cup from Old South Church (estimate: \$150,000-250,000).

Highlighting the selection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American works is a whimsical Alaskan style silver ice bowl, featuring icicles and polar bears on ice floes, circa 1868 (estimate: \$20,000-30,000); a rare pair of Martele silver ewers with Poseidon and mermaid handles from Gorham's art nouveau silver line (illustrated right; estimate: \$100,000-150,000); and a pair of silver Chrysanthemum-pattern seven-light candelabra by Tiffany, which are among the 20 lots of this popular pattern in the auction (estimate: \$40,000-60,000).



## SILVER HIGHLIGHTS



A Silver ice bowl in Alaskan style  
Gorham Mfg .Co., Providence, circa 1868  
Estimate: \$20,000 - 30,000



A pair of silver Chrysanthemum-pattern seven light  
candelabra Tiffany and Co.  
New York 1907-47  
Estimate: \$40,000 - 60,000



A rare silver-drum form teapot and cream jug  
made for Moses Michael Hays  
Paul Revere, Boston, 1783  
Estimate: \$200,000 - 300,000

## MANDARIN & MENAGERIE:

### The Sowell Collection and Chinese Export Art from Various Owners - JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup>

MANDARIN & MENAGERIE: The Sowell Collection, formed over the last 25 years by Texan James E. Sowell, is comprised of Chinese export porcelain birds, animals and figures, including rare and important examples as well as small, charming pieces. The sale also features an old American private collection of European subject porcelain, highlighted by a rare Don Quixote plate (illustrated at right; estimate: \$12,000 -18,000). Top lot is a famille rose rooster tureen and cover, *circa* 1785 (illustrated page 1; estimate: \$100,000 - 150,000); also included is an unusually good selection of China Trade paintings in oil and on paper. The sale offers almost 200 lots and is expected to make in excess of \$2 million.



## CHINESE EXPORT SALE HIGHLIGHTS



A Massive Blue And White Jar And A Cover  
Kangxi period  
Estimate: \$12,000 - 18,000



A Large Pair Of Famille Rose Court  
Lady Candleholders  
*Circa* 1770  
Estimate: \$40,000 - 60,000

## AMERICANA WEEK

Important Silver | Thursday, 22 January 2015 | 10am

American Furniture | Friday, 23 January 2015 | 10am

Mandarin & Menagerie: The Sowell Collection and Chinese Export Art from Various Owners | Monday, 26 January 2015 | 10am

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## About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totaled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year total in Christie's history. 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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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