



The catalog's cover lot was this 21½" x 26½" lithograph, titled *Representatives of Professional Base Ball in America*. The promotional piece was commissioned by P. Lorillard & Co. of Jersey City, New Jersey, to promote Climax Red Tin Tag Plug Tobacco. It was published in New York by Root & Tinker in 1884. Now backed with linen, the print shows 12 players of the period including Buck Ewing, Tim Keefe, Dan Brouthers, and Cap Anson, along with four executives, Al Spalding and Harry Wright among them. According to Swann, at least three variants of the image were issued. None is known to be in an institutional collection or to have been sold in any mainstream auction houses, although they have occasionally appeared in sports auctions. This copy went to an Internet bidder for \$5120 (est. \$3000/4000).

said Stattler, "and not being really sure of what the market for this would be, I put in a modest estimate" (\$800/1200). "I was glad that we were able to find the right crowd—people who certainly were more familiar with its significance than I was." *Iracema, lenda do Ceará* by José Martiniano de Alencar, published in 1865 in Rio de Janeiro, sold on the phone for \$15,000.

At least two institutions came away with noteworthy lots. Americana dealer William S. Reese of New Haven, Connecticut, bought for \$2500 and then donated to Yale University, his alma mater (class of 1977), the personal papers of Richard Henry Green. When Stattler wrote the catalog, he identified Green as "perhaps" the first African-American graduate of Yale (class of 1857). After the catalog came out, the idea that Green was first was disputed.

Ariel Kaminer of the *New York Times*, for example, wrote that Moses Simons (class of 1809) may have been the first to break Yale's color barrier. As Kaminer wrote on March 16, 2014: "This possibility is remarkable not just because Mr. Simons graduated long before either of the two previous contenders... but because Mr. Simons is already celebrated for breaking an entirely different sort of barrier. He was Yale College's first Jewish graduate."

The same reporter noted that *The Invisible Line* by Daniel J. Sharfstein presents evidence that Randall Lee Gibson (class of 1853) may have preceded Green, having been born the great-grandson of a so-called free man of color. But what is one to make of the fact that by the time Gibson was born, his family was, in the reporter's words, "rich, slave-owning and, by all accounts, white," with Gibson himself serving as a member of the Confederate Army?

"In the end it's a question of semantics," said Stattler, whose own research found that Green may have either chosen to pass for white during certain periods of his life or else was seen by 19th-century census takers as such. Records at Yale are said not to mention his race.

The New-York Historical Society was the other institution that was identified by Stattler as a winner of a significant lot. Its purchase was 116 manuscript volumes of field notebooks by the Bridges family surveying firm, which was active in New York through the first half of the 19th century. A representative, bidding in the room, won the material at \$18,750 (est. \$7000/10,000). Before the sale took place, Stattler said of the Bridges lot, "This is about as specialized as it gets. It has to go to someone who's interested in the history of the New York landscape, real estate, property lines. It could go to somebody who actually is a surveyor, or it could go to an architectural historian or reference library." But anyone could be amazed to imagine a surveyor of the period with sketchbook in hand, recording everything that his trained eye could see.

At least one institution looked at but did not buy the sale's largest lot. The massive archive of New York artist Henry Grant Plumb (1847-1930) instead went to a dealer on the phone for \$16,250 (est. \$3000/4000). Plumb was a landscape artist who also did portraiture and commercial art, including lithography. Raised in rural Sherburne, Chenango County, New York, he studied at Cooper Union in Manhattan and attended the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris from



The artwork for a cigar box label depicting Hans "Honus" Wagner sold via the Internet for \$5888 (est. \$1500/2500). The 4½" x 6" image in watercolor, gouache, and perhaps colored pencil shows the Pittsburgh shortstop in the same pose featured on the famously rare baseball card. Its source is a 1905 photo. Although Wagner refused to permit the release of a 1909 cigarette card with his image (thereby putting the value of surviving copies in the ballpark of \$2 million) he must have felt promoting cigars was OK. He smoked them himself and chewed tobacco.



An 8¾" x 9¾" pencil drawing of the arrest of Mardi Gras revelers in New Orleans on February 17, 1863, sold to a dealer on the phone for \$6500 (est. \$2000/3000). According to an inscription on its back, Fat Tuesday celebrations for the most part ceased during the Civil War. Nonetheless, in this depiction, as some "attempted to indulge their longings" they "were nearly all promptly arrested by the police, for what reason I know not." Swann speculated that, though the drawing is unsigned and apparently unpublished, it may be from the hand of John R. Hamilton, who contributed several scenes of New Orleans to *Harper's Weekly* in early 1863.

1874 to 1878, after which he returned to New York City for the remainder of his long career, which included teaching at Cooper Union for 35 years.

The archive came to Swann in 11 boxes containing approximately 60 of Plumb's unframed smaller watercolors and oil paintings, some 300 letters from Plumb to family members, ten photograph albums, four pocket diaries, his portrait studio sign, palette, and paint box, and much more. During previews, one wall of the gallery was hung with some of Plumb's 18 framed oil paintings. The provenance traced the trove from the artist to his daughter to her heir.

One of the most complete Civil War archives to come up at Swann in recent years went for \$13,750 (est. \$2000/3000) to a dealer bidding as an absentee. It consisted of documents and correspondence, including 86 letters written by Francis John "Frank" King (1838-1903) to his future wife, Martha Bell (1832-1921). A native Englishman, King was from a Quaker family but found himself in the war anyway, serving as a member of the Bucktail Regiment, officially the 42nd Pennsylvania Infantry, which fought at Gettysburg, then as a sergeant major in the 190th Pennsylvania. As Stattler pointed out in his catalog, King was an optimist, repeatedly predicting that the war would soon be over. Instead, he fought for four years, surviving two grueling terms in Confederate prisons.

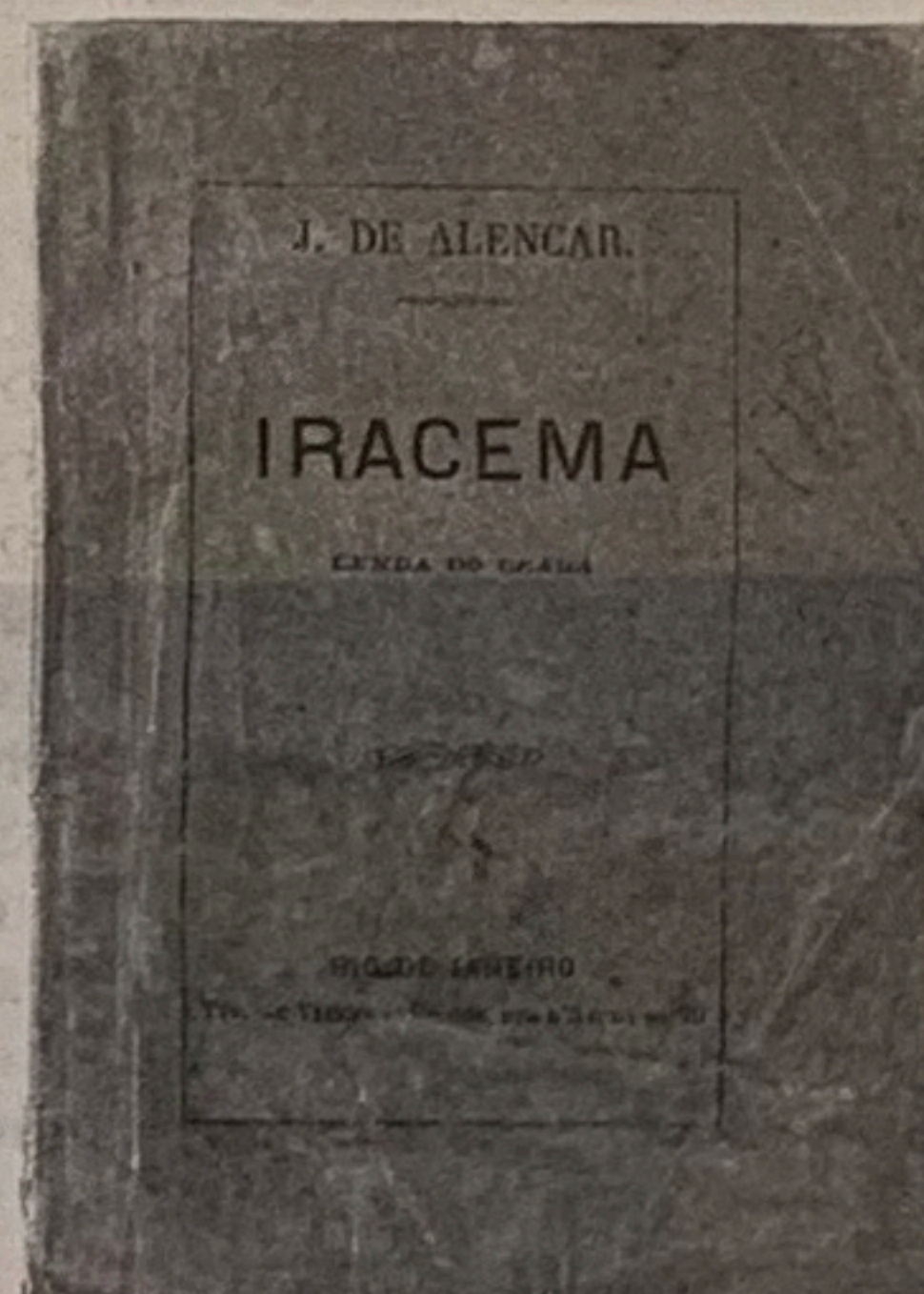
Estimated at only \$400/600, a photo album compiled by a military musician, Thad Potter (1835-?), who was stationed at Fort McKavett, Texas, in the period 1871-75, soared to \$10,000. The lot, which included 47 photographs, most



A 14" x 11" Holley Cabinet Ware House broadside, published in 1835, with a related notebook of furniture designs, fetched \$10,880 (est. \$2000/3000). Among the notebook's pages are ink and pencil sketches of a washstand, stool, dressing tables, and secretaries, each with detailed measurements, along with carving designs and recipes for varnishes and stains.



The back of the pages of the *Daily Citizen* shows its wallpaper design. Schinto photo.

