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\$112k Family Archive Tops Swann Americana Sale Manuscript & Unique Printed Works Exceed Estimates in Record-Breaking Auction

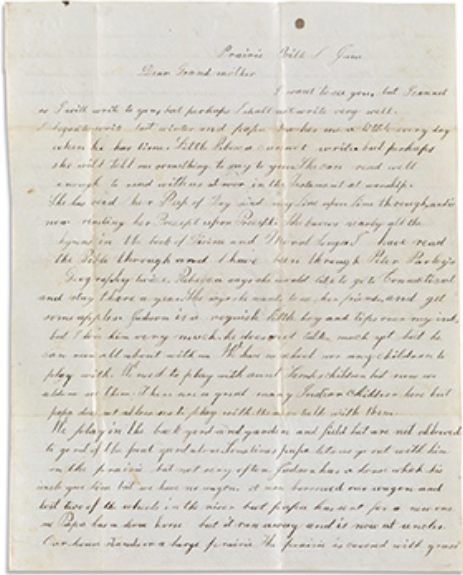


New York—Hordes of history-lovers came out to attend the preview for **Swann Auction Galleries'** auction of **Printed & Manuscript Americana** on **Thursday, September 28**. The sale featured a trove of unique material, much of which had never previously been seen on the market. Department Director Rick Stattler said, "This sale emphasized quality over quantity. At 325 lots, it was one of the smallest Americana sales we've ever done, but the total hammer was the best of our past four Americana sales, and it finished above the top of its estimate range."

The top lot in the sale was an archive of 245 letters that spanned nearly a century by **early frontier missionaries** in Minnesota, which was sold to a private collector for \$112,500—triple the pre-sale estimate, and the highest price ever realized for an archive at Swann. Collectors also won a first-edition Book of Mormon for \$37,500, and a New Hampshire broadside proclaiming the end of the Revolution for \$22,500.

A burgeoning section of photographic works performed exceptionally well, with a set of **cyanotype albums** compiled by E. Radford Bascome, chronicling the construction of the Williamsburg Bridge, 1897-1903, reaching \$30,000, above a high estimate of \$6,000. *McClees' Gallery of Photographic Portraits... of the Thirty-Fifth Congress*, 1859, was one of the first photographically illustrated books published in the United States; it was purchased for \$11,250.

Latin Americana was successful in this sale, led by a pair of early manuscripts by Baja California missionaries that brought \$27,500 and \$11,250, respectively, and Fernando de Cepeda's rare 1637 book on Mexican engineering, which brought \$12,500. Among the earliest examples of printing in the Americas are legal power-of-attorney forms printed in sixteenth-century Mexico: a previously unknown example, printed circa 1572, brought a record \$2,000. All but one of the lots in this section found buyers, earning \$115,272 and exceeding the high estimate for the run.



Institutions bid actively throughout the auction. The biggest prize was a medical journal kept aboard the frigate *Deane* during the American Revolution, which went to the Society of the Cincinnati. Other institutions purchased the papers of naval surgeon Pierre St. Medard, an early manuscript cookbook from Mexico and a logbook of an 1804-16 seal-hunting expedition off the coast of Antarctica.

Mr. Stattler added, "Buyers seemed confident and we even noted a few impulse purchases by disciplined collectors on the sale floor. The market remains strong for unique and interesting material."

Swann Auction Galleries is a third-generation family business as well as the world's largest auction house for works on paper. In the last 75 years, Swann has repeatedly revolutionized the trade with such innovations as the first U.S. auction dedicated to photographs and the world's only department of African-American Fine Art. More than 30 auctions and previews are held annually in Swann Galleries' two-floor exhibition space in Midtown Manhattan, and online worldwide. Visit swannalleries.com for more information.