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# NEAL AUCTION'S

## 2009 LOUISIANA PURCHASE AUCTION™

### ACHIEVES \$3.84 MILLION

Neal Auction Company's highly anticipated annual Louisiana Purchase Auction™, which took place this year on November 21 and 22, was an enormous success achieving \$3.84 million and realizing multiple record prices.

## TOP TEN LOTS

### #1 • Lot 245 • NORMAN'S CHART • after M. A. PERSAC

The highlight of the 2009 Louisiana Purchase Auction™ was **lot 245**, "Norman's Chart of the Lower Mississippi...", after **Marie Adrien Persac (b. France 1823, d. Manchac, Louisiana, 1873, active New Orleans 1857-1872)** which came to the auction from the collection of the late Fisher E. Simmons Jr., a local authority on steamboat ephemera and postal history. After an intense bidding war between five telephone bidders, one absentee bid, and the saleroom floor, the 1858 chart map, commonly known as *Norman's Chart* after the name of its publisher, sold to a Louisiana collector bidding on the telephone for the record price of \$315,999.00.

Best described by an April 1858, New Orleans *Crescent* report, *Norman's Chart*, is considered the "perfect picture of the windings of the Father of Waters from this city to Natchez, with every plantation on its banks, drawn out and colored, with the name of the owner and whatever name he may have given his plantation... Mr. A. Persac, who descended the river in a skiff, landing at every mile, and drawing every plantation line and taking down every name and landmark on both banks of the river, deserves the highest credit for his very able and useful labor."



Persac's *Norman's Chart* represents an iconic image of the antebellum lower Mississippi Valley plantation culture.

**#2 • LOT 270 • THE BIEN FOLIO • after J.J. AUDUBON**

**Lot 270**, Neal Auction Company's 1860 "**Bien Edition Folio**" of John James Audubon's *Birds of America* (1826-1838), was conceived by the artist's younger son, John Woodhouse Audubon, seven years after his father's death as a reissue of the 435 images of his father's seminal work. The eruption of the Civil War, however, put an end to the ambitious project and only 15 of the 44 projected parts were ever produced. Neal Auction Company's Bien Edition Folio, which consisted of the first 14 parts, attracted significant interest from around the country. With four telephones and three very active saleroom bidders, the folio sold to a Louisiana collector bidding in the room for \$271,999.00. The edition is commonly referred to as "Bien" after the name of its chromolithographer, **Julius Bien (American/New York, 1826-1909)**, a pioneer in the art of chromolithography.



*Neal Auction Company regularly sets record and near-record prices for works after John James Audubon. Recent notable results include Purple Heron (\$86,950.00, April 2009); Blue Crane, or Heron, (\$82,250.00, September 2009); and Louisiana Heron (\$79,312.00, April 2009); among others.*

**#3 • LOT 455 • FLIP FLOPS & LACE • by STEPHEN SCOTT YOUNG**

**Lot 455**, Neal Auction Company's socially provocative watercolor, *Flip Flops and Lace*, by **Stephen Scott Young (American/Florida, b. 1957)** achieved a very impressive \$155,350.00, the second highest price paid at auction for a work by the artist. Likened to Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins and Andrew Wyeth, Young is considered the preeminent watercolorist of our time.



**#4 - lot 229 - JOHN LAURENS - by CHARLES WILLSON PEALE**

Another sale highlight was **lot 229**, a 1780 portrait miniature of the Revolutionary War hero Lieutenant Colonel John Laurens by **Charles Willson Peale (American/ Pennsylvania, 1741-1827)**. The 1 ½ inch miniature saw intense pre-sale interest from around the country, with particular attention coming from some of the nation's finest institutions. In the end, three telephones competed against one bidder seated in the audience. The work sold for a stunning \$109,800.00— a record price for a miniature painting by the artist.



**#5 - lot 416 - SIC TRANSIT - by JOHN McCRADY**

One of Mississippi's most beloved artists, **John McCrady (American/ Mississippi/ New Orleans, 1911-1968)**, once again played an important role in a Neal Auction Company Louisiana Purchase Auction™. This year, the American Scene Movement was represented in the sale by **lot 416**, McCrady's environmentally visionary painting "Sic Transit" in which an anthropomorphic

