California Gold Rush Sunken Treasure From The legendary

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Summary
Historic artifacts that are a time capsule of Gold Rush life and recovered from the sinking of the vessel brought strong prices March 4-5 via Holabird Western Americana Collections, LLC in Reno, Nev.

Message
Reno, NV, USA, March 9, 2023 -- From lumps of coal and crewmembersâ€™ keys to tableware and exquisite jewelry, collectors bid $1.1 million to acquire 422 lots of historic, sunken treasure California Gold Rush-era artifacts recovered from the 1857 sinking of the fabled â€œShip of Gold,â€• the S.S. Central America. The two-day auction, March 4 and 5, 2023, was conducted in Reno, Nevada and online by Holabird Western Americana Collections (www.HolabirdaAmericana.com). Â â€œWe had about 7,000 registered bidders, including some from Canada, Europe, and South America. Many collectors were waiting for these extraordinary items to come on the market since the legendary, submerged ship was located in 1988 and Life magazine proclaimed it Americaâ€™s greatest treasure ever found,â€• said Fred Holabird, President of Holabird Western Americana Collections. â€œThis was an incredible time capsule of the California Gold Rush era.â€• Â One of the auction highlights was a massive 32.15-ounce gold bar created in San Francisco by prominent Gold Rush assayers John Glover Kellogg and Augustus Humbert. The two-pound gold ingot sold for $138,000, far above its current gold content value of about $59,000. The assayerâ€™s value at the time it was created was $586.17. Â â€œThe S.S. Central America was carrying tons of Gold Rush treasure from San Francisco and the northern California area when she sank 7,200 feet deep in the Atlantic off the North Carolina coast in a hurricane while on a voyage from Panama to New York City in September 1857. Recovery from the shipwreck site occurred in several stages between 1988-1991 and again in 2014,â€• explained scientist Bob Evans who was on each of the recovery missions and assisted with the auction.Â Â Among the recovered jewelry items was a large 18-karat gold quartz engraved brooch that prominent San Francisco businessman Samuel Brannan -- California's first millionaire -- was sending to his son in Geneva, Switzerland, as a gift to the son's teacher.Â It sold for $49,200.Â Â "Brannan was the Jeff Bezos of his day; a successful entrepreneur, newspaper owner, and California's first millionaire," said Dwight Manley, managing partner of California Gold Marketing Group, consignor of the sunken treasure.Â Â Among the 45 other recovered jewelry pieces in the auction was a REGARD ring, named for the first letter of each of the five gemstones it contains: ruby (missing from the ring), emerald, garnet, amethyst, ruby, and diamond. It sold for $14,400.Â Â Other highlights included:Â Â - A winning bid of $73,200 for a superb resolution, 19th-century daguerreotype metal plate photograph of a young woman. The scientific mission recovery team nicknamed the unidentified woman, â€œMona Lisa of the Deep,â€• after retrieving the photo in 2014 from the seabed where it was discovered in a scattered pile of the shipâ€™s coal. Â - The only known, complete treasure box from the 1850s California Gold Rush period brought $6,300. An embossed wax seal on the box is still easily readable as â€œAlsop & Co.,â€• renowned merchants and gold treasure shippers of the era. Â - Among the recovered clothing items was an early Brooks Brothers shirt that sold for $2,760. Â - The specially-built, six-ton remotely operated underwater vehicle nicknamed â€œNemoâ€• that was used by scientists and engineers to locate and recover the S.S. Central America treasures deep on the Atlantic Ocean seabed four decades ago sold for $43,200. Â - A porthole from what is believed to be Captain William Lewis Herndonâ€™s topside cabin went for $22,200. Â - Gold wire-rim eyeglasses retrieved from the wreck site a mile-and-a-half below the Atlantic Ocean surface sold for $13,800. Â - A set of gold cufflinks brought $12,000. Â - The winning bidder paid $2,760 for the remains of a recovered 1851 Colt Navy pistol. Â - A contemporary counterfeit Mexican 8 Escudos â€œgoldâ€• coin dated 1853 discovered in the shipâ€™s purserâ€™s safe brought $37,200. Â - A small sign from the ship with the word SALOON went for $13,200. Â - The Stewardâ€™s key to the shipâ€™s wine storage room sold for $9,300. Â - Lumps of recovered shipâ€™s coal sold for hundreds to thousands of dollars each depending on size. Â - Six applied-top beer bottles, some still with original beer contents, sold for an average of $1,087 each. Â - Thirty-six Cuban cigars apparently brought on board when the ship stopped in Havana on the voyage to New York were offered in 18 separate lots of two cigars per lot and sold for as much as $720 per pair. Â - A five-foot long scale model of the S.S. Central America created in 1991 sold for $50,400. Â For additional information, visit Holabird Western Americana Collections of Reno, Nevada at www.HolabirdAmericana.com, call 775-851-1859, or email info@HolabirdAmericana.com.

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