



104 East 25th Street • New York, NY 10010
Telephone: 212.254.4710 • Fax: 212.979.1017
swannalleries.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2016

Contact: Alexandra Nelson
Communications Director
212.254.4710 ext. 19
alexandra@swannalleries.com

Central Asian Travel Books Exceeded Expectations at Swann Galleries' Spring Early Printed Books Auction

New York—Swann Galleries' **April 12** auction of **Early Printed, Medical, Scientific & Travel Books** brought over \$475,000, with travel books and manuscript material performing particularly well.

Specialist Tobias Abeloff said, "Early English books and manuscripts and works on Central Asia by the scholar-explorer Sir Marc Aurel Stein were the most sought-after items in this strong sale."

The strongest performers, among the many lots related to Hungarian-British archaeologist Sir Marc Aurel Stein, were a first edition of Stein's magnum opus, *Serindia: Detailed Report of Explorations in Central Asia and Westernmost China*, Oxford, 1921, which realized \$18,750*; and a first edition of *The Thousand Buddhas: Ancient Buddhist Paintings from the Cave-Temples of Tun-huang in the Western Frontier of China*, London, 1921, a collection of plates reproducing paintings recovered during his 1906-08 expedition, which brought \$6,000. Other travel books that sold well included a third edition of Gottlieb William Leitner's *The Languages and Races of Dardistan*, Lahore, 1878, which eclipsed its high estimate, selling for \$2,210; and a first edition of Oscar Johannes Ludwig Eckenstein's *The Karakorams and Kashmir. An Account of a Journey*, London, 1896, which more than doubled its high estimate when it brought \$2,600.

Among the manuscript materials, a work in English by Robert Robinson titled *A Miscelany of Meditations, Sentences, Observations, Characters, and Essayes*, London, 1659 was among the top lots of the sale, realizing \$30,000. Other top-performing items included [*Forest Laws*], seventy manuscript vellum leaves detailing laws on hunting rights, land use and more, Great Britain, circa 1600, which brought \$6,500. A manuscript in French titled *Recueil de Pièces Érotiques et d'autre Genre*, consisting of excerpts from writings by the Marquis de Sade and many others, [France], 1822, brought \$1,125.

Standouts among the early printed books included a third edition of Giovanni Boccaccio's *A Treatise ... shewing ... the falles of sondry most notable Princes and Princesses*, London, (1554), which sold for \$13,750; a first edition of *Nova legenda Anglie*, (London: Wynkyn de Worde, 1516), which realized \$10,625; and a first edition of Reginald Scot's *The Discoverie of Witchcraft*, London, 1584, which brought

MORE

\$30,000. Theatrical works also sold well, with a first edition of Sir William Davenant's adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, London, 1674, selling for \$30,000; and a first collected edition, three-volume set of *The Workes* by Ben Jonson, London, 1640-41, realizing \$7,500.

The department's next auction will occur in October 2016. For further information, or to consign items to upcoming Early Printed, Medical, Scientific & Travel Book auctions, please contact Specialist Tobias Abeloff: tabeloff@swanngalleries.com, or via phone at 212-254-4710, ex.18.

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

*Prices include buyer's premium.

#

CATALOGUE AND ADDITIONAL DIGITAL IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST