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Bull Market
Continues to Surge

George Benson
Jazz Legend
Offers Guitars

Auction Previews
George Washington, Jimi
Hendrix, Hernán Cortés

JESSE OWENS
The Tale Behind
the Discovery of
His Olympic Medals

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Jesse Owens practices in the Olympic Village in Berlin, Aug. 5, 1936. Photo by the Associated Press.



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EDITOR & PUBLISHER Hector Cantú

EDITORIAL

CONTRIBUTORS Barbara Conn, Margaret Croft, Kevin Gaddis Jr., Michiko Kurisu, Steve Lansdale, Mila Samokhina, David Stone, Scott Schild, Pamela Y. Wiggins

ART & DESIGN

ART DIRECTOR Robin Enriquez
DESIGN Chris Britton, Wendie Goers, Lisa Jones, Mark Masat, Nina Villacci

PHOTOGRAPHY

MANAGER Donald Fuller
PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGING Travis Awalt, Faith Batchelor, Emily Clements, Brian Fewell, Kevin Gaddis Jr., Laurisa Galvan, Patric Glenn, Haley Hagen, Donna Helm, Brittany Kaluhikaua, Greg Kopriva, Darnell McCown, Roy Richardson, Matt Roppolo, Joseph Schroeder, Grover Sterling, Tony Webb, Brenna Wilson, Jason Young

PRODUCTION

PRINT PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Mary Hermann

ADVERTISING

Mike Edison | 646.588.5057 | medison@saintsmarketing.co
Diane Homer | 646.529.7254 | dhomer@saintsmarketing.co

CIRCULATION

Roger Kent, Matt Polakoff

CORPORATE & FINANCE

FOUNDERS Jim Halperin, Steve Ivy
PRESIDENT Greg Rohan
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER Paul Minshull
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Todd Imhof
VICE PRESIDENT - MARKETING Jeff Greer

OFFICE

3500 Maple Ave., 17th Floor Dallas, TX 75219-3941
214.409.1359 1.800.872.6467 Fax: 214.409.2359 Email: Info@IntelligentCollector.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For customer service in the U.S. call toll-free 800.872.6467.
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LETTERS

Send letters to Intelligent Collector, 3500 Maple Ave., 17th Floor, Dallas, TX, 75219-3941
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from the editor



What treasure is hiding in *your* closet?

For four decades, Louis DeVito had a treasure up in the closet of his Pittsburgh home. Only he didn't know it.

It was the 1950s when he paid off a pawn shop loan and took home a box of items that once belonged to a friend. In the box were medals. Louis kind of knew the story. They once belonged to Jesse Owens, who had stayed at his friend's hotel. Otherwise, they were nothing special. Remember, this was 1956.

"These all meant very little to us," Louis says, "as the medals had no value that we knew."

So up into the closet they went, where they stayed for 40 years before Louis' son figured out they might, just might, be valuable.

The line between treasure and trash can be thin. One path begins with a house-cleaning and a decision, maybe by children, to toss the stuff grandpa or grandma kept in the attic or up in the closet. The other path has a happier ending, an ending that usually begins with curious relatives. What is that? Is it historically significant? Is it valuable?

The DeVitos went down the second path, a path that might net them at least \$1 million when Owens' Olympic medals go to auction in August (see "Discovering Jesse Owens' Gold," page 46).

What treasure is hiding in *your* family closets? And, more importantly, will you recognize it when you see it?

YES, GEORGE BENSON is just as charming as he sounds in our Auction Preview interview ("The George Benson Collection"). The legendary musician is a natural storyteller, especially when it comes to his beloved guitars. "They're my babies, man!" Read more, starting on page 28.

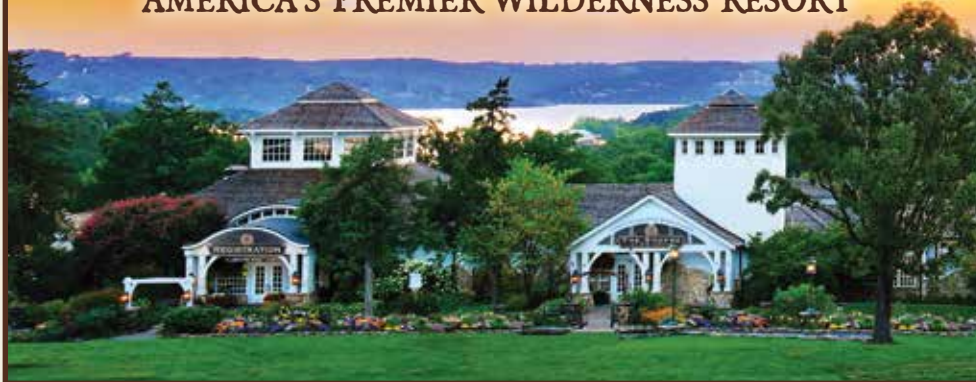
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looking back

1891

Thomas Edison builds a Kinetoscope, or peep-hole viewer, which allows people to view short films. James Naismith invents the game of basketball, with the first game played by 18 students in Springfield, Mass. Cleveland's League Park opens with the first game there pitched by Cy Young (below). The Wrigley Company is founded in Chicago, and Carnegie Hall officially opens in New York, featuring guest conductor Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.



HISTORICAL

Russian Emperor Alexander III was in the final three years of his rule when he presented this Fabergé desk clock to his wife Maria Fedorovna on their silver wedding anniversary. It realized \$179,250 at an April 2008 Heritage auction.



CURRENCY

Twenty-five years after the end of the Civil War, the government issued this \$1,000 Treasury Note, featuring Union General George Meade, best known for defeating General Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Gettysburg. Only two examples of this 1891 series design-type are known to exist. This example realized \$2.58 million at an April 2013 Heritage auction.



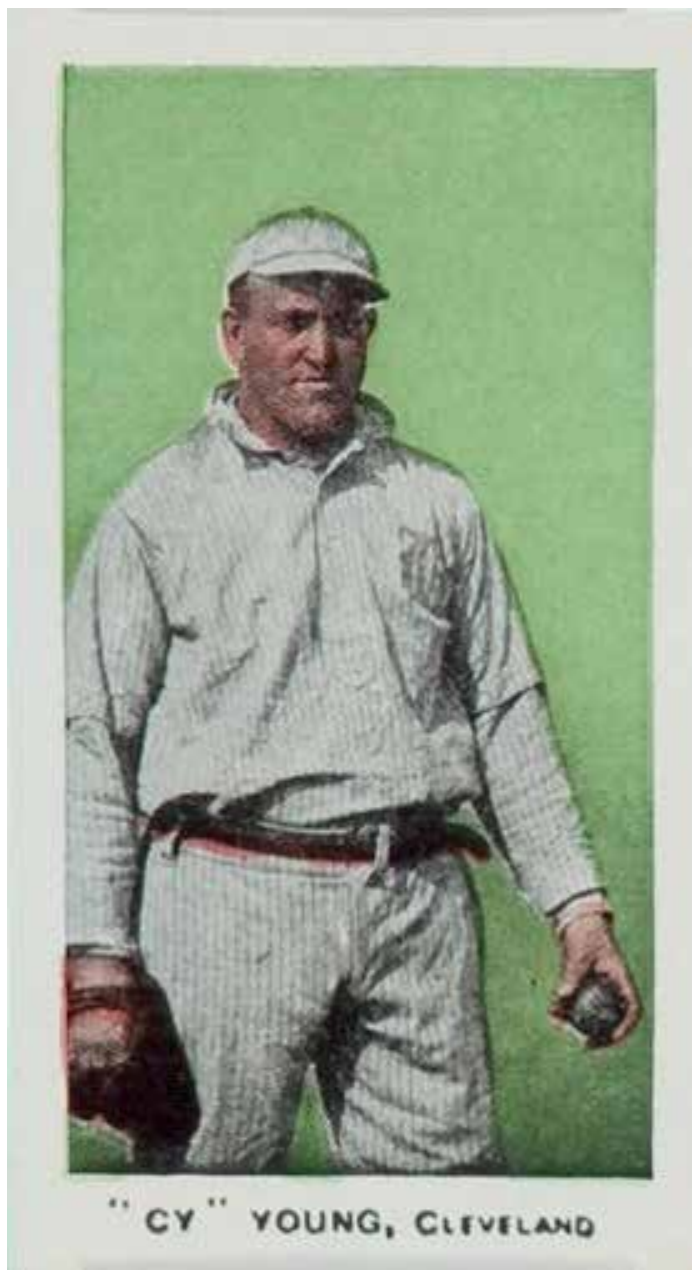
SPORTS

Kept inside by the brutal Massachusetts winters, James Naismith invented an indoor game while teaching at the Springfield YMCA. The first "basket ball" game was played that December. An eight-page manuscript handwritten by Naismith detailing that first game sold for \$71,700 at a December 2006 Heritage auction.



ILLUSTRATION ART

Frederic Remington was one of the most successful illustrators of his day, often sent by magazine editors to illustrate stories about events out West. His *Apache Signal Fire* for the March 1891 edition of Century Magazine sold for \$262,900 at a May 2011 Heritage auction.



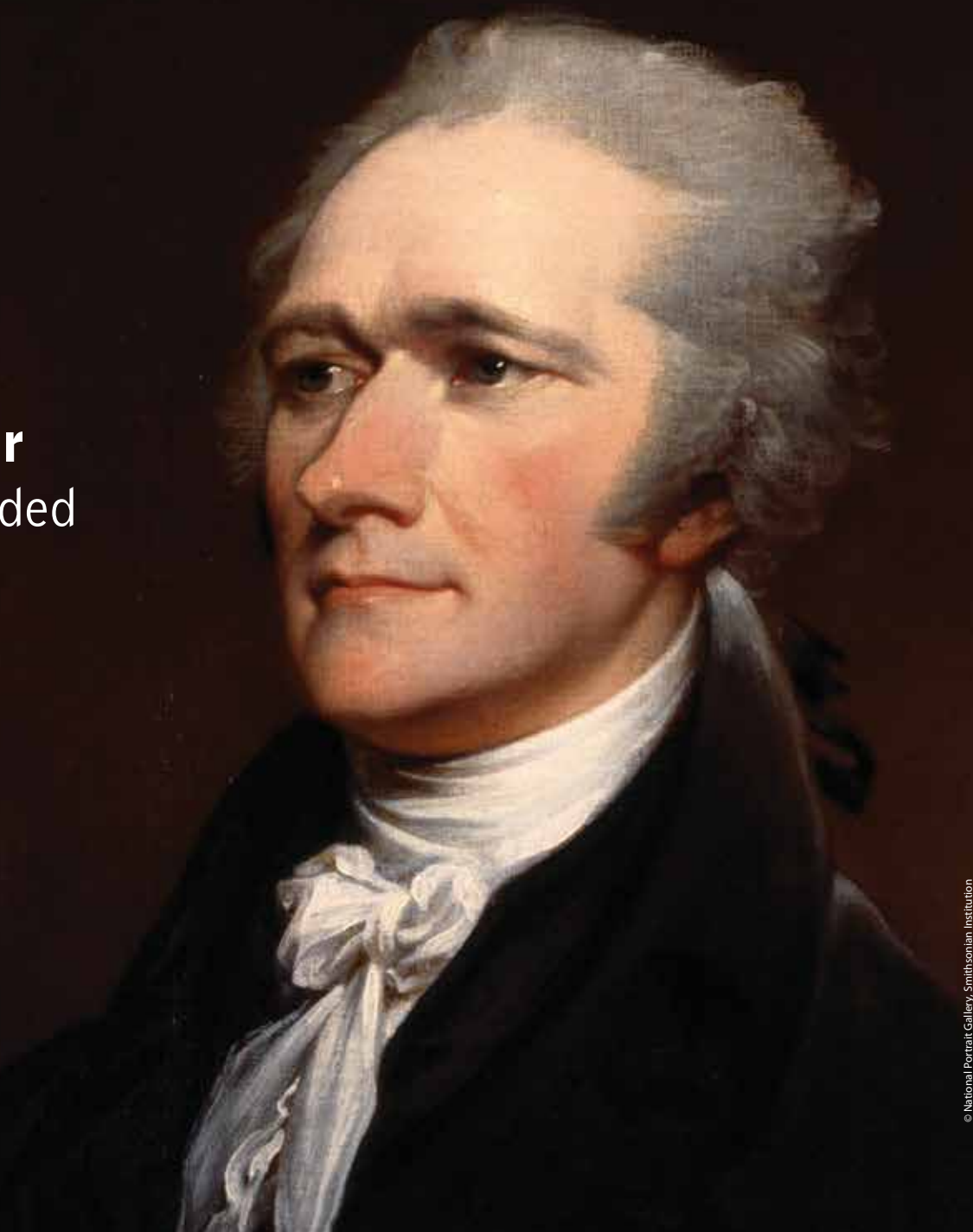
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events

HERITAGE AUCTIONS' CHICAGO OPENING RECEPTION

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Heritage Auctions opened its first public saleroom and office in Chicago with a reception that attracted nearly 100 clients, friends and collectors. "Chicago's River North neighborhood is the perfect location for our experts to assist Midwest buyers and sellers in more than 40 auction and direct sales categories," says Heritage President Greg Rohan. Roberta Kramer, a 25-year veteran in the fields of art, antiques and expert appraisal services, is the general manager of the new office. Her previous experience includes work with Susanin's Auctions, Rosenthal Fine Art and Rita Buchheit Ltd., and her own company, Roberta Kramer & Associates.



Photographs by Mila Samokhina

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events



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Heritage Auctions specialists Kathleen Guzman and Nicholas Dawes, who appear on PBS's *Antiques Roadshow*, led a conversation on "Heritage Values" at the Culture & Cocktails event hosted by the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County in Florida. Rena Blades, president and CEO of the Cultural Council, said the event attracted more than 140 people. Guzman is managing director/New York for Heritage, and Dawes is Heritage's vice president of special collections. The event was sponsored by the Roe Green Foundation (Roe Green, founder) and the Milton & Tamar Maltz Family Foundation. Additional support for the series is provided by the Palm Beach Post/Palm Beach Daily News, First Republic Bank, and PR-BA, a Boca-based public relations firm.

Photographs by Michiko Kurisu



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auction update



Heritage Auctions' new Chicago office is at 215 W. Ohio St.

Chicago Saleroom to Serve the Midwest

Heritage Auctions has added Chicago to its worldwide locations, with a 3,600-square-foot saleroom and office in the city's River North neighborhood.

Heritage President Greg Rohan tells the *Chicago Tribune* the new location brings an international marketplace to the city. "There's no worldwide auction company in Chicago, so it was a void that needed to be filled," Rohan said.

Roberta Kramer, a 25-year veteran of the art and antiques world, will run the Chicago office. An opening reception drew nearly 100 clients, friends and collectors (see page 12).

This is Heritage's 13th location, with offices and salerooms already in New York, Beverly Hills, Dallas, San Francisco, Palm Beach, Houston, Europe and Asia.

The first live auctions in Chicago will be a jewelry and luxury accessories event scheduled for June 26-27.



Kathleen Black

Shirley Temple Event Thrills Fans

The Personal Property of Shirley Temple Black auction attracted fans from around the world, including Rachel Quigley and daughters Trinity (above) and René, and granddaughter Nicole. They submitted the winning bid for a necklace and bracelet worn by Temple. "[It was] an exciting and memorable experience," Quigley said of Heritage's December auction, which exceeded \$1.6 million in total prices realized.

Lucas Museum Lands in Los Angeles

The board of directors of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art has chosen Los Angeles' Exposition Park as its home. Previous cities under consideration included San Francisco and Chicago (see "Lucas Museum of Narrative Art," Spring 2016). The museum, expected to open by 2021, is designed as a celebration of storytelling, with original art by masters such as Norman Rockwell and Maxfield Parrish, and props and concept art from movies like *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

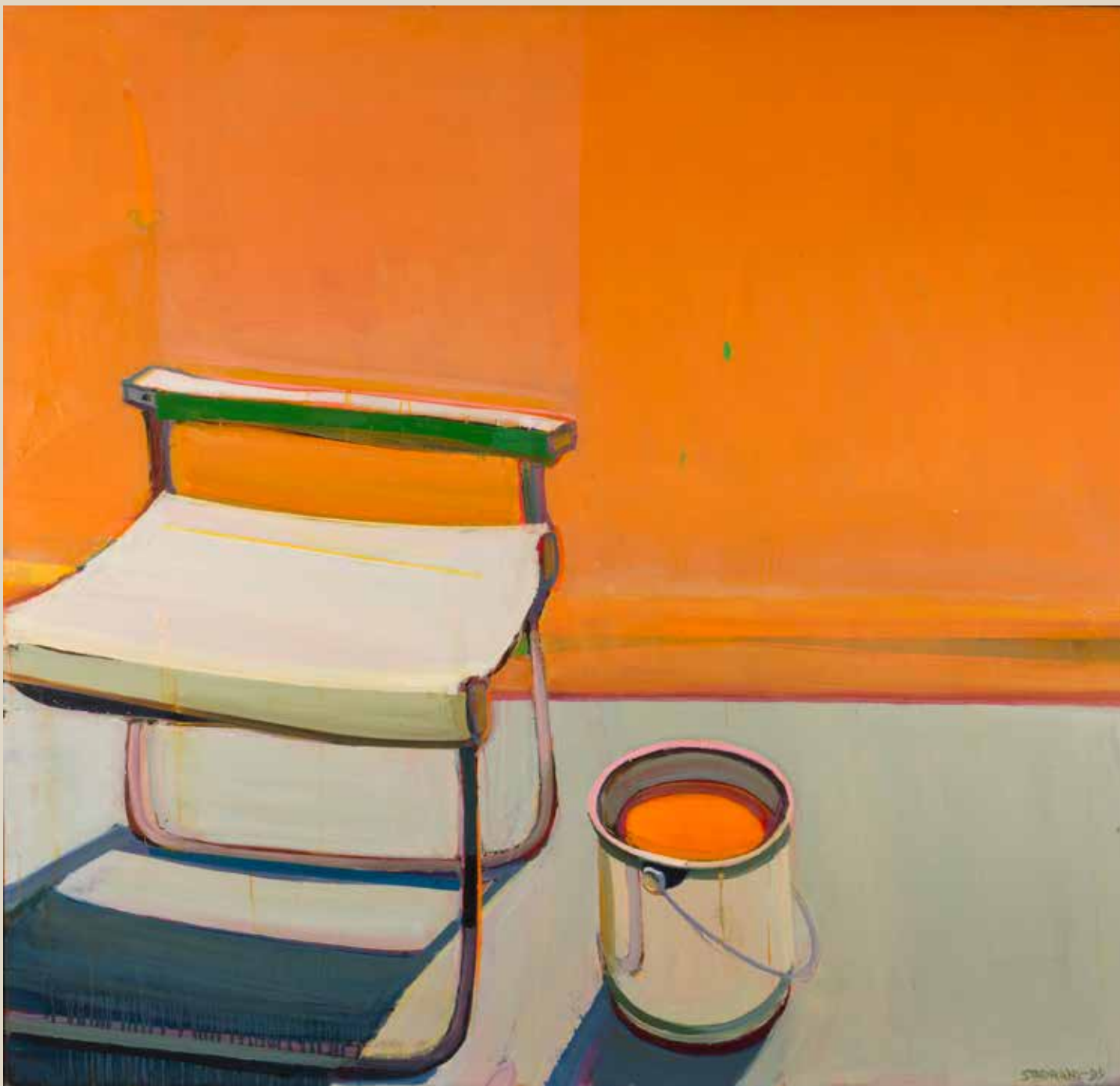
PEOPLE



ROXANA USKALI has joined Heritage Auctions as director of numismatics at the firm's Chicago office. Uskali spent nine years as principle world coin numismatist for Harlan J. Berk Ltd., and more recently operated her own company, KRCoins.



ELON WERNER has been named Heritage Auctions' director of communications. Werner previously worked as director of media services for John Force Racing Inc. of the National Hot Rod Association; and director of communications for Beckett Media.



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Raimonds Staprans, *Still Life with the Uncomfortable Folding Chair*, 1999. Oil on canvas, 46 x 48 in. Crocker Art Museum, gift of Ilona and Raimonds Staprans, 2016.5

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amenities



Rugged Beauty

German Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied in 1832 retained painter Karl Bodmer (1809-1893) to document his expedition to the American frontier. Bodmer's images of the American West were included in the prince's book about his journey.

William Henry's newly crafted **Spearpoint B12-Bodmer Pocket Knife** is inspired by Bodmer's work. The engraved scene is a montage of Bodmer's portraits from the trip he took with Maximilian up the Missouri River beginning in 1833.

Master engraver Sam Welch has inlaid this unique piece with 24K gold and rose gold. To achieve this level of detail, the engraving is done by hand under a binocular microscope. The result is a spectacular one-of-a-kind item (\$32,000, WilliamHenry.com, 888.563.4500).

William Henry since 1997 has offered high-end pocket knives, writing instruments, money clips, cuff links and key chains using natural materials, precious metals and gemstones, and state-of-the-art alloys. Most pieces are designed and created in limited, often unique editions. The Oregon-based company has recently expanded its "world-renowned creations" into rugged men's jewelry, notes *Fashion Times*.



Collector Destination

As the founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, Johnny Morris is often called “the Walt Disney of the Outdoors.” It’s no surprise, then, that his Big Cedar Lodge (BigCedar.com) is a wilderness resort where preservation, conservation and family traditions come together. There’s world-class golfing, a marina, paddleboats, hiking, a spa and, of course, fishing – all in the heart of Missouri’s Ozark Mountains. But of special interest to collectors is the resort’s Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, which showcases Morris’ prehistoric fossil, American Indian artifacts and Civil War collections. It’s the perfect getaway for collectors and their families, just eight miles south of Branson, Mo.

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BMW's Retro Screamer

For many motorcycle aficionados, it’s all about a pure ride. BMW’s success with its R nineT has now given us the **R nineT Racer** (MSRP \$13,295, BMWmotorcycles.com). The bike “deliberately arouses memories of sports motorcycles popular in the early 1970s,” the company says. “It conveys a sense of old-school sporty aspiration with its strikingly short half-fairing, hump seat, stub handlebars and set-back footrests, combining this overall impression with modern technology.” The 110-hp flat-twin-boxer engine “can rip through back roads on weekends,” writes *Esquire*, “but would get a nod of approval from all your favorite antiheroes.”

treasures



FINE ART

Merryl Israel Aron was an amateur golf champion and New Orleans resident with an eye for important French Belle Époque painters. Her family trust released selections from her collection, including *Sur les Champs Élysées*, an 1892 oil on canvas by Jean Béraud (1849-1935). It realized \$322,000 at a December 2016 Heritage auction.

LUXURY ACCESSORIES



The Hermès 30cm Matte White Himalayan Nilo Crocodile Birkin Bag is among the most sought-after handbags on the luxury accessories market. This example, featuring two rolled handles, Palladium Hardware, and an interior done in Gris Cendre Chevre leather, realized \$93,750 at a February 2017 Heritage auction.



GOLD

The SS *Central America* was a steamer that operated between Central America and the east coast of the United States before it sank in a hurricane in September 1857, taking with it 30,000 pounds of gold. Since its discovery in 1988, the wreck has yielded numerous pieces, including this “extremely large size” 327.97-ounce gold ingot with a **Justh & Hunder** hallmark. It sold for \$564,000 in January 2017.

CURRENCY

For years, a prime attraction at Binion’s Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas was a display of \$1 million in cash – made up of 100 \$10,000 bills, first installed in the late 1950s. Hidden among the New York Federal Reserve Notes were a few numismatic gems. One bill, graded PCGS Gem New 65, sold for \$158,625 at a January 2017 Heritage auction.



SPORTS



Evel Knievel (1938-2007) is regarded as the world’s greatest stunt performer, with his daredevil feats including more than 70 motorcycle jumps and a failed attempt to jump across Snake River Canyon in a steam-powered rocket. His motorcycle leathers are among the most recognizable garments in sports. Leathers he wore in 1972-73 realized \$108,000 at a February 2017 auction.



COMIC ART

Robert Crumb (b.1943) is the undisputed master of underground comics. Even relatively recent original pieces command high collector interest. Original art for a four-page story that appeared in 1992's *Hup* #4 (Last Gasp) – in which Crumb attempts to explain his fascination with women of Amazon proportions – sold for \$155,350 at a February 2017 auction.

U.S. COINS

Faced with a copper shortage at the beginning of World War II, the U.S. Mint authorized experiments to make pennies from other metals, plastic and rubber. A 1942 Experimental Glass Cent failed so spectacularly that only one known unbroken piece remains. It sold for \$70,500 at a January 2017 Heritage auction. The consignor had purchased the piece at a small online auction for “several thousand dollars.”



SPORTS

There's a good reason why a pair of old golf shoes might cost you \$66,000, reports *Golf Magazine*. It's because they were worn by the late Arnold Palmer (1929-2016) when he won the 1958 Masters. On top of that, they were later signed by the legend himself. His distinctive black and white wingtip shoes were auctioned by Heritage in February 2017.

AUTHORS

Literary fans pounced on a pair of historic typewriters author Larry McMurry used to write *Lonesome Dove*, with the winning bid reaching \$37,500 at a March 2017 Heritage auction. The Swiss-made Hermes 3000 was introduced in 1958 and was noted for its simplicity and ease of maintenance. McMurry kept one at his home in Archer City, Texas, and the other in Washington, D.C.





Alfred Stieglitz (American, 1864-1946), Georgia O'Keeffe, circa 1920-22. Gelatin silver print, 4 1/2 x 3 1/2 in. (11.4 x 9 cm). Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, N.M.; Gift of The Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation, 2003.01.006. © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Brooklyn Museum

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The accompanying book is supported by the Wyeth Foundation for American Art and the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation and is published by the Brooklyn Museum in association with DelMonico Books • Prestel.

Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern is part of *A Year of Yes: Reimagining Feminism at the Brooklyn Museum*, a yearlong series of ten exhibitions celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art. Leadership support is provided by Elizabeth A. Sackler, the Ford Foundation, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Anne Klein, the Calvin Klein Family Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Mary Jo and Ted Shen, and an anonymous donor. Generous support is also provided by Annette Blum, the Taylor Foundation, the Antonia and Vladimer Kulaev Cultural Heritage Fund, Beth Dozoretz, The Cowles Charitable Trust, and Almine Rech Gallery.

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Andy Warhol (American, 1923-1987), *Marilyn Monroe (Marilyn)*, (II.23), AP edition C/Z, 1967, screenprint, courtesy of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.

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auction previews

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Legendary musician
offering guitars from
his personal archives

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HOW TO BID

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*Patent No. 9,064,282

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manuscripts

Hernán Cortés Letter

Spanish conquistador's writings rarely available on market

In the history of the New World, few men figure as prominently as Hernán Cortés. The Spanish conquistador defeated Montezuma and the Aztec Empire and gave Spain control over vast regions of America.

“Cortés was there at a key moment in world history, the face-to-face meeting between two men from civilizations a world apart,” says Sandra Palomino, Heritage’s director of historical manuscripts. “He expanded the Spanish empire, converted the natives to Catholicism, and carried off a fortune in gold. There’s no doubt he’s among the world’s most prominent historical figures.”

After overthrowing the Aztec Empire, Cortés was given the title of Marqués del Valle de Oaxaca in Mexico.

It was during this time, in the 1530s, that Cortés penned a letter that is being offered at auction May 10-11 in Dallas.

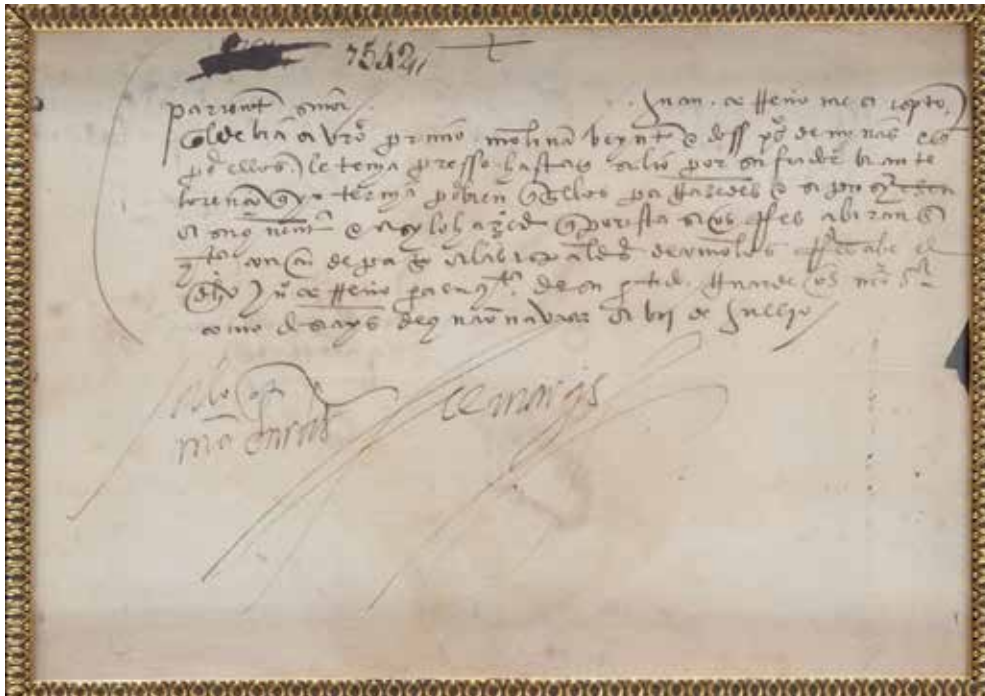
Addressed to a relative, Juan de Toledo, Cortés refers to the payment of a debt. “Toledo accompanied Cortés when he conquered Mexico,” Palomino says, “and Cortés made him mayor of Tehuantepec.

This letter is a glimpse of the tasks he addressed as overseer of his estate.”

The framed letter originates from a collection known as the “Golden Age of Spain” put together by Texas collector Mary Lou Phillips Schenkel. Cortés letters are rare, with the last piece offered to collectors in 1984, Palomino says.



Cortés



Hernán Cortés (1485–1547)
Letter to Juan de Toledo, Mayor of
Tehuantepec, Signed “El Marqués,”
One Page; Cuernavaca; July 7, 1530s
Opening bid: \$25,000

EVENT

MANUSCRIPTS GRAND FORMAT

AUCTION 6175

May 10–11, 2017

Live: Dallas

Online: HA.com/6175a

INQUIRIES

Sandra Palomino

214.409.1107

SandraP@HA.com

The George Benson Collection

Jazz legend recalls his earliest guitar, and explains why he's parting with his special pieces

By Hector Cantú



Parting with his guitars won't be easy, George Benson says. "They're my babies, man!"

George Benson clearly remembers his first guitar.

When he was 15, the Pittsburgh native excitedly told his father about a six-string at the local pawn shop. "I kept crying about it," says the Grammy Award-winning jazz guitarist, "so he said, 'Let's go take a look at it.'"

"So we went down to the pawn shop ... and he walked around the window to see the guitar from two or three different sides, and he said, 'You know what? I can make that!'"

They returned home and Benson drew the guitar on a piece of paper. "Then my father traced it onto this piece of oak wood from my mother's oak chest and it took him a whole day to carve it out. He broke blade after blade."

Shortly afterward, Benson carried the instrument to his first

gig. "It was a record hop, because I was with a singing group then, and when the guy saw me, he said, 'What's that thing you got in your hand?' I said, 'That's my guitar.' He said, 'Where'd you get it?' I said, 'My father made it,' and he stopped the record hop! ... The kids said, 'What's going on?' and he said, 'I just want you to see this guitar. His father made it for him!'"

"That was the beginning."

A lot's happened in the 60 years since that show. Today, Benson has sold millions of records, performed for millions of fans, and recorded some of the most beloved jazz and soul songs in music history, including *This Masquerade*, *On Broadway* and *Give Me the Night*.

His latest studio album is *Inspiration: A Tribute to Nat King*

EVENT

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS SIGNATURE® AUCTION 7168

May 25, 2017

Live: Dallas

Online: HA.com/7168a

INQUIRIES

Mike Gutierrez

214.409.1183

MikeG@HA.com

Cole. USA Today praised Benson for “his smooth vocals [that] make this homage unforgettable.”

Benson’s powerful influence on music, and jazz in particular, is undeniable. “George Benson is responsible for hundreds, if not thousands, of guys playing pop jazz in the ’70s and ’80s,” says Heritage Auctions guitar specialist Dave Hinson. “He basically is the Eric Clapton of jazz. He made the crossover from jazz to pop and presented it to a larger audience.”

The music legend talked to *The Intelligent Collector* from his Phoenix-area home, where he lives with wife Johnnie Lee. He delved into his career, his heroes and the upcoming auction of guitars from his personal collection.

You’re touring quite a bit. You have upcoming shows in Spain, Germany, Switzerland...

That’s the way I live. That’s normal. I’m amazed at what people will do to get us into their venues. I tried to retire 20 years ago, and then my career changed drastically. Everybody offered us the moon. So I said, “Maybe this isn’t a good time to retire.” If you’re in the music business, you’ve got to be touring, because that’s what keeps your ideas going and keeps you fresh and keeps you on people’s minds.

Do you remember the first guitar you picked up and played?

The first guitar I played was when my stepfather met my mother. I was 7 years old and he was a guitar player. So he got his guitar and amplifier out of the pawn shop and we moved into a house that had electricity. Our first house did not have electricity. The first thing we had to do in the new house was get light bulbs. And then he plugged this amplifier in and it was a miracle, that guitar going through that little wire coming out of a box on the other side of the room! It took me for a loop! So I sat with my back pressed up against that speaker that was vibrating through my body. That was an Epiphone Emperor, a very special guitar. A great guitar.

Do you remember the first guitar you actually purchased at a music store?

When I started buying guitars, I would go to the stores where they sold used guitars. I remember giving a guy, he wanted \$99 for the guitar and he let me put up \$30 or \$35 as a down payment. I went back 25 years later because I felt guilty that I’d never [gone back and] paid him [in full] for the guitar. I went to the store, I don’t think the same cat was there, but I told him the story and he looked up the records and said, “Mr. Benson, I can’t find your name in here.” And he said, “Hey, get out of here, man, you don’t owe me nothing!”

So later, when you had the money, what kind of guitars were you buying?

I kinda lost interest in guitars because I realized I could play anything after playing all the junk I had. Remember, my first guitar was a crude instrument that my father made. Anything with six strings on it, I could play the devil out of it! So I didn’t worry about the quality of the instrument. I finally realized it’s the *musician*, basically, who makes the difference.

So now you have a deal with Ibanez to design guitars. They make the GB Signature Model Series...

I’ve been with them for 40 years. When I signed with them, they had no identity at all. Like a lot of guitar companies, they copied Gibson and Fender. They had no original designs that I knew of.



1980 D'Aquisto Excel
Signed, dated by
Jimmy D'Aquisto
Estimate: \$60,000+
From the George Benson
Collection



1989 Gibson Chet Atkins Model, Gift from Atkins
 Estimate: \$7,000+
 From the George Benson Collection

So when I signed with them, I said, “Your company makes great instruments, better than most I know of, but you need original designs.” They said, “You have any ideas?” And I said, “Oh, yeah.” Since then, I think I have about 15 or 16 or more designs for Ibanez. And now they are the No. 2 or No. 3 company in the world.

You're auctioning some guitars from your collection. Why now?

Two reasons. They're fun to play when you have an instrument that you know is one of the finest instruments on the planet. But that only goes so far, because you have to keep it in the closet. It's like a man with a beautiful woman, but he can't be seen with her! Because so many people are trying to take her off your hands! Especially crooks! I've had guitars stolen, so I know!

Then they keep telling you that if you're storing guitars, you have to have a room with the right humidity. You know I don't have time for that! So I'll have a fabulous guitar, but I don't want it to fall apart in the case. It's better to be in the hands of somebody who appreciates it.

“There's a joy in seeing someone get an instrument that he never thought he would have.”

You actually auctioned some guitars several years ago?

There's a joy in seeing someone get an instrument that he never thought he would have, especially a guitar from people like Wes Montgomery. My friend Pat Metheny really wanted that guitar, so he went to the auction and he got a good price on it. He was happy to tell me, “George, you know I got the Montgomery guitar.” I said, “Oh man, that's wonderful! How much do you want for it? Because we'll buy it back!”

You worked with Chet Atkins in 1985. What's the story behind the Gibson he gave to you?

The memory of Chet Atkins is with me all the time. He's in my mind and in my heart, so I don't need a piece of wood sitting in the closet. I don't know what's going to happen to it, so I said maybe somebody will really appreciate it. How I got it? Well, every now and then, he'd call me and say, “Hey man, whatcha doing? Come on down.” He'd take me to some catfish restaurant. So one day, a box came in the mail. I said, “What the heck is that? Looks like a guitar.” I opened it up and sure enough, it was from Chet.

And you have a prototype “Kimono” guitar from Ibanez? That sounds pretty unique.

[Ibanez] decided to do something different, so they took one of my [GB Signature Model] guitars and they overlaid it with what looks like a Japanese kimono. It's very pretty. Everybody loves it. So I said, “Man, make me a couple of these.” They said, “We don't want to make a whole lot of these.” I said just make me a couple, man, that's all I want! It's super rare.

You have a 1980 D'Aquisto guitar in the auction, too?

Mr. Jimmy D'Aquisto was probably the best of the best. His uncle is considered the best of the best. His name was John D'Angelico. But in the latter days of Mr. D'Angelico's life, his nephew Jimmy was helping him make guitars and in the process he became a great luthier himself. And I think he surpassed his uncle. I have played some of his guitars and they are the finest instruments I've ever had in my hands. I almost hate to let it go, but I also hate to see it just sit in a case, although it looks brand new, like it was made yesterday.

So are these guitars hard to part with?

They're my babies, man! They're all over my office, two offices here, and if somebody comes to the house who's a guitar player, we go to that closet and we have guitars all over the kitchen, the den. They're special.

When I read articles about you, I see your name mentioned quite a bit as someone who has influenced generations of musicians, from rockers to rappers. How does that make you feel?

I used to think youngsters were not interested in me or didn't know me, but that changed as I started traveling around the world. I would go to a Caribbean tour and I would meet some of the cats on the airplane, some of the Caribbean musicians, and they would do a respect thing. "Respect, man, respect." I thought, "They don't even *know* me!" That was wrong. They *do* know me.

I remember being young myself and having a desire to meet different musicians. For instance, one cat was Johnny Smith, a great guitar player, and Jimmy Smith, the most fantastic keyboardist, organist on the planet. And I met most of my heroes. When I moved to New York, I met all the superheroes ... John Coltrane, Grant Green and Kenny Burrell, Wes Montgomery. So I met everybody and became friends with the youngster, who was younger than me, Pat Martino. As a kid, he was a giant musician and we became the best of friends. And we still are! So I feel like I'm making a difference, making a contribution that will be felt for years.

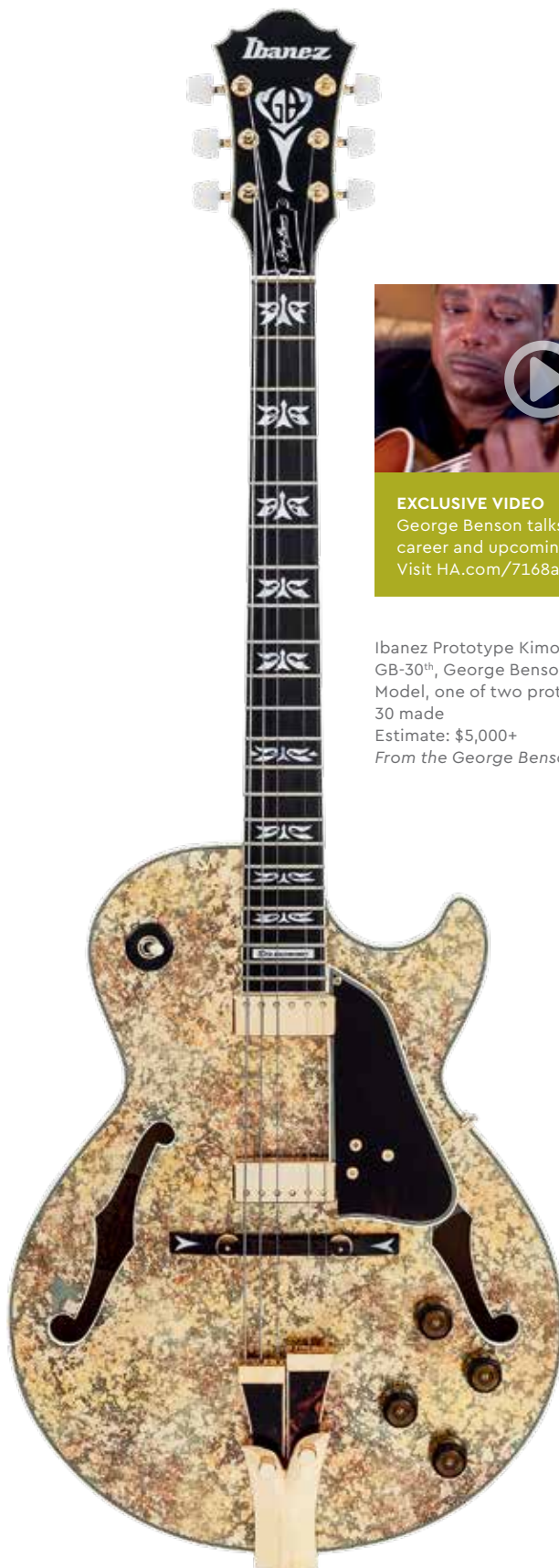
On your website, I see, right across the top, a banner showing you were recognized by the National Endowment of the Arts as a Jazz Master. Why is that such an important recognition for you?

It connects me with all those wonderful people I've met over the years who were really the people responsible for putting me in the position. Wes Montgomery and Grant Green and Kenny Burrell, Pat Martino ... when I see it, I think about them. My goal in life was to get an audience. I wanted to be like Nat Cole, you know, somebody where you mention their name and people just love it. It brings warmth. That's the kind of person I wanted to be.

Finally, do you collect anything other than guitars?

It's amazing, but every time I open a drawer, I see something that shouldn't be in it. "What *is* this? It looks like it might be valuable!" And sure enough, it turns out to be valuable. I've got watches, in the tens of thousands! I never wear them. I don't even know where they came from, man! So one day, maybe they'll be in an auction, too.

HECTOR CANTÚ is editor of *The Intelligent Collector*.



EXCLUSIVE VIDEO

George Benson talks about his career and upcoming auction. Visit HA.com/7168a.

Ibanez Prototype Kimono Finish GB-30th, George Benson Anniversary Model, one of two prototypes, only 30 made
Estimate: \$5,000+
From the George Benson Collection

Hendrix's Monterey Pop Stratocaster

Guitar that 'changed the world of music' goes to auction

It's been called Jimi Hendrix's finest hour on stage: the day 50 years ago that the now-legendary guitarist created a new sound in rock music.

That performance at the Monterey Pop Festival would propel Hendrix to international stardom.

"Jimi and his guitar had a special moment in time at the Monterey Pop Festival," says Heritage Auctions entertainment specialist Garry Shrum. "It was a performance that changed music and has influenced bands through the decades."

For most of the show, Hendrix played a black 1966 Fender Stratocaster. The instrument is being offered at Heritage's June 17-18, 2017, entertainment auction in Beverly Hills. It's expected to realize more than \$600,000.

"This Fender Strat is a piece of rock 'n' roll history," Shrum says. "It was played at a seminal moment in pop music history, and it's one of the most important guitars to come to auction."

Hendrix's Monterey performance is remembered as the show where the Seattle-born musician set his guitar on fire at the end of his set. Before he sprayed the instrument with lighter fluid, he switched out guitars, leaving the offered black Strat side stage. "The guitar he burned was used for his very last song, which was *Wild Thing*," Shrum says. "Most people in the crowd never noticed that Jimi had swapped out the guitars."

The Monterey Pop Festival was not the only stage appearance by the guitar. Just before the festival, Hendrix played

Bruce Fleming, Jimi Hendrix's personal photographer, took this image as Hendrix performed with his 1966 black Fender Stratocaster at the Monterey Pop Festival on June 18, 1967.



©Bruce Fleming

EVENT

ENTERTAINMENT SIGNATURE® AUCTION 7161

June 17-18, 2017

Live: Beverly Hills

Online: HA.com/7161a

INQUIRIES

Garry Shrum

214.409.1585

GarryS@HA.com

'Summer of Love' Artifacts Include Concert Posters

his black Strat at the Jimi Hendrix Experience's last show in England, at London's Saville Theater, before heading to the United States.

"Two Beatles, Paul and George, were at that show on June 18, along with Brian Epstein, Eric Clapton, Jack Bruce and Spencer Davis," Shrum says. "Jimi opened the show with his rendition of *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, which he had learned in the few days before the show. *Sgt. Pepper* had been released in the U.K. earlier that month."

After his Monterey Pop Festival appearance, Hendrix played his black Strat at shows at the Fillmore West and at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

Within a year, Hendrix's final studio album, *Electric Ladyland*, hit No. 1 in the United States. "That performance in California," Shrum says, "led to his first and only No. 1 album."

When Hendrix began purchasing newer model Strats, he left his black Strat with his British manager, Mike Jeffrey. After Jeffrey closed his U.K. office, the guitar was sent to Hendrix's U.S. manager, Bob Levine. It was sold to a private collector in the mid-1990s.

Over the years, the guitar has been displayed at Seattle's Experience Music Project Museum, and at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, and Handel & Hendrix House Museum.

"Monterey is generally regarded as the first ever large-scale rock festival," the Strat's current owner, who requested anonymity, recently told *Guitarist* magazine. "Hendrix was relatively unknown in America until Monterey offered a platform for his combination of virtuoso musicality and showmanship, which propelled his career to nationwide fame across the United States – the technical term is, he smashed it!"

Shrum explains the guitar is more than a stage-used instrument by a rock legend; it represents a milestone in rock history.

"This guitar is important for several reasons. It's the guitar Jimi used early in his career. It's the guitar he played when he broke onto the American music scene. It's the guitar Jimi used to create a whole new style, a new sound that used what was considered back then undesirable amplifier feedback.

"As rock historians have noted," Shrum adds, "Hendrix pioneered the use of the instrument as an electronic sound source, using feedback and distortion as a 'controlled, fluid vocabulary.' It launched a whole new movement in music."

Now, collectors have a rare chance to own this unique guitar. "The originality of Jimi's music and the mastery of the guitar," Shrum says, "place him forever among musical giants."

In 1967, as many as 100,000 people sporting "hippie" fashions converged in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury neighborhood. It would come to be known as the "Summer of Love."

Music, of course, was an important part of the phenomenon. Numerous concert posters from that time are featured in Heritage's upcoming "Summer of Love" entertainment auction, scheduled for June 17-18, 2017.

A Monterey International Pop Festival poster is expected to realize \$6,000, while a poster for a San Francisco show by the Doors is expected to sell for \$4,000.

The auction also includes stage-worn shirts, pants and vests from some of the era's biggest stars, plus dozens of gold record awards from 1967, and ultra-rare psychedelic and progressive vinyl collections from around the world.



The Doors/Peanut Butter Conspiracy Whisky A-Go Go, San Francisco Concert Poster (Love Conspiracy Commune, 1967)

Monterey International Pop Festival Poster (1967)



Bob Seidemann's 'Airplane as Art' Portfolio

Rock 'n' roll photographer's collection
focuses on aviation geniuses and their incredible aircraft

By Hazel Kent



Seidemann

Though Bob Seidemann graduated from the Manhattan High School of Aviation Trades, a school for those looking to become aircraft engineers, he went on to earn a reputation as one of the most respected rock 'n' roll photographers of his generation.

He was never captivated by the music, though, nor by the characters who peopled the industry during the 1960s and '70s. Instead, throughout the years he spent photographing the likes of Janis Joplin and the Grateful Dead, he was always more enamored by the comparatively unassuming yet visionary men who designed and created airplanes.

It was this lifelong personal passion that inspired what Nigel Russell, director of photographs at Heritage Auctions, describes as "certainly among the largest photography projects of the 20th century."

From 1986 to 1997, Seidemann shot 302 images of the pioneers who shaped modern aviation and their aircraft.

Seidemann's *The Airplane as Art* portfolio includes 94 portraits of renowned designers, engineers, test pilots, inventors, military heroes and cosmonauts, as well as 208 studies of planes, plane manufacturing, aircraft graveyards, and views from the air: a true homage to what Seidemann once described as the quintessential manifestation of our humanness – tool-making.

In one image, a stoic-looking Joseph Sutter poses in front of the looming nose of a Boeing 747, for which he led the design team. In another, the hulks of decommissioned B-52s sit rusting in the desert at Edwards Air Force Base.

While all of the prints are signed by the photographer, 10 of the 20 total sets contain portraits also signed by the sitter. "One of the amazing things about this project," Russell says, "is that after photographing so many key figures in aviation, Seidemann went back and got their autographs."

The collection being offered at Heritage's May 18 photographs auction is one the rare double-signed boxed sets. Two of the others have found homes at the J. Paul Getty Museum and, fittingly, the Boeing Company.



Bob Seidemann (b.1941)
The Airplane as Art, 1986-2000
Portfolio of 302 Photographs
Estimate: \$150,000-\$250,000

EVENT

PHOTOGRAPHS SIGNATURE® AUCTION 5298

May 18, 2017

Live: New York

Online: HA.com/5298a

INQUIRIES

Nigel Russell

214.409.1231

NigelR@HA.com



General Chuck Yeager, the first man to break the sound barrier, Edwards Air Force Base, 1990. ©Bob Seidemann



F-86 wreck with skull, China Lake Naval Weapons Station, 1987. ©Bob Seidemann



A pair of SR-71 reconnaissance jets parked at the Lockheed facility in Palmdale, Calif., 1998. ©Bob Seidemann



General Vladimir Ilyushin is the only man to have flown the intercontinental nuclear bomber prototype behind him. Photographed at the Russian Air Force Museum, south of Moscow, 1990. ©Bob Seidemann

Washington and the Founding Fathers

May auction features artifacts rarely seen outside institutions and private collections



Circa 1790 bronze bust of George Washington

Heritage’s semi-annual Americana auction will be accompanied by a special catalog entitled “Washington and the Founding Fathers.”

Inspired by the auction house’s acclaimed September 2016 “Lincoln and His Times” auction, the May event focuses on George Washington and other historical figures, as well as events from the American Revolution through the early days of the United States.

“We knew this would be a challenging project,” says Tom Slater, director of Americana auctions. “Artifacts from this early era are much rarer than those from Lincoln’s time, and a high percentage of those which have survived are held by institutions and private collectors with no interest in selling. However, when we received a consignment of two monumental Washington items last fall, we felt we had to build a special auction around them.”

That consignment included a magnificent silk banner carried in a 1789 parade honoring the new president when he visited Boston. Also included was a leopard skin saddle pad originally owned by British General Edward Braddock and gifted to Washington (who had scouted for Braddock) by his family after the general was killed during the French and Indian War.

Both objects had been donated to the California Sons of the Revolution in the 1920s, and been featured in their collection until consigned to Heritage. The banner is believed to be the only contemporary example honoring Washington in private hands. In a real sense, Slater says, it may be considered a “political” item, as it carries an endorsement of “Washington’s Policy.”

The auction includes other significant autographic items, among them several signed by Washington, a highly important Thomas Jefferson letter, and an extremely rare document signed by Declaration of Independence signer George Taylor.

“Autographs of Declaration signers are avidly collected,” Slater points out. “Taylor’s is the third-rarest, and especially desirable in this very displayable form. And, of course, no auction of this nature is complete without an example of perhaps the most recognizable American historical autograph, that

EVENT

AMERICANA & POLITICAL GRAND FORMAT AUCTION 6172

Featuring *Washington and the Founding Fathers*

May 13, 2017

Live: Dallas

Online: HA.com/6172a

INQUIRIES

Tom Slater

214.409.1441

TomS@HA.com

To request a catalog, call 866.835.3243

or visit HA.com/Catalogs



Liverpool Creamware tankard depicting George Washington as President



Appointment document signed by George Washington as President and Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State



Leopard skin saddle pad owned by George Washington

of Revolutionary War firebrand John Hancock. This catalog includes two fine Hancock documents, one of them signed as president of the Continental Congress.”

The auction also includes important broadsides, such as an early report of the events at Lexington and Concord, and a 1774 Massachusetts issue, which, months earlier, all but declared open hostilities with the Mother Country. “This is a particularly rare broadside,” Slater notes. “Our researchers have been unable to find another example appearing on the market since Goodspeed’s offered one for sale in the 1940s.”

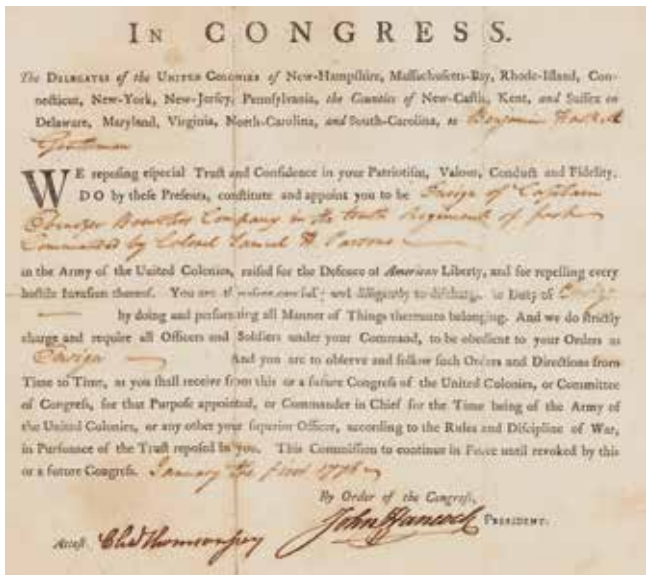
Also featured in the auction are several highly displayable broadsides signed in print by Washington as president. “With opening bids of less than \$1,000, these represent excellent values,” Slater says. “We’ve endeavored to include a wide range of worthwhile items within the reach of collectors with limited budgets.”

The auction presents a fine selection of the highly collectable coat buttons celebrating Washington’s first Inauguration in 1789. “Among them are an exceptional example of the Linked States variety, a possibly unique variety struck in silver,” Slater says, “and the choicest example of the 1789-dated ‘Memorable Era’ design we have ever encountered.”

Three-dimensional artifacts include a fine selection of Liverpool creamware pieces picturing Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison; a possibly unique Battersea enameled box depicting Washington wearing a cocked hat; a pair of Paris porcelain urns with hand-painted portraits of George and Martha Washington; and an early bronze bust of Washington, made in France and probably dating from around 1790.



Silk banner carried in a 1789 Boston parade honoring George Washington



Officer's appointment for a Bunker Hill hero, signed by John Hancock as President of the Continental Congress

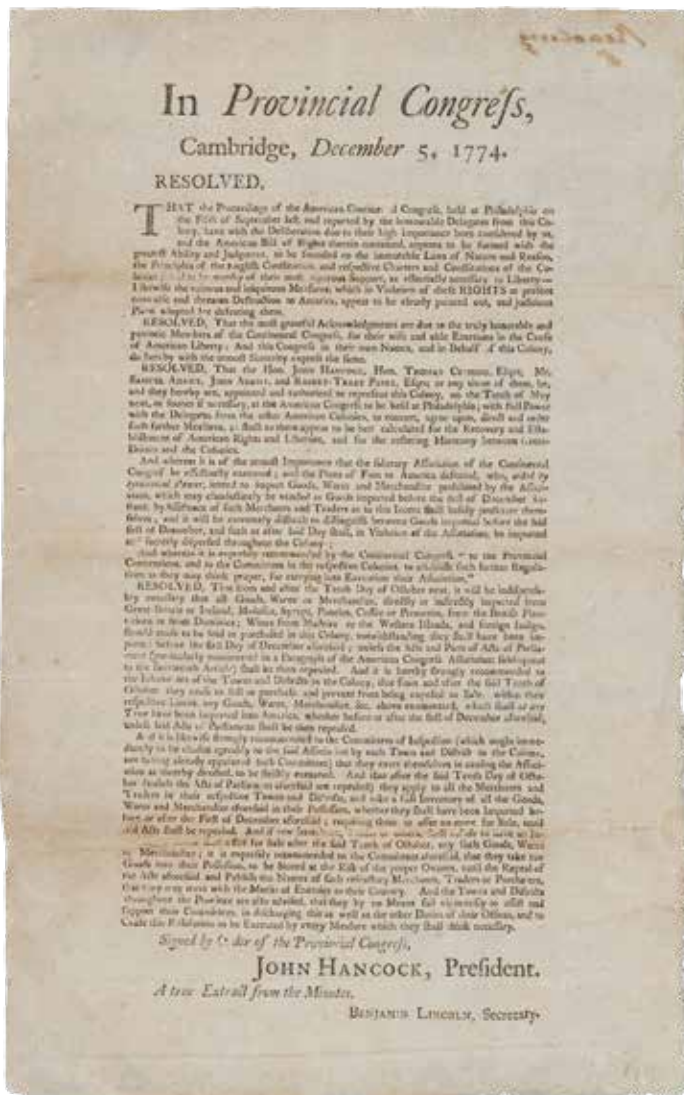


Circa 1800 pendant encasing hair of George and Martha Washington

“Our second president, John Adams, was not terribly popular around the time of his presidency,” Slater observes. “Few items were produced to honor him, and fewer still have survived. We are pleased to be able to offer a Liverpool bowl picturing Adams as president as well as an 1805-dated oil portrait by William Dunlap. There is even a hall-marked tablespoon made by Revolutionary War hero and esteemed silversmith Paul Revere.”

The practice of collecting hair locks from famous people has persisted since before the days of the Founding Fathers, and this auction includes some noteworthy examples, including a beautiful pendant, circa 1800, containing hair from both George and Martha Washington. “Provenance is critical in establishing the authenticity of hair samples,” Slater says, “and this one has impeccable credentials, having come from the wife of Washington’s longtime major-domo Tobias Lear.

“For those who love American history,” Slater enthuses, “this auction presents an unparalleled opportunity to see and perhaps own original artifacts from the days of the Founding Fathers.”



Extremely rare 1774 broadside decrying England's offenses



Hand-painted Paris porcelain urns picturing George and Martha Washington

Buster Brown Original Art

Newspaper adventures consigned by creator Richard F. Outcault's family



By 1902, Richard F. Outcault was a superstar of newspaper comic strips. The Yellow Kid was the breakout character of his *Hogan's Alley* cartoon, which appeared in Joseph Pulitzer's

Outcault *New York World* in 1895.

The artist's work laid the foundation for the modern newspaper comic strip. "Outcault was among the first to use sequential panels and word balloons to tell a story – the standard convention now used across all comics," says Barry Sandoval, director of operations for comics and comic art at Heritage Auctions.

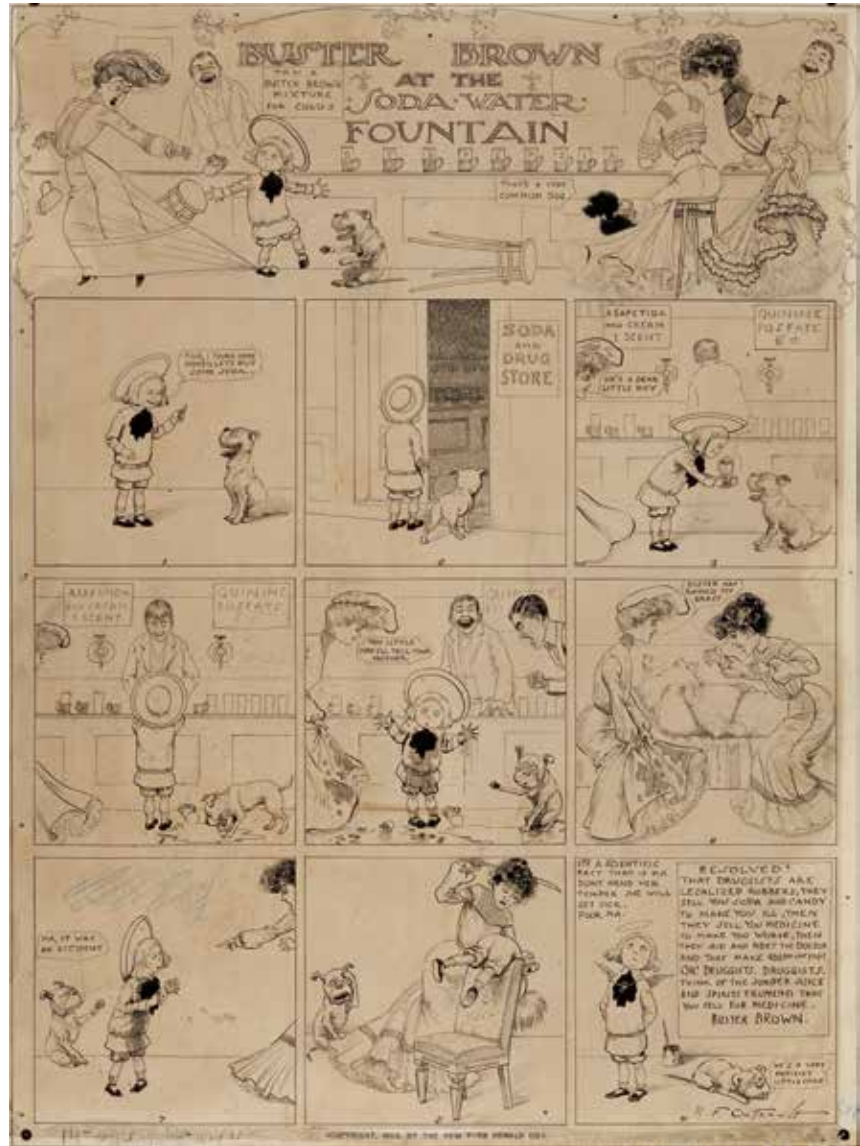
In 1902, Outcault created the groundbreaking *Buster Brown* comic strip, whose lead character also served as the mascot of the Brown Shoe Company.

"Buster and his dog Tige were always getting into trouble, maybe breaking a window with his slingshot or playing pranks on neighbors," Sandoval says. "Imagine Calvin and Hobbes, only with Hobbes biting people and Calvin dressed up as Little Lord Fauntleroy."

Over the years, fans would see comic books, a play, live-action movies, radio shows, advertisements, and a television show based on the mischievous boy (with Jerry Maren, who played one of the Lollipop Kids in *The Wizard of Oz*, in the role of Buster).

Four *Buster Brown* originals from Outcault's hand, consigned by the artist's family, are being offered in Heritage's Aug. 10-11 comics and comic art auction in Dallas.

"One of the four pieces in the auction is dated May 31, 1903," Sandoval says, "just a year after the comic first appeared in *The New York Herald*. It's rare to see such early pieces on the market."



Richard F. Outcault (1863-1928)
Buster Brown Sunday
Original Comic Strip
May 31, 1903
Estimate: \$25,000+

EVENT

COMICS SIGNATURE® AUCTION 7166

Aug. 10-11, 2017

Live: Dallas

Online: HA.com/7166a

INQUIRIES

Barry Sandoval

214.409.1377

BarryS@HA.com

Music Box Collection

Rich, distinctive sounds filled homes, delighted listeners a century ago



Railroad Station Cylinder Box with Three Dancing Dolls & Bells
From a Private Texas Music Box Collection

It was the end of the 18th century when tuned steel teeth, the vocal chords of all music boxes, were built into a musical watch. Soon thereafter, *objets de vertu* containing more elaborate miniature musical movements were made for royalty and the very rich.

By the 1820s, a Swiss cottage industry was producing spring-wound musical movements playing multiple songs on precision-pinned brass cylinders. These were installed in snuff boxes and clock bases, as well as plain fruitwood boxes.

In 1864, an important innovation, later called “Sublime Harmony,” permitted multiple teeth of the same pitch to be played together for greater volume without causing distortion. Orchestra boxes were made with bells and other percussive instruments to complement the musical teeth. Some instruments

were made with interchangeable cylinders. The many hours of skilled labor required for each pinned cylinder limited most to a repertoire of three or four cylinders.

In 1885, a patent for the disc music box was awarded to Paul Lochmann of Germany. The idea was a high-precision mechanism playing the musical teeth from a comparatively inexpensive music disc. It would take several years before Lochmann’s company, Symphonion, produced instruments playing metal discs with punched projections. In addition to a much lower cost for additional music, more robust musical teeth could be played due to the greater strength of the projections over the pins of the cylinder box. Various musical scales and formats, such as Sublime Harmony, were used to achieve the highest-quality music. Multiples of certain notes permitted musical arrangers to incorporate trills and other embellishments.

Disc music boxes were not inexpensive. Larger models sold for \$100 and more, at a time when the average monthly wage was \$36. The commercial success of music boxes during this period was a testimony to their musicality. Program material included all genres of music: popular music of the day, operatic, marches, national anthems, hymns and folk songs.

In addition to bringing music into homes, coin-operated versions provided entertainment in restaurants, hotels, taverns, ice cream parlors, confectioneries and even railroad stations. A proprietor in the United States might have a small instrument operating for only a penny a song. While the cost of the instrument may not have been covered by the pennies, it would be subsidized by the extra trade the music attracted. Upright models typically required a nickel per song, about the cost of a loaf of bread. Similarly, instruments were made to accept English pennies or German 5 or 10 pfennig coins. Some mechanisms offered a setting to give a better value by playing the song twice.

By 1900, disc music boxes had taken over the music box

EVENT

AMERICANA & POLITICAL GRAND FORMAT AUCTION 6172

May 13, 2017

Live: Dallas

Online: HA.com/6172a

INQUIRIES

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To request a catalog, call 866.835.3243
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Bremond Interchangeable Orchestra
Box on Table with Six Cylinders
From a Private Texas Music Box Collection

Symphonion Sublime
Harmony with Lenzkirch Clock
From a Private Texas Music Box Collection



market. As phonograph fidelity improved and player pianos became available, the high cost began to take its toll on the sales of all music boxes. During that decade, Paul Lochmann, holder of the 1885 disc music box patent, successfully marketed disc-operated pianos and orchestrions.

“No band or orchestra instruments can produce the rich distinctive sound of these music boxes,” says Tom Slater, director of Americana auctions at Heritage. “When playing a restored music box today, we are having the same experience as its original owner over 100 years ago.”

A collection of 25 music boxes is being offered at Heritage’s Americana & Political Grand Format Auction scheduled for May 13. Most boxes are expected to sell in the \$5,000 to \$15,000 range.

“When these were being made, we were still fighting cowboys and Indians over here,” says Walter Szymczak, a Dallas-area retired businessman who put this collection together beginning in 1995. “I’ve always been involved in antiques and I’ve always been intrigued by the intricacy, the way they were made.”

The ideal home for these treasures, Szymczak adds, is the home of “anybody who appreciates history. That’s what these are all about. They’re from an era we’ll never see again, and they are beautiful pieces of furniture.”



Capital Cuff Model C with
Mahogany Case, 10 cuffs
From a Private Texas Music Box Collection

Upcoming Auctions

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MAY

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PHOTOGRAPHS
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COMICS & COMIC ART
Signature® Auction 7163
New York – HA.com/7163a

SPACE EXPLORATION
Signature® Auction 6173
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ANIMATION ART
Signature® Auction 7171
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CIVIL WAR, MILITARIA, ARMS & ARMOR
Signature® Auction 6177
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Dallas – HA.com/7215a

JULY

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Signature® Auction 1257
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U.S. COINS
Signature® Auction 1258
ANA
Denver – HA.com/1258a

WORLD COINS
Signature® Auction 3056
ANA
Denver – HA.com/3056a

CURRENCY
Signature® Auction 3556
ANA
Denver – HA.com/3556a

AUGUST

MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART
Auction 191731
Prints & Multiples
Dallas – HA.com/191731a

COMICS & COMIC ART
Signature® Auction 7166
Dallas – HA.com/7166a

SPORTS COLLECTIBLES
Platinum Night Auction
Dallas – HA.com/7195a

SEPTEMBER

U.S. COINS
Signature® Auction 1259
Long Beach Expo
Long Beach – HA.com/1259a

WORLD COINS
Signature® Auction 3057
Long Beach Expo
Long Beach – HA.com/3057a

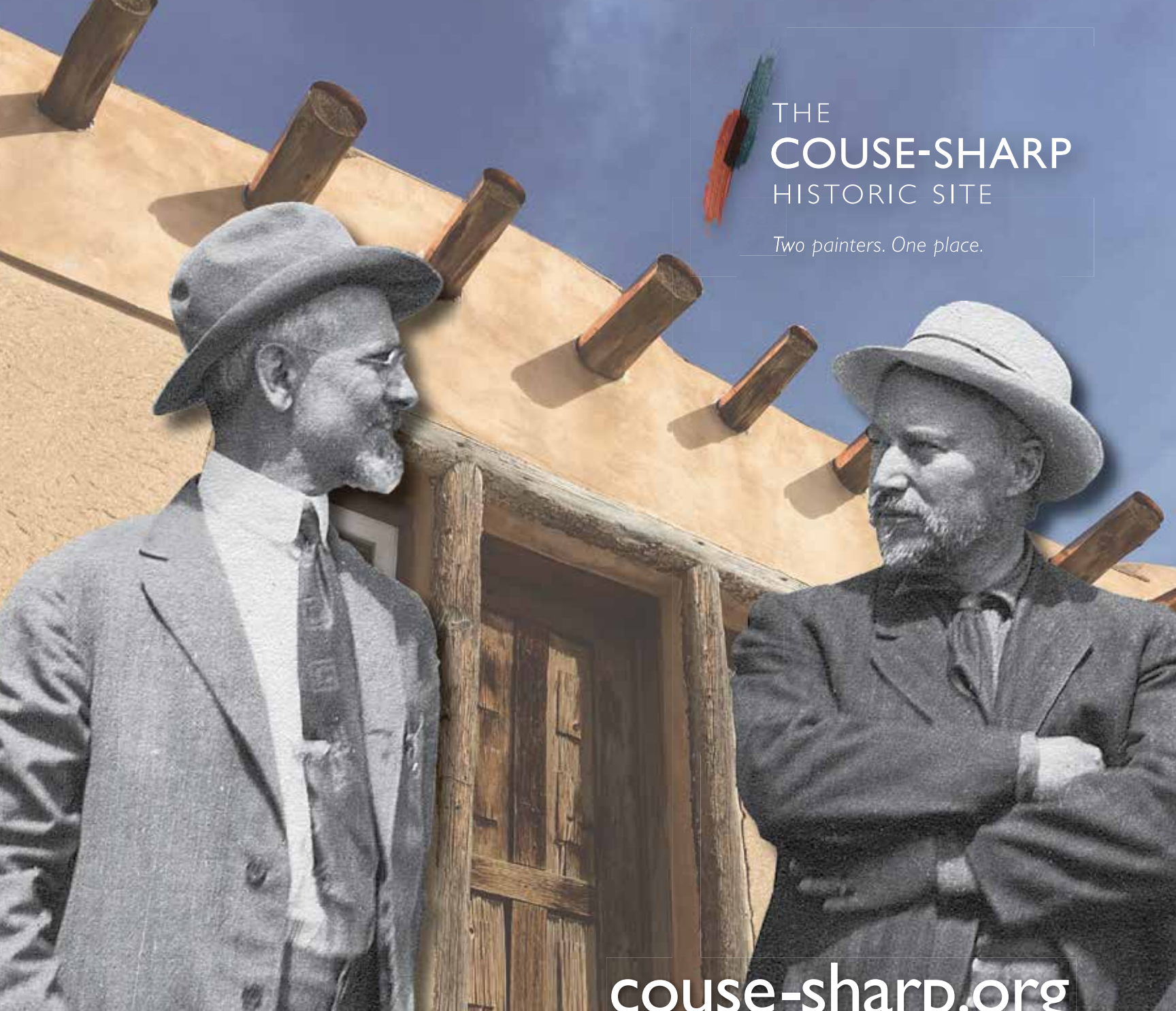
CURRENCY
Signature® Auction 3557
Long Beach Expo
Long Beach – HA.com/3557a

WORLD CURRENCY
Signature® Auction 3558
Long Beach Expo
Long Beach – HA.com/3558a



Apollo 11 Crew-Signed White Spacesuit Photo, Signed by Armstrong, Collins and Aldrin
Estimate: \$5,000-\$7,000
Featured in *Space Exploration*
Signature® Auction 6173

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JUNE 10 | LECTURE by PETER HASSRICK
 Director Emeritus and Senior Scholar, Buffalo Bill Center of the West,
 on *The Studios of Joseph Henry Sharp* at The Harwood Museum of Art



JUNE 10 | BIENNIAL GALA AUCTION & FUNDRAISER
 Silent and live auctions, wine, hors d'oeuvres, gourmet dinner and
 live music at El Monte Sagrado Resort

JUNE 11 | J.H. SHARP STUDIO OPENING *The Life and Work of an American Legend*—an exhibit featuring significant artwork, personal ephemera, correspondence, and a selection of Native American artifacts collected by Sharp



MY FAVORITE THINGS

Executive Vice President of International Numismatics Cristiano Bierrenbach explains why these 5 coins are incredible

My coin trading started on the streets of my native Rio de Janeiro. From an early age, I was curious to know what the people, denominations and dates on these small pieces of metal meant. I would collect 1982 World Cup soccer cards and trade them for Brazilian copper coins and even some small silver. By age 10, I had completed my first date set of Republic silver 2000 Reis, all nine dates at 50 cents to \$1 each.

Later, the timing was perfect as I graduated from college just as eBay launched, providing the platform to start my coin business.

After 12 years as a dealer in Brazil, I joined Heritage Auctions in 2008. It's amazing that now I get to put together, along with the Heritage team, coin auction catalogs featuring some of the world's greatest rarities – from the Ancient to the four corners of the modern world. I live my childhood dream every day.

CRISTIANO BIERRENBACH is executive vice president of international numismatics at Heritage Auctions. He can be reached at CrisB@HA.com.

8 Escudos, Central American Republic, 1824

I am particularly fond of Spanish American colonial coins. Among these, perhaps my favorite is the beautiful 8 Escudos issue of the Central American Republic (what is today Guatemala). With its beautiful, shining sun over the Central American mountains, its simple yet majestic Ceiba Tree and the motto “Libre Cresca Fecundo” (Grow Free and Fruitful), this coin embodies much of the spirit of the new, and now mostly independent, America. It sold for \$176,250 at a January 2014 Heritage auction.



Vespasian 'Judea Capta' Sestertius, Shoshanna Collection

The Shoshanna Collection was full of incredible rarities, but I was awestruck when I saw this fantastic 2,000-year-old bronze featuring Roman Emperor Vespasian that basically looked “as struck.” With a starting bid of \$30,000 that soared to \$262,900, it’s clear I wasn’t the only one amazed by it.

Meiji 13 (1880) Proof 20 Year

We recently sold the Meiji 13 Proof Set of Japan and the 20 yen is perhaps the most important issue of modern Japan. The pedigree of this coin dates to 1915. It’s an amazing piece of Japanese numismatic history which I am glad to report is returning to the county of the rising sun after 100-plus years. It sold for \$305,500 in January 2017.



Mexico Pillar Dollar, 1732

The first milled silver dollar struck in America is the 1732 8 Escudos, struck at the Mexico City mint nearly 300 years ago. Although not a particular rarity, 1732 Pillars are extremely elusive in mint state, which makes this an incredible specimen. Look closely at the two “Pillars of Hercules” wrapped in banners and you’ll see why some historians believe the dollar sign (\$) originated with the coin. This piece realized \$152,750 at an August 2016 Heritage auction.

Coronation Peça of Peter I, Brazil, 1822

This is the crown jewel of Brazilian numismatics. It has all the features required to be a true No. 1 coin for a country with such a prolific numismatic history: a great back story and a bust of a newly crowned emperor of a newly independent nation. It broke the record for the most valuable Brazilian numismatic item when Heritage sold it in 2014 for \$499,375. I’m confident this record will hold for a while.



Photographs signed by Jesse Owens frequently appear at auction.
This example, titled "Jesse Owens 36 Olympics," sold in October 2008.



• • • LEGENDS • • •

Discovering *Jesse Owens'* GOLD



1936 Berlin Summer Olympics Gold Medal
Presented to Jesse Owens
Estimate: \$500,000

After decades of quiet safekeeping, Pennsylvania family tells the tale of their Olympic treasures

By Hector Cantú

By 1955, Pittsburgh's Hill District had seen better days.

Louis DeVito was a handyman in his 20s in the neighborhoods near downtown, doing odd jobs here and there – some landscaping, some construction. “He was a jack of all trades,” says DeVito’s son Albert. “He was married a year out of high school and had started a family.”

Among his circle of friends and business acquaintances was the owner of the Bailey Hotel in the heart of the Hill District, a cultural center of the city’s African-American community.

“The Bailey Hotel was pretty vibrant from the 1920s to the early ’50s,” says the younger DeVito. “It’s where African-American celebrities stayed when they came to town. This was a time when they couldn’t stay in downtown Pittsburgh because the hotels there were white only.”

Then things began changing.

Thousands of residents were displaced after a substantial portion of the district was slated for redevelopment. At about the same time, as segregation declined, more hotels began allowing African-American guests.

“The Hill District kind of lost its importance somewhat,” DeVito says, “and the hotel business slowed up, obviously, and Harry Bailey was still trying to run the hotel in the ’50s. He needed some money and my dad lent it to him.”

As repayment, Bailey gave Louis DeVito a ticket for items Bailey had taken to Maxie’s Pawn Shop.

“Just take the pawn ticket,” the hotelier told the handyman. “Take what’s there. You’ll find four boxes I got from Jesse Owens.”



1936 Berlin Summer Olympics Gold Medal
Presented to Jesse Owens
Estimate: \$500,000

The Hill District at one time was among the most vibrant African-American communities in America. When celebrities like Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Joe Louis and Bill “Bojangles” Robinson came to town, they lodged in the district.

It’s where Jesse Owens found himself after returning to the United States from the 1936 Summer Olympics in Germany. The son of Alabama sharecroppers had won a stunning four gold medals in Berlin – singlehandedly undermining Adolf Hitler’s myth of Aryan supremacy.

On Aug. 3, 1936, in the 100-meter finals, Owens tied the world record to win his first gold medal. A crowd of 110,000, mostly Germans, packed the stadium. “Much to the fuehrer’s chagrin, the crowd went ecstatic,” Guy Walters writes in *Berlin Games: How Hitler Stole the Olympic Dream*.

The following day, Owens set an Olympic record in the long jump, 26 feet 5¼ inches, to secure his second gold medal. On Aug. 5, Owens again smashed a world record as he took gold in the 200-meter dash. His fourth medal came when he ran the opening leg for the winning 4x100-meter U.S. relay team.

Sports Illustrated ranks Owens’ triumph in Germany among its top three moments in sports history – alongside 1980’s Miracle on Ice and Jackie Robinson breaking baseball’s color barrier in 1947.

Despite the world celebrating his accomplishments, Owens faced hard times when he returned to the United States. Hotels refused him and his wife service. Endorsement and show business offers he had received via telegram failed to fully materialize.

“Not surprisingly, the promises of easy wealth were all lies,” author and ESPN reporter Jeremy Schaap writes in *Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens and Hitler’s Olympics*. “All those telegrams ... were publicity stunts, designed to place names in newspaper columns.”

“Things were hard for Jesse,” Albert DeVito says. “A number of businesses he started had failed. He had tax issues. He was obviously trying to do a lot of things, trying to generate income for his family.”

Between 1954 and 1955, Owens was in Pittsburgh for personal and business reasons. He took up residence at the Bailey Hotel. Ultimately, the time came to settle his account.

“Jesse didn’t have the financial means to pay for his stay at Mr. Bailey’s hotel,” Albert DeVito says, “so he gave his medals to Harry as his payment for expenses incurred.”

At the time, the medals weren’t seen as anything special.

“Even Jesse in William Baker’s biography [*Jesse Owens: An American Life*] says something like, ‘I won all these medals, but I didn’t have any money to eat.’ Nobody saw them as valuable.”

By 1960, Owens had found his calling, *Investor’s Business Daily* notes in a 2014 profile. He worked as a physical education guru for the state of Illinois, and began traveling the world to speak as a goodwill ambassador for the Olympics. He later was an executive for a sporting goods company, and did promotional work for corporations like Ford and Atlantic Richfield.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford presented Owens with the Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor. Four years later, he died of lung cancer at age 66.

“In his obituaries, he was called, unfailingly, the greatest of all Olympic stars,” Schaap writes in his book. “Even today, more than a century after the revival of the Games, he remains their ultimate champion.”



Louis DeVito, now 85, doesn’t recall much about the day he went to Maxie’s Pawn Shop with the ticket given to him by Bailey.

“I figured it was historic ... gold medals... that’s about it,” DeVito says about that day more than 60 years ago. “I didn’t give it too much thought.”

His son Albert interjects: “I’ve asked my dad, ‘Did you keep the pawn ticket?’ and he said, ‘Why would I keep the pawn ticket?’

What the elder DeVito did know was that he had four Olympic medals, each snug in its case. “Three of the boxes had the gold medals and one had Jesse Owens’ Olympic participation medal,” his son says.

Because Harry Bailey was a friend, Louis gave one of the



1936 Berlin Summer Olympics
Participation Medal Presented
to Jesse Owens
Estimate: \$30,000

"[The medals] represent not only a legendary sports moment, but a historic triumph of good over the ultimate evil."

gold medals back to the hotelier. "At the time," Louis would say later, "these all meant very little to us, as the medals had no value that we knew."

Over the next 40 years, Louis kept the remaining medals inside a cardboard box tucked into a closet of his Pittsburgh home.

It wasn't until the 1990s that the family began thinking the medals might be important. "My dad showed them to me," Albert says, "and I said, 'Whoa! These are Jesse Owens' gold medals.'"

The younger DeVito was soon researching Owens and talking to his dad's old friends who were familiar with the story of Owens' stay at the Bailey Hotel (Harry Bailey, he discovered, had sold his hotel in 1956 and died in 1973).

"I called Olympic committees," says Albert, a retired oil and gas industry director. "I scoured old Pittsburgh newspapers. I talked to William Baker, who wrote the Owens biography. And then [in 1997] we got a good friend of Harry Bailey's, Albert Graham, to write down his story [in a notarized statement]."

Then, in 2013, one of Owens' four gold medals went to auction. Owens had given a gold medal to Bill "Bojangles" Robinson after the dancer and film star befriended Owens upon his return from the Olympics. Offered by the estate of Robinson's widow, the medal sold for \$1.46 million.

"It wasn't until that first gold medal sold," Albert says, "that we even thought, 'Oh, my goodness. These things are worth something!'"

The DeVitos decided to auction their three medals and contacted Heritage Auctions. (The gold medal Louis gave to Harry Bailey remains missing.)

"I have been in the sports collectibles business for 38 years and these medals are historically the most important sports memorabilia I have ever handled," says Heritage Auctions sports specialist and consignment director Mike Gutierrez. "They represent not only a legendary sports moment, but a historic triumph of good over the ultimate evil."

The DeVitos have a slightly different view of the treasures they've kept safe in their home over the decades.

"My dad is very quiet and does not say much," Albert says, "but when he handled the medals and boxes, he did so very delicately. I believe he not only realized he had pieces of history in his hands, but pieces of one person's accomplishments within that history – those of Mr. Owens'. He always respected and appreciated both of these aspects."

"He feels he has held these for a long time," Albert adds, "and it's now time to put them into someone else's hands who will care for them."

HECTOR CANTÚ is editor of *The Intelligent Collector*.



A 1936 Olympics photograph album (top) documented the events of what many call the most significant Summer Games in modern history. After making history at the Games, Owens later worked for Lincoln-Mercury (bottom).

EVENT

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NIGHT AUCTION 7195

Aug. 19–20, 2017

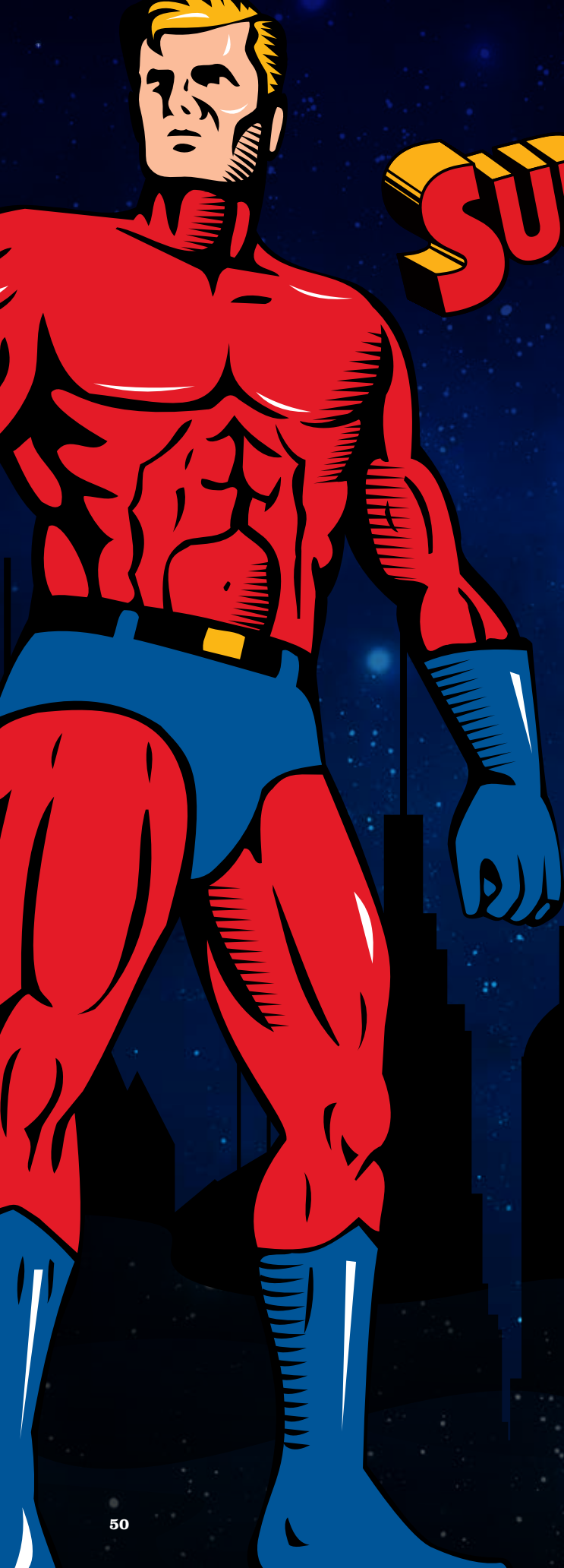
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INQUIRIES

Mike Gutierrez

214.409.1183

MikeG@HA.com



SUPER-POWERED *Cinema*

As comic-book characters continue invading theaters, related collectibles see strong surge in collector interest

By Hector Cantú

Superhero movies rank among the most successful films of the past 15 years. And by all indications, the comic-book invasion of the blockbuster list is just beginning.

Modern superhero movies subdued pop culture when director Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man* hit theaters in 2002. Today, that movie's worldwide box office stands at \$821 million, placing it at No. 57 on Nash Information Services' 100 All Time Worldwide Box Office list. Four sequels and re-boots have since taken total receipts for all Spider-Man movies to \$4 billion, making the webbed wonder the most successful superhero film series. And that's before this summer's release of *Spider-Man: Homecoming*.

In all, movies based on comic-book characters claim nearly one-fifth of the world's 100 most successful movies.

"Spider-Man has been the most-collected title for quite a while," says Barry Sandoval, director of comic operations at Heritage Auctions, "but the movies are pushing demand for key issues to a new level."

At the same time, comic-book circulation has hit a 20-year high. According to entertainment news website Vulture, comics distributor Diamond in August 2016 shipped 10.26 million comic books and graphic novels to comic-book shops. That's the biggest distribution month since December 1996.

It's no surprise, then, that recent auctions have seen record prices for key Spider-Man, Avengers, Batman and Iron Man books and original art.

"The box-office dominance of comic book-related movies is a large contributor to investor confidence," explains Ed Jaster, senior vice president at Heritage Auctions. "Five of the top 20 highest-grossing movies worldwide are comic-book movies. And even more impressively, every single one of those five comic-book movies was released in 2012 or later. We don't believe the market for vintage comic books and original comic art has reached its potential."

Now, about the impact of all those Netflix shows ...

SPIDER-MAN

Vintage Spider-Man comics remain some of the hottest collectibles on the market, thanks in part to the five *Spider-Man* movies released since 2002. Together, the movies have generated box-office receipts of \$3.94 billion – with the latest movie heading to theaters this summer.

Upcoming release: *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (July 7)

Related comics: *Amazing Spider-Man* #2 (1963, Marvel) and *Amazing Spider-Man* #46 (1967, Marvel) feature the first appearances of the Vulture and the Shocker, respectively, who appear in *Homecoming*.

100 WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE

RANK	YEAR	MOVIE	In \$billions
43	2007	Spider-Man 3	.89
57	2002	Spider-Man	.82
68	2004	Spider-Man 2	.78
73	2012	The Amazing Spider-Man	.75
84	2014	The Amazing Spider-Man 2	.70
TOTAL			\$3.94 BILLION

Source: Nash Information Services



Amazing Fantasy #15
(Marvel, 1962)
First appearance of Spider-Man
CGC NM 9.4
Price realized: \$454,100
February 2016



The Amazing Spider-Man #1
(Marvel, 1963)
Curator Pedigree CGC NM+ 9.6
Price realized: \$262,900
November 2016



The Amazing Spider-Man #2
(Marvel, 1963)
First appearances of the Vulture
CGC NM+ 9.6
Price realized: \$72,895
November 2015



Steve Ditko
Amazing Spider-Man #27
(Marvel, 1965)
Splash Page 1 Original Art
Price realized: \$239,000
November 2016



THE AVENGERS

The Avengers movie remains Marvel Studios' biggest blockbuster, with worldwide box office totaling \$1.519 billion, making it No. 5 on the All Time Worldwide Box Office list – behind only *Avatar*, *Titanic*, *Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens*, and *Jurassic World*.

Upcoming release: *The Avengers: Infinity War* (May 4, 2018)

Related comics: *Iron Man* #55 (Marvel, 1973) features the first appearance of Thanos, and *X-Men* #4 (Marvel, 1964) marks the first appearance of the Scarlet Witch. They both appear in *Infinity War*.



100 WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE

RANK	YEAR	MOVIE	In \$billions
5	2012	The Avengers	1.51
7	2015	Avengers: Age of Ultron	1.40
TOTAL			\$2.91 BILLION

Source: Nash Information Services



The Avengers #1
(Marvel, 1963)
Pacific Coast Pedigree CGC
NM+ 9.6
Price realized: \$274,850
July 2012



Iron Man #55
(Marvel, 1973)
First appearance of Thanos
CGC NM+ 9.6
Price realized: \$2,390
February 2015



Sal Buscema & Sam Grainger
Avengers #72
(Marvel, 1970)
Cover Original Art
Price realized: \$89,625
August 2014

CAPTAIN AMERICA

The creation of cartoonists Joe Simon and Jack Kirby came only two years after Batman, and quickly found success as a patriotic superhero fighting the Axis powers of World War II. By 1944, Captain America serials were playing in theaters, but it was 2011's *Captain America: The First Avenger* that launched Steve Rogers' rise to international fame.



Jack Kirby & Syd Shores
Captain America #101
(Marvel, 1968)
Splash Page 1 Original Art
Price realized: \$56,762.50
February 2014



Captain America Comics #2
(Timely, 1941)
Billy Wright Pedigree CGC NM 9.4
Price realized: \$113,525
February 2012

100 WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE			
RANK	YEAR	MOVIE	In \$billions
12	2016	Captain America: Civil War	1.15
83	2014	Captain America: Winter Soldier	.71
TOTAL			\$1.86 BILLION

Source: Nash Information Services

IRON MAN

Several comic legends are behind the creation of Iron Man. Stan Lee is credited with the concept, which was developed by scripter Larry Lieber, followed by character designs by artists Don Heck and Jack Kirby. The billionaire playboy/industrial magnate/ingenious engineer, played brilliantly on film by Robert Downey Jr., made his first appearance in 1963.



Tales of Suspense #39
(Marvel, 1963)
First appearance and origin of Iron Man
CGC NM+ 9.6
Price realized: \$262,900
November 2013



George Tuska & Frank Giacoia
Iron Man #8
(Marvel, 1968)
Cover Original Art
Price realized: \$38,240
August 2015

100 WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE			
RANK	YEAR	MOVIE	In \$billions
10	2013	Iron Man 3	1.21
TOTAL			\$1.21 BILLION

Source: Nash Information Services



Marvel's team of mutants surprisingly place only one movie on the list of 100 All Time Worldwide Box Office champs. Combined, however, the nine X-Men films – including 2016's spinoff *Deadpool* – have grossed more than \$4.3 billion worldwide.

Recent release: *Logan* (March 2017)
 Related comic: *NYX* #3 (Marvel, 2004) features the first appearance of X-23, the clone-daughter of Wolverine.

X-MEN



100 WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE

RANK	YEAR	MOVIE	In \$billions
67	2016	Deadpool	.78
75	2014	X-Men: Days of Future Past	.74
TOTAL			\$1.52 BILLION

Source: Nash Information Services



John Byrne & Terry Austin
 X-Men #137
 (Marvel, 1980)
 Double Splash Pages 2-3
 Original Art
 Price realized: \$167,300
 August 2015



X-Men #1
 (Marvel, 1963)
 Pacific Coast Pedigree CGC
 NM/MT 9.8
 Price realized: \$492,937.50
 July 2012



NYX #3
 (Marvel, 2004)
 First appearance of X-23
 CGC NM/MT 9.8
 Price realized: \$430.20
 November 2015

BATMAN

Batman has remained a consistent force in pop culture since his debut in *Detective Comics* #27 nearly 80 years ago. Bill Finger and Bob Kane's character, created in response to the success of Superman, drew inspiration from the pulp novels of the day, the Zorro character, and the 1926 silent film *The Bat*, which featured a caped killer. The character's dark roots have been the focus of more recent comics and film adaptations.

Recent release: *The Lego Batman Movie* (February 2017)

Upcoming release: *Justice League* (Nov. 17)

Related comics: *DC Comics Presents* #26 (DC, 1980) features the first appearances of Cyborg, and *New Gods* #7 (DC, 1972) features the debut of Steppenwolf, who both appear in *Justice League*.



Batman #1
(DC, 1940)
CGC FN- 5.5
Price realized: \$239,000
November 2016



Frank Miller
Batman: The Dark Knight
Returns #2
(DC, 1986)
Cover Original Art
Price realized: \$478,000
August 2013



DC Comics Presents #26
(DC, 1980)
First appearance of Cyborg
CGC NM/MT 9.8
Price realized: \$687.13
September 2016

100 WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE

RANK	YEAR	MOVIE	In \$billions
17	2012	The Dark Knight Rises	1.08
28	2008	The Dark Knight	1.00
49	2016	Batman v. Superman	.86
TOTAL			\$2.94 BILLION

Source: Nash Information Services

STILL POUNDING THE COMPETITION

The 2013 movie *Man of Steel* is the only standalone Superman movie that makes the list of the 100 top-grossing movies, ranked at No. 96 with \$668 million in box-office receipts. That doesn't mean Superman has fallen out of favor with collectors. Two recent sales set auction-house records at Heritage.



Action Comics #1
(DC, 1938)
CGC FN- 5.5
Price realized: \$956,000
August 2016



Superman #1
(DC, 1939)
CGC VG+ 4.5
Price realized: \$358,500
November 2016



SUICIDE SQUAD

Various versions of the Suicide Squad have appeared in DC comics since 1959, with the latest ensemble being a “strike team” of supervillains working for the United States government in exchange for shorter prison sentences.

Upcoming release: *Suicide Squad* sequel (no date)

Related comic: *Batman Adventures* #12 (DC, 1993) features the first appearance of Harley Quinn, one of the film’s breakout characters.

100 WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE

RANK	YEAR	MOVIE	In \$billions
77	2016	Suicide Squad	.74
TOTAL			\$746 MILLION

Source: Nash Information Services



Suicide Squad #1
(DC, 1987)
First issue of modern
Suicide Squad
CGC NM/MT 9.8
Price realized: \$501.90
June 2015

DOCTOR STRANGE

Benedict Cumberbatch brought Steve Ditko and Stan Lee’s Master of the Mystic Arts to life in Marvel Studios’ big-screen adaptation, which ranks among the studio’s best-reviewed films. It was a blockbuster hit after the less-than-spectacular 1978 TV movie and the 2007 direct-to-DVD animated film *Doctor Strange: The Sorcerer Supreme*.

Upcoming appearance: *Thor: Ragnarok* (Nov. 3)

Related comics: *Avengers* #69 (Marvel, 1969) features the debut of Grandmaster, and *Journey Into Mystery* #103 (Marvel, 1964) is the first appearance of the Executioner. Both appear in the new Thor movie.

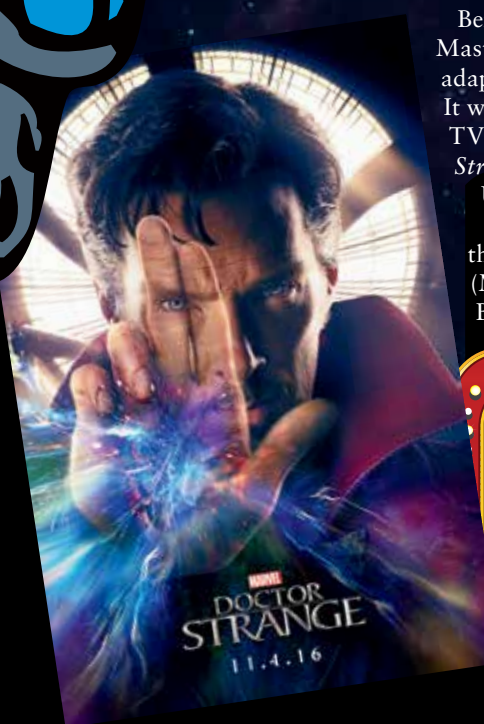
100 WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE

RANK	YEAR	MOVIE	In \$billions
95	2016	Doctor Strange	.66
TOTAL			\$660 MILLION

Source: Nash Information Services



Doctor Strange #169
(Marvel, 1968)
First appearance of Doctor
Strange in his own title
CGC NM/MT 9.8
Price realized: \$8,365
November 2016





GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

Marvel's original space heroes bear little resemblance to the lineup in the 2014 movie. The 1969 version of the team included astronaut Vance Astro (later known as Major Victory), the crystalline being Martinex T'Naga, Captain Charlie-27 (a soldier from Jupiter), and the blue-skinned Yondu Udonta. While the comic was never the success Marvel expected, the movie adaptation has been a worldwide hit, with this spring's sequel expected to quickly reach blockbuster status.

Upcoming release: *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* (May 2017)

Related comic: *Avengers* #112 (Marvel, 1973) features the first appearance of Mantis, who joins the spacefaring superhero team onscreen.



Gene Colan & Mike Esposito
 Marvel Super-Heroes #18
 (Marvel, 1969)
 First page, first appearance
 Guardians of the Galaxy
 Splash Page 1 Original Art
 Price realized: \$14,340
 August 2014

100 WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE

RANK	YEAR	MOVIE	In \$billions
69	2014	Guardians of the Galaxy	.77
TOTAL			\$770 MILLION

Source: Nash Information Services



Marvel Super-Heroes #18
 (Marvel, 1969)
 First appearance Guardians
 of the Galaxy
 Don/Maggie Thompson Collection
 Pedigree CGC NM+ 9.6
 Price realized: \$10,157.50
 August 2014



The Avengers #112
 (Marvel, 1973)
 First appearance of Mantis
 CGC NM+ 9.6
 Price realized: \$597.50
 June 2015



THE JOKER

Batman #23
 (DC, 1944)
 CGC NM+ 9.6
 Price realized: \$43,020
 May 2015

OK, the Joker does not have his own movie, but the grinning lunatic deserves an honorable mention. He's appeared in two Top 100 movies: *The Dark Knight* (No. 28) and *Suicide Squad* (No. 77), with combined box office of \$1.74 billion. Of course, the supervillain was first popularized by Cesar Romero in the 1960s Batman television series and by Jack Nicholson in Tim Burton's 1989 *Batman*.





More Upcoming MOVIE Releases

2017

- * *Wonder Woman* (June 2)

2018

- * *Black Panther* (Feb. 16)
- * *Deadpool 2* (March 2)
- * *Ant-Man and the Wasp* (July 6)
- * *Venom* (Oct. 5)
- * *Aquaman* (Dec. 21)

2019

- * *Captain Marvel* (March 8)
- * *Shazam* (April 5)
- * Untitled Avengers movie (May 3)
- * *Spider-Man: Homecoming 2* (July 5)

2020

- * *Cyborg* (April 3)
- * *Green Lantern Corps* (July 24)

In DEVELOPMENT/ pre-production

Justice League sequel, Batman sequel, Flash, Gambit, Harley Quinn, X-Men: New Mutants, X-Force, X-Men: Supernova, Superman sequel, Gotham City Sirens, Nightwing, Black Adam



Fantastic Four #52
(Marvel, 1966)
First appearance of Black Panther
CGC NM/MT 9.8
Price realized: \$83,650
February 2016



All Star Comics #8
(DC, 1942)
Origin and first appearance
of Wonder Woman
CGC VF 8.0
Price realized: \$56,762.50
July 2012



Tales to Astonish #44
(Marvel, 1963)
Origin and first appearance
of Wasp
CBCS NM 9.4
Price realized: \$6,572.50
November 2015



The New Mutants #98
Signature Series
(Marvel, 1991)
First appearances of Deadpool
CGC NM/MT 9.8
Price realized: \$1,493.75
February 2015



More Fun Comics #73
(DC, 1941)
Origin and first appearance of Aquaman
CGC VF 8.0
Price realized: \$104,562.50
November 2016

The Mysterious Mister Magik Woo

Collector's eye for detail is paying off – 30 years later

Who is Mister Magik Woo?

Quite simply, Mr. Woo is a former hip-hop dancer who had the foresight in the late 1980s to collect the best-graded copies of his favorite titles.

His comics are so remarkable that Comic Book Certification Service (CBCS) includes his name on their Woo-graded comics – “From the Personal Collection of Mister Magik Woo.”

In all, Woo estimates about 650 slabs are labeled as Woo comics – something typically reserved for pedigrees, not collectors. Many represent the highest-grade example for the encased comics – with an eclectic range of titles (from *Astro Boy* and *Captain America Comics* to *Little Lotta* and *Wonder Woman*) representing publishers such as Harvey, Dell, DC and Marvel. Since 2015, Woo books have realized more than \$330,000 at auction.

“Magik’s books are known for their eye-appeal,” says Barry Sandoval, director of operations for comics and comic art at Heritage Auctions.

While Woo, 56, closely guards his personal life – he would not provide us with a photo that shows his face – he’s at ease explaining how he amassed his collection of high-grade vintage comics. He spoke to us by phone from his home in Vancouver.

Please tell us more about your hip-hop career.

I was a hip-hop dancer, but it wasn’t called that back in the 1980s. It was called poppin’ ’n’ lockin’. At that time, I was the Canadian champion and I decided to compete in the United States. In between shows all across the country, I would take breaks and look for comics.

And your name really is Mister Magik Woo?

Yes, that’s my name. I go to the bank and put my money in my account under Magik Woo.

When did you first start collecting comics?

I remember buying *Silver Surfer* No. 1 at

Cozy Corner down on Hastings Street in Vancouver when I was 8. It turned into an obsession in the late ’80s when I started hunting for these comics that I didn’t even know if they existed.

Your collection was built over a relatively short period of time.

All my comics, the ones up for sale, were acquired over three years in the late 1980s. I acquired 4,000 to 5,000.

And back then, just as comic-collecting was taking off on a large scale, you were looking for mint copies?

People back then were still readers. They were after OK copies. I was looking at them like stamps or coins. You collected it. You did not read it. If you wanted to read it, you bought a lower-grade copy to read. Everything like the centering and the staples really picked at me. I guess you can use the word “perfectionist.”

A main segment of your collection is a batch of comics you found in 1989. Explain that discovery.

I didn’t care for low-grade books. They were too common. I was looking for unicorns. So I was at a comic show in Portland, Ore., before it opened, and I asked people there about high grades. I ended up at a booth where a guy had all these books. He told me they were on consignment for the original owners.

And what did you see?

It was over 165 key Marvels. They were all unread, from a guy who knew someone at the wholesalers or the printer. But this was the unusual thing ... these Marvels were centered. The staples were centered. The spines were centered. So a national dealer got there after me and within 10 minutes, he realized what it was, so they offered me \$1,000 to take a hike, and I looked at them and I said, “No.” I remember sending him \$50 two weeks later, saying,

“Sorry you didn’t get the deal. Have dinner on me.” This was a collection that you only get once in a lifetime.

What’s the story behind the *Richie Rich* #1 you auctioned in 2015?

I was in Chicago and I put word out to every dealer that I was looking for *Richie Rich* because I loved *Richie Rich*. One dealer said, “Come back tomorrow.” ... So the next day he said, “We have *Richie Rich*,” and I was astounded by how much they wanted. I think it was nearly triple guide. I immediately said I’ll take it. So I picked up the book in San Diego [and] paid them. As I was walking away, I heard, “Excuse me.” I turn around and they go, “Can we purchase the book back?” The thing is, I had a feeling they never intended to sell it. They said the book was the finest copy in existence.

So what did you tell them about selling it back?

I said, “Nope,” and I got out of there as fast as I could.

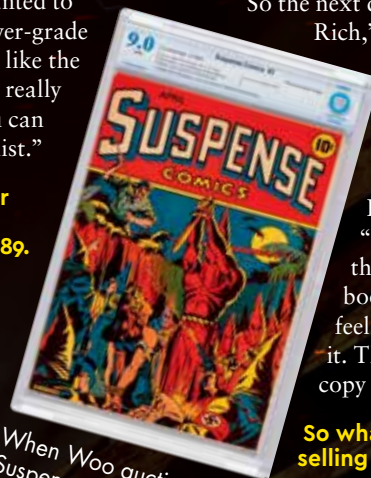
When you auction comics, you donate a percentage to the Hero Initiative [a not-for-profit group that helps comic creators in need]. Why is that important to you?

We are collecting on the backs of these artists. Without them there is no collecting. I always thought the people who never reaped the benefits years later were the artists. So I always wanted to give back in that way.

Comics from the collection of Mister Magik Woo are featured in Heritage’s Comics Signature® Auction 7166 scheduled for Aug. 10-11, 2017, in Dallas and online at HA.com/7166a. Direct inquiries to Barry Sandoval at 214.409.1377 or BarryS@HA.com.



Woo’s *Richie Rich* #1 sold for \$19,120 in August 2015. At a grade of NM+ 9.6, no copies are graded higher.



When Woo auctioned his *Suspense* #3 in August 2015, it realized a record price of \$173,275.



Spider-Man #14, graded 9.8, is being offered by Woo in Heritage’s August auction. It’s expected to realize at least \$40,000.



1952 Topps Mickey Mantle #311

Graded PSA NM-MT+ 8.5, this nearly pristine sample sold for \$1,135,250 at a November 2016 Heritage auction.

Power-Player Treasures

Strong demand for legends pushes top end of sports-collectibles market to new heights

By Steve Lansdale

Quick: What do Pete Myers, Charlie Hayes and Greg Hill have in common?

Each had the misfortune of following a sports legend. Myers, now an assistant coach with the Chicago Bulls, was the shooting guard who replaced Michael Jordan. Hayes hit 141 home runs over 14 Major League Baseball seasons, but as a member of the Philadelphia Phillies was tasked with filling the void left by Mike Schmidt. Hill followed Hall of Famer Barry Sanders at running back for the Detroit Lions.

On rare occasions is a legend replaced by someone who doesn't pale by comparison. Among that elite group is Mickey Mantle. His rookie season with the New York Yankees — 1951 — also was the final season of Yankees legend Joe DiMaggio. With the retirement of the Yankees' center fielder, Mantle was thrust into the spotlight as the team's new star. Today, Mantle is ranked among the greatest players ever.

Not surprisingly, Mantle collectibles are a staple for serious collectors. In 2016, his 1952 Topps card sold for \$1.135 million — the most ever paid for a card produced after World War II. It's the highest price realized for a sports collectible auctioned by Heritage in the 12 months ending February 2017.

"The top end of the sports collectibles market continues to expand its range with every Heritage auction, and we've seen the greatest statistical advances from market norms in that six- and seven-figure arena," says Heritage Sports Auctions director Chris Ivy. "Most, if not all, of the best-performing lots of the year would have commanded less than half of the posted prices realized had they been sold more than five years ago, and there's no sign of this stampeding bull market slowing down."

Here are top sports collectibles sold by Heritage Auctions in the 12-month period ending Feb. 28, 2017.



1963 Topps Rookie Stars #537, Pete Rose

Combine athletic supremacy with unmatched quality and the value of any collectible will soar. Such is the case with this 1963 Topps Rookie Stars card, graded PSA Gem Mint 10. It was evident Pete Rose had a chance to be a successful player when he started his career with 170 hits in his rookie season as a second baseman for the Cincinnati Reds, but nobody could have guessed he would end up collecting more hits than any player in baseball history. This card is the highest-graded example, realizing **\$717,000** at an August 2016 Heritage auction.



1909-11 T206 Sweet Caporal Honus Wagner

If there is a card considered the Holy Grail of baseball collectibles, most collectors will contend that card belongs to Honus Wagner. Just about anything depicting the shortstop is coveted by the most serious of collectors. That held true in November 2016 when an example of Wagner's legendary 1909-11 T206 Sweet Caporal card, graded PSA Good 2, sold for **\$776,750**.



1916 M101-5 Blank Back Sporting News Babe Ruth Rookie #151

To many fans, Babe Ruth is known as a New York Yankee and a powerful slugger – and is on every short list of the greatest who ever played. But at the start of his career, Ruth was neither, launching his professional days as a left-handed pitcher for the Boston Red Sox. His 1916 rookie card, graded PSA NM 7, sold in August 2016 for **\$717,000**.

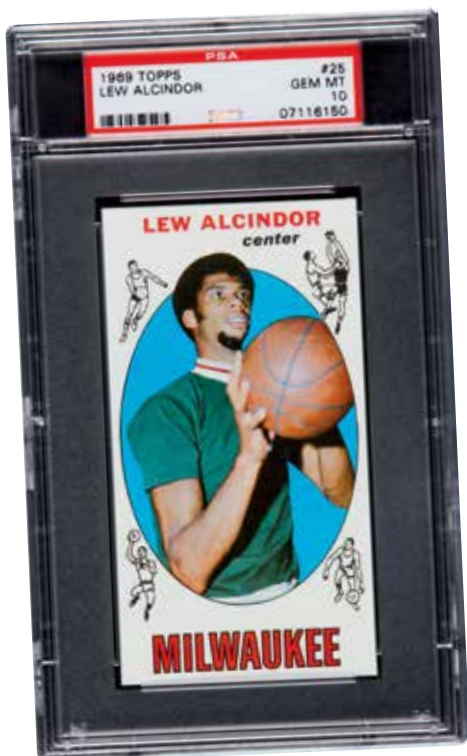
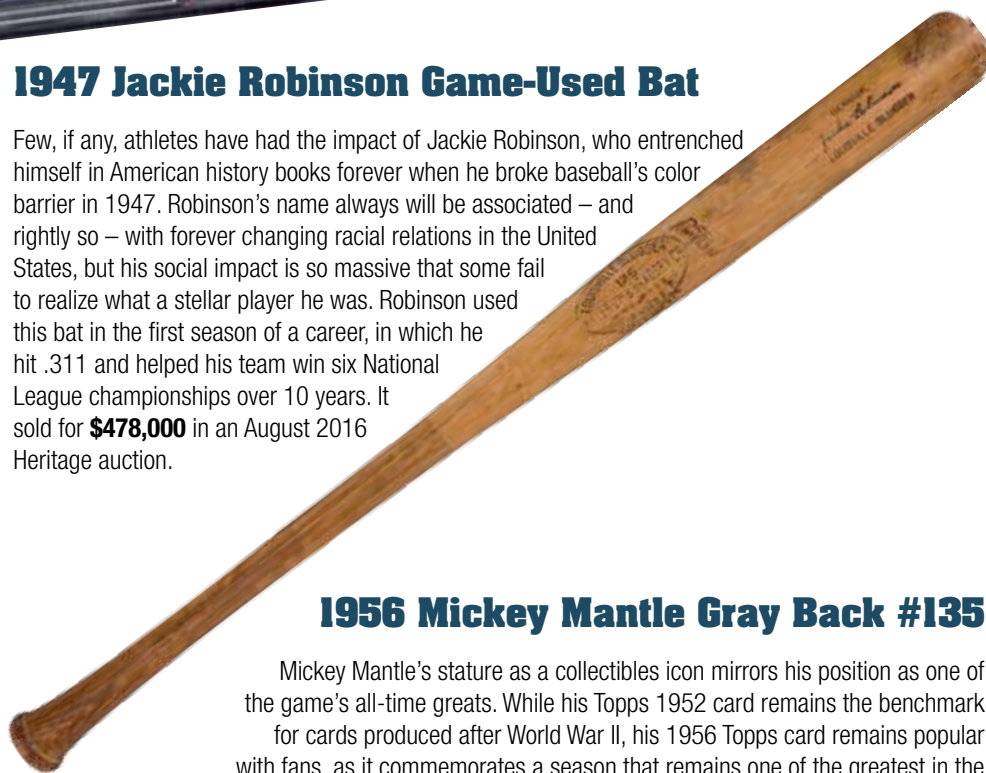


1968 Topps Mets Rookie Stars #177, Nolan Ryan

The biggest trend of the past 12 months has been the surging demand for elite rookie cards. This 1968 Mets Rookie Stars card, graded PSA Gem Mint 10, sold in August 2016 for some collector's lucky bid of **\$612,359.83**. The card depicts the flamethrower who, over 26 Major League seasons with four franchises, struck out more hitters (5,714) than anyone in the history of the sport.

1947 Jackie Robinson Game-Used Bat

Few, if any, athletes have had the impact of Jackie Robinson, who entrenched himself in American history books forever when he broke baseball's color barrier in 1947. Robinson's name always will be associated – and rightly so – with forever changing racial relations in the United States, but his social impact is so massive that some fail to realize what a stellar player he was. Robinson used this bat in the first season of a career, in which he hit .311 and helped his team win six National League championships over 10 years. It sold for **\$478,000** in an August 2016 Heritage auction.



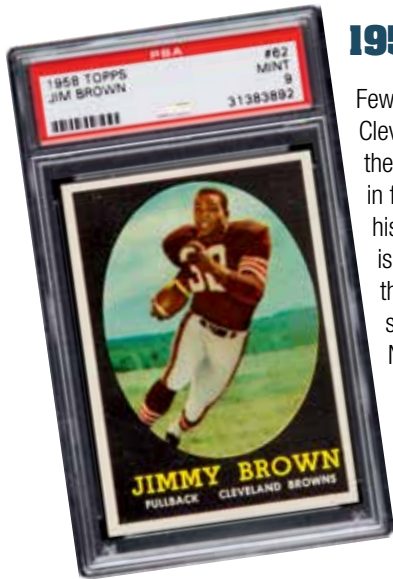
1969 Topps Lew Alcindor #25

Many consider it the most important coin flip in the history of the NBA. Sports executive Jerry Colangelo was saddled with the burden of calling the coin that would determine whether his Phoenix Suns or the Milwaukee Bucks would get the first pick of the 1969 NBA Draft, thereby earning the chance to select three-time NCAA Player of the Year Lew Alcindor. The Suns lost the flip, and Alcindor headed to Milwaukee, where he launched a legendary career during which he (and Oscar Robinson) helped the Bucks win the only NBA championship in team history and, later (after changing his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), ended up as the greatest scorer in NBA history. His Topps rookie card, graded PSA Gem Mint 10, realized **\$501,900** at an August 2016 Heritage auction.

1956 Mickey Mantle Gray Back #135

Mickey Mantle's stature as a collectibles icon mirrors his position as one of the game's all-time greats. While his Topps 1952 card remains the benchmark for cards produced after World War II, his 1956 Topps card remains popular with fans, as it commemorates a season that remains one of the greatest in the sport's history. Mantle hit .353, belted 52 home runs and drove in 130 runs en route to winning the first of three Most Valuable Player awards he would pick up during his career. This sample, graded PSA Gem Mint 10, sold for **\$382,400** in August 2016.





1958 Topps #62 Jim Brown

Few athletes ever dominated their sports like former Cleveland Browns running back Jim Brown, perhaps the greatest combination of power and speed in football history. Still the No. 10 rusher in NFL history despite playing just nine seasons, Brown is credited with almost singlehandedly carrying the Browns to the city's last championship in any sport until LeBron James led the Cavaliers to the NBA championship in 2016. This 1958 Topps card, graded PSA MINT 9, sold for **\$358,500** in November 2016 as collectors vied for this memento of the man *Sporting News* called the greatest player in NFL history.



1968 Mickey Mantle Game-Worn New York Yankees Jersey

Athletes often acknowledge another's greatness, but it's not often that the spirit of unabashed admiration extends as far as it did Sept. 19, 1968. Denny McLain was the ace pitcher for the Detroit Tigers when the team, which already had clinched the American League pennant, faced the New York Yankees. With a comfortable five-run lead, McLain offered a nod to legendary Yankee outfielder Mickey Mantle by serving up three fastballs down the middle to the future Hall of Famer. After taking the first pitch and fouling off the second, Mantle launched the third into the upper deck of Tiger Stadium for the 535th – and next-to-last – home run of his storied career. The road gray flannel jersey he wore that day realized **\$486,000** at a February 2017 auction.



1930-31 Babe Ruth-Signed New York Yankees Player's Contract

Most quotes by athletes and entertainers are forgotten almost as soon as they are uttered. Others, however, stand the test of time. One such quote belongs to Babe Ruth, whose 1930-31 contract with the New York Yankees made him the first athlete whose salary – \$80,000 – surpassed that of then-U.S. President Herbert Hoover. When asked about making more than the commander-in-chief, the Sultan of Swat didn't bat an eye before responding, "Why not? I had a better year than he did." The contract that prompted that exchange, considered one of the most significant in sports history, sold for **\$384,000** at a February 2017 auction.



1970s Muhammad Ali WBC Heavyweight Championship Belt

Muhammad Ali is one of the most iconic athletes in history, revered as the greatest boxer who ever lived. But Ali was more than that, a social activist whose faith precluded him from fighting in the Vietnam War, even though it meant losing his claim to the world championship and being banished from the sport for three years. After he returned, Ali regained the world championship with a one-for-the-ages win over then-champion George Forman. The bout, in Kinshasa, Zaire, more than lived up to the hype as the "Rumble in the Jungle." Bidders fought for this WBC Heavyweight Championship belt until it realized **\$358,500** at a September 2016 Heritage auction.

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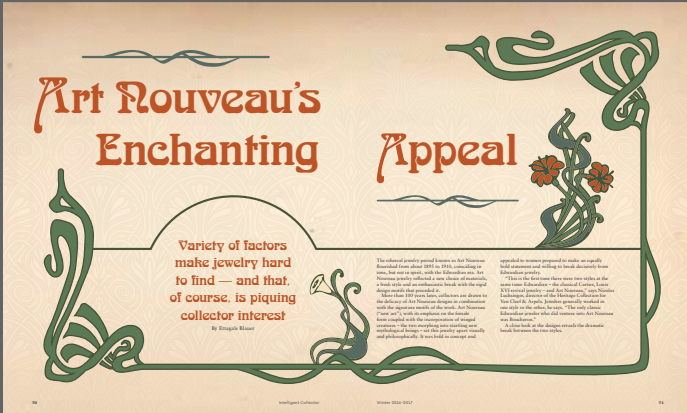
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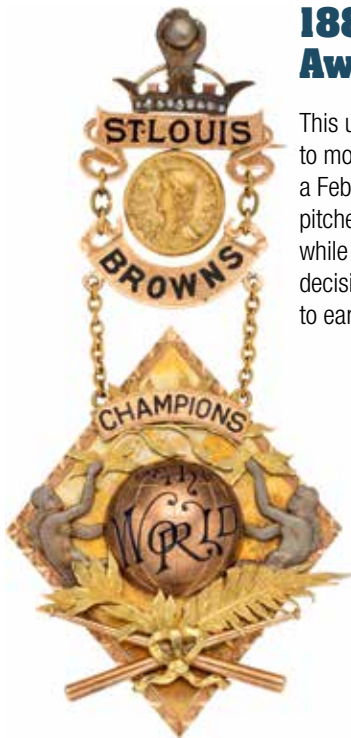
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1886 St. Louis Browns World Championship Award Presented to Pitcher Dave Foutz

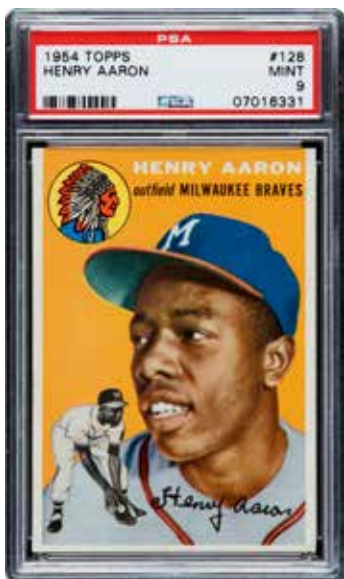


This unique baseball relic was in such high demand among collectors that it soared to more than four times its pre-auction estimate, ultimately gleaning **\$132,000** at a February 2017 auction. In the best pitching year of his career, Dave Foutz led all pitchers in victories (41), winning percentage (.719) and earned run average (2.11) while helping his team claim the American Association Championship. Foutz split two decisions in the American Association Championship against the Chicago White Sox to earn this 14-karat gold and silver pin with a diamond-studded crown.

Early 1940s Babe Ruth Signed Baseball



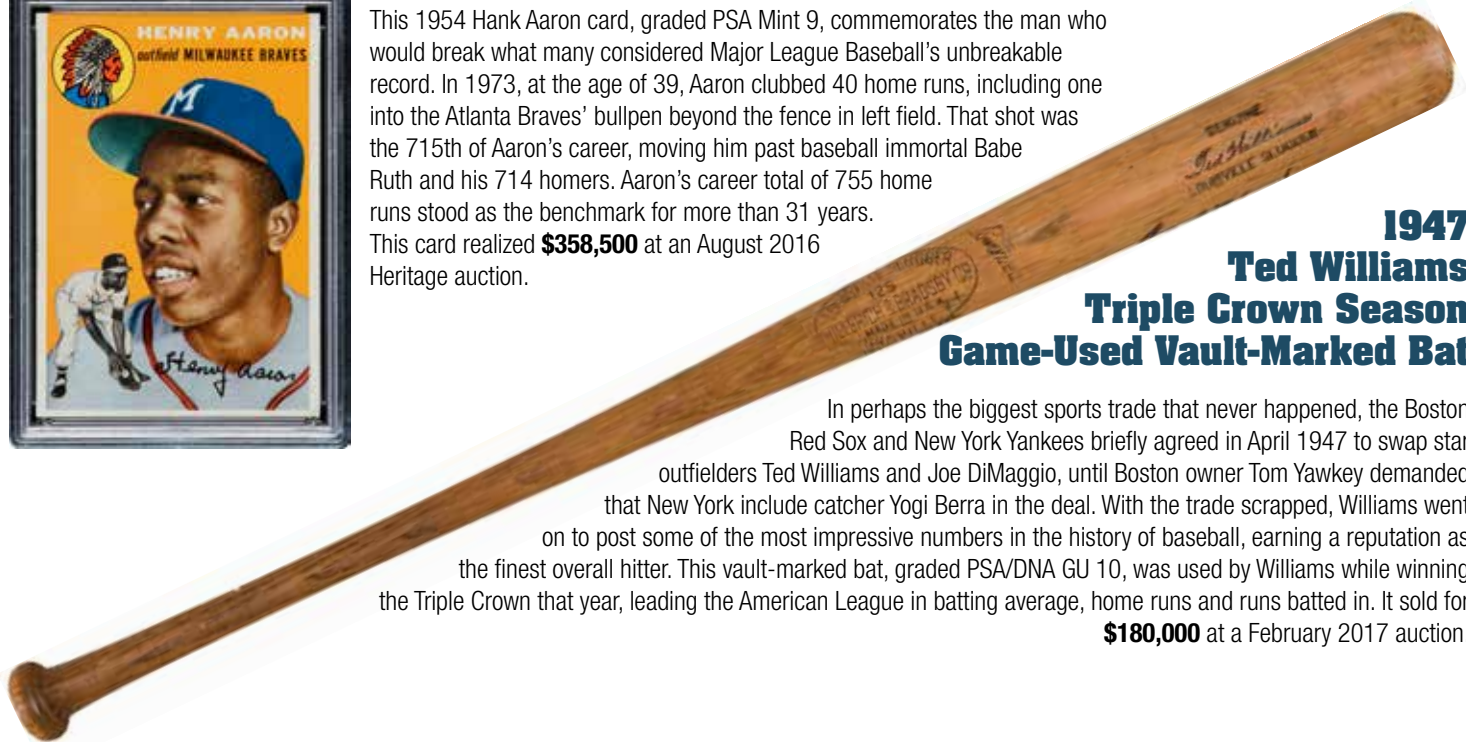
While he was an exceptional pitcher at the start of his career, Babe Ruth is best known as one of the greatest hitters of all time. The Hall of Famer compiled a lifetime batting average of .342 and clubbed 714 home runs – a total that stood for 39 years as the most in the sport's history. This ball reflects the high demand for Ruth-signed memorabilia, as bidders in February 2017 drove the final price to **\$180,000** – more than double its pre-auction estimate. Signed in the early 1940s, it is considered one of the finest Ruth-signed balls in the hobby.



1954 Topps Hank Aaron #128

This 1954 Hank Aaron card, graded PSA Mint 9, commemorates the man who would break what many considered Major League Baseball's unbreakable record. In 1973, at the age of 39, Aaron clubbed 40 home runs, including one into the Atlanta Braves' bullpen beyond the fence in left field. That shot was the 715th of Aaron's career, moving him past baseball immortal Babe Ruth and his 714 homers. Aaron's career total of 755 home runs stood as the benchmark for more than 31 years. This card realized **\$358,500** at an August 2016 Heritage auction.

1947 Ted Williams Triple Crown Season Game-Used Vault-Marked Bat



In perhaps the biggest sports trade that never happened, the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees briefly agreed in April 1947 to swap star outfielders Ted Williams and Joe DiMaggio, until Boston owner Tom Yawkey demanded that New York include catcher Yogi Berra in the deal. With the trade scrapped, Williams went on to post some of the most impressive numbers in the history of baseball, earning a reputation as the finest overall hitter. This vault-marked bat, graded PSA/DNA GU 10, was used by Williams while winning the Triple Crown that year, leading the American League in batting average, home runs and runs batted in. It sold for **\$180,000** at a February 2017 auction.

Sneaker Gold

Shoes worn by sports legends creating new interest in collectible footwear

In the hit ABC sitcom *Black-ish*, the ad agency executive played by Anthony Anderson is infatuated with sneakers – relishing his almost weekly delivery of fashionable footwear.

A growing number of collectors can relate.

“We’re seeing more interest in collectible sneakers,” says Chris

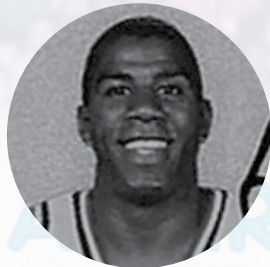
Ivy, director of sports auctions at Heritage. “Right now, sneakers worn by great players are popular, but we are also seeing more interest in limited-edition sneakers across the board.”

Here are five top prices realized at Heritage Auctions for collectible sneakers:



Jordan’s ‘Dream Team’ Sneakers

Basketball superstar Michael Jordan wore these sneakers at the 1992 Olympic Games, which showcased the legendary USA Basketball “Dream Team.” Signed by Jordan, they sold for **\$52,580** at May 2016 auction.



Jordan’s Rookie-Year Shoes

Michael Jordan scampered up and down the court in these original Air Jordan shoes during his 1984-85 rookie year for the Chicago Bulls. They realized **\$31,070** at a November 2013 auction.



Magic’s ‘Cons’ Sneakers

Magic Johnson laced up these white “Cons” as a member of the “Dream Team,” which took gold at the 1992 Summer Olympics. This signed pair realized **\$21,510** at a May 2016 auction.



Stockton’s Nike Air Shoes

John Stockton was the pesky point guard who acted as the floor general for the “Dream Team” at its legendary 1992 appearance in Barcelona. His signed Nike Air 12 shoes from the Games sold for **\$19,120** in May 2016.



Bird’s White ‘Cons’

Larry Bird wore these white “Cons” with his Olympic number 7 embroidered on the outer ankles as a member of the 1992 “Dream Team.” This signed pair realized **\$17,925** at a May 2016 auction.

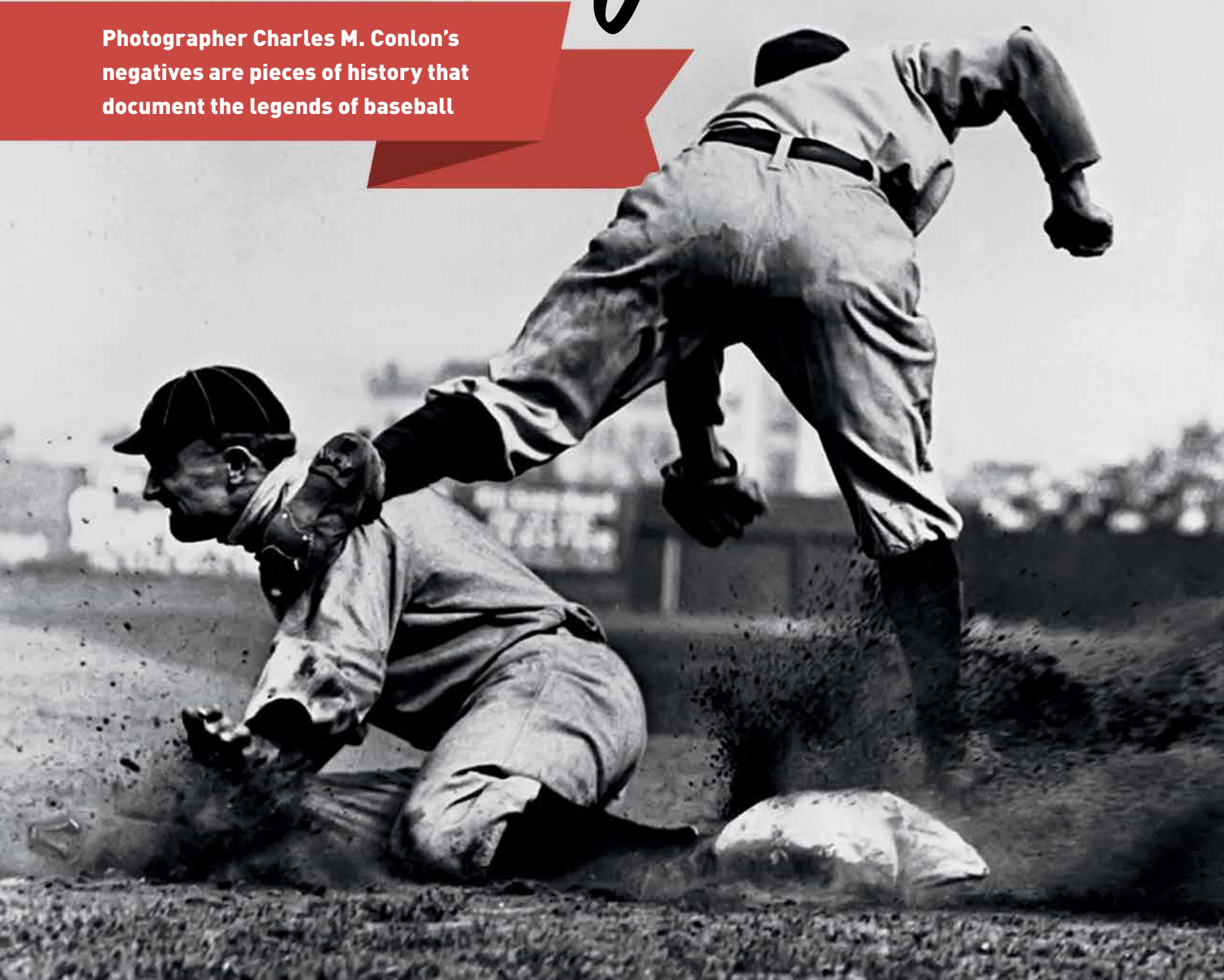


GALLERY

GOLDEN AGE

Artifacts

Photographer Charles M. Conlon's negatives are pieces of history that document the legends of baseball



For four decades, Charles M. Conlon documented the men of Major League Baseball – in retrospect, the “Golden Era” of the oldest-surviving professional sports league.

Today, many of Conlon’s images are instantly recognizable, having appeared in early Reach and Spalding guides, newspapers, advertisements and on baseball cards. His photo of Ty Cobb sliding into third base at Hilltop Park in 1910 is considered the first “action” sports photo.


“From 1904 to 1942, Conlon captured some of the giants of baseball’s golden years,” says Chris Ivy, director of sports auctions at Heritage. “Looking through his images, you see close-ups and portraits of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Shoeless Joe Jackson and Christy Mathewson. It’s safe to say he was baseball’s biographer for much of the first half of the 20th century.”

After his death in 1945, Conlon’s negatives were held by *The Sporting News*, which owned the archive until 2010 when it was sold to a sports memorabilia dealer. In December 2015, an Arkansas judge approved the sale of the Conlon archive to help settle debts incurred by the dealer.

Nearly 7,500 original negatives from the Conlon Photographic Archive, sold as one lot, realized \$1.79 million at an August 2016 Heritage auction.

