

The Taper Collection

Appraisal Review by Seth Kaller

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*Seth Kaller, Inc.
235 Main Street, Fifth Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
tel 914.289.1776
seth@sethkaller.net*

REPORT ON THE TAPER COLLECTION

I have thoroughly read the inventory of the Taper Collection, being considered for acquisition by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library. I have also reviewed the seller's appraisal prepared by Chuck Sachs, and have personally viewed most of the items in the collection, accounting for at least 95% of the collection's value.

To the extent possible, my opinions are based on or supported by market comparables for Abraham Lincoln, Mary Lincoln, and John Wilkes Booth documents and artifacts. However, with few comparable sales records available, particularly for artifacts, I have also considered letters, documents, artifacts, collections and archives of other historical figures or periods.

The items in this collection have already been inspected and authenticated. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has indicated that, based on prior in-depth research, it is comfortable with the provenance and descriptions provided. I have therefore made my valuations based on accepting the provenance information provided to me at the start of this project.

Artifacts:

There is an undeniable allure, reflected in sales records, of artifacts associated with a celebrity who has suffered a tragic or heroic death. John F. Kennedy's briefcase sold for \$772,500 in 1998; two years earlier, his cigar humidor and two White House rocking chairs sold for a combined total of \$1,470,500. A gold pocket watch presented to Admiral Nelson sold in 2005 for approximately \$700,000. A vest worn by James Dean in the movie *Giant* (which would be released posthumously following his death in a car accident) sold in 2005 for over \$900,000. A replica of Princess Diana's wedding dress from Mme. Tussaud's – never actually worn by the princess – fetched \$175,000 that same year. And the combined pathos of a martyred president and tragic movie star came together in 1999 to help bring \$1,267,000 for lot 55: the dress worn by Marilyn Monroe when she sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" to John F. Kennedy in 1962. The same can be said for Lincoln memorabilia, particularly assassination-related objects, which became highly prized immediately after his death. The market has never diminished.

Ten of the top Kennedy artifacts on the market since 1996 have sold for a combined total of \$6,600,000, excluding the Zapruder film (which the government purchased for \$18,000,000), and items of intrinsic value, such as jewelry. Few of the items included were historically significant or even intimately connected with the iconic image of JFK. While people might be entertained by the idea of seeing Kennedy's golf clubs or desk accessories, they wouldn't make a special trip to do so. In contrast, the Lincoln artifacts in the Taper Collection are of great importance in terms of emotional impact, historical significance and symbolic resonance. People recognize these items as among the most compelling and moving vestiges of the American past.

Given the special mystique and appeal of the Kennedy presidency, using Kennedy-Onassis values as a benchmark for appraising a collection is almost always unrealistic. Items associated with only one president other than JFK, have a history of achieving "rock-star" prices – Abraham Lincoln, though George Washington is a solid runner-up. The dearth of important Lincoln artifacts available on the market (most have long since

been acquired by public institutions) means that there have been no massive, media-hyped sales of Lincoln relics for the faithful in many years. Therefore, to consider how Lincoln artifacts compare in value to Kennedy artifacts, we can look at the one area where there is sufficient data – manuscripts. Prices realized in this area lead me to conclude that, even accounting for the unprecedented frenzy that accompanied the Kennedy sales, Lincoln objects can be just as – or more – valuable. Whereas there are no auction sale records of more than \$100,000 for Kennedy-signed documents, there is a substantial record of six- and seven-figure sales of Lincoln documents. (The value of Lincoln manuscripts is not simply a function of the age or historical content of the material. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams letters and documents have brought hundreds of thousands of dollars, but only Lincoln has a track record of the best items selling into the millions.) Even though I am a “manuscript person,” I recognize from auction and dealer sales, as well as client requests, that artifacts hold an even greater cachet for most collectors. Thus, if an important Lincoln manuscript sold for a million dollars, a comparably important Lincoln artifact should be valued even higher.

Normally, the value of historic artifacts can't be equated with the value of art, but there is at least one connection worthy of note: Two, if not more, of the seven-figure Lincoln manuscript sales listed in my report of comparables were bought by an individual who has also paid more than \$20 million for each of several paintings. If said collector is in the habit of making eight-figure purchases and has exhibited (at least privately) enough of an interest to pay record-breaking prices for select Lincoln letters, I can easily imagine that collector being willing to pay the asking price for the Taper Collection.

Manuscripts:

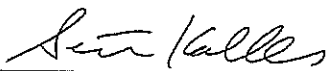
While still an art rather than a science, manuscripts and printed documents can more easily be valued based on comparable documents sold. The report below contains lists of items in the Taper Collection, and important Lincoln document sales. Similar methodology was used in evaluating the other manuscripts, printed documents, and artwork. Given time constraints, I am not able to provide detailed lists here. However, I would be happy to discuss my findings on the value of any component of the collection.

Summary:

In my opinion, the appraised value of \$23,000,000 is reasonable, and reflective of the current fair market value of the collection. Based on the importance and rarity of the artifacts and documents in the Taper Collection, the iconic nature of some of the highlights, and the public interest in artifacts of the type in this collection, I do not doubt that it could sell on the open market for the appraised value.

I am quite pleased that the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has the opportunity to buy the Taper Collection, to preserve it, keep it intact, and share it with the public. I believe it will prove to be a worthwhile investment.

Dated, as of January 7, 2007
Seth Kaller, Inc.

By: 
Seth Kaller, President

The Taper Collection: Artifact Highlights

Arranged in roughly chronological order.

Clock:

The law office clock is, to the best of my knowledge, the most complete, visual and impressive artifact left from Lincoln's storied days as a lawyer. The Lincoln-Herndon law office furnishings were rudimentary. Contemporary descriptions and images indicate that the room had a table, wood-burning stove, a few mismatched straight chairs and law books on a shelf; the floor was bare. This clock would have been the one item that even approached opulence. It is what the notoriously disorganized Lincoln must have used to keep himself on schedule as he built his burgeoning legal and political career.

Chauncey Jerome manufactured clocks out of New Haven from 1842 until 1855. His timepieces were the lowest-priced in the world, thanks to his innovative stamped brass gears. In 1850, the company name was changed to Jerome Manufacturing Co.; three years later, it was renamed the New Haven Clock company. By then, Jerome was producing more than 400,000 clocks a year. In 1855, the firm was wiped out in a failed business venture involving P.T. Barnum. Jerome served as a presidential elector in 1852 and as mayor of New Haven from 1854 to 1855.

Value comments and comparables:

- If at auction today, I believe this clock could easily bring more than any one of the twelve Kennedy rocking chairs (\$996,000 for two, 1996), his briefcase (\$772,500, 1998), or small walnut humidor (\$574,500, 1996).
- It would bring many times the price of John Quincy Adams' pocket watch (\$132,000, 2007).
- A watch presented to Lord Nelson by the officers of the HMS *Victory* (not with him at sea during his final victory and death at Trafalgar) sold at Sotheby's London (\$700,000, 2005). The ornamental Nelson watch has some value as an objet d'art. Though the Lincoln & Herndon law office clock does not, in my opinion its value is higher.

It is impossible to gauge where the last two collectors – or trophy hunters, or major law firm bidding for bragging rights – would stop if this came up at auction today.

Billfold:

This billfold was given by Mary Todd Lincoln to Mary Edwards Brown, granddaughter of Ninian Edwards, who was the husband of Mary Lincoln's sister.