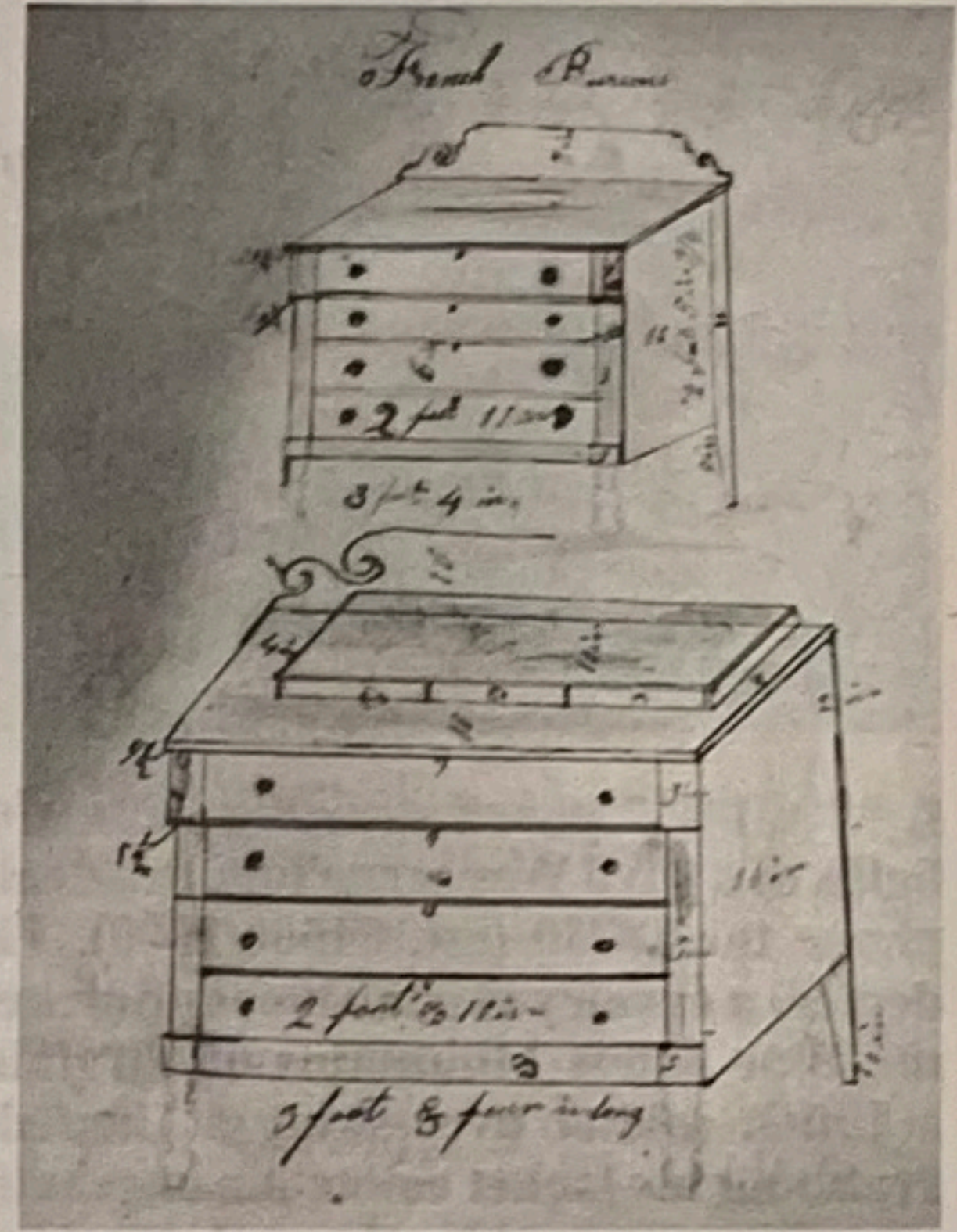


A first edition of José Martiniano de Alencar's *Iracema, lenda do Ceará*, published in Rio de Janeiro in 1865, achieved \$15,000 (est. \$800/1200).

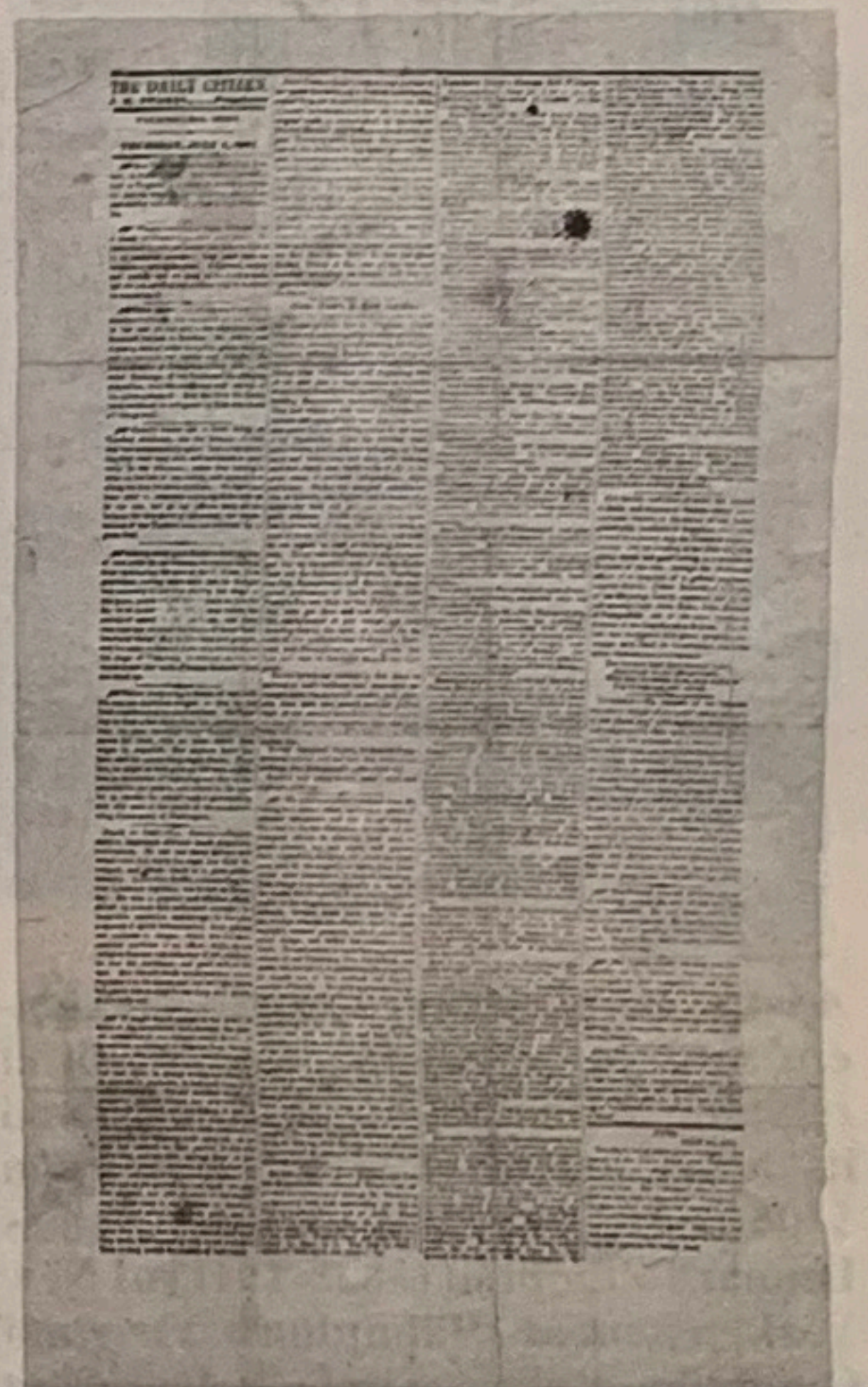
of them cartes de visite, "probably had the most interest presale," said Stattler, who hadn't counted on the excitement generated by the lot's scenes of the frontier, Native Americans, and Mexicans, among other subjects. "That in itself was compelling, but this was also a Buffalo Soldiers regiment [African-American], which I think brought some people in." He added, "One of the good things about working in an auction house with a knowledgeable clientele is that even if I do miss something, there's a good chance that at least two people will pick it up at the preview and bring it up to its proper level." The lot went to a collector.

Stattler said his own favorite lot was a Holley Cabinet Ware House broadside from the 1830s that sold with a related notebook of furniture designs. "My wife is a furniture historian, so she actually helped me catalog this one," said Stattler, who is married to Jennifer L. Anderson, author of the highly recommended *Mahogany: The Costs of Luxury in Early America* (2012). "It was sort of a family project, getting the description together."

The broadside advertised the firm of C. Richardson in Holley, New York, makers of furniture in



Page from the Holley notebook titled "French Bureau." Schinto photo.



One 19¼" x 11½" page of the *Daily Citizen*, printed on wallpaper in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on July 4, 1863, by Union troops, sold for \$5000 (est. \$3000/4000). The buyer was a collector bidding as an absentee. "They were so short on paper in the Confederacy, several newspapers resorted to using wallpaper during the war," Stattler explained. "When the Union troops took over Vicksburg, they found the press ready to go with a stack of wallpaper by its side, and they printed out a few more, adding their own mocking paragraph on the demise of the *Daily Citizen*." This one shows that paragraph, which says: "No more will it eulogize the luxury of mule-meat and fricassée [sic] kitten—urge Southern warriors to such diet never-more. This is the last wall-paper edition, and is, excepting this note, from the types as we found them. It will be valuable hereafter as a curiosity." This issue is often reproduced, but this one is the real thing, judging by such details as the fact that it was printed on one of the known original floral wallpaper patterns as seen in the Library of Congress's copy.

the Empire style of the period. The 1830-33 notebook is filled with sketches for the same. It isn't signed, but the provenance suggests it was compiled by Richardson, who issued the broadside in 1835. The consignor got both items from her grandmother, a member of a family who lived in the Holley area, which is west of Rochester. Her grandmother in turn may have been the daughter of the cabinetmaker. Fresh to the market, the lot sold to a dealer bidding via the Internet for \$10,880 (est. \$2000/3000).

For more information, phone the auction house at (212) 254-4710 or see the Web site (www.swannalleries.com).

Swann Galleries, New York City

Sold: Copy of the Law that Made the Dollar Almighty

by Jeanne Schinto
Photos courtesy Swann

While preparing to cover Swann's printed and manuscript Americana sale on April 8, I knew I would be writing, as usual, about money. What I didn't anticipate was that this time I would be writing about a moment in the history of American hard cash. That's because the top lot was a copy of the first printing of the Coinage Act, which in 1792 established the dollar as our legal tender.

From that moment, every piece of our currency, from \$10

the House, John Adams as vice president, and George Washington as president. According to the auction house's research, two other copies of the Coinage Act are in institutions, but neither has the Jeffersonian inked signature, and no complete, signed copy has been at auction since at least 1917.

