

Items Signed by Many of History's Brightest Stars will be Sold Online Aug. 17 by University Archives

News-Press Release

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Summary

The 537-lot Rare Autographs, Manuscripts & Books auction contains material in multiple collecting categories. The catalog, with all 537 lots in color, is up for viewing and bidding now.

Message

Wilton, CT, USA, August 2, 2022 -- Rare items signed by George Washington, John F. Kennedy, Daniel Boone, Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, George Armstrong Custer and many more of history's brightest stars are just a few of the highlights in University Archives' next big online-only auction, slated for Wednesday, August 17th, by University Archives, starting at 10:30 am EDT. The Rare Autographs, Manuscripts & Books auction features historical material from multiple collecting categories. All 537 lots are up for viewing and bidding now (on the University Archives website: www.UniversityArchives.com), plus LiveAuctioneers.com, Invaluable.com and Auctionzip.com. Phone and absentee bids will be taken, but there's no live gallery bidding. At 537 lots, this sale is our largest ever, eclipsing the previous company record-holder, our 534-lot auction held January 6th, said John Reznikoff, president and owner of University Archives. The sale boasts a spectacular variety of items representing the best of U.S. Presidential, Early American and the Civil War/Western collecting categories, plus music, sports, art and literature. The list of major categories is extensive, to include Presidential (Washington to Obama); Early American (Franklin, John Hancock, Benedict Arnold, Marquis de Lafayette, Declaration signers, Daniel Boone, others); and Civil War/Western (Gen. Custer, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Joseph E. Johnston, John S. Mosby, Jefferson Davis, Clara Barton, Philip Sheridan, others). Other categories include Music (Bob Dylan, the Beatles, the Monkees, Tupac Shakur, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, others); Entertainment (Marilyn Monroe, Harry Houdini, Walt Disney, others); Sports (Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, Sandy Koufax, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra, others); and Civil Rights (John Brown, Muhammad Ali, Alex Haley, Rosa Parks, others). Still other categories include Art (Warhol, Picasso, Matisse, Monet, Rockwell, Sendak, Ansel Adams, others); Literature (Hemingway, Twain, Kerouac, Steinbeck, Shakespeare, Helen Keller, Margaret Mitchell, others); Science (Darwin, Edison, Freud, Jung, Feynman, others); World Leaders (Churchill, Lenin, David Ben-Gurion, Castro, Napoleon Bonaparte, Ho Chi Minh, etc.); and Aviation & Space (Lindbergh, Von Braun, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Alan Shepard, etc.). One of the earliest documents signed in George Washington's hand (in 1752, the same year he inherited Mt. Vernon in Virginia, when he was just 21 years of age), a two-page front-and-verso survey of a 346-acre tract of land in Augusta County, should bring \$20,000-\$24,000. Washington had just returned from Barbados with his brother, where he contracted a mild case of smallpox. A pair of items relating to John F. Kennedy's political aspirations in the late 1950s will be sold as one lot (est. \$15,000-\$17,000). The first item is a signed personal check reimbursing travel expenses; the other is an accompanying typed letter, signed by JFK in the spring of 1956. Both are slabbed and authenticated by Beckett Authentication Services. Kennedy was a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts at the time, angling for the 1956 Democratic Vice-Presidential nomination. A large pay receipt signed by legendary frontiersman Daniel Boone, sometime during his service as a delegate of the Virginia General Assembly (circa 1781-1791) is expected to bring \$12,000-\$14,000. The document highlights one of Boone's often overlooked roles as a legislator. In 1781, Boone represented Fayette County, now in Kentucky but then part of Virginia, and was kidnapped in a British cavalry raid led by Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Tarleton's targets were Virginia Governor Thomas Jefferson and more high-profile Virginia lawmakers, but he settled for Boone and six other legislators. Benjamin Franklin engrossed and signed a receipt in 1756 for his Pennsylvania Gazette, the Philadelphia newspaper he had established in the late 1720s. Franklin collaborated with a Scottish printer named David Hall for 18 years, during which the Pennsylvania Gazette became politically aligned with the Patriot cause. The signed receipt should finish at \$9,000-\$10,000. Lot 100 is an engraving of The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet, after Francis Bicknell Carpenter's original oil on canvas. It is displayed above the assembled signatures of all eight figures depicted, including Abraham Lincoln, William H. Seward, Edwin M. Stanton and Salmon P. Chase, and has a pre-sale estimate of \$8,000-\$10,000. Lot 369, a 3pp autograph letter signed by George A. Custer, has an interesting connection to the 1876 Battle of Little Bighorn in that its author and its recipient, George W. Yates, were both 7th Cavalry officers killed there. Custer's lengthy signed letter was written at Fort Lincoln, Dakota Territory in June 1871. In it, he advises Yates to acquire well-bred Kentucky horses earmarked for cavalry use at reasonable prices (est. \$9,000-\$10,000). Jefferson Davis, exiled in Canada in April 1868, wrote a letter signed to fellow Confederate John Taylor Wood about his ongoing federal prosecution case (not resolved until Grant's

Christmas Day amnesty of that year), and about the economic distress of black freedmen that he had in the Deep South. The letter, in which Davis justifies attitudes that he held towards blacks prior to the war, is estimated to be worth \$6,000-\$7,000. A Lot 259 is a promissory note inscribed with over 25 words and signed by Benedict Arnold before the Revolutionary War and nine years before his defection to the British side. The receipt was for a parcel of land and was probably penned in New Haven, Conn., where Arnold had lived (est. \$4,500-\$5,500). A two-page letter written and twice signed by JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in 1961 and sent to his mother from Minsk (today the capital of Belarus), saying, "if we finally get back to the states, maybe we'll settle in Texas", should command \$6,000-\$7,000. A first-edition copy of *The Babe Ruth Story* (E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1948), written by Ruth (as told to Bob Considine) and signed on the half-title page by the New York Yankee great himself (as "Babe Ruth" in blue ink) just months before his death, carries an estimate of \$6,000-\$7,000. A copy of the Bob Dylan double-album *Blonde on Blonde*, circa 1966, signed by Dylan (as "Bob Dylan"), with a certificate of authenticity from Dylan's manager, Jeff Rosen, from the stock of the two gentlemen, 12 1/4 inches square, in near-fine condition, is expected to hit \$4,500-\$5,500. Though they were only married for 9 months, their romance was legendary. Two checks – one signed by Marilyn Monroe, dated Jan. 10, 1953, made out to Harriet Beal for \$50.00; and the other signed by Joe DiMaggio, dated Jan. 7, 1980, made out to the Presidio Golf Club for \$110.25; both in a wood frame with an identifying plaque, should reach \$4,000-\$5,000. For more information about University Archives and the Rare Autographs, Manuscripts & Books auction slated for Wednesday, August 17th at 10:30 am EDT, visit www.universityarchives.com.



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