Inside one of the lettered pouches, we found a portion of a printed document, from the 1840s, with a few words filled out by hand. Two of the words are in Lincoln's hand of the period, dating this billfold to the time of his law practice and the beginnings of his political career.

Value comments and comparables:

- George Washington's leather dispatch case (\$408,000, 2005).
- More valuable, exhibitable and interesting than JFK's leather desk accessory set (\$189,500, 1996).

Hat:

The stovepipe hat is the most iconic symbol associated with Lincoln. We invariably think of Lincoln as a rugged-featured, bearded man, whose tall, lanky frame is further exaggerated by the oversize hat. Over the years, that image has come to symbolize not just Lincoln, but the very personification of America – "Uncle Sam." The folksy American icon appeared clean-shaven in Antebellum days; after the Civil War, he bore a marked resemblance to the late president, beard, top hat and all. Lincoln's hat figures in many humorous reminiscences about the president, including his habit of using it to store his papers.

Of the three documented Lincoln top hats, one is in the Smithsonian and another at Hildene, Robert Todd Lincoln's former estate. This one in the Taper Collection, is generally accepted as the last remaining Lincoln top hat in private hands.

Value comments and comparables:

- The record price for an Abraham Lincoln manuscript is \$3,086,000 in March of 2002. I believe that the 12-page manuscript would bring approximately \$5 million today. But, in my opinion, more wealthy bidders would be attracted to bid on Lincoln's hat.
- Revolutionary War battle flag, ca. 1779, estimated at \$1.5 to \$3.5 million (\$12,336,000, 2006).
- Molded copper weathervane depicting an Indian chief, ca. 1900, estimated at \$100,000 to \$150,000 (\$5,840,000, 2006).

Spectacles:

The most valuable historical artifacts are those that people can connect with in a visceral way. Lincoln was a man of vision. After his top hat and the assassination relics, I would consider Lincoln's glasses to be among the most marketable of Lincoln artifacts. These glasses descended in the Lincoln Family and are accompanied by an affidavit from Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith.

One of the most famous images of Lincoln shows him wearing glasses (the Brady studio photo of Lincoln and Tad, taken on February 9, 1864, and reproduced in the famous May 6, 1865 issue of *Harper's Weekly*). In terms of artifacts, I can think of only one pair of glasses that would be worth more than Lincoln's – George Washington's reading glasses, made famous by his stirring speech to quell the rebellion of his officers at Newburgh.

Seal:

This artifact provides a great connection between Lincoln and the many letters and documents he authored. This is one of only two extant Lincoln personal presidential seals.

Value comments and comparables:

- George Washington's leather dispatch case (\$408,000, 2005).
- Thomas Hardy's Trafalgar gold medal (\$435,000, 2005)

Fan:

In my opinion, this is the most iconic Mary Lincoln relic in private hands. This fan was accompanied by a card inscribed "Chicago, Sept. 19, 1900. This box [no longer extant] contains the Fan that was used by Mrs Abraham Lincoln at Fords Theatre the night of the assassination of Lincoln. Presented to Mrs. M.D. Dean by Mrs. Lincoln in 1868." On the envelope in which it was housed at the Barrett sale (lot 665) someone had written "The brown spots are Lincoln's blood." The fan is illustrated in Sandburg's *Lincoln Collector*. Though the attribution dates to 35 years after the assassination, I believe it has never been challenged.

Mary Lincoln owned several other fans, but no other has been described as the one she had at Ford's Theatre. Other fans purportedly owned by Mary Lincoln have been sold, but without any documented tie or explanation of how the attribution originated.

Gloves and Handkerchief:

One of two pairs of gloves Lincoln had with him at Ford's Theatre. Among the most complete and documentable Lincoln relics from the assassination, they were listed on the original inventory of Lincoln's effects and returned to Mary Lincoln after the trial of her husband's assassins. Mrs. Lincoln gave them to Capt. Benjamin Richardson; they were presented to him at the University of Chicago in 1868 by Tad Lincoln. (Mary and Tad Lincoln were in Chicago during that spring-summer.) Richardson, an eccentric New York City millionaire, had the relics framed and hung in his dining room. An early photo of the gloves and handkerchief, with envelope addressed to Richardson from Mary Lincoln, appears in Kunhardt's *Twenty Days* (p.102).

Cuff Button:

The inscription on the silver case and an accompanying note by Dr. Charles Sabin Taft, attests to his removal of this button from Lincoln's cuff on the night of the assassination. The button was passed down to Taft's son, Charles C. Taft, who sold it to W.H. Lambert on March 11, 1908. The matching button is at the Library of Congress, having been given to them with other assassination relics by Robert Todd Lincoln.

Value comments and comparables for the fan, gloves and handkerchief, and cuff button:

- Dress worn by Marilyn Monroe when she sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" to John F. Kennedy in 1962 (\$1,267,500, 1999).
- Audrey Hepburn dress worn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (\$932,187, 2006).
- James Dean original vest from the movie *Giant* (released posthumously in 1956) (\$916,370, 2005).
- Babe Ruth 1932 "Called Shot" home run jersey (\$1,100,000, 2005).
- Mme. Tussaud's replica of Princess Di wedding dress (\$175,000, 2005)

- Martin Luther King's briefcase, carried by him on the day he was shot. Although this did not sell separately, Sotheby's appraised the entire MLK archive before selling it, and the first item on their highest value list was King's briefcase.
- JFK's golf clubs (\$387,500 and \$772,500, 1996)
- Admiral Nelson's gold pocket watch, presented to him by the officers of HMS *Victory* (\$700,000, 2005)
- Admiral Nelson's bloodstained stocking purse (\$424,920, 2002), which, in my opinion, would have brought more than the watch, if sold together in 2005.
- Pair of 18th-century French steel-mounted pistols said to have been presented by the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington (\$1,986,000, 2002).
- George Washington miniature portrait by Ramage, portraying the general in uniform. In a gold case enclosing a lock of Washington's hair, and decorated with his initials, given by George to Martha Washington (\$1,216,000, 2001).
- Copper Indian chief weather vane, ca. 1900 (\$5,840,000, 2006). The original estimate for this piece was \$100,000 to \$150,000; it reached this stratospheric price level because of two determined bidders.

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Mary Ann Jacobus. 1851. Lincoln defends the Kitchells against Jacobus' claim that they had slandered her reputation by referring to her as a "whore".

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph legal document signed ("A. Lincoln.") Text contains Lincoln's full name written four times. 1854 Aug 11. Springfield. Lengthy indenture between Ritta Angelica D. Sylva and Abraham Lincoln, by which Sylva agrees to transfer to Abraham Lincoln a lot in Springfield if her debt to Lincoln of \$125, with interest, is not paid in four years. With Lincoln's later endorsement (signed "A. Lincoln"), that note is paid in full. The mortgagee was one of a group of Protestant Portuguese who immigrated to Illinois during this period. A rare document pertaining to Lincoln's own financial and legal dealings.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. 1855 Jan 14. Springfield. To Richard Yates. 2 pages. Letter to a close political ally spelling out his strategy to secure an Illinois senatorial seat, in the wake of the reversal of the Missouri Compromise. Lincoln carefully tabulates the votes candidates are likely to receive in the legislature when a count is taken to fill the vacant seat.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. 1855 Feb 16. Springfield. To Jesse O. Norton. 4 pages. Important letter regarding Lincoln's defeat in the contest for the Illinois Senate seat in February, 1855 (see preceding letter of Jan 14th). Lincoln refers to himself as "quite convalescent," depicts Gov. Matteson as the cause of his difficulties, and analyzes the ups and downs of the balloting in the legislature. [Mark Neely, noted Lincoln scholar, is reported to have said this was the best Lincoln letter he had ever seen.] A unique content letter.