Because of its rarity, three bidders were in the running until close to the end, when a phone took it for \$118,750 (including buyer's premium), more

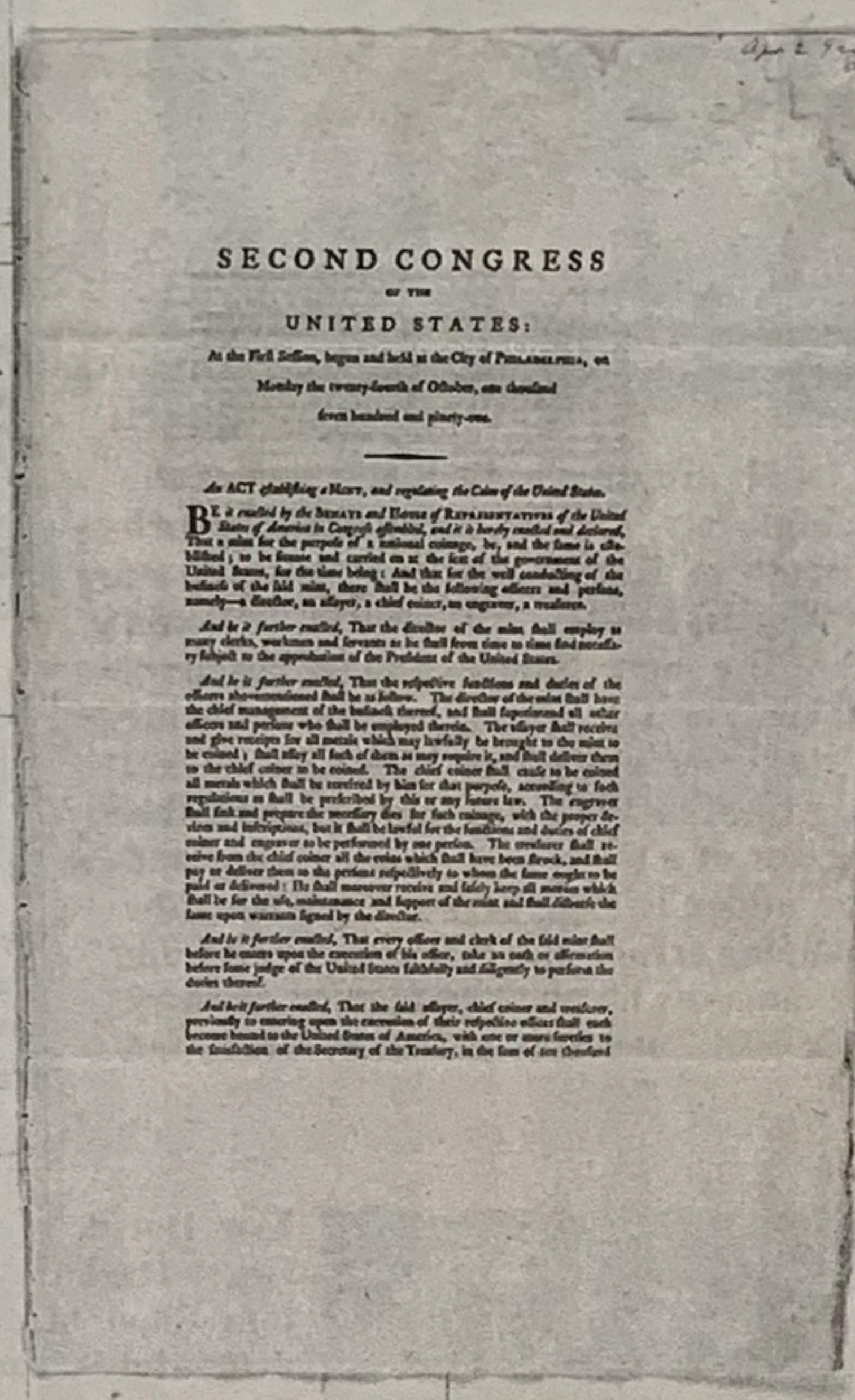
"All the sales at Swann in the last couple of months have been pretty vigorous."

eagles to "dimes" (i.e., dimes) to cents and half-cents, was set to be defined in relation to the dollar. The nation has operated on the decimal system ever since. The law also dictated American money's design, stipulating, for example, that each of our coins must bear the word "Liberty."

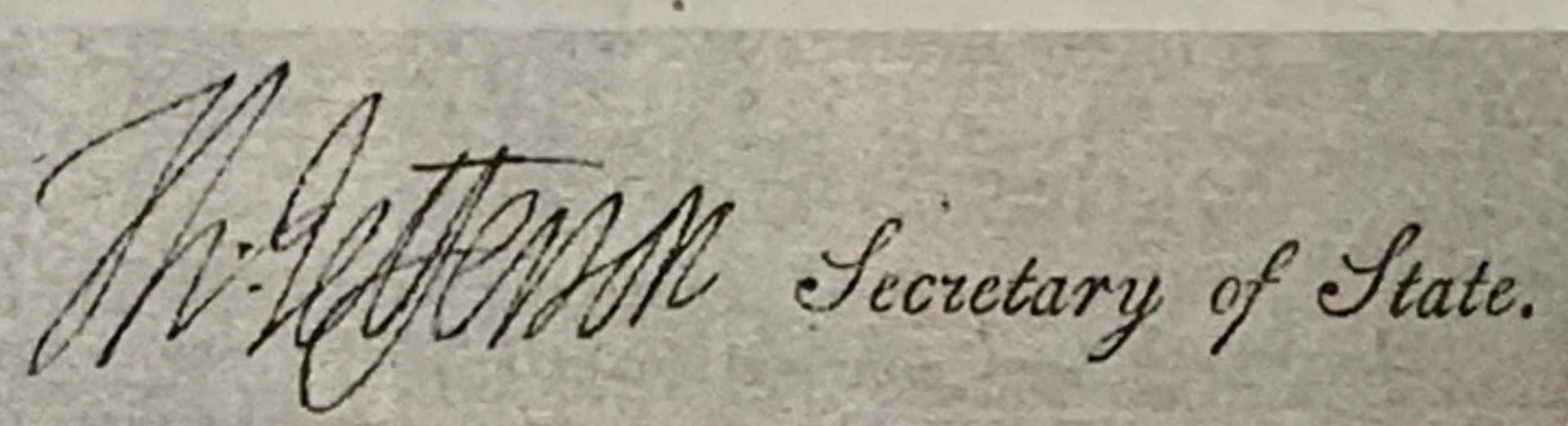
The last page of the three-sheet document, which also established the United States Mint, was signed in pen by Thomas Jefferson as secretary of state. It was signed in type by Jonathan Trumbull as Speaker of

than double the low estimate. Swann's Americana department specialist, Rick Stattler, said both the buyer and the consignor were private collectors.

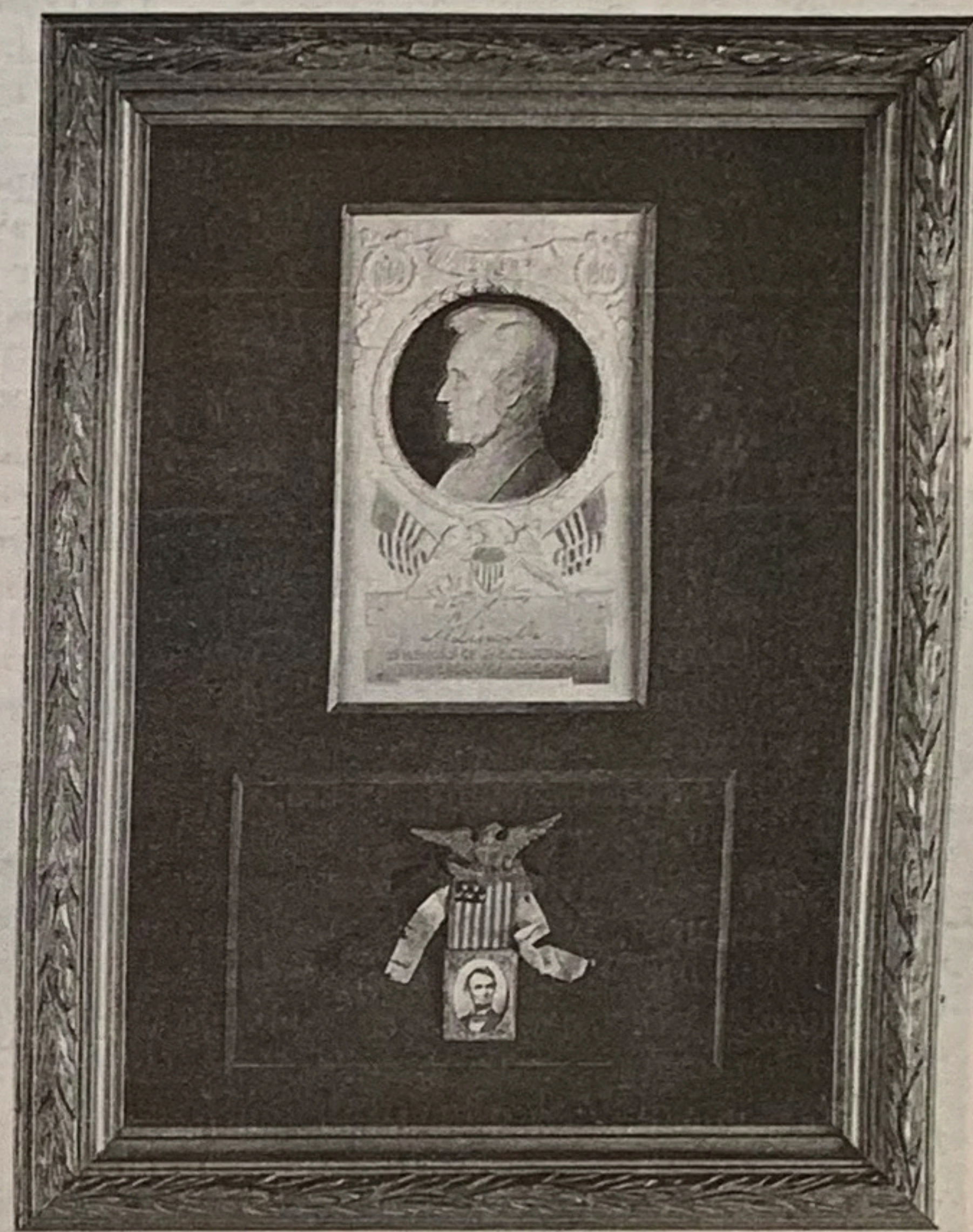
This very successful sale, with a 90% sell-through rate on 320 lots, was well positioned on the calendar. It took place two days after the close of the New York Book Fair at the Park Avenue Armory uptown. Many participants ventured downtown to preview, leave bids, or prepare to bid on auction day. "It certainly helps to have the book



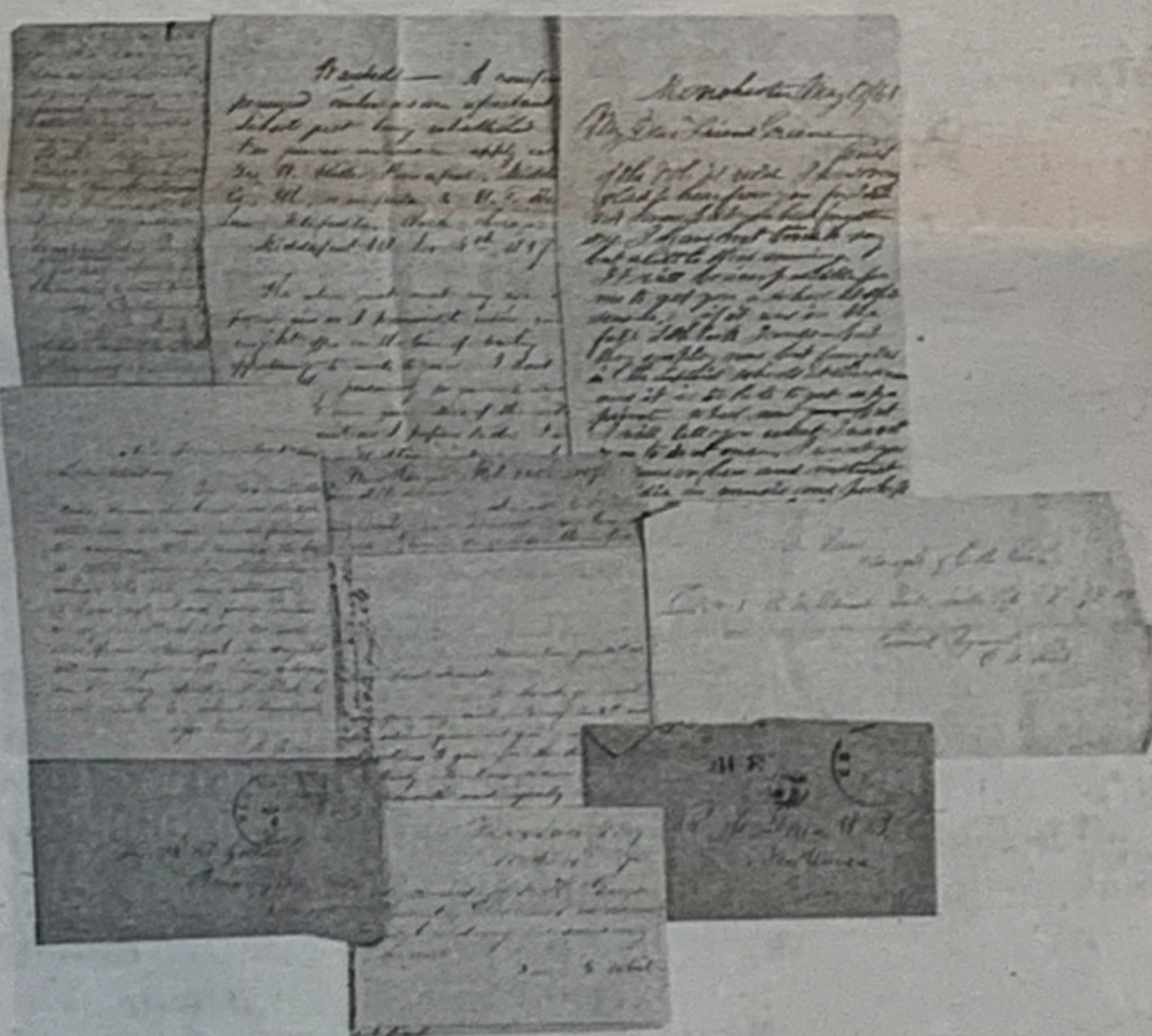
An Act Establishing a Mint, and Regulating the Coins of the United States, signed by Thomas Jefferson, sold for \$118,750 (est. \$50,000/75,000). Five pages on three 15" x 9 3/4" sheets, produced by the press of Francis Childs and John Swaine in Philadelphia on April 2, 1792, it is a first printing of the Coinage Act, which defined the American currency system and established the dollar as legal tender.



Jefferson's signature on the Coinage Act. Schinto photo.

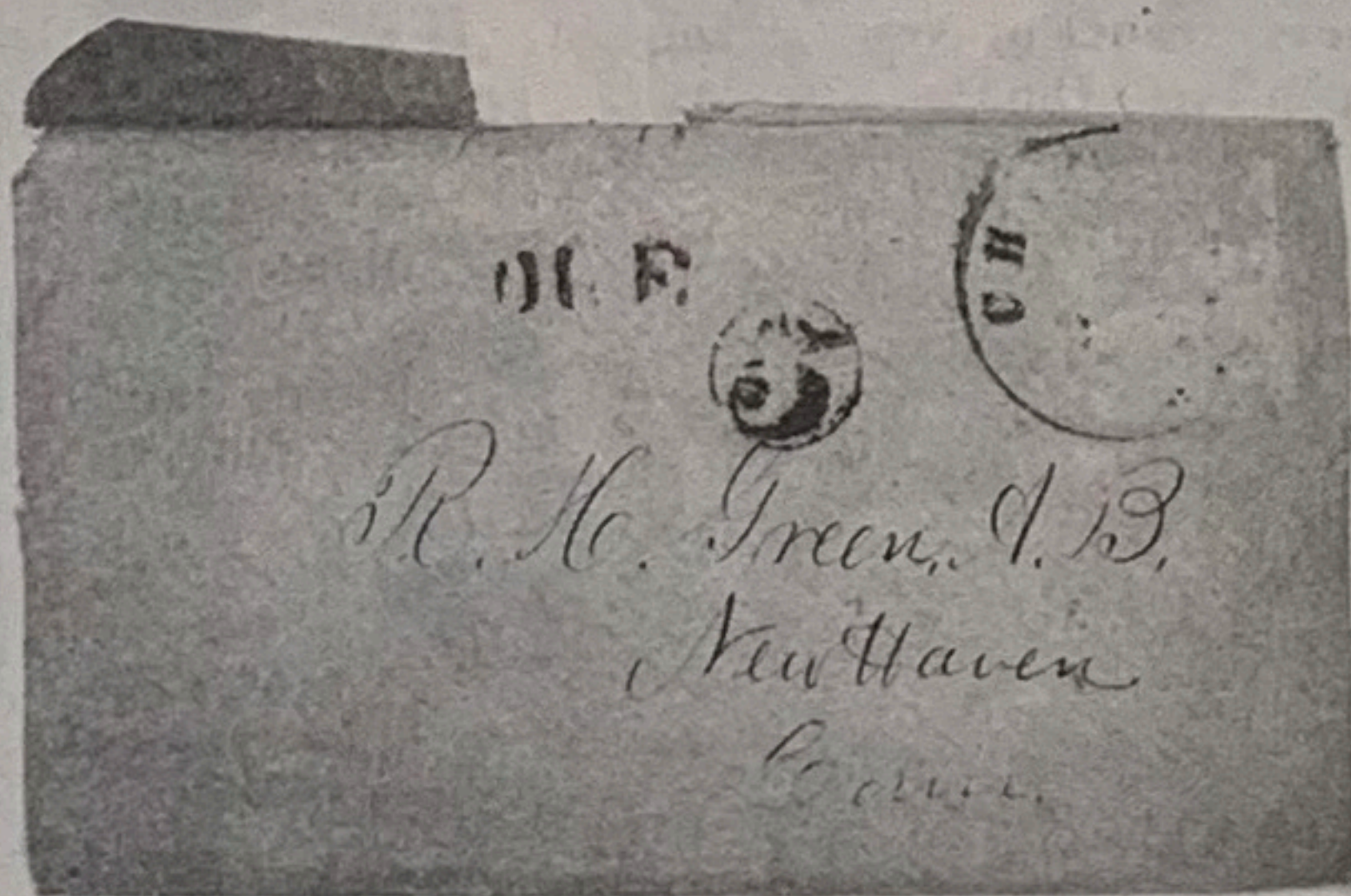


Among the papers of Henry Grant Plumb was this Lincoln mourning ribbon. Rick Stattler said a Swann specialist who knows badges speculated that it was probably a campaign button to which was added the black ribbon after the president's death. The item fetched \$875 (est. \$400/600).



The personal papers of Richard Henry Green (1833-1877), Yale class of 1857-95 items including four letters received by and two receipts issued to Green, 1857-75, as well as correspondence and other papers of his father, wife, daughter, and brother-in-law—sold for \$2500 (est. \$1000/1500) to William S. Reese, who is giving the archive to Yale.

fair right beforehand," said Stattler. Besides this sale's regulars, he noticed "some West Coast dealers and some international people that we're not accustomed to seeing." But even without the happenstance of the show's proximity, it probably would have been a strong sale. The offerings were enticing across the board, and Stattler, like many others, has observed that the market is improving. "All the sales at Swann in the last couple of



An envelope addressed to "R.H. Green, A.B., New Haven, Conn." Schinto photo.

months have been pretty vigorous," he said.

Collectors, as opposed to dealers and institutions, were particularly active, taking not only the money lot above but three other big ones in the Latin Americana category. A first edition of Antonio de Herrera's history of the Spanish colonies, published in Spain 1601-15, sold to a collector bidding as an absentee for \$45,000 (est. \$20,000/30,000). *Historia General de los Hechos de los Castellanos en las Islas y Tierra Firme del mar Oceano*, which has nine engraved title pages, one for each of its volumes, also has 14 maps that are rare to find in any form, "as the Spanish were very protective of their discoveries," Stattler wrote

in his catalog. It is a "pretty spectacularly illustrated book," the specialist said, and this is the most complete set that Swann's research could find at auction since 1992.

Another of the star Latin Americana lots was an early 19th-century manuscript book of recipes from Mexico. Estimated at \$2000/3000, it sold to a collector on the phone for a phenomenal \$21,250. Handwritten by Ramona Garia Rico and dated December 22, 1820, it was titled *Cuaderno de Guisos* (which roughly translates as Notebook of Stews). It consists of 36 pages stitched together plus another 14 unbound and laid in. The latter are in a different hand than the former. The 6 1/4" x 4 1/2" sheets comprise 74 recipes in all. Stattler, who once made his living as a restaurant line cook, intended to make a dish from the cookbook before the sale but discovered that the directions were too vague for him to follow.

Of the price, Stattler said, "We've done pretty well with Mexican cookery in the last couple of years. It seems to be a growing field." This price has outdone all the others, however. "As far as I can tell, that was the record for a manuscript cookbook from the Western Hemisphere," he said. "That's a tough thing to ascertain with great confidence, but I couldn't find any other example that brought more."

