

CHRISTIE'S

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RUSSIAN AMERICA AND POLAR EXPLORATION: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARTIN GREENE LIBRARY



KRUZENSHTERN, Ivan. *Reise um die Welt in den Jahren 1803, 1804, 1805, und 1806 auf den Schiffen Nadeshda und Newa*. St. Petersburg: for the author at the Schoor press, 1810-1814. Including the atlas with 110 plates and a double-page world map. Estimate: \$350,000-450,000



CRESSWELL, S.G. *A Series of Eight Sketches ... of the Voyage of the H.M.S. Investigator (Captain M'Clure), during the Discovery of the North-west Passage*. London: 1854. A first edition, presentation copy. Estimate: \$30,000-50,000

New York—Christie's is pleased to present [Russian America and Polar Exploration: Highlights from the Martin Greene Library](#), a choice selection of important books chronicling the exploration of our planet's extremes. The auction will take place on Thursday, December 7 at Christie's Rockefeller Plaza. Spanning a period of 400 years, from the 16th to the 20th centuries, Martin Greene's library includes myriad stories of adventure, scientific discovery, cultural encounters and geopolitical ambition.

Martin Greene, a Seattle-based doctor and mountaineer, has spent decades collecting books related to his passion of travel and exploration. The selection offered in this sale contains rarities from first hand-accounts to cartography—with a range including Pacific Voyages, the search for the Northwest and Northeast Passages, the search for Sir John Franklin's lost expedition, and the race to the North and South Poles. Moreover, Greene has acquired the most important collection of books relating to Alaska when it was a Russian possession which has ever appeared at auction.

Among the top lots is an extremely rare and beautiful account and atlas of [Ivan Kruzenshtern's voyage of 1802-1806, the first Russian circumnavigation of the globe](#) (estimate: \$350,000-450,000). Not only is it among the most splendid works of 19th century Russian printing it also contains important views of the Northwest Coast of America. Russia's great rival Britain launched the greatest number of Arctic expeditions; dozens of which centered on the search for the missing explorer, Sir John Franklin, and his crew. Another highlight is [an 1854 first edition of S.G. Cresswell's illustrations of the Franklin Search expedition led by Robert McClure](#) (estimate: \$30,000-50,000), inscribed by the artist. McClure and his men were the first to traverse the Northwest Passage. America, too, entered the game and with great ambition. Charles Wilkes led the first ever American scientific voyage, the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842. Another highlight is a [rare Congressional issue of Wilkes's account](#) (estimate: \$60,000-90,000). The project was plagued by budget overrun and only 100 sets of these official accounts were printed, many of which were destroyed in the 1851 Library of Congress fire.

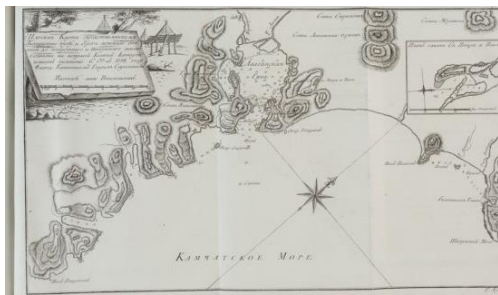
PREVIEW

New York | Friday, December 1 to Wednesday, December 6

BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS | NEW YORK SALES

[Fine Printed Books & Manuscripts Including Americana](#) | December 5 | 10am & 2pm

[Russian America & Polar Exploration: Highlights from the Martin Greene Library](#) | December 7 | 10am & 2pm



SARYCHEV, Gavril Andreevich (1763-1831). *Puteshestvie Flota Kapitana Sarycheva*. [The Voyage of Fleet Captain Sarycheva.] St. Petersburg, 1802. Estimate: \$60,000-90,000



CHORIS, Ludovik. *Voyage pittoresque autour du monde....* Paris: 1822. The first edition, with 105 hand-colored plates. Estimate: \$90,000-130,000



WILKES, Charles. *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition during the Years 1838-1842*. Philadelphia: 1844. Estimate: \$60,000-90,000

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2015 that totalled £4.8 billion / \$7.4 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. 2016 marks Christie's 250th anniversary. 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 350 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.

Christie's has a global presence with 54 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.

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