Abraham Lincoln. Document signed ("A. Lincoln.") 1855 June 5. Sangamon County, Illinois. 2 pages. Scarce early petition signed by citizen Lincoln and over two hundred like-minded citizens to launch a road of commerce between Springfield and Peoria. Shows Lincoln's concern for civic welfare. Only one other petition signed by Lincoln at auction in the last 25 years.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph documents. "Fee Bill Execution Docket" book for DeWitt Co., Illinois. 1855 June 20 - 1860 Spring term. Approximately 260 pages, in original binding. Entries in numerous hands, including Lincoln's, who appears in this volume over 50 times, either by his docket or by being identified as an attorney in various cases. The vast majority of these appearances (and all of his dockets) are from 1855, which year takes up most of the volume. Lincoln the lawyer is listed in over twenty cases: by surname as an attorney, either alone or in partnership, and usually for the defense. In over thirty-five instances, Lincoln has written a disposition entry, ranging from a simple penciled "Contd" to three-line ink dockets. These are cases in which he was acting as a judge, in the temporary absence of constituted authority.

Autograph documents. The Bullock Land Transaction, 1855-1859. Comprising 9 items (6 in Lincoln's hand), documenting Lincoln's six-year pursuit of a solution to his aunt-in-law Maria Todd Bullock's wish to sell 36 acres of land. The most unusual is 1855 Aug 4,

Autograph endorsement, 3-line description of property with a 9-line legal petition in Lincoln's hand, written on a manuscript plat and surveyor's record.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph manuscript signed. 1857 July 20. 2 pages. Statement of the case of Mrs. Mary Fahnestock, a relative of Lincoln's by marriage with his opinion as to how her Ohio lands should be handled, carefully detailing in understandable terms his research into, and interpretation of the law.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. 1857 Sept 13. Chicago. To Jesse K. Dubois. Unusual letter, appealing to his friend for frank information concerning the situation with certain stocks held by a bank and Dubois' responsibility, since they have depreciated, to deposit additional stocks, "or, in default, wind them up." Lincoln writes that "several persons here keep teasing me about you and the bank commissioners not enforcing the banking laws....In my stupidity, I do not believe I quite understand what the ground of complaint is....." With: Collection of bonds issued by the State Bank of Illinois and others, most unaccomplished.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. 1858 Jan 29. To John Olney. During the period when Lincoln was wearing his "judge's hat," his colleague Olney asked him to evaluate the likelihood of a favorable result to a legal case Olney was considering. Olney was active in Republican Party politics. Lincoln states "I cannot give an opinion with entire confidence. It may be worth the trial, after all." At least here, Lincoln declines to predict the final solution of the enterprise and indicates an appropriate fee for his opinion. Lincoln tells Olney, "I charge nothing for this."

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. 1859 Mar 3. Springfield. To Haden Keeling, Esq. Thoughtful advice to a legal client, informing him that "I do not think there is the least use of doing any more with the law-suit. I not only do not think you are sure to gain it, but I do think you are sure to lose it. Therefore the sooner it ends the better."

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. 1860 June 26. Springfield. To J.R. Giddings. Marked "Private." Lincoln responds to suggestions from an Ohio abolitionist congressman whom he later named as Consul-General to Canada. Giddings had suggested Lincoln not answer any questions regarding his presidential policies until elected. Lincoln acknowledges his suggestions and adds: "If I fail, it will be for lack of ability, and not of purpose."

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. 1862 May 16. Washington. To Valentine B. Horton. 1 page. Lincoln returns a copy of Horton's letter "with a copy of my endorsement upon it. You perceive I did exactly what you requested, neither more nor less." Valentine Horton was a Republican congressman from Ohio.

Abraham Lincoln. Salesman's sample copy of J.T. Headley's The Great Rebellion, with entries signed by Lincoln, members of his Cabinet, Peter Cooper, and over one hundred others. ca. 1863. With printed text, engraved plates, binding samples and over 100 pages containing names and addresses of subscribers. Included are Salmon P. Chase, Gideon

Welles, William H. Seward, Edwin M. Stanton, Edward Canby, George McClellan, Winfield Scott, Robert Anderson, Edward Curtis (81 Maiden Ln), Roger B Taney, J. Usher, Montgomery Blair, Holt, and BB French, Lincoln's entry reads : "A. Lincoln, Washington D.C. Library", signifying the binding style that he ordered. With: two 2-volume sets of Headley's The Great Rebellion, in variant bindings.

Abraham Lincoln. Carte-de-visite portrait photograph signed ("A. Lincoln.") Taken by Alexander Gardner in Washington by August 9, 1863. 4 x 2 ½ in.

Abraham Lincoln. Partially printed document signed. 1863 Aug 10. Draft call from the state of New York, second district, for 2,050 men. Following riots that took place in July, Lincoln insists on the draft, an action resisted by the New York governor, who had declared it unconstitutional.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph note signed. 1864 April 7, on a small card. To J.E. Allen. Washington. "Shoe Tad's horse for him. A. Lincoln."

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph note signed ("AL"). 1864 [May 20]. Washington, D.C. To "Mother" (Mary Todd Lincoln). Lincoln's note reads: "Mother, Please put something now in Tad's room." Beneath his request, in a boid hand, Mary Lincoln writes, "Please give Tad a board & some plank, Mrs. Lincoln." On the verso are autograph endorsements signed by J.P. Usher and B.B. French. Accompanying these notes is an envelope on which French has written : "President, Mrs. Lincoln, & Secy. Ushor want Tad's room fixed." A unique combination of Lincoln lore, marshalling the household to please son Tad.

Printed Material:

Printed broadside, signed by S.C. Pomeroy, Chairman of the National Executive Committee, and marked "Private." Washington, February 1864. 1 page. One of a very small number printed for influential Republicans in an effort to have Salmon P. Chase supplant Lincoln as candidate for President in the 1864 election.

"Inaugural Address March 4 1865." Washington, D.C. 4 pages. The first printing of Lincoln's celebrated second Inaugural Address. [Monaghan, Lincoln Bibliography, #600.] One of only five or so known copies.

"Proclamation of Emancipation" [1863]. [Eberstadt, #15]. The first available printing. One of only a handful of copies.

Manuscripts: Lincoln Assassination

Thomas P. ("Boston") Corbett. Autograph letter signed, 1865 May 13. Washington. To "Brother Eddy." 4 pages. Less than three weeks after he shot Booth in the Garrett barn, Corbett describes his military service, his capture, imprisonment at Andersonville and complains that "I did not get my discharge from the Secretary of War which I asked for after shooting Booth," and "I have not yet received any part of the reward."

Printed Material: Lincoln Assassination

Ford's Theatre. Partly printed ticket, accomplished in manuscript, 1865 April 14, Washington, for Mr. J. Craft. Two seats in Dress Circle, first row.

Illinois State Journal Extra, Broadside 1865 Apr 15, re assassination of President Lincoln. Only known copy.

Reward poster. "\$30,000 reward / Description of John Wilkes Booth! / Who assassinated the President...." 1865 April. Washington. 1 page. Detailed description of Booth and the as-yet unnamed Lewis Payne. The rarest of the reward posters for the assassins. This copy previously owned by E.L. Doherty, who cornered Booth at the Garrett farm.