The third major Latin Americana lot that sold to a collector was a little beyond the typical scope of Stattler's department. It was the first edition of an important historical novel set in early 17th-century Brazil. "We don't do much in the way of novels,"

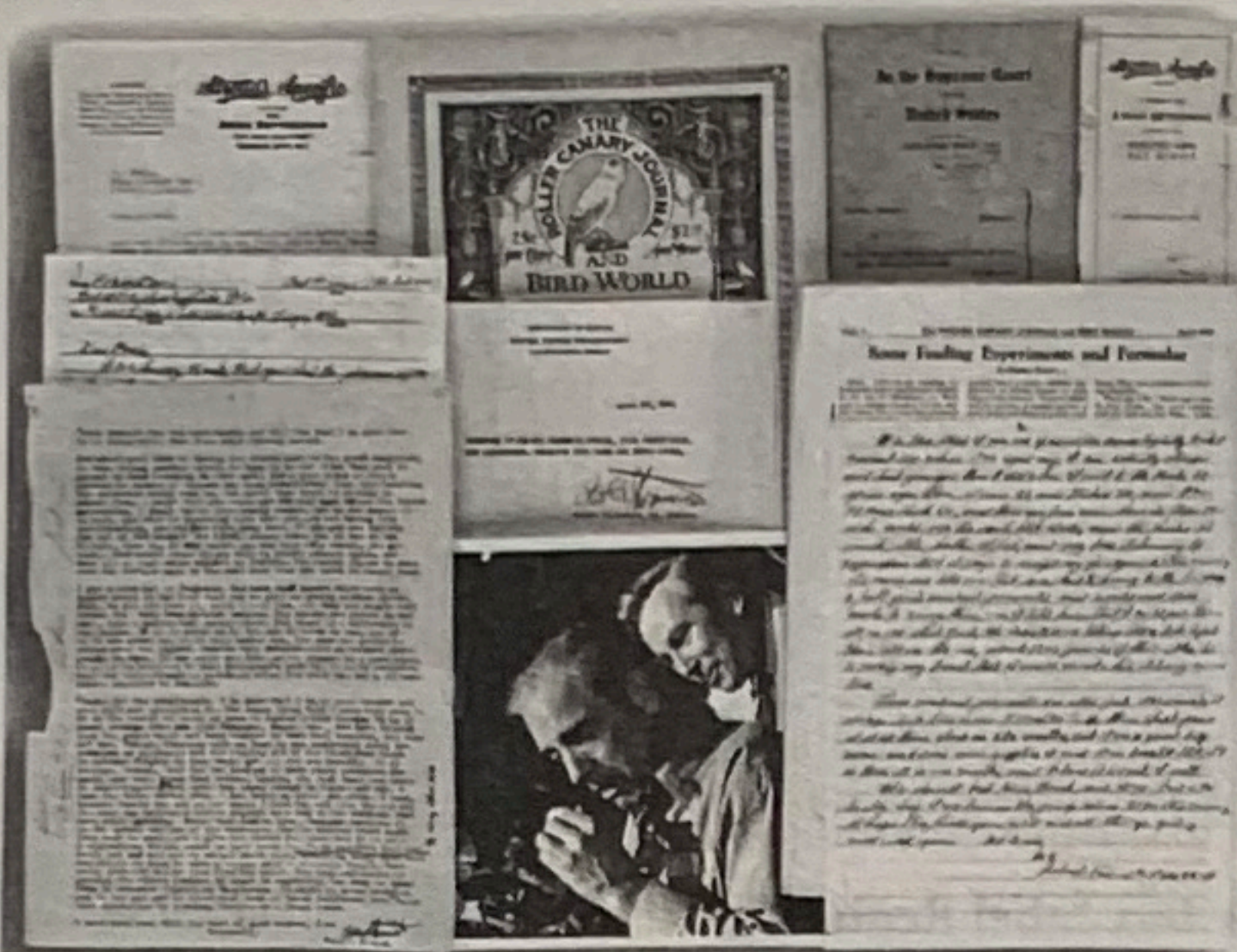


A mammoth archive of New York artist Henry Grant Plumb sold to a dealer for \$16,250 (est. \$3000/4000). Right: two photographic images of artist Henry Grant Plumb and two of his calling cards. Schinto photos.

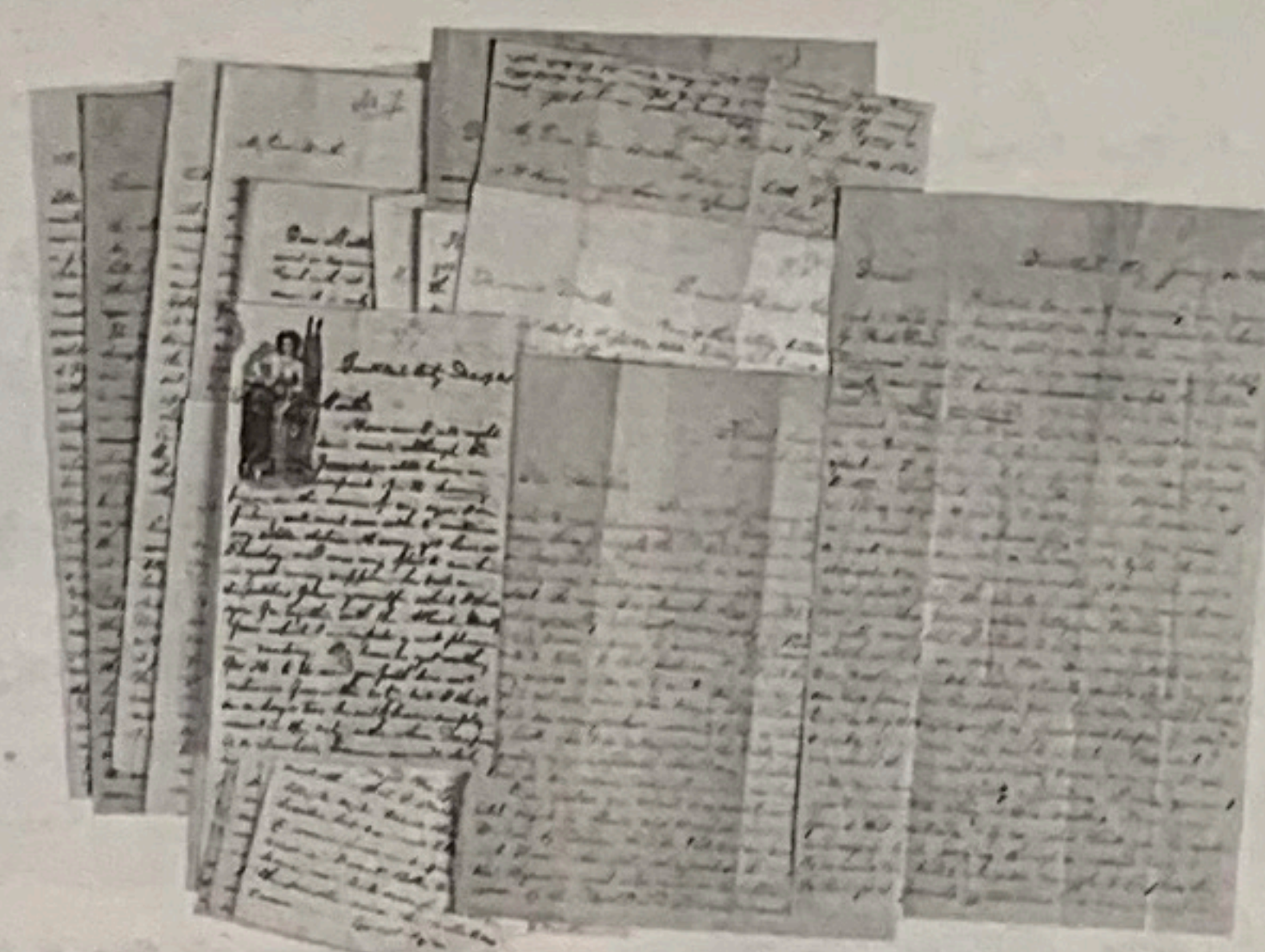




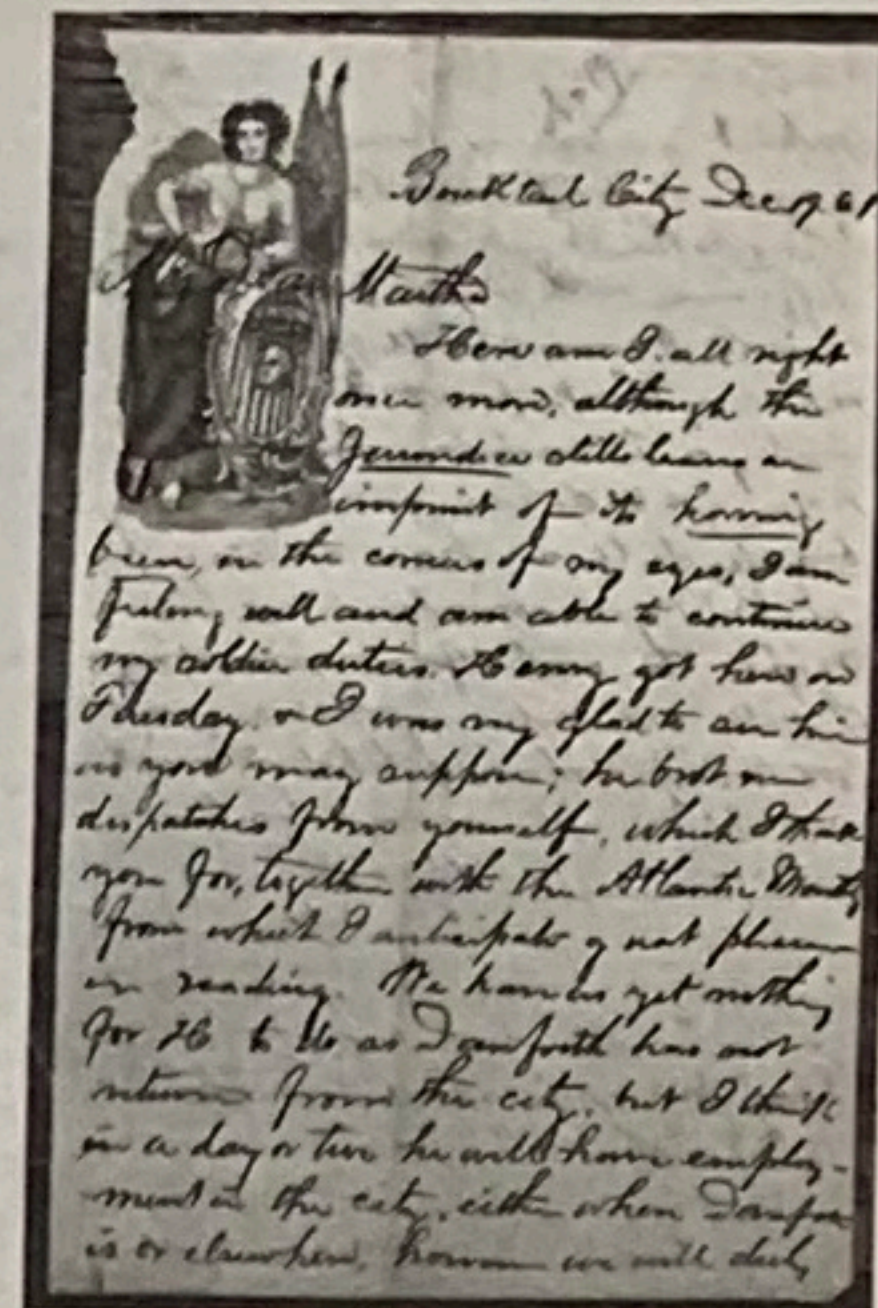
A 9" x 14 1/2" pencil drawing with white highlights of a Civil War scene sold to a dealer on the phone for \$8750 (est. \$1500/2500). The image depicts a cavalry skirmish near Snickersville in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. That's a Union soldier overtaking a Confederate by grabbing his jacket collar. An engraving of this artwork appeared in *Harper's Weekly*, November 29, 1862, and a copy of the magazine was included in the price.



The research archive of Thomas Gaddis (1908-1984), biographer of Robert Stroud, a.k.a. the Birdman of Alcatraz, sold for \$6656 to a bidder by Internet or "outer space," as Swann's chairman George S. Lowry sometimes refers to it when he's auctioneering. The lot included hundreds of items collected by Stroud during the writing of his book and the making of the film derived from it.



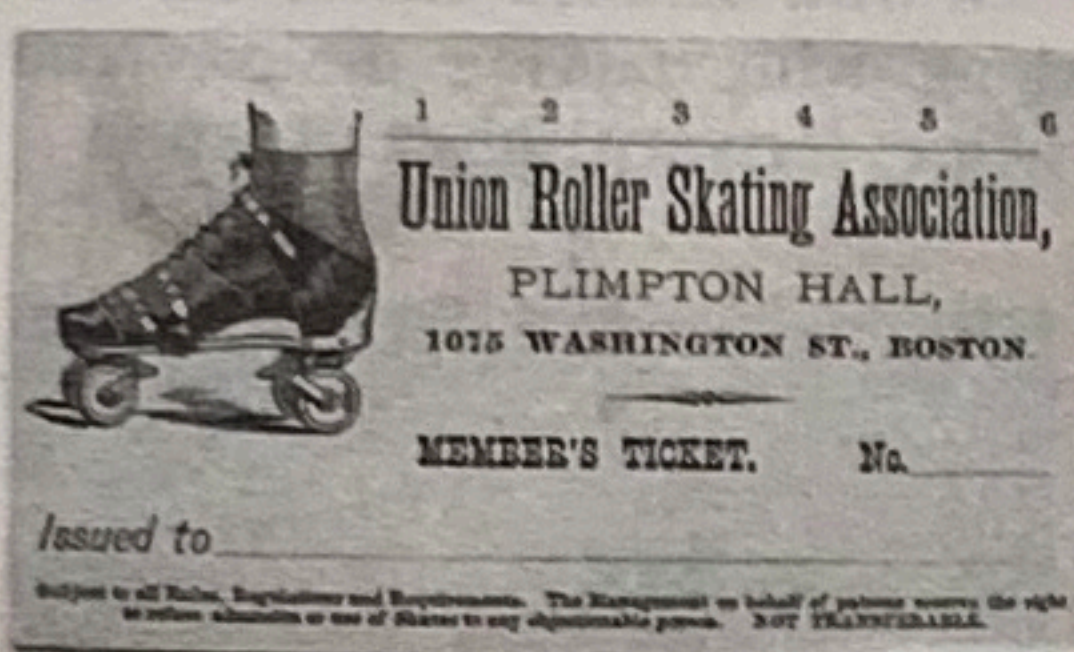
The Civil War archive of Francis John "Frank" King, 1861-65, \$13,750 (est. \$2000/3000).



This is a letter from Frank King to his wife-to-be, Martha, dated December 19, 1861, from "Bucktail City." It reads in part: "Here am I all right once more, although the Jaundice still leaves an imprint of its having been, in the corners of my eyes. I am feeling well and am able to continue my soldier duties. Henry got here on Friday...; he [brought] some dispatches from yourself, which I thank you for, together with the Atlantic Monthly from which I anticipate great pleasure in reading..." Schinto photo.



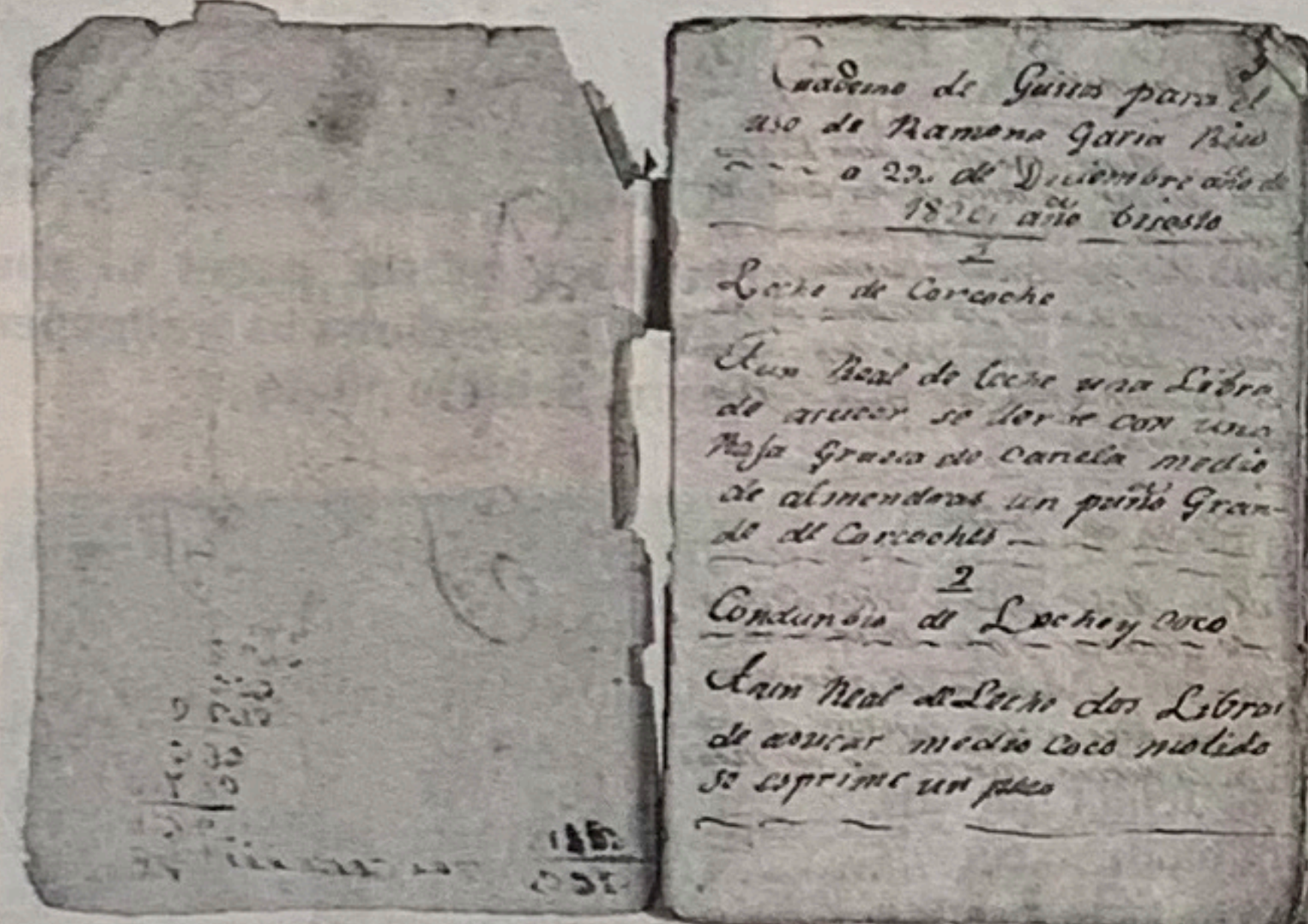
A large group of roller-skating ephemera and correspondence, most of it relating to the Plimpton family and its novel patent, sold for a bargain \$406 (est. \$500/750). In 1863, James Leonard Plimpton (1828-1911) of New York patented "Plimpton's Original Guidable Roller Skate," featuring four wheels for each foot, an innovation which helped make roller skating a popular diversion in the United States and abroad. According to the Website of the Roller Skating Museum (www.rollerskatingmuseum.com), he is regarded as the father of the modern roller skate. In 1866, he opened the first public roller-skating rink, in Newport, Rhode Island. The lot included 88 items dated 1865-1916.



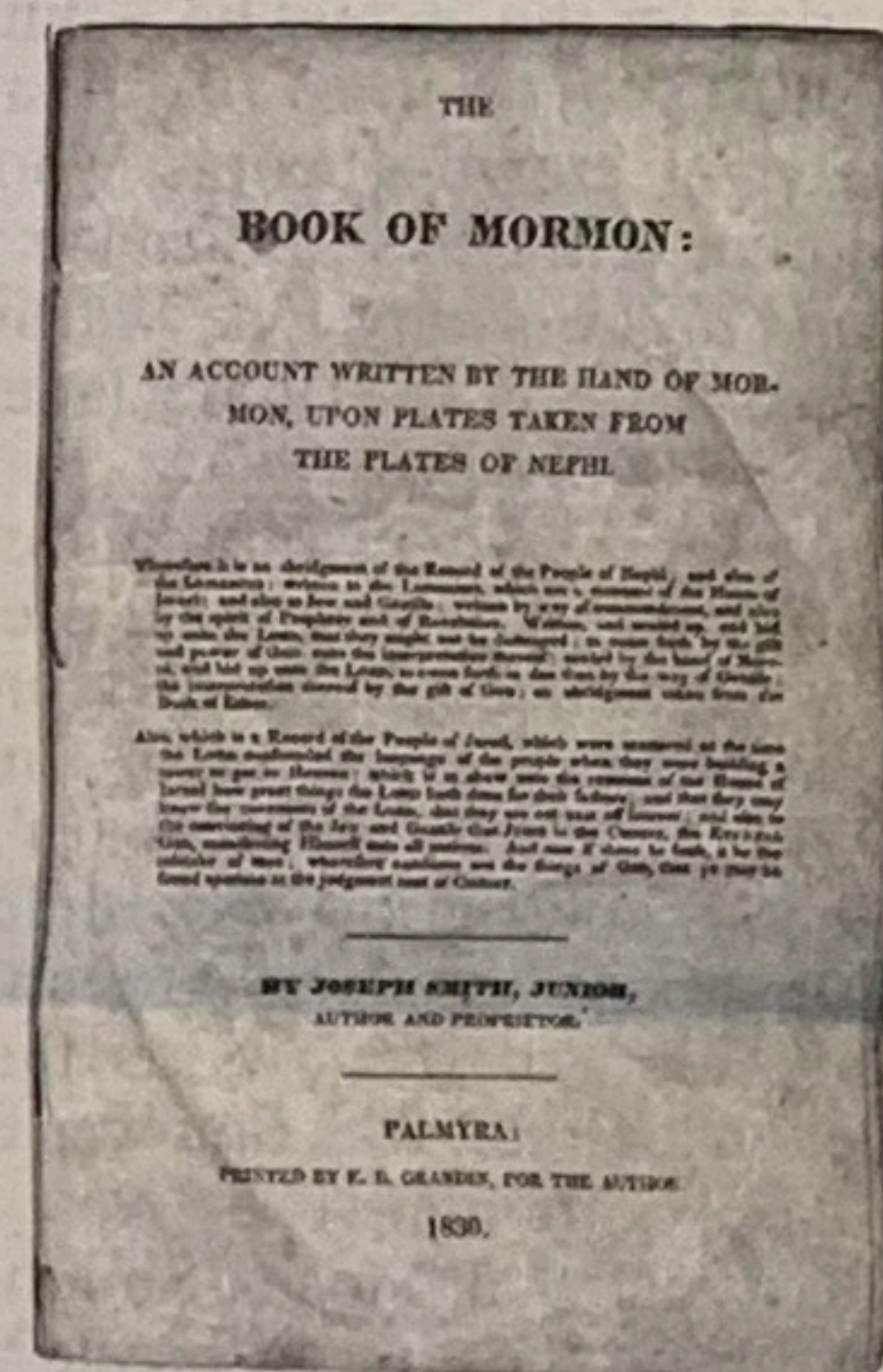
Membership card for the Union Roller Skating Association, Plimpton Hall, Boston. Schinto photo.



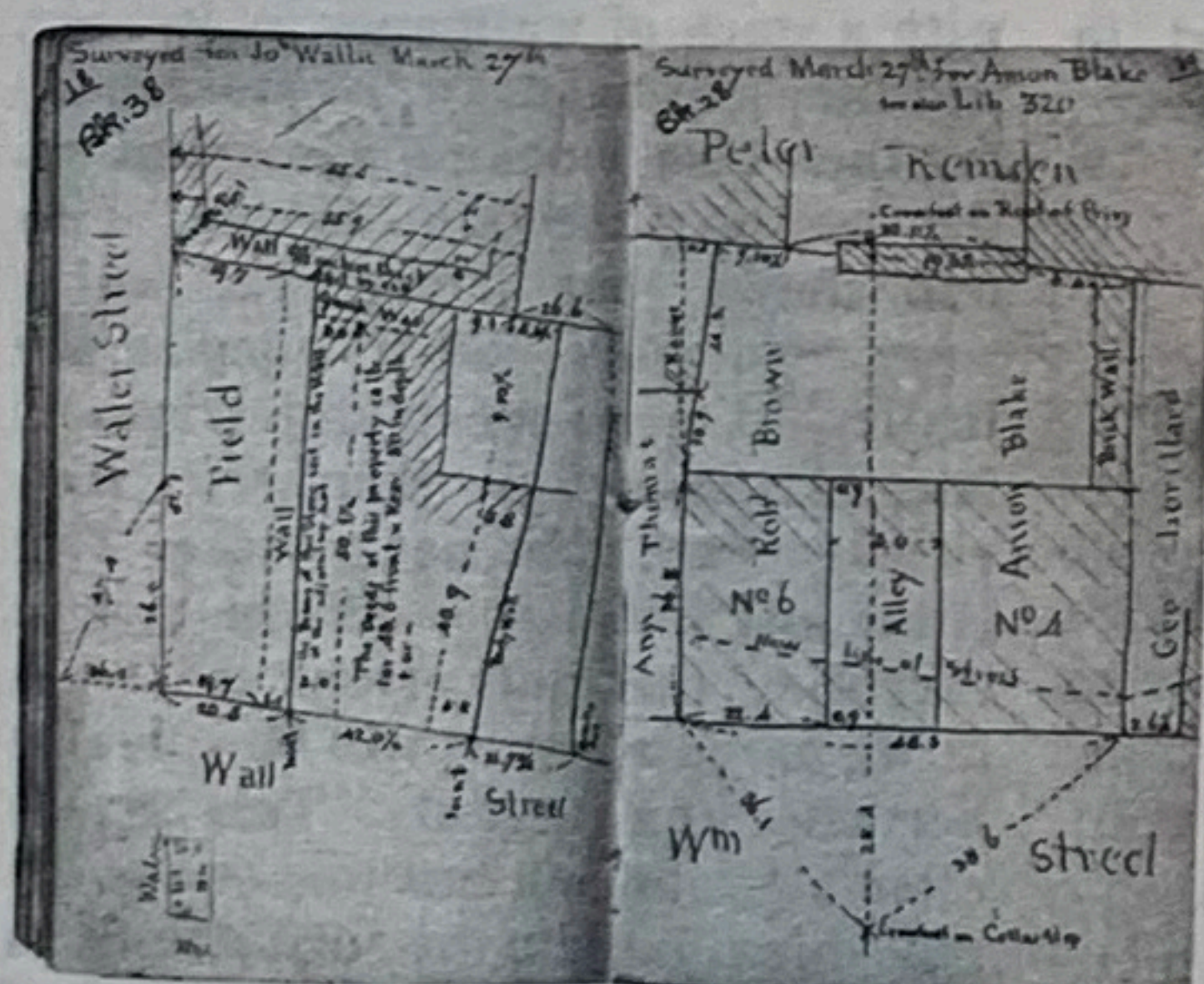
A first edition of Richard Blome's *A Description of the Island of Jamaica, with the other Isles and Territories in America, to which the English Are Related* fetched \$16,250 (est. \$7000/10,000). The book was published in London by T. Milbourn in 1672 with three folding maps. "Probably the main draw was the map that depicts North America," said Statler. "With or without the book, it's scarce, so that definitely drew in some bidders."



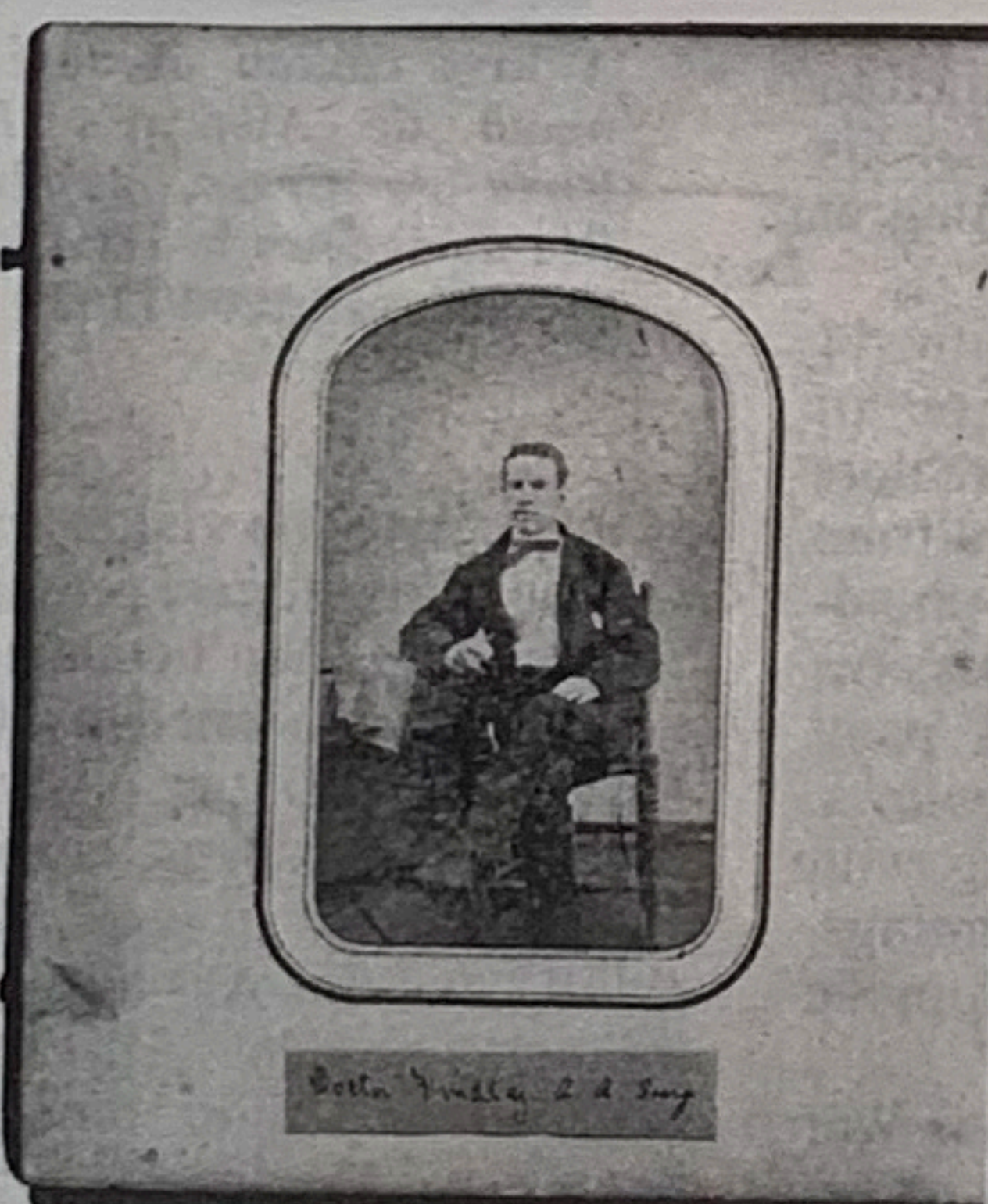
A 6 1/2" x 4 1/2" manuscript book of Mexican recipes written by Ramona Garcia Rico and called *Cuaderno de Guisos* (36 pages stitched, plus another 14 unbound pages) sold for \$21,250 (est. \$2000/3000). The price appears to be the new record for a manuscript cookbook from the Western Hemisphere. Its first page is dated December 22, 1820. The first published Mexican cookbook, Simon Blanquet's *Novissimo Arte de Cocina*, didn't appear until 11 years later.



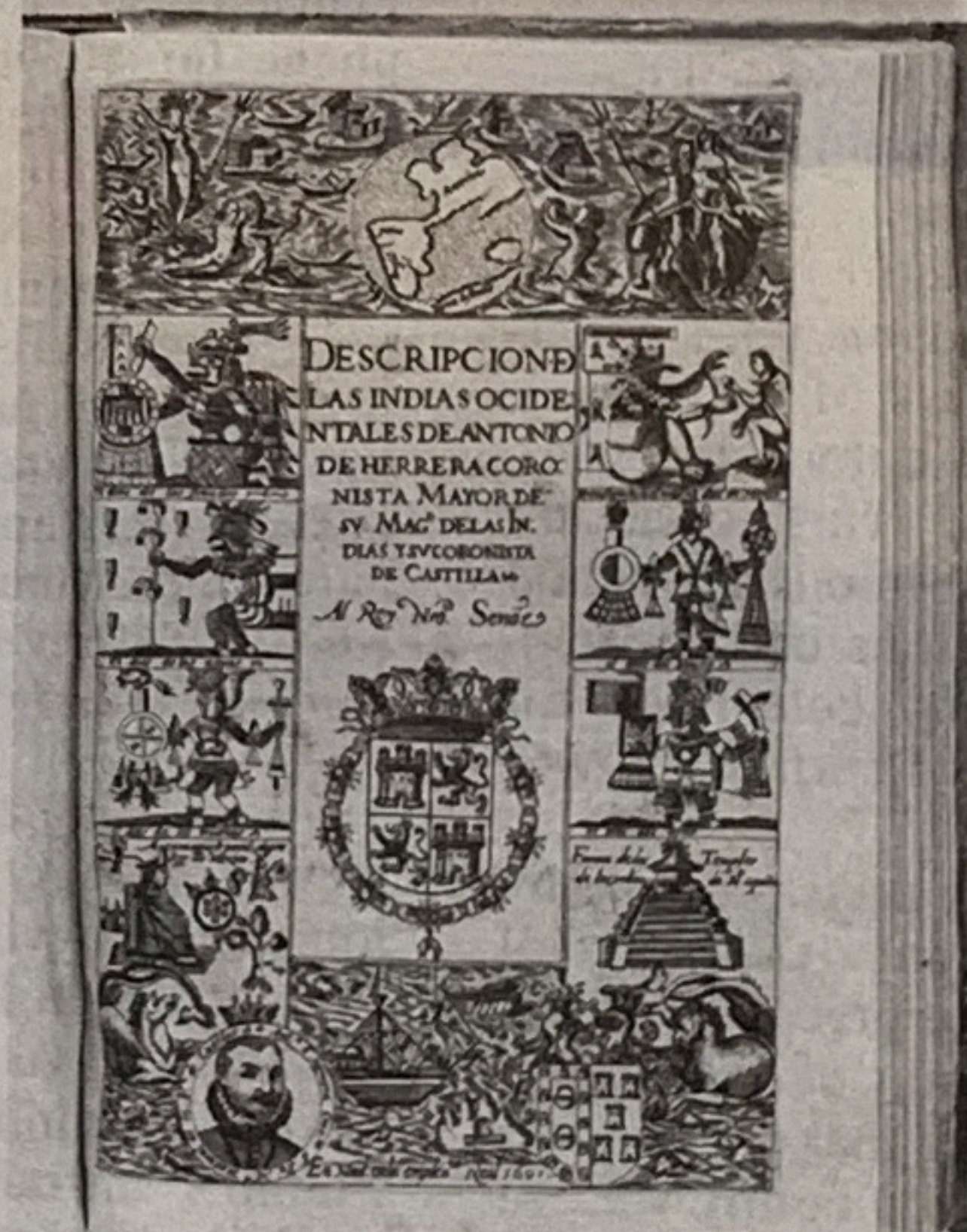
The Book of Mormon: An Account Written by the Hand of Mormon, upon Plates Taken from the Plates of Nephi—eight volumes in original calf and in need of restoration—sold to a phone bidder for \$45,000. Published in Palmyra, New York, by E.B. Grandin, this first edition was released just days before the official establishment of the church on April 6, 1830. Another copy (not shown)—a third edition, first state—sold to an absentee for \$11,875 (est. \$10,000/15,000). Published in Nauvoo, Illinois, by Ebenezer Robinson and Don Carlos Smith in 1840, it was in modern calf and lacking two leaves. Statler said, "There are people who collect by edition, and this is one of the more difficult early ones to come by." Swann research found no other copies at auction since it sold one almost 17 years ago, on September 11, 1997, for \$1840.



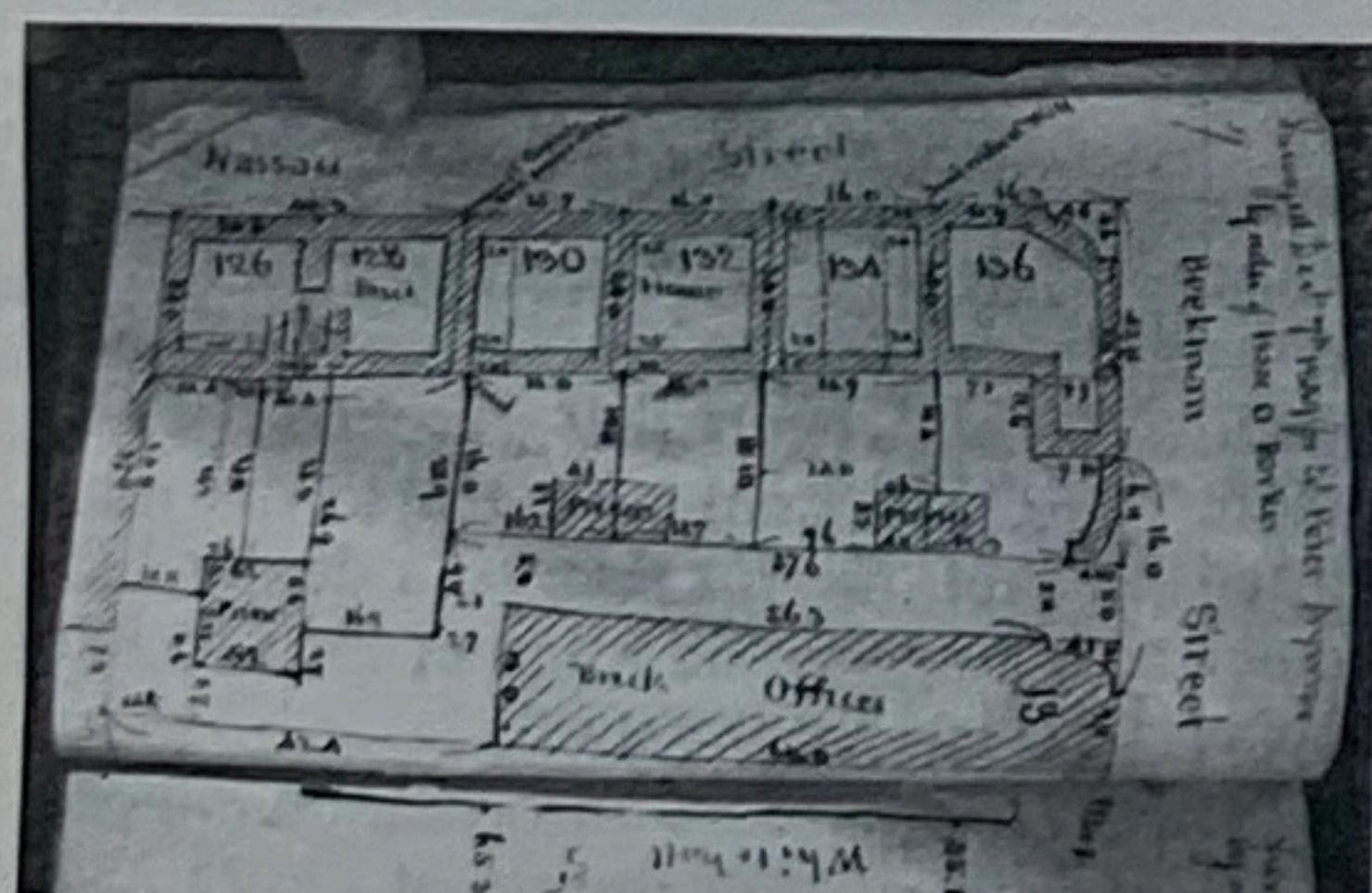
An archive of manuscript field notes of the Bridges family, surveyors of New York City, sold to the New-York Historical Society for \$18,750 (est. \$7000/10,000). Most pages show downtown Manhattan south of 14th Street, showing on-the-spot sketches of property lines, detailed measurements, and in some cases the names of property owners. Twelve other volumes are in the collection of the New York Public Library.



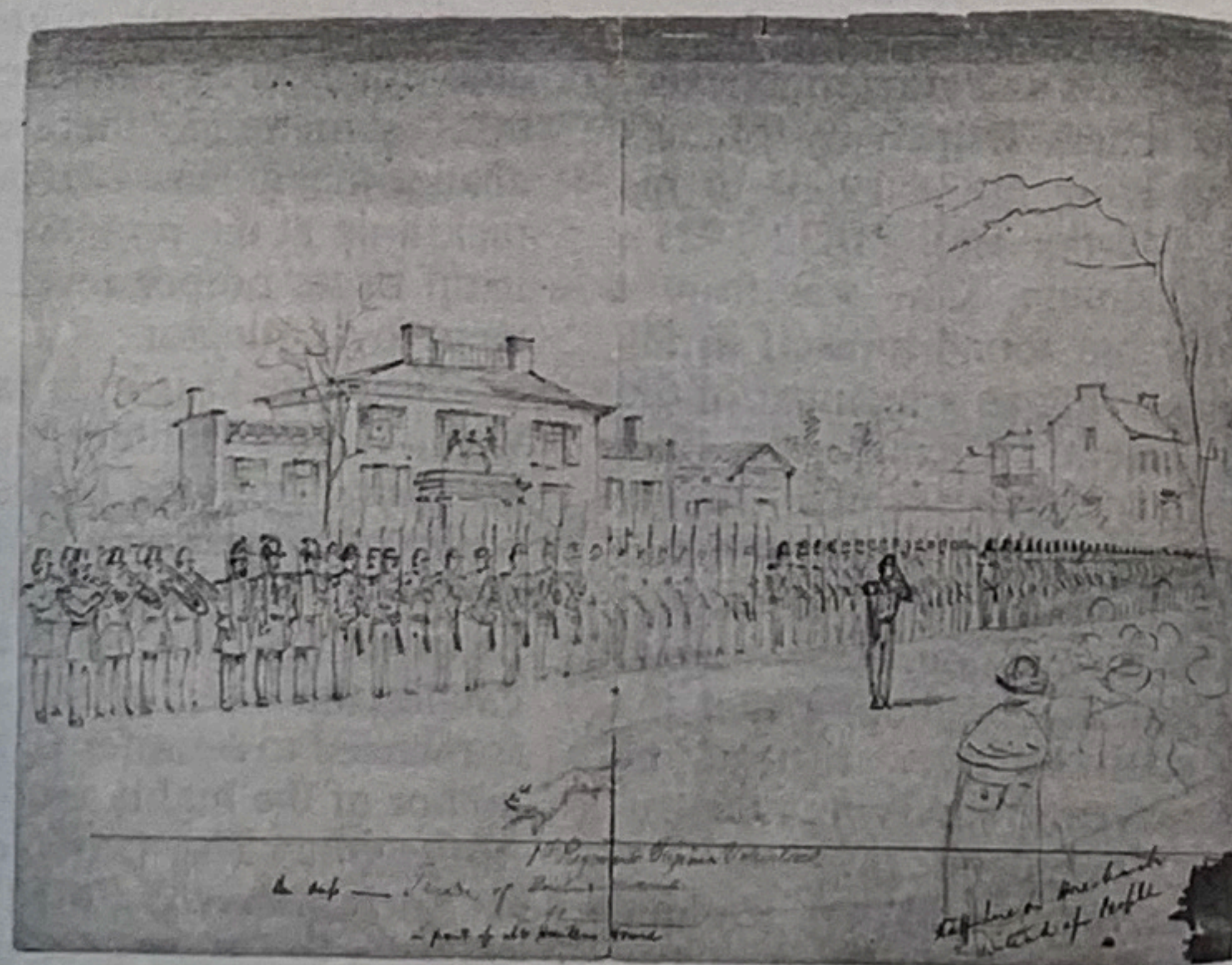
A photo album compiled by Thad Potter, chief musician of the 24th United States Regiment, Fort McKavett, Texas, 1871-75, fetched \$10,000 (est. \$400/600).



A first edition of Antonio de Herrera's *Historia General de los Hechos de los Castellanos en las Islas i Tierra Firme del mar Oceano, Descripcion de las Indias Occidentales*, published in Madrid from 1601 to 1615, brought \$45,000 (est. \$20,000/30,000). Provenance: collection of the late Dr. Thomas H. Wood.



The Bridges family's survey of the corner of Nassau Street and Beekman Street. Schinto photo.



A pair of drawings of Virginia militia standing guard before the execution of John Brown sold to a phone bidder for \$16,250 (est. \$2000/3000). They are 7" x 11" and 11" x 14 1/2", respectively. Each is unsigned and the artist is unknown, but a likely candidate is Albert Berghaus. One of his depictions of the hanging on December 2, 1859, was published by *Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* a couple of weeks later. A copy is in the Smithsonian's collection.