Vintage photographs represent a growing category in sports collectibles, Ivy says, but Conlon’s images are more than photos. “These are original negatives, and in many ways, these images fall into the category of fine art ... comparable to the greatest photographic images by the century’s greatest photographers.”

A selection of rarely seen images produced from Conlon’s negatives are presented on the following pages.



Charles Conlon’s 1910 photograph of Ty Cobb stealing third is considered his most famous picture.

Babe Ruth's wife, Helen, holds their daughter, Dorothy, in a photograph from 1925. Also pictured is Nick Altrock (right), a coach for the Washington Senators.

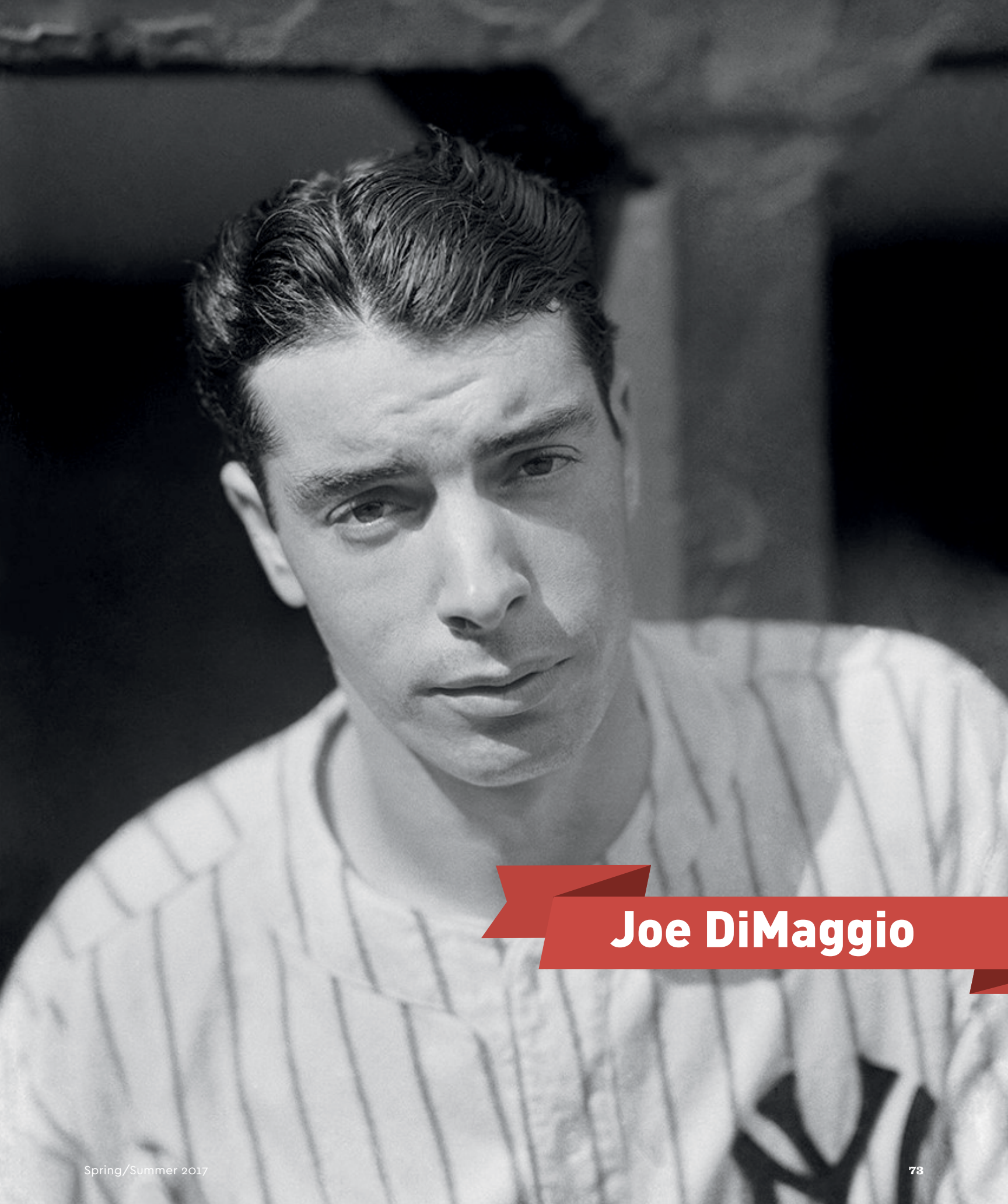




Babe Ruth

Christy Mathewson





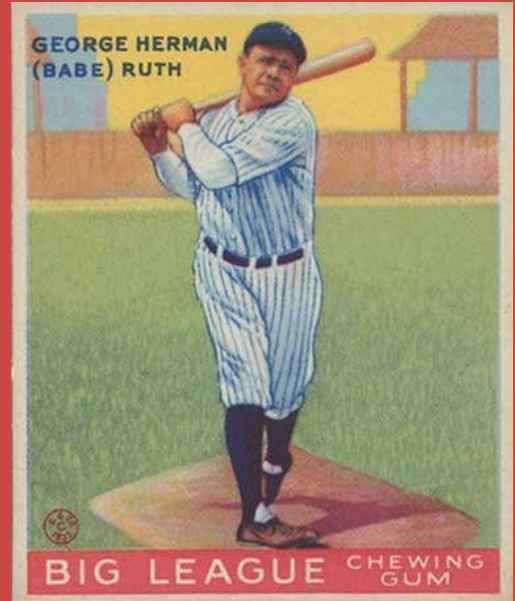
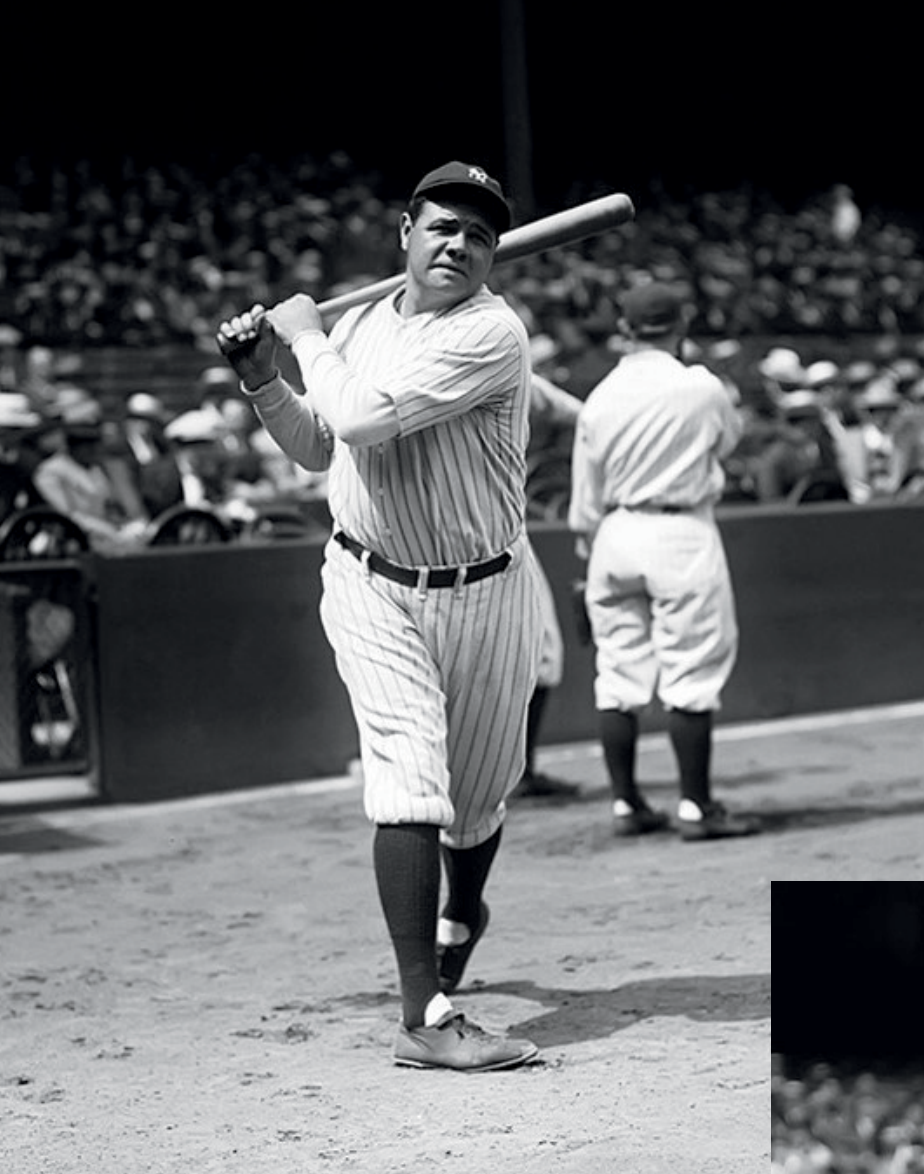
Joe DiMaggio



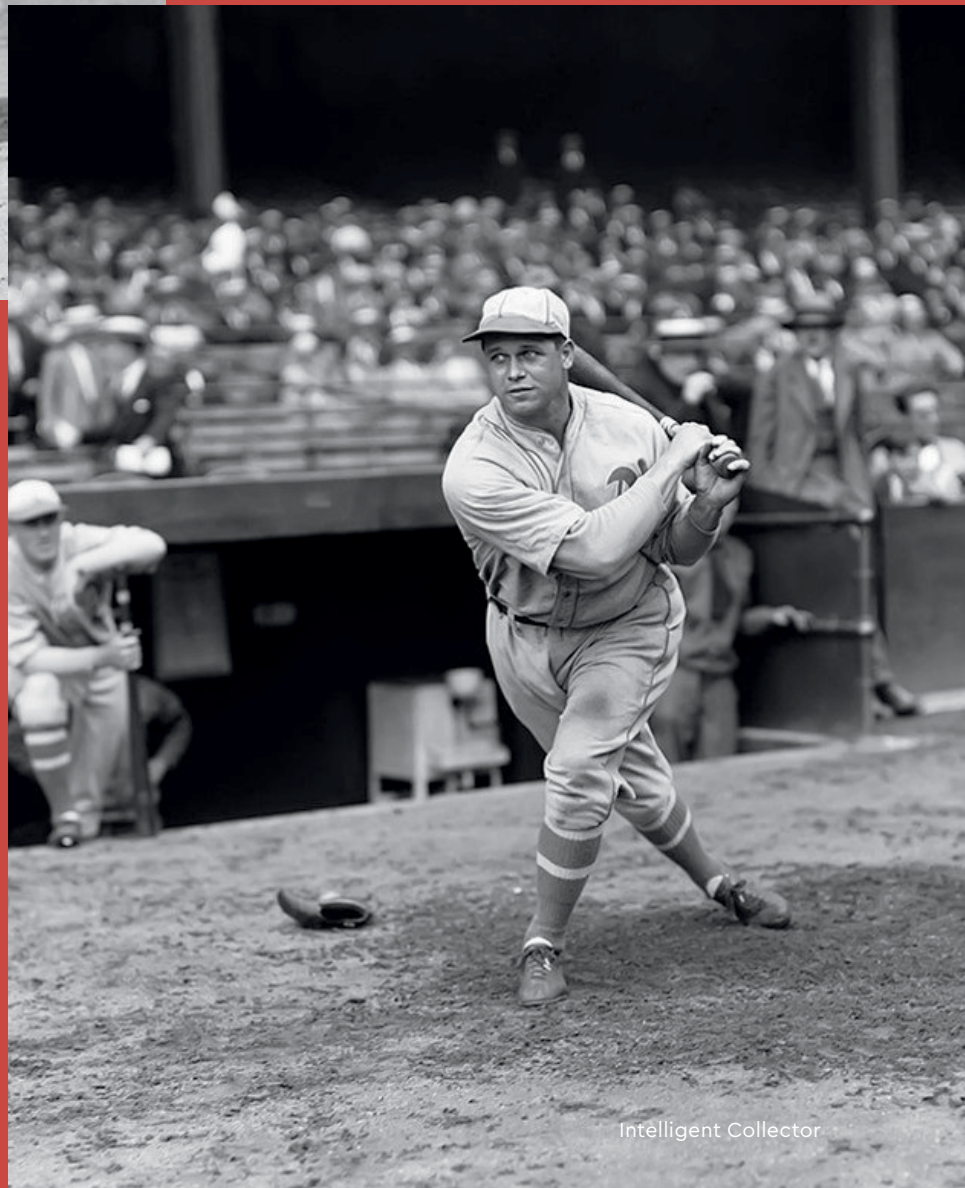
Jim Thorpe

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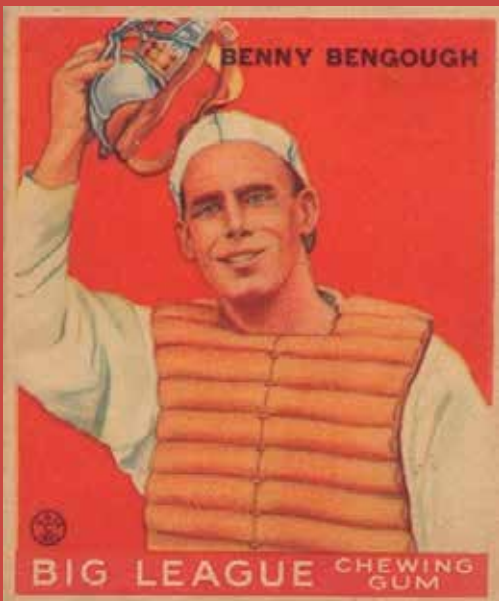
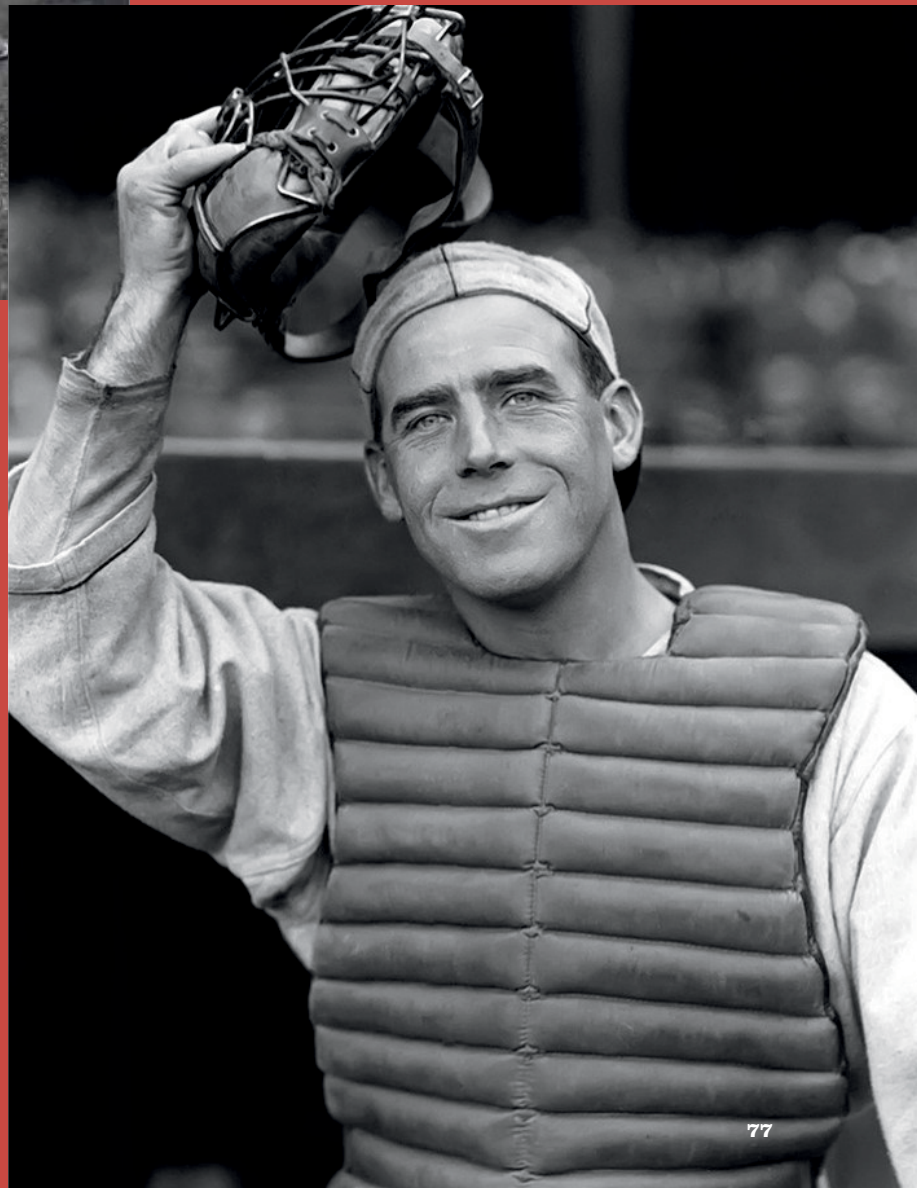
1933 Goudey Babe Ruth #144



1934 Goudey Jimmy Foxx #1



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luxury accessories

Discovering Chanel

Handbag expert has advice for realizing the highest price at auction

By Barbara Conn



A Chanel Matte Jaune Yellow Crocodile Jumbo Single Flap Bag with Silver Hardware sold for \$20,000 at a December 2012 auction.

This Chanel Black Enamel Flower Brooch realized \$1,250 at a February 2017 Heritage auction.

The luxury accessories category is among the hottest in the auction market, as smart buyers redefine the meaning of value. That's why Heritage Auctions schedules five Signature® Auctions per year, featuring rare and limited edition handbags from Hermès, Chanel, Louis Vuitton and other designers.

Here are tips to help you realize the highest price at auction for your Chanel handbags.

What are the most popular Chanel handbag styles at auction?

Unquestionably, rare Runway handbags and limited-edition styles command the greatest attention among collectors. Exceptional pieces will always achieve exceptional results. However, Chanel's demand reaches beyond their legendary Flap Bags.

What is the most expensive Chanel bag Heritage has sold?

Just last year, the most expensive Chanel bag we've sold at auction was a matte brown crocodile medium double Flap Bag that realized \$23,750.

What color Chanel handbags are the most popular right now?

Beautiful colors and exotic skins are consistently popular, which speaks to the desire to find rare and exceptional pieces. While black remains traditional and a staple piece, color often brings a premium.

Some of the handbags in auctions start their bidding at \$500. Is it really possible to buy a Chanel bag for that price?

While it's unlikely to acquire a rare or pristine-condition Chanel handbag for \$500, there is something for everyone in our auctions, which adds to the anticipation and excitement.

What are popular Chanel handbag styles at auction?

Boy Bags are particularly inspiring. The combination possibilities of size, color and skin continue attracting collectors of all ages. One of my favorite Boy Bags featured lambskin leather and stingray. It sold for \$5,625. Whether it's a Boy Bag or a classic 2.55 Flap Bag, what really drives bidders to auctions is rarity. Once a limited edition or Runway style sells out, there is an immediate jump to the auction market to locate these pieces.

Which Chanel handbags get the best return at auction?

If you can get your hands on a Runway bag, and then keep it in its original packaging, you're going to make a splash at auction. If you're buying with the intention to carry for a season and then offer at auction, again, maintaining its condition will allow you to recoup the greatest portion of your investment.

Keep the dust bag and box that the handbag originally came in.

Handbag collectors buying at auction, just like handbag collectors buying at retail, want their items complete – so dust bags and boxes are always appreciated. While not having these rarely exclude a bidder's interest for a specific item, I recommend to those considering selling in the future to store their handbag in its original dust bag to maintain its condition.



BARBARA CONN is consignment director for luxury accessories at Heritage Auctions in Chicago.

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coins

Numismatic Legend

1792 edition of 'Gazette of the United States,' with its reprinting of Mint Act, considered a vital artifact among collectors

By David Stone

No single document had a more profound effect on the monetary system of the United States than the Mint Act of 1792.

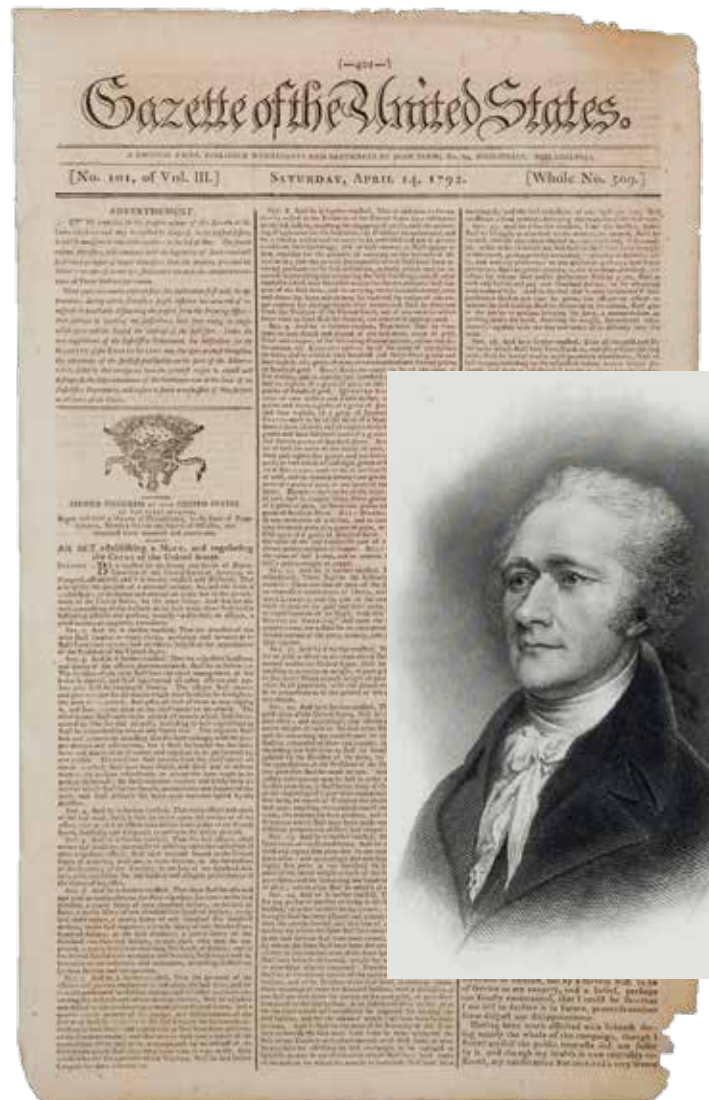
Having recently won its independence from England, after a hard-fought struggle, the new U.S. government was anxious to establish its sovereignty and confirm its status as an independent trading partner with the other nations of the world. Issuing its own money was an important step in accomplishing these goals. Accordingly, on April 2, 1792, Congress passed “an act establishing a mint, and regulating the Coins of the United States.” Some provisions of the act have been modified or superseded over the ensuing 224 years, but most of its specifications remained in force for decades, if not centuries, and it laid a solid foundation for everything that followed in the realm of U.S. coinage.

