

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 April 22, 2019

Contact: Alexandra Nelson
 Communications Director
 212-254-4710 ext. 19
alexandra@swannalleries.com

Mexican Imprints Bring Significant Interest in Swann Americana Sale



PRINTED & MANUSCRIPT AMERICANA Sale 2505; April 16, 2019

All prices include Buyer's Premium

New York–Swann Galleries’ **Printed & Manuscript Americana** sale on **Thursday, April 16** was the house’s third straight sale in the category to finish over \$1,000,000, bringing several significant records. Institutions made up the bulk of the buyers. Specialist Rick Stattler commented: “The market remains vigorous for scarce and important material, with five-figure highlights in all of our main subject areas: early American imprints, the American Revolution, Civil War, Mormons, the West, and Latin Americana.”

Mexican imprints proved to be popular with six earning top prices in the sale. Highlights included a first edition 1674 pamphlet by famed Mexican poetess **Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz**, consisting of Christmas carols to be sung in honor of the thirteenth-century St. Pedro Nolasco. It set a record for the author at \$45,000. Juan Navarro’s 1604 *Liber in quo quatuor passiones Christi Domini continentur*, the first music by a New World composer printed in the Americas, earned \$32,500, and a first edition of Alonso de Molina’s 1565 full-length confessional manual with instructions on the administration of the sacraments, written in Nahuatl and Spanish, brought \$21,250. Mexican manuscripts featured an extensive illustrated file detailing a land dispute between a ranch owner and his Nahua neighbors, with 350 manuscript pages (\$30,000).

“The successful sale of the Holzer Lincolniana collection last fall brought in a strong group of related material for this auction, including our top lot, a beautiful portrait of Lincoln by **Matthew Henry Wilson**,” said Stattler—the artist’s copy of the last portrait rendered from life set a record for Wilson at \$55,000. Other Lincoln and Civil War material of note included a newspaper extra from Detroit announcing Lincoln’s assassination, which topped its high estimate at \$15,000, a likely record for any newspaper with that news, and Benson Lossing’s *Pictorial History of the Civil War of the United States of America*, 1866-68, (\$15,000).



Texas material was led by the manuscript diary of William Farrar Smith documenting the 1849 Whiting-Smith Expedition to form a trail from San Antonio to El Paso (\$47,500) and a first edition of Batholomé Garcia’s *Manual para Administrar los Santos Sacramentos*, 1760, the only early work published in the Pakawan language (\$13,000).



Lots relating to the early days of America included the May 6, 1775 issue of the *Virginia Gazette* which reports first-hand accounts of the battles of Lexington and Concord, at \$12,500, and a journal of contemporary manuscript notes dated 1788, from the Massachusetts convention to ratify the Federal Constitution, emphasizing the need for a Bill of Rights and for sovereignty of the states, at \$16,250.

Additional auction records included a rare corrected variant of the 1852 Liverpool Book of Mormon, which brought \$41,600, a record for any European Mormon publication, as well as an 1850s whaling diary kept by captain’s wife Alida Taber, which earned the highest known price for a woman’s whaling dairy, at \$15,000.

The next auction from Swann Galleries’ Books & Manuscripts Department will be 19th & 20th Century Literature on May 14. Visit swanngalleries.com or download the Swann Galleries App for catalogues, bidding and inquires.

Additional highlights can be found [here](#).

Captions:

[Lot 274](#): Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, *Villancicos que se cantaron en los maitines del gloriosissimo Padre S. Pedro Nolasco*, first edition, Mexico, 1677. Sold for \$45,000, a record for the poetess.

[Lot 113](#): Matthew Henry Wilson, *Abraham Lincoln*, oil on canvas, an artist’s copy of the last portrait rendered from life, 1865. Sold for \$55,000.

[Lot 17](#): Issue of the *Virginia Gazette* with coverage of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Williamsburg, May 6, 1775. Sold for \$12,500.

Specialist: Rick Stattler • rstattler@swanngalleries.com • 212-254-4710 x 27

Press: Alexandra Nelson • alexandra@swanngalleries.com • 212-254-4710 x 19

Social media: @swanngalleries

#

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE, ADDL. IMAGES & COMPLETE PRICES REALIZED ON REQUEST

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 swanngalleries.com for more information.