Reward poster. "War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865, \$100,000 Reward!" 1865 April 20. Rare, with the three affixed cartes-de-visite of the wanted assassins.

Art:

Kromer oil on canvas of Lincoln deathbed scene, April 14, 1865, signed "Gemalt A.[?] Kromer 1867." Unusual representation of this scene, possibly a composite, as it includes images of a large number of persons present.

John Rogers, The Council of War. Inscribed: "Patented March 31 1868". Bronzed plaster, 24 ½ x 18 x 17 in. This sculpture belonged to Robert Todd Lincoln, who had it bronze-coated. He felt it was the most accurate representation of his father; it sat beside his desk at Hildene for many years.

Note that there are many other highlight manuscripts and artifacts in the Taper Collection, not listed here due only to time constraints.

It should also be noted that Louise and Barry Taper collected other Lincoln-related items that are not included in the "Taper Collection" as defined in the inventory provided to me by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Items not on the inventory are therefore not considered in this valuation.

Comparable Sales: Lincoln Manuscripts

Below find sales and evaluation data used by me in considering the value of the manuscripts in the Taper Collection.

Important Lincoln letters and documents:

To avoid repetition, sales of the Emancipation Proclamation and 13th Amendment are listed in their own sections, below. Note that the Private Sales listed are Confidential, and included here only for use as a comparable sale.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Manuscript Signed. 1p. The last paragraph of Lincoln's "*Malice toward none*" speech. In an autograph book with 66 cabinet member signatures. 170pp. Christie's, November 20, 1992, lot 283. \$1,320,000.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Manuscript, December, 1857, 1p. A page from an early version of the House Divided Speech. Sotheby's, December 16, 1992, lot 195. \$1,540,000. Valued at \$3,500,000 in 2000.*

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter Signed, July 22, 1860, 2pp, to George Clayton Latham. Consoling Latham on his rejection from Harvard law school. Christie's, December 9, 1993, lot 195. \$728,500. Valued at \$1,500,000 in 2000*

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Manuscript, ca. 1857-59, 1p. Leaf of a Lincoln speech on slavery and government. Sotheby's, May 21, 1993, lot 87. \$990,000 Valued at \$3,300,000 in 1999.*

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Letter Signed, October 19, 1860, 1p, to Grace Bedell. The "*Whiskers*" letter. badly damaged over time. Profiles in History, 1993. Sold for \$605,000.

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Manuscript, ca. July, 1858, 1p. One leaf from a speech predicting the abolition of slavery. Christie's, May 17, 1996, lot 261. \$497,500. Valued at \$1,500,000 in 2000.*

In 1998, a letter signed by Lincoln (but with the text entirely in a secretarial hand), about the war in Missouri, sold privately for more than \$1,600,000.

In November of 1999, an excellent pre-presidential autograph letter signed of Lincoln, regarding slavery, sold privately for more than \$1,600,000.

Abraham Lincoln. Manuscript Draft, ca. December 30, 1862, 3pp. One of six unsigned secretarial drafts (in an unidentified hand, but not by Lincoln) of the Emancipation. Proclamation. Christie's, December 10, 1999, lot 122. \$607,500.

Abraham Lincoln. Document Signed, January 1, 1863, 1p. Authorizing the Secretary of State to affix the US Seal to "*My Proclamation*" [which was the Emancipation Proclamation]. Christie's, May 22, 2001, lot 116. \$886,000

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph manuscript, April 11, 1865, 12 pps. Lincoln's last address as President. Christie's, March 27, 2002, lot 105. \$3,086,000. (Could be valued at \$5,000,000 today, based on new bidders and potential bidders who expressed surprise and regret after the 2002 auction.)

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, May 7, 1837, 2pp. To Mary Owens, who he almost married: "Whatever woman may cast her lot with mine, should any ever do so, it is my intention to do all in my power to make her happy and contented." Christie's, October 9, 2002, lot 97. \$779,500.*

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 18 April 1846, 4pp. To Andrew Johnston, editor of Quincy Whig, including a copy of Lincoln's anonymously published poetry. Christie's, New York, October 9, 2002, lot 98. \$504,500

Additional Lincoln letter and document sales:

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 2 November 1842, to James S. Irwin, Esquire. Requesting prepayment of legal fees from a previously delinquent client. May 1998. \$66,000. *

Abraham Lincoln. Signed book. "Political Debates between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas...1860." One of three or four known copies signed in pen. To Norman M Broadwell, Springfield Atty who studied law under Lincoln. Christie's, December 10, 1999. lot 115. \$106,500 *

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. Re: Advice in the case of a doctor's estate. Springfield, Illinois, 26 January 1854. Christie's, December 10, 1999. lot 114. \$23,200*

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. Re: legal advice. 2 April 1834, [New Salem, Illinois]. Christie's, December 10, 1999, lot 110. \$45,000 *

Abraham Lincoln. Document signed, 23 September 1862, 1 p. Testimonial for Dr. Isachar Zacharie, Lincoln's chiropodist. Christie's, May 19, 2000, lot 92. \$94,000

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 15 July 1862, 1 p., to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Re: Mrs. Pomroy "one of the best women I ever knew...a widow who has lost all her other children, and has cheerfully given this one to the war." Christie's, May 19, 2000, lot 91. \$358,000

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. 15 March 1864, Washington, D. C., 1 p., to John F. Trumbull. Re: Trumbull's failed attempt to see Lincoln in Washington. "Try it

again, and let me know; and you shall be able to say 'that took'." Sotheby's, June 26, 2000, lot 72. \$64,515 *

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed. 1 June 1849, Charleston, Illinois, 1 p., to Moses Hampton. Request urging a former congressional colleague to write President Zachary Taylor on Lincoln's behalf regarding a federal appointment. Sotheby's, June 26, 2000, lot 69. \$159,750

Abraham Lincoln. Signed book. "Political Debates between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas...1860." Inscribed to Stephen Logan. One of three or four known copies signed in pen. Sotheby's, December 13, 2000, lot 171. \$280,750
[SK Comments: A better association, at 3 times price of copy sold in December 1999]

[Abraham Lincoln.] Document signed secretariially for Lincoln and Vice-President Hannibal Hamlin. June 1862, Washington, D.C., 1 p. "An Act to Secure Freedom to all Persons within the Territories of the United States." Christie's, May, 22, 2001, lot 115. \$42,000*

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 15 July 1858, 1 p. To William Hanna, re: attending a speech of Stephen Douglas. Christie's, October 29, 2001, lot 69. \$47,000.

Abraham Lincoln. Letter signed, 23 February 1864, 1p. Authorizing Anson Burlingame to negotiate with the Chinese to modify article of a treaty. R.M. Smythe, November 29th, 2001, lot 70. \$13,500*

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph note signed, n.p, n.d. [10 April 1865], 1 p. To unidentified recipient, asking for a favor for his son: "Let Master Tad have a Navy Sword." Christie's, March 27, 2002, lot 102. \$ 55,125

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 19 January 1865, 1 p. To Ulysses S. Grant, seeking a "nominal rank" for Robert Todd Lincoln in the Army of the Potomac: "Please...answer...as though I was not President, but only a friend." Christie's, March 27, 2002, lot 97. \$666,000

Abraham Lincoln. Document signed, 3 July 1863, 1 p. Draft requisition for the 29th District of New York, requesting troops. (Signed on the last day of battle at Gettysburg, when end was still in doubt.) Christie's, March 27, 2002, lot 90. \$22,325

Abraham Lincoln. Document signed, 24 September, 1862, 1 p. Suspending the writ of habeas.corpus by virtue of wartime executive powers. Christie's, March 27, 2002, lot 89. \$84,500*

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 17 October 1861, 1 p. To Major George D. Ramsay, "Wanting to work is so rare a merit, that it should be encouraged." Christie's, March 27, 2002, lot 87. \$666,000

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 6 July 1859, 3pp. To Schuyler Colfax, re: republican strategy for 1860 election: "to prevent the spread and naturalization of slavery is a national concern, and must be attended by the nation." Christie's, March 27, 2002, lot 84. \$501,000

Abraham Lincoln. Signed photograph of Lincoln and 10-year-old Tad, Feb. 9, 1864, by Matthew Brady. Christie's, Forbes, March 27, 2002. \$358,000

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 21 March 1864, 1 p. To Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, re: assisting "loyal and worthy" daughters of Illinois who "want employment" Sotheby's, June 18, 2002, lot 242. \$65,725

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 2 April 1865, 1 p. To Mary Todd Lincoln, re: details of the final collapse of Confederate forces. Christie's, October 9, 2002, lot 124. \$229,500. *

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 7 May 1864, 1 p. Asked for a sentiment on recent Battle of the Wilderness, Lincoln responds he's "not in a sentimental mood." Christie's, October 9, 2002, lot 116. \$65,725

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph note signed, 13 July 1862, 1 p. To Mary Todd Lincoln, "I am here; and well. How are you?" Sotheby's, December 13, 2002, lot 214. \$13,145. [Price was a fluke-I don't think anyone (including me) noticed it in this sale which did not have much Lincoln material; it would clearly have sold for much more at any other time. SK]

Abraham Lincoln. Signed carte-de-visite. August 9, 1863. Gardner. Christie's December 19, 2002. \$101,575 (better condition than the Taper Collection example)

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed "A. Lincoln", June 27, 1853, 2pp. To: Hon. T. J. Turner re: Adam Adams case and purchase of a parcel of land. Lincoln had agreed to a continuance, but now plans to draft a bill of exceptions. Historical Collectible Auctions, June 19, 2003 lot 293. \$23,000

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, August 17, 1850, 1p. To Samuel R Lowry, re: a disputed land title. "This is the whole story- the case can not be gained by much talking..." Rail Splitter, September 16, 2003, lot 229. \$29,900

Abraham Lincoln. Manuscript document signed, 27 February 1865. Counter-signed by Vice President Hannibal Hamlin and Speaker of the House Schuyler Colfax. An "Act to pay to each of the surviving soldiers of the Revolution ... three hundred dollars annually," countersigned by Schuyler Colfax as Speaker of the House, and H. Hamlin as Secretary of State. [very faded] Christie's, December 18, 2003, lot 304. \$89,625 (This had sold at Sotheby's in June 5, 2001, for \$13,200)

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph letter signed, 28 July 1856, 1 p. To "B. Clarke Lundy and others" (a group of Illinois Republicans.) Declining a speaking invitation as he had agreed to speak at Galesburg that day (on behalf of first Republican presidential campaign): "Stand by the cause and the cause will carry you through." Christie's, December 18, 2003, lot 293. \$59,750*

[Abraham Lincoln]. Broadside, "The Dismissal of Workmen from Colt's Pistol Factory. A Black Republican address...", including quotes from Lincoln's 3-5-1860 speech at Hartford. Christie's, June 9, 2004, lot 290. \$22,705

[Abraham Lincoln]. Transcript, not in Lincoln's hand, of Van Bergen vs Berry, Lincoln & Green. Lincoln as defendant in lawsuit over failed new Salem store. Christie's, June 9, 2004, lot 286. \$6,425

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph document signed, 26 March 1832, 1 p, signed "A. Lincoln for D Offutt". "Received of Wm. Barnett in full of all due debts and demands up to this date..." Described as "one of the earliest extent Lincoln documents remaining in private hands." [But very short, no content, and poor condition]. Christie's, June 9, 2004, lot 285. \$26,290

Abraham Lincoln. Signed Photo, August 9, 1863. Taken one month after the union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Christie's, December 16, 2004, lot 418. \$65,725

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Manuscript Leaf Signed, from Lincoln's earliest surviving Manuscript, his home made "*Sum-Book*" used as a schoolboy. Pidgeon Creek, IN, 1824-26. 2pp. Contains poetry, math and one of his earliest full signatures. Christie's, May 19, 2006, lot 88. \$352,000

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Note Signed, March 7, 1865, 1p. To General Richard Delafield. Lincoln requests a couple of maps for his youngest son Tad. Christie's, November 2, 2006, lot 85. \$90,000

Abraham Lincoln. Partially Printed Document Signed, November 1, 1864. An order to affix for a Middle East consul Jesse H McMath. Christie's, November 2, 2006, lot 84. \$19,200

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Letter Signed as President with Post Script signed, December 20, 1862, 1p. To Sec. of state William Seward, and Sec. of Treasury Salmon P Chase (the copy sent to the latter). Lincoln declines the resignation of Seward and Chase. Christie's, November 2, 2006, lot 77. \$216,000

Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Letter Signed, May 15, 1858, 2pp. To Jedediah F. Alexander. Springfield. Anticipating the Lincoln Douglas Debates. "*There remains all the difference there ever was between Judge Douglas & the Republicans....to keep slavery out of the territories.*" Christie's, November 2, 2006, lot 63. \$262,000

[Abraham Lincoln] Coddington, Ichabod. Book. Princeton, NJ, 1860. *A Republican Manual for the Campaign. Facts for the People! The whole argument in One Book.* First edition. Christie's, November 2, 2006, lot 65. \$8,400

Note that items of little content, or for which there is ample price information, are not included in the above (ie standard Lincoln legal briefs).

Authorized Edition of the Emancipation Proclamation -- Price History:

In 1864, Lincoln signed 48 copies of the Leland-Boker Authorized Edition. Approximately half are known to survive, including one in the ALPL.

October 31, 1984. Malcolm Forbes and another bidder, reportedly Ross Perot, fought it out at Sotheby's. Forbes won at \$297,000, (seven times the previous price, from 1974, and a new record for any American historical document.)

1984-1985. Two copies then came on the market privately. Both sold for approx. \$300,000, the first in America and the second to Meisei University in Japan.

On October 31, 1985, after the three above EP sales within a year temporarily saturated the small historical document market, a very fine condition example came was offered in the Phillip D. Sang Collection at Sotheby's. Dealer Paul Richards bought it for \$99,000., and then priced it at \$300,000.

On October 31, 1989, at Sotheby's, an example with reduced (cut off) margins and mat burn, discovered in the basement of a public library, sold for \$115,500.*

Immediately after the 1989 auction, the Sang-Paul Richards specimen sold, privately.*

In 1996, another sold privately for \$550,000. Now in a major private collection unlikely to ever come back to market.

In 1998, another copy, which last been sold at Freeman Fine Arts auction in Philadelphia approximately 20 years earlier, sold privately to The Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana.*

On May 22, 2001, at Christie's, another sold for \$611,000.*

In December, 2002, another sold at Christie's, for \$669,500., to an investor purchasing for resale.*

In June, 2003, the Christie's May, 2001 copy sold for \$900,000. to a collector.*

In November, 2005, the Malcolm Forbes copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, lacking a portion of the bottom left margin, sold for \$686,000. The auction buyer turned down an offer to sell at a profit within days of the auction.*

In November, 2005, the copy with very trimmed margins, bought at Sotheby's in 1989, sold again, for more than the price of the Forbes copy.

The 13th Amendment – another comparable item:

There are 13 or 14 known copies of the 13th Amendment signed by Lincoln, Hamlin, Colfax, and various Senators and Congressmen. Of those, five have sold in the last 18 years:

In 1988, a Senate copy failed to sell at Sotheby's, with a reserve of \$150,000. It was purchased a short time later.*

On October 30, 1990, at Sotheby's, a very fine Congressional copy sold for \$220,000.

On March 27, 2002, a Congressional copy was sold at Christie's by the Forbes Magazine Collection, for \$721,000.

In October, 2004, a Senate copy was bought privately by the Lincoln Museum, for \$1,250,000.*

On March 30, 2006, at Raynor's Historical Collectibles Auction in North Carolina, a Congressional copy sold for more than \$1,800,000. (Very similar to the one that sold by Forbes)*

* Asterisked items were handled by Kaller. Auction prices include auction buyer's fee. Asterisked items may include agent or other fees paid at the time of acquisition.

Items of clearly questionable authenticity are not included. Although they do sell, price is not indicative of true market value (if genuine), as several knowledgeable bidders stay away.

The Mary Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth, and other manuscripts, printed material and artwork were also viewed in light of market comparables, and, in my opinion, are appropriately valued in Chuck Sachs' appraisal.

Comparable Sales: Lincoln Assassination-Related Manuscripts and Documents

John Wilkes Booth. ALS, dated February 9, 1865, written from Washington, D.C., to Orlando Tompkins of Boston, discussing a range of minor matters including a request for a picture of himself in a black cravat that was later used in his wanted poster. Notes in closing that he "will get any letter sent to Ford's Theatre." Skinner, November 21, 2004. \$79,900

John Wilkes Booth. Autograph Verse Signed. [Washington D. C.,] 5 March 1865. "Now in this hour that we part,/ I will ask to be forgotten never/ But, in thy pure and guileless heart/ Consider me thy friend dear Eva." A cramped note on an envelope that also has inscriptions in three other hands, detracting from value. Sotheby's, December 3, 2004, Lot 356. \$24,000

John Wilkes Booth. Autograph Letter Signed, Washington, April 17, no year, 1p. To R. Decker. "Dear Sir, Yours of the 10th received. All right, I open with you June 15th for two weeks. For God's sake try for that time (2nd June) . I don't want to lay idle two weeks. Yours truly, J. Wilkes Booth." Geppi's Memorabilia Road Show, October 26, 2005, Lot 436. \$18,000

John Wilkes Booth. Autograph Letter Signed, Baltimore, 18 February 1862, 2 pp. To Joseph Simonds, with Autograph Postscript Signed and original envelope addressed by Booth. Booth opens in Baltimore: "I do not think my success here will be very great as one's native place is the last place in the world to look for such a thing." Sotheby's, June 5, 2001, Lot 21. \$27,200

[John Wilkes Booth]. Newspaper extra. "DAILY UNION / EXTRA / Thursday April 17, 11 A.M. / BOOTH KILLED! / HAROLD CAPTURED!...." with copy photos of period cartes de visite of Booth and memorial to the murdered Lincoln. ALBS. priced at \$5,500

John Wilkes Booth. Handbill, ca April 28, 1865, 1p. Describing Booth's capture. Cowan's, May 12, 2006, Lot 1670. \$8,625

Boston Corbett. Autograph Document Signed, Topeka, January 19, 1887, 1 p. "Statement of Boston Corbett," First-hand account detailing the capture and shooting of John Wilkes Booth by the man who shot him, but penned 22 years later, and in severely damaged condition. Swann, November 9th, 2004, Lot 189. \$11,500

Edwin Booth. Signed Photo, 1891. Best Known for his Portrayal of Shakespeare's Hamlet and as the Brother of John Wilkes Booth. Lion Heart. \$2,500

Ford's Theater. Admission Ticket, April 15, 1865. Union Major J. Franklin Fitts' general admission ticket from night of Lincoln's assassination. Heritage, 2005 June, lot 25433. \$2,530

Ford's Theatre. Lincoln Assassination Playbill, ca. April, 1865. "Brown Copy" of the original Playbill. Printed on the same press as the original, just days following Lincoln's assassination. Early American, December 11th, 2005, Lot 312. \$3,000

Our American Cousin: a Drama, in 3 Acts. Taylor, Tom. Book, 1869, 46pp. In original blue wrappers. First edition. Original cast from the 1858 opening at Laura Keene's Theatre, New York, appears on verso of title page. Back Creek Books. Priced at \$2,316

Tanner, James. Typed Manuscript Signed as stenographer at Lincoln's assassination, Ca 1900-1920, 6pp. To George Temple Grace. "*The Passing of Abraham Lincoln*". Eyewitness account of the assassination, but typed and signed 35-50 years later. Christie's, May 19, 2006, lot 118. \$16,800

(Lincoln Death Bed) Littlefield, John H. Washington: 1866. Photo by John Goldin; printed by William Terry. Photographic adaptation of a period painting, on a printed mount. ALBS. priced at \$3,850

Abraham Lincoln. The Most Documented Lock of Lincoln's Hair Extant. Ten strands of hair surgeons removed to access the fatal wound. Given by Mrs. Lincoln to Dr. Charles Taft, who attended president on his deathbed. Heritage, 2006 October, lot 25078. \$2,390

Fabric Swatch from Lincoln's Deathbed, .5" x .5". This linen comes from a larger swatch removed from Lincoln's deathbed by Charles K. Tuckerman. Heritage, 2006 February, lot 26161. \$657

Dr. Mudd (accused Lincoln conspirator). Marquetry Box, made in prison, Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, 1867. Made and inlaid by Mudd, and co-conspirators Spangler, and Arnold. Signed inlay by W. Butler Beck R.Q.M. Includes Dr. Richard Mudd (descendant of Dr. Mudd, who worked tirelessly to clear his ancestor's name) correspondence. Cowan's, June 8-10, 2005, lot 138. \$12,075

Assassination Trial. General Hunter. Admission Card Signed in blank as President of the commission, 1865. Cowan's, December 3, 2004, Lot 817. \$540

Lincoln Assassination reports:

Lincoln Assassination. Abott, Abott A. Pamphlet, New York, 1866, 12p. "THE ASSASSINATION AND DEATH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN...AT WASHINGTON, ON 14TH OF APRIL 1865." With original printed wraps. ALBS. priced at \$875

Lincoln Assassination. Broadside. "*Crutch Extra!!! Important From Washington. Death of President Lincoln. The Assassin Escapes*". *Crutch* weekly army hospital newspaper [U.S. General Hospital, Annapolis, MD], [April 15,] 1865, 1 p. One of the earliest printed descriptions of the assassination of Lincoln. Mentions initial \$10,000 reward offered by General Christopher Augur. Attack of Henry Seward is also described, including an erroneous report of the death Seward's son Fred. Kaller. priced at \$6,500

Abraham Lincoln Assassination. Broadside, War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865 "\$100,000 REWARD! / THE MURDERER / Of our late beloved President Abraham Lincoln, / IS STILL AT LARGE..." The last issue of this famed reward broadside, without photos (as issued) and with the additional descriptive line about Booth's heavy black moustache. Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. priced at \$48,500 (First issues, and copies with photographs, have sold for more.)

Lincoln Assassination. *New York Times*, April 15-20, 1865. Vol. XIV, Nos. 4230-4234. 8pp, per issue, 5 issues. On Abraham Lincoln's Assassination, Death, and Funeral. Folio. Lightly dampstained and chipped. Argosy Book Store. priced at \$3,500

Lincoln Assassination. Broadside. War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865. "\$100,000 Reward! The Murderer of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln, is still at large." Later printed portraits mounted within the frames, washed and restored. Swann Auction Galleries, February 2, 2006, Lot 142. \$23,000

Note: items of more questionable authenticity or provenance are not included in the comparable list above. For instance, the Heritage Luhrs collection, February 20, 2006, offered a fancy jewel-encrusted watch inscribed "To Miss Mary Todd from A.L. 1841." Reportedly in frustration with the end of his first engagement to Mary Todd, Lincoln is said to have given the watch he had procured for her to a woman named Mary Curtis. It is accompanied by a letter dated June 9, 1872, signed "Mary," giving it to a friend, Elizabeth: "Do you remember the beautiful blue watch with the diamond stones our beloved President Lincoln gave me that memorable afternoon of January 1841, with the inscription inside... Well I want you to accept it from me." The first indisputable evidence is a letter of May 10, 1890, of Elizabeth DeWitt, selling the watch. I am troubled by the nature of the first letter. When the watch would have been in the recipient's hand to see, there would have been no need to be so suspiciously descriptive. Also, though I did not see the letters in person, it appears not at all improbable that they were penned at around the same time (1890, say, when such a letter would be needed to sell the watch). Finally, they were sold with a patently invented story of the transmission of the watch to this Mary. The watch sold for \$71,000, but cannot be considered as a comparable because it is not generally believed to have had anything to do with Abraham or Mary Lincoln.

Comparable Sales: Historical Objects

This list is included at the end of the report, rather than immediately following the artifacts section, because it can be a useful reference when considering the collection as a whole. Each section of this list is in roughly chronological order.

History

Revolutionary War Battle Flag, captured in 1779. The earliest known American flag showing thirteen red and white stripes. Without stars, and with an image in center that does not fit most people's vision of the American flag. \$12,300,000. Approximately 30 Revolutionary war-era flags have been found, but these are reportedly the only known in private hands. Sotheby's, June 14, 2006. With three other Revolutionary war battle flags, that brought \$5,100,000 in the same auction.

Declaration of Independence. Printed document: broadside by John Dunlap (unsigned). Sotheby's.com, June 29, 2000 - \$8,140,000, purchased by Norman Lear, for national exhibit tour. At least 500 copies of the Dunlap broadside were printed, and at least 25 survive. The very same copy had sold in 1993 for \$2.54 million. The previous example sold at Sotheby's January 31, 1990, lot 2533, for \$1,595,000.

Lafayette-Washington Pistols. Pair of 18th-century French steel-mounted pistols made by Jacob Walster, circa 1775-6; said to have been presented by the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington. Later owned by Andrew Jackson, then returned to the Lafayette family, until sold in 1958. Christie's, January 18-19, 2002 - \$1,986,000.

George Washington Miniature Portrait by Ramage, 2" tall, portraying the General in uniform. In a gold case enclosing a lock of Washington's hair, and decorated with his initials. Given by George to Martha Washington. Christie's, January 19, 2001 - \$1,216,000.

[George Washington Inaugural Banner]: Hand-sewn banner decorated with a 13-star American shield, said to have been used at Washington's presidential inauguration in 1789. Sotheby's, May 23, 2002 - \$262,500.

George Washington Dispatch Case. Black Morocco valise or document/dispatch case. Almost certainly used by him as commander in chief during the Revolutionary War. 17" x 11", with accordion pleats. Some re-stitching. Sotheby's, May 19, 2005 - \$408,000.

Trafalgar Gold Medal awarded to Captain Thomas Hardy of HMS *Victory*. Christie's October 19, 2005, lot 58 - £248,800/ \$435,000.

Admiral Nelson Gold Pocket Watch presented to Nelson by the officers of HMS *Victory* (but not with him at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805). Sotheby's, October 5, 2005, lot 184 - £400,000/ \$700,000.

Admiral Nelson Diamond-Studded Cane presented by the Greek island of Zante after the Battle of the Nile. Sotheby's, Trafalgar, October 5, 2005 - £220,800/ \$386,400.

Admiral Nelson purse. Bloodstained stocking purse, ca. 1805, containing twenty-one gold coins. Sotheby's London, October 21, 2002, lot 79 - £270,650/ \$424,920.

Union Jack flag fragment from HMS *Victory*. The largest remaining portion of the flag that covered Nelson's coffin at his state funeral, and which was torn to pieces by distraught seamen. Sotheby's London, October 5, 2005. £120,000/\$210,960.

Personal Battle Flag of Confederate General JEB Stuart. Heritage, December 2, 2006, lot 25448 - \$956,000.

General JEB Stuart's Key-Wind Gold Pocket Watch. Heritage, December 2, 2006, lot 25453 - \$131,450.

The Estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Sotheby's, April 23-26, 1996, a total of 1195 lots - approximately \$34,500,000.

- JFK's Boston Rockers from the White House sold for \$442,500 (lot 56) and \$453,500 (lot 1195). It is believed that Kennedy ordered 12 rocking chairs.
- a cigar humidor, in walnut, 12 ½ x 12 ½ x 13", sold for \$574,500 (lot 57)
- JFK's golf clubs sold for \$387,500 (lot 754) and \$772,500 (lot 755)
- JFK's desk from the White House, on which he signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and other Acts, sold for \$1,432,500 (lot 358)
- Jackie Onassis' fake pearl necklace, shown being worn in several famous photographs of her, sold for \$211,500 (lot 454)
- a leather desk accessory set, monogrammed JFK, sold for \$ 189,500 (lot 1102)
- a dish sold for \$29,900 (lot 1128)

JFK Memorabilia, mostly from the Robert L. White collection, from Evelyn Lincoln. Guernsey's, March 18-19, 1998, approx. 500 lots - close to \$9,000,000

- JFK's Hermes briefcase sold for \$772,500
- a collection of JFK's signing pens, from 1961-1963, sold for \$48,875
- presidential rocking chair used by JFK when he stayed at the Carlyle Hotel in New York City, sold for \$332,500. Another, in rough condition, also from the Carlyle, sold for \$23,000
- JFK's tortoiseshell sunglasses sold for \$46,000

Kennedy Assassination- Zapruder film. Purchased by federal government in 1998 for \$18,000,000 after a lengthy, court-arbitrated negotiation. The Zapruder family retained rights.

Martin Luther King Archive. Sotheby's, June 2006 - \$32 million. The archive had been offered privately by Sotheby's for \$20 million, over the course of several years. (Having represented clients who agreed to pay the asking price, I can say that the collection failed to sell earlier not because of questions of value, but because of family and intellectual

property issues, including a history of copyright litigation. Those issues are not a concern with the Taper Collection.) That being said, once the archive was scheduled to be sold at auction on June 30th, the City of Atlanta, fearful of losing an important part of its heritage, put together an offer, and bought the collection privately to pre-empt the auction.

Mme. Tussaud's replica of Princess Di wedding dress. Cooper Owen, December 7, 2005 - £100,000 (\$175,000).

Art and Literature

Da Vinci, Leonardo. 76 page illustrated manuscript: *Codex Hammer*. Christie's, October 1994 - \$30,802,500, purchased by Bill Gates.

Peale, Charles Willson. *George Washington at Princeton*, 1779. Eight feet tall, the only one of eight known still in private hands. Christie's, January 21, 2006, lot 547 - \$21,300,000. Two smaller Peale paintings of Washington have sold for more than \$5 million, but portraits by Peale of any subject other than Washington typically sell for less than \$250,000.

Brancusi, Constantin. *Oiseau dans l'espace*, 1922-1923; marble and stone sculpture. Christie's, May 4, 2005 - \$27,456,000. One of 16 of the *Bird in Space* sequence.

J.L. Mott Iron Works. Molded Copper Indian Chief Weather Vane, ca. 1900, 62" tall. Sotheby's, October 6, 2006, lot 5 - \$5,840,000

(Probably) J.L. Mott Iron Works. Molded Copper Indian Chief Weather Vane, late 1800s, 47" tall. A lot of weathering and traces of gilding. Sotheby's, October 6, 2006, lot 8 - \$716,000

Crowell, Elmer. Carved and painted wood decoy of a pintail drake, ca. 1915. Christie's, January 2003 - \$801,500.

Abraham Lincoln Folk Art. Carved and painted wood sculpture of Abraham Lincoln. Estimated at \$60/90,000. Christie's, May 23, 2006, lot 168 - \$240,000.

Entertainment

James Dean original vest from the movie *Giant*, 1956. A navy pin-stripe waistcoat with *Warner Bros.* label on the interior, inscribed *James Dean* in ballpoint pen and worn by him in his iconic performance as Jett Rink. Cooper Owen, December 7, 2005, lot 167 - £530,000/ \$916,370.

Audrey Hepburn dress worn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Estimated at \$50,000-70,000. Christie's, December, 5, 2006, lot 111 - £467,200/ \$932,187. Proceeds went to "City of Joy Aid" charity, which may have increased the bidding.

Marilyn Monroe dress that she wore singing "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" to John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden, New York, in 1962. Christie's, Personal Property of Marilyn Monroe, 1999 - \$1,267,500.

Star Trek, one of many models of the Starship *Enterprise*. Christie's, October 5, 2006, lot 712 - \$576,000.

Eric Clapton's Stratocaster guitar, "Blackie." Christie's, June 2004 - \$959,500.

Sports

Honus Wagner, baseball card: T206, 1909. Ebay, July 15, 2000 - \$1,265,000.

Babe Ruth 1919 Contract of "Sale" from the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees. Sotheby's, June 10, 2005, lot 178 - \$996,000.

Babe Ruth 1932 "Called Shot" home run jersey. Grey Flannel Auctions, 1999 - \$282,000; re-sold 2005 - \$1,100,000.

Brazil 1970 World Cup final shirt, worn by Pele, Christie's, London, South Kensington, April 2002 - £157,750/ \$226,800.

Mark McGwire, 70th home run ball, 1998. Guernsey's, 1999 - \$3,000,000.

Authenticity

The items in the Taper Collection had already been inspected and authenticated. Thus, my assignment did not include authentication. However, in the course of acquiring or considering for acquisition thousands of important Lincoln-related manuscripts, I have participated in their authentication process and become familiar with various hands represented in the collection.

During my inspection, I identified one letter, described as being written by Mary Lincoln, as a contemporary clerical copy. It is now described on the inventory as such.

There is only one other item in the Lincoln manuscripts collection that I question – the signed photograph, valued at \$50,000. There are variations in the signature that cause concern – the formation of the initial “A”, the legibility of the letters, the formation and connection of some of the other letters, the color of the ink, etc. Once I raised the question, I did not have enough time to study this item and come to a final opinion, which, in any case, could be contradicted by others. It may very well be authentic, and I mention the issue here only to be thorough and to leave the door open for further study.

There are several invitations to White House Dinners, described as being accomplished by Mary Lincoln. John Sellers at the Library of Congress, and others, believe that this class of document was not, in fact, filled out by Lincoln, but rather by a White House Secretary. I am not convinced by their attribution to Noah Brooks. The value could change, but not in a major way.

None of the above is material to the value of the collection.

On the other hand, the Lincoln billfold is an important artifact, but with little (other than its very strong provenance) remaining in this distant time to personally or visually connect it to Lincoln. However, when I opened it, I noticed inside one of the pouches a portion of a printed document, with parts of several words accomplished in manuscript. Two of the words are, without question, in Lincoln’s hand, written in the 1840s.

I have also taken copies of a couple of other documents in the collection that have interesting questions which may be resolved in a way that would add to their value. As an example, the manuscript of the Presidential Blockade Proclamation is valued as a contemporary copy (not signed by Seward or Lincoln) at \$35,000. If we are able to identify the handwriting, the value could increase significantly – Lincoln’s signature on the form authorizing the Secretary of State to affix the seal of the United States to the blockade proclamation is being offered by a dealer for \$900,000 retail.

Biography: Seth T. Kaller

Seth T. Kaller is the owner of Seth Kaller, Inc. in White Plains, New York, specializing in the acquisition of historic documents. He is also a partner in Kaller Historical Documents, Inc. and Kaller's America Gallery, Inc.

Kaller has served as acquisition agent for the Gilder Lehrman Collection since its inception in 1989, coordinating all aspects of the acquisition of more than 60,000 documents. GLC, on deposit at the New York Historical Society, is now one of the most important American historic document collections ever privately formed. Its holdings include manuscripts, archives, documents, maps, prints, and artifacts, from the founding of America, to the Revolutionary and Civil wars, to the 20th century.

Among the highlight acquisitions for the Gilder Lehrman Collection are:

- John Hancock's letter announcing the Declaration of Independence
- Benjamin Franklin's signed copy of the U.S. Constitution
- Lord Cornwallis' surrender, which effectively ended the Revolutionary War
- The Henry Knox archive, focusing on the War for Independence
- George Washington's State of the Union Address
- Thomas Jefferson letters on religion, the press and government
- Abraham Lincoln signed copies of the Thirteenth Amendment
- Abraham Lincoln's "House Divided" manuscript
- Robert E. Lee's farewell to his troops

Since 1985, six copies of the Emancipation Proclamation with Lincoln's original signature have been publicly offered – Kaller has handled five of them, including the resale of two. Other documents have included Einstein's first scientific paper, the only manuscript in private hands of Clement C. Moore's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, and an archive of William T. Sherman's Special Field Orders directing the Atlanta campaign, sold recently to the Atlanta History Center. Notable artwork has included Gilbert Stuart's "dollar bill portrait" of George Washington (formerly owned by James and Dolley Madison), American Impressionist Childe Hassam's famous "*Fourth of July, 1916*" (formerly owned by Frank Sinatra) and unique Houdon busts of Thomas Jefferson and Gouverneur Morris.

References:

Lewis Lehrman, Managing Partner, the Gilder Lehrman Collection, New York
Joan Flinspach, Director, The Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana
James Bruns, President, Atlanta History Center
Susan Stein, Curator, Monticello
Linda Ayres, Director of Collections, Mount Vernon
Leslie Wexner (c/o Walter Novembre, Director of Operations, Abigail House)
Joseph Torsella, President, The National Constitution Center
Frank Smith, President, The African American Civil War Freedom Memorial and Museum, Washington, D.C.