The act established a decimal-based monetary system, with the dollar as its basic unit of exchange. As specified by the act, the value of the U.S. dollar was equivalent to a Spanish milled dollar, the famous “piece of eight” of pirate stories. Fortunately, the decimal system made monetary calculations much simpler than they were under the Spanish system, where the basic unit was divided into eight parts, or the complicated system of the mother country, with 12 pence to the shilling, 20 shillings to the pound, etc. Most modern monetary systems are decimal-based, following the principles set down in the Mint Act, extending the influence of this landmark document far beyond the boundaries of this country.

By the 1790s, the financial system of the United States was in chaos. Most everyday transactions were settled using a motley collection of contemporary coins from foreign countries like England, Spain, France and Holland. Merchants would weigh each coin and assign it a value based on the intrinsic value of the metal it contained. Worn, leftover Colonial issues appeared frequently in such transactions and several states had issued their own limited coinage in the post-colonial era, under the Articles of Confederation. Paper money of dubious value circulated wherever it was accepted and the barter system still held sway in many rural areas. The Mint Act provided a standard, universally accepted medium of exchange, to simplify everyday transactions and greatly facilitate interstate commerce.

Informing the public about the new coinage was of the utmost importance to ensure its acceptance. To accomplish this, the contents of the Mint Act were widely publicized in newspapers throughout the country. These publications often acted as quasi-official organs of the various political parties of the time, providing a vehicle for advancing the party’s candidates and

policies through their readership. One such publication was the *Gazette of the United States*, founded and edited by John Fenno as a semi-weekly newspaper in New York City, with its first edition appearing on April 15, 1789.



Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton was an enthusiastic supporter of the *Gazette of the United States*, which on April 14, 1792, reprinted the entire text of the Mint Act.

Hamilton's Support

The *Gazette* was the leading Federalist newspaper of the 1790s. It's most enthusiastic supporter was Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, who did much to organize its funding. He was also a frequent contributor of articles and essays, although many of his contributions were anonymous.

On Oct. 19, 1796, writing under his nom-de-plume Phocion, Hamilton accused his major political rival, Thomas Jefferson, of having an affair with one of his slaves. This piece was typical of the personal nature of partisan political attacks in the late 18th century. The *Gazette* followed the seat of the government when it moved to Philadelphia, relocating there in 1791. Fenno continued publishing the *Gazette* until his death in 1798. His son, John Ward Fenno, edited the paper for two years after his father's death. The *Gazette of the United States* ceased publication in 1818.

Because of its proximity to the federal government, the *Gazette of the United States* was one of the first newspapers to disseminate the news of the Mint Act, and other important government decisions. As Fenno stated in his standard advertisement, subscribers could count on the "strictest punctuality on the part of the editor" in reporting the news through "a steady transmission of newspapers to all parts of the Union."

In the April 14, 1792 edition of the *Gazette*, Fenno reprinted on the front page the entire contents of the recently approved Mint Act. This prominent front-page account has become one of the iconic images of American numismatics. Perhaps inspired by the *Gazette's* coverage, the Boston-based *Columbian Centinel* reprinted the same article exactly one week later. The front page of the *Centinel* was later reproduced to form the cover of Pine Tree's Early American Coppers Society Convention auction catalog, in February 1975.

Heritage Auctions President Greg Rohan recently was offered a copy of the famous April 14, 1792 edition of the *Gazette of the United States* by a business associate.

Copies of this important edition are seldom encountered today. Numismatic literature specialist David Fanning calls this paper "a great find" and relates that he has never handled a copy of this specific edition, though he has offered a few similar items. Recognizing the importance of this find, Rohan acquired this rare piece of numismatic ephemera for Heritage, with plans to preserve and display it at conventions and other gatherings for the enjoyment of all collectors and students of American numismatics.



DAVID STONE is a numismatic cataloger at Heritage Auctions who has written for *The Numismatist* and *Coin World*.



"There are plans to display this rare piece of numismatic ephemera at conventions and other numismatic gatherings."

kids & collecting

About Face

With help from grandmother, collector changed course to focus on unique, out-of-the-ordinary cameos

By Pamela Y. Wiggins

Have you ever started out on one path as a collector and ended up somewhere remarkably different than you expected? It happens to kid collectors, too. Nicholas Santa Croce, a 14-year-old who lives in Utica, N.Y., proves the point.

When he was about 9, Nicholas set out to accompany his grandma on antiquing adventures spurred by his interest in art. “I like different types of art, especially people and faces,” he says. “I started out looking for art prints of well-known paintings I admired, things like that.”

Before long, though, his collecting treks led him on an unanticipated journey – the hunt for cameo jewelry. He shares, “When I first started looking at cameos, I thought, ‘Oh wow, this is kind of neat!’”

As it turns out, Nicholas is a big fan of the Mona Lisa. He’s been lucky enough to visit Europe twice over the past few years, and both trips included visits to the Louvre in Paris to see her famous smile. He couldn’t have been more thrilled to see Da Vinci’s masterpiece for himself. His grandmother, Cindy Duprau, remembers that his first cameo featured an image of “Mona.”

In jewelry terms, a cameo usually translates to a profile portrait in relief carved out of shell, hardened lava, or some other type of stone. Sometimes, they can contain a miniature painting or transfer design based on an art print. For this kid collector, going from an attraction to portraits in print to developing an eye for portraits in jewelry was almost effortless.

Picking up that one captivating cameo, and then being attracted to another and another, Nicholas learned to enjoy the thrill of the hunt with his grandmother overseeing the journey. Some of his cameos date to the Victorian era, while others are newer. He’s now amassed about 80 examples, and is still adding to the collection.

“He saves his money all year long so we can go to Bouckville,” Cindy shares. “There’s more to see than what we can do in just a few days, the time I can take off work. Sometimes he’ll go with me and then make plans to go back later in the week with my brother.”

This huge antique fair that takes place every summer in Bouckville, N.Y., is more formally called Madison-Bouckville Antique Week, and it’s one of their favorite places to shop together. “What we’re finding is that the sellers recognize him and they teach him about the different cameos,” Cindy says. “He pays such close attention to what they share. I like to back off and let them have their time together. Then he shares what he has learned with me.”

And though he may not realize it just yet, Nicholas has grown into an advanced collector with a penchant for cameos that are out of the ordinary. “I look for more unusual examples now,” he says. “Those depicting men are harder to find. Full-bodied cameos and three-dimensional examples with detailed faces are, too.”



Scott Schild

Nicholas is guided in his collecting by his mentor and grandmother, Cindy Duprau.

"When I first started looking at cameos, I thought, 'Oh wow, this is kind of neat!'"

One of his favorite pieces came as a gift from a fellow jewelry enthusiast in Florida, who learned about Nicholas and his love of cameos through an online group hosted by Costume Jewelry Collectors International. At first glance, that special cameo seems to depict one profile, but many faces are actually hidden within the carving. Nicholas and his mom, Stacy, have found five but prior owners have seen up to seven. This is the type of rare cameo the most ardent collector dreams of finding. The brooch was reportedly gifted from one person to another who valued it over time, originating with the famed mime Marcel Marceau, which makes it even more intriguing.

Cindy also points out how Nicholas has matured in terms of recognizing the importance of quality over quantity in building a great collection. Like many youngsters, he wanted to buy "everything he saw" when he first started out. "He's learned that there are some things you have to pass up so you can have something better," she says. "He's earning his own money now, too," so that makes him even more discerning about what he adds to his collection as he wisely contemplates how to spend those dollars.

Nicholas is lucky to have some family heirlooms as part of his cameo trove as well. Cindy gladly shared several pieces she inherited from her mother, rounding out his collection with these sentimental treasures. Like his dealer friend who entrusted him with a precious gift, she knew Nicholas would take good care of them.

Of course, the joy of collecting doesn't end when he acquires a new cameo. When he was younger, his grandmother would help him find out more about the things he was amassing after they got home. Now, he adds to the information his dealer friends share with him by researching his finds on his own, mainly through online resources. Discovering details about each cameo he picks up – age, what it is made of, who may be depicted in the carving – is all part of the fun for Nicholas.

Looking ahead, Nicholas definitely sees collecting in his future. In fact, he expects to teach his own kids about the cameos he has collected and try to involve them in the hobby. Until then, with the encouragement of family and friends, who knows where the collecting path will lead this enthusiastic young man and all the stories he'll have to share when the time comes.

Scott Schild



This "hidden faces" cameo is one of Nicholas' favorite pieces. "I like different types of art, especially people and faces," he says.



PAMELA Y. WIGGINS is the author of *Collecting with Kids: How to Inspire, Intrigue and Guide the Young Collector*, a book based on her columns in *The Intelligent Collector*. She also writes on varied topics relating to antiques and collecting for TheSpruce.com.

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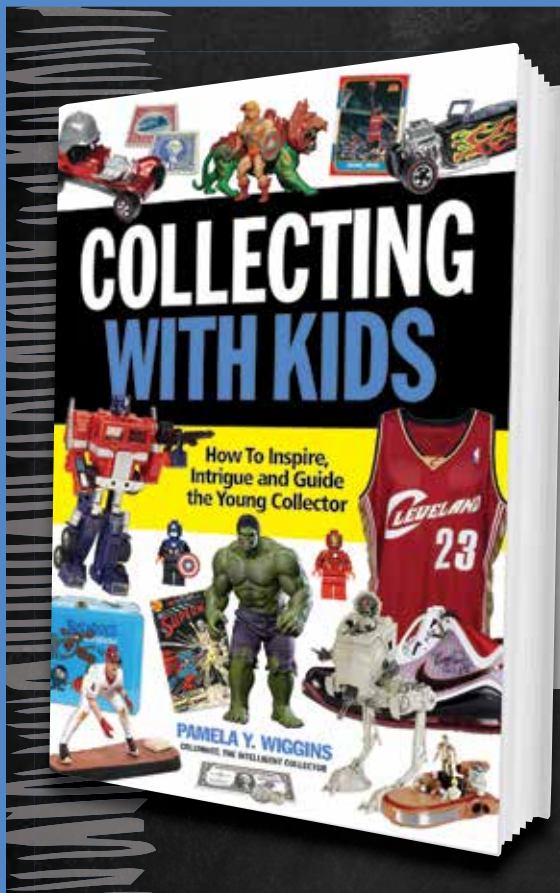
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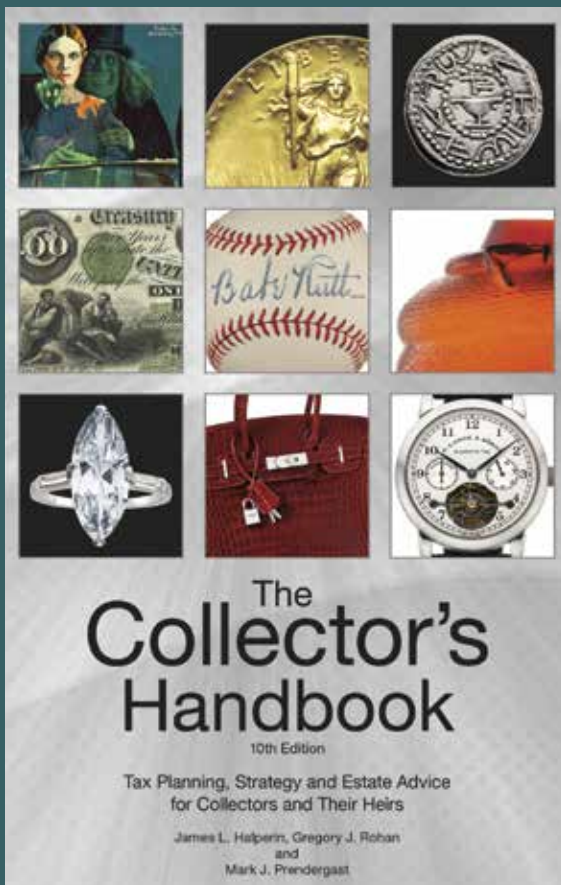
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Consignment Deadlines

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MAY

Premium Sportscard

Catalog Auction 7215

Auction date: June 30, 2017
Consignment deadline: May 9, 2017
Contact: Chris Ivy, ext. 1319
Clvy@HA.com

Modern & Contemporary Art

Internet Auction 191727

Auction date: July 11, 2017
Consignment deadline: May 9, 2017
Contact: Frank Hettig, Ext. 1157
FrankH@HA.com

U.S. Coins

Signature® Auction 1257

Auction dates: July 6–10, 2017
Consignment deadline: May 23, 2017
Contact: David Mayfield, Ext. 1277
David@HA.com

JUNE

Movie Posters

Signature® Auction 7162

Auction dates: July 29–30, 2017
Consignment deadline: June 6, 2017
Contact: Grey Smith, Ext. 1367
GreyS@HA.com

Modern & Contemporary Art

Internet Auction 191731

Auction date: Aug. 8, 2017
Consignment deadline: June 6, 2017
Contact: Frank Hettig, Ext. 1157
FrankH@HA.com

World Coins

Signature® Auction 3056

Auction dates: July 31–Aug. 8, 2017
Consignment deadline: June 9, 2017
Contact: Cristiano Bierrenbach, Ext. 1661
CrisB@HA.com

Currency

Signature® Auction 3556

Auction dates: July 31–Aug. 8, 2017
Consignment deadline: June 9, 2017
Contact: Dustin Johnston, Ext. 1301
Dustin@HA.com

U.S. Coins

Signature® Auction 1258

Auction dates: July 31–Aug. 7, 2017
Consignment deadline: June 16, 2017
Contact: David Mayfield, Ext. 1277
David@HA.com

Comics & Comic Art

Signature® Auction 7166

Auction dates: Aug. 10–11, 2017
Consignment deadline: June 27, 2017
Contact: Lon Allen, Ext. 1261
LonA@HA.com

Sports Collectibles

Platinum Night Auction 7195

Auction dates: Aug. 19–20, 2017
Consignment deadline: June 28, 2017
Contact: Chris Ivy, Ext. 1319
Clvy@HA.com

JULY

World Coins

Signature® Auction 3057

Auction dates: Sept. 6–12, 2017
Consignment deadline: July 10, 2017
Contact: Cristiano Bierrenbach, Ext. 1661
CrisB@HA.com

Currency

Signature® Auction 3557

Auction dates: Sept. 6–12, 2017
Consignment deadline: July 17, 2017
Contact: Dustin Johnston, Ext. 1301
Dustin@HA.com

World Currency

Signature® Auction 3558

Auction dates: Sept. 6–12, 2017
Consignment deadline: July 17, 2017
Contact: Jason Friedman, Ext. 1582
JasonF@HA.com

Luxury Accessories

Signature® Auction 5313

Auction date: Sept. 26, 2017
Consignment deadline: July 21, 2017
Contact: Diane D'Amato, Ext. 1901
DianeD@HA.com

U.S. Coins

Signature® Auction 1259

Auction dates: Sept. 6–11, 2017
Consignment deadline: July 24, 2017
Contact: David Mayfield, Ext. 1277
David@HA.com

Rare Books

Signature® Auction 6201

Auction date: Sept. 14, 2017
Consignment deadline: July 24, 2017
Contact: James Gannon, Ext. 1609
JamesG@HA.com

Fine Jewelry

Signature® Auction 5312

Auction date: Sept. 25, 2017
Consignment deadline: July 25, 2017
Contact: Jill Burgum, Ext. 1697
JillB@HA.com

Estates

Signature® Auction 5325

Auction dates: Sept. 23–24, 2017
Consignment deadline: July 28, 2017
Contact: Nicholas Dawes, Ext. 1605
NickD@HA.com

Wine

Signature® Auction 5321

Auction dates: Sept. 15–16, 2017
Consignment deadline: July 31, 2017
Contact: Frank Martell, Ext. 1753
FrankM@HA.com

AUGUST

Silver & Vertu

Signature® Auction 5326

Auction date: Oct. 12, 2017
Consignment deadline: Aug. 17, 2017
Contact: Karen Rigdon, Ext. 1723
KarenR@HA.com

Illustration Art

Signature® Auction 5327

Auction date: Oct. 13, 2017
Consignment deadline: Aug. 18, 2017
Contact: Todd Hignite, Ext. 1790
ToddH@HA.com

Photographs

Signature® Auction 5328

Auction date: Oct. 13, 2017
Consignment deadline: Aug. 18, 2017
Contact: Nigel Russell, Ext. 1231
NigelR@HA.com

Asian Art

Signature® Auction 5334

Auction date: Oct. 13, 2017
Consignment deadline: Aug. 18, 2017
Contact: Moyun Niu, Ext. 1864
MoyunN@HA.com

Modern & Contemporary Art

Signature® Auction 5311

Auction date: Oct. 17, 2017
Consignment deadline: Aug. 22, 2017
Contact: Frank Hettig, Ext. 1157
FrankH@HA.com

Timepieces

Signature® Auction 5309

Auction date: Oct. 26, 2017
Consignment deadline: Aug. 25, 2017
Contact: Jim Wolf, Ext. 1659
JWolf@HA.com

SEPTEMBER

Texas Art

Signature® Auction 5329

Auction date: Oct. 28, 2017
Consignment deadline: Sept. 1, 2017
Contact: Atlee Phillips, Ext. 1786
AtleeP@HA.com

American Art

Signature® Auction 5330

Auction date: Oct. 28, 2017
Consignment deadline: Sept. 1, 2017
Contact: Ariana Hartsock, Ext. 1283
ArianaH@HA.com

Currency

Signature® Auction 3559

Auction dates: Oct. 26–27, 2017
Consignment deadline: Sept. 5, 2017
Contact: Dustin Johnston, Ext. 1301
Dustin@HA.com

Modern & Contemporary Art

Signature® Auction 5315

Auction date: Nov. 3, 2017
Consignment deadline: Sept. 8, 2017
Contact: Frank Hettig, Ext. 1157
FrankH@HA.com

Nature & Science

Signature® Auction 5324

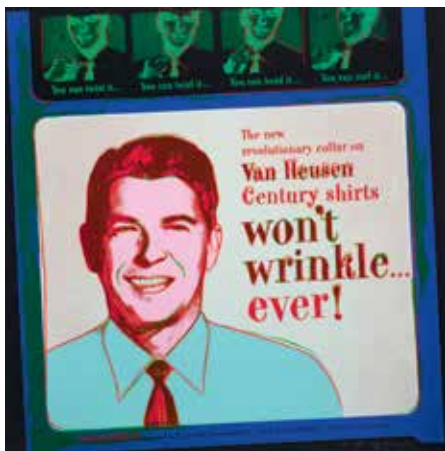
Auction date: Nov. 4, 2017
Consignment deadline: Sept. 8, 2017
Contact: Craig Kissick, Ext. 1995
CraigK@HA.com

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by the numbers

Ronald Reagan

50 years ago, 'the Gipper' was sworn in as California's 33rd governor. A look at related lots from the Heritage archives



38 INCHES WIDE of Andy Warhol's 1985 *Van Heusen* (Ronald Reagan) silk screen from the artist's "Ads" series. This signed and numbered example sold for \$22,500 at a November 2013 auction.

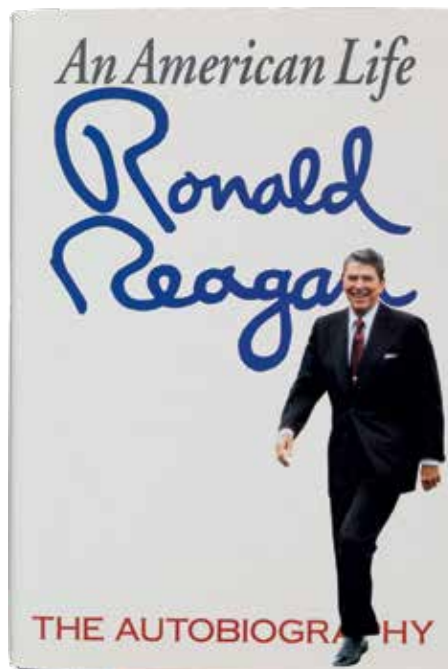
(Ronald Reagan) silk screen from the artist's "Ads" series. This signed and numbered example sold for \$22,500 at a November 2013 auction.



15 DAY IN MAY 1977 that Ronald and Nancy wrote this letter to John Wayne. It sold for \$21,510 at an October 2011 auction.



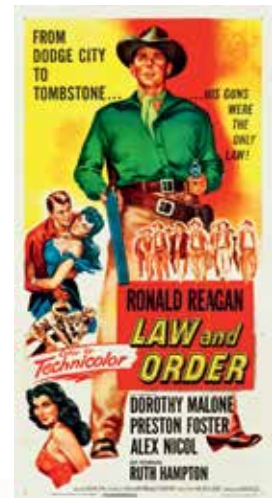
2 TIMES the president wrote "Reagan" when he signed this baseball in 1984. This unique signature pushed the price realized at an August 2011 auction to \$5,975.



748 NUMBER OF PAGES in Reagan's 1990 autobiography *An American Life*. A first-edition, first-printing copy inscribed by Reagan sold for \$1,375 at an October 2013 auction.

80

MINUTES RUNNING TIME for *Law and Order*, the 1953 film considered one of Reagan's best. This three-sheet poster realized \$1,135.25 at a March 2016 auction.



29 REAGAN'S AGE when Warner Bros. released *Knute Rockne, All American*, in which Reagan played George "the Gipper" Gipp. The football cleats Reagan wore in the movie sold for \$10,157.50 at an October 2006 auction.

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J

MARY,

HERE IS THE WILNER
FRAME CHECKLIST:

THE WILNER FRAME TEAM
WILL ARRIVE AT
PRECISELY 2:25PM. ✓

WEARING GLOVES & BOOTIES. ✓

PERFECT FRAME FINISH. ✓

ACCURATE NAMEPLATE SPECIFICS. ✓

SIGHT SIZE SHOWS LAST DIGIT OF
ARTISTS DATE AFTER SIGNATURE. ✓

LIGHT IS EXACTLY ONE INCH FORWARD OF
CARVING ON FRAME. ✓

HEIGHT OF BOTTOM OF FRAME IS 4.5
INCHES ABOVE SCULPTURE. ✓

THANK THE WILNER TEAM FOR THE
IMPOSSIBLE RUSH I ASKED FOR! ✓✓

I'LL CALL YOU FROM THE JET.

J.



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