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AMERICAN CARTOGRAPHY LEADS SWANN GALLERIES' MAP DEPARTMENT TO FIRST MILLION-DOLLAR SALE

New York—Swann Galleries' **December 8** auction of **Maps & Atlases, Natural History & Color Plate Books featuring The Mapping of America** brought over \$1.27 million, making it the highest-grossing sale in the Map department to date.

The sale was headlined by William Faden's *The North American Atlas*, London, 1777 [circa 1780], a rare and important atlas pertaining to the American Revolution. It sold for \$341,000, a record for the atlas at auction. Alex Clausen, Swann Galleries' Maps & Atlases, Natural History & Color Plate Books specialist said, "The sale of Faden's *North American Atlas* for \$341,000 reinforces Swann Galleries' position as the foremost place to buy and sell atlases and American cartographic material."

Other top performers from *The Mapping of America* section included Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's *History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark*, New York, 1814, detailing their famed exploration of the western United States, which realized \$52,500. John Melish's *Map of the United States with the contiguous British & Spanish Possessions*, Philadelphia, 1816, was the first large-format American map to depict the nation from coast to coast; this near-pristine example brought \$42,500. Another atlas, Jodocus Hondius and Gerard Mercator's *Historia Mundi: or Mercator's Atlas*, London, 1635 [1637], with 183 engraved maps, sold for \$20,000.

Many of the items in the sale had particular historical significance tied to them as well. A copy of John Disturnell's engraved folding map, *Mapa de los Estados Unidos de Méjico*, New York, 1847, was the map used to negotiate the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, one of the most important treaties in US history. The copy in Swann's sale sold for \$40,000. Andrew Ellicott's *Plan of the City of Washington*, Philadelphia, 1792, was the first "official" plan of the nation's capital; it realized \$20,000. The only map by founding father Thomas Jefferson, *A map of the country between Albemarle Sound, and Lake Erie*, London, 1787, realized \$18,750; while the only copy of the rare 1794 final state of Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson's *A Map of the most inhabited part of Virginia* known to come to auction in the last 50 years brought \$20,000.

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Among the other maps and atlases, Peter van den Keere's atlas *Germania Inferior* including the Leo Belgicus map, Amsterdam, 1617 [but later], sold for \$11,250; while Abraham Ortelius's *Typus Orbis Terrarum [First Plate]*, a double-page engraved world map, Antwerp, 1571 or 1573, realized \$9,100. Jean le Clerc and Nicholas Sanson's *Atlas Antiquus Sacer*, Amsterdam, 1706, an atlas of both the ancient and modern world with a particular focus on the Holy Land, sold for \$8,125.

In the Natural History and Color Plate Books category, groups of hand-colored engraved plates by Mark Catesby from the first edition of his book, *The Natural History of Carolina [etc.]*, sold well: a group of thirty one sold for \$11,250, while another group of fifteen sold for \$8,750. Currier & Ives and Francis "Fanny" Palmer's *"The Lightning Express" Trains. "Leaving the Junction,"* New York, 1863, brought \$15,000. A three-volume set of Sir William Hamilton's *Collection of Etruscan, Greek, and Roman Antiquities from the Cabinet of the Honble. Wm. Hamilton*, Naples, 1766-76, with 390 etchings and engravings, many hand-colored, brought \$47,500.

Complete results are available online via www.swanngalleries.com.

Swann Galleries' first Maps & Atlases, Natural History & Color Plate Books auction of 2016 will take place on May 26.

For further information, or to consign items to upcoming Maps & Atlases auctions, please contact Alex Clausen at 212-254-4710, extension 17, or via email at aclausen@swanngalleries.com.

*Prices include buyer's premium.

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