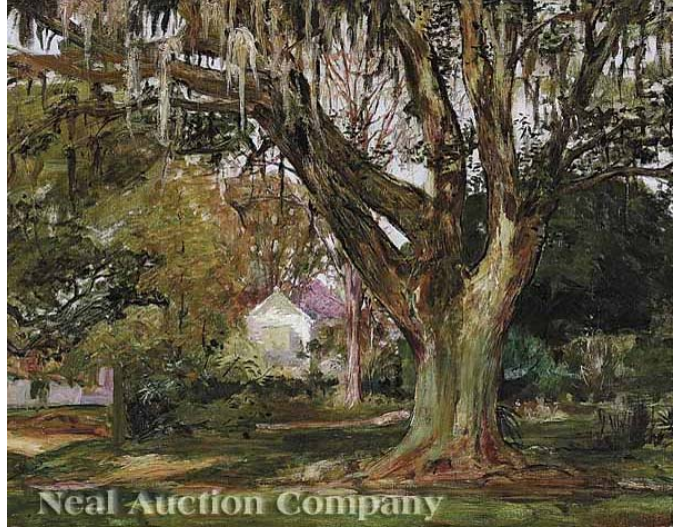


cloud ominously casts a dark shadow over a clear-cut and eroding landscape below. The award winning work (1941 Blanche S. Benjamin prize), which so succinctly embodies its Latin inspiration: *Sic transit gloria mundi* or *thus passeth the glory of the world*, saw multiple telephones vying against saleroom competition. The painting sold to a gentleman standing in the back of the room for \$107,550.00.

*Neal Auction Company continues to maintain the world record auction price for a John McCrady work with Political Rally which sold for \$422,000.00 during the 2008 Louisiana Purchase Auction™.*

**#6 · LOT 418 · LIVE OAK · by WILLIAM WOODWARD**

Carrying a presale estimate of \$30,000 to \$50,000, **lot 418**, an American Impressionist painting titled "Live Oak on Broadway" by **William Woodward (American/New Orleans, 1859-1939)**, created a sensation when it sold against the phone to a bidder within the room for \$107,550.00.



*Neal Auction Company continues to dominate the Woodward market by regularly setting record auction prices. Coffee Five Cents Per Cup: Poydras Market sold on 10/06/2007 for the record price of \$182,130.00 breaking Neal Auction Company's previously held, long-standing record of \$140,000 set on 10/04/03 with Ursuline Convent.*

**#7 · LOT 289 · COTTON PICKERS · by WILLIAM AIKEN WALKER**

*As a chronicler of bygone times and people and places that today retain only a shadow of their former appearance and meaning, Walker's creations will be valued as long as there are those who seek to know the past and who value pictorial expression.*

— Cynthia Seibels, *The Sunny South: The Life of William Aiken Walker*



Works by American genre artist **William Aiken Walker (American/Charleston, 1838-1921, active New Orleans, 1876-1905)** were well represented in the November auction, with **lot 289** taking the vanguard. *Cotton Pickers with Wagon and Bales* from the R. L. Moore Collection received widespread interest, selling for \$45,410.00.

*Collectors will recall Neal Auction Company's momentous sale this past February, in which a small William Aiken Walker painting titled Cotton Picker on a Mule realized \$75,000.00— one of the highest prices ever paid for a Walker work at auction and the highest price achieved for such a small example.*

## #8 & 9 · LOT 604 & 625 · CONFEDERATE TREASURY NOTES

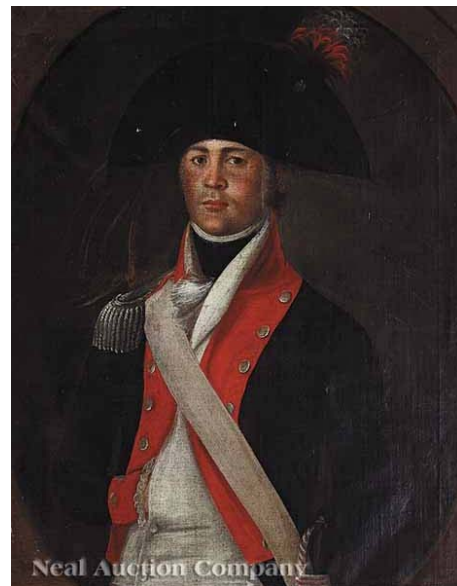
An important collection of Confederate treasury notes (**lots 604-633**) from the Estate of Fisher E. Simmons Jr. was offered in Neal Auction Company's 2009 Louisiana Purchase Auction™. Exceptional highlights included **lot 604**, an 1861 \$1000.00 note issued from Montgomery, AL, the first Capital of the Confederate States of America. According to Grover Criswell, noted authority on Confederate currency, 72 different types of Confederate money were manufactured. Type 1 through 4 (T-1 to T-4) were made at the first CSA Capitol of Montgomery; the remaining 68 types were issued in Richmond, VA. Neal Auction Company's T-1, \$1000 Montgomery note realized \$33,460.00 amid considerable saleroom, Internet and telephone interest.

**Lot 625**, the later, Richmond issued "Indian Princess" T-35 \$5.00 note, which is considered the rarest of all the CSA notes also realized \$33,460.00 amid considerable attention from around the country. Due to its low denomination, the \$5.00 Indian Princess notes suffered from heavy circulation, loss and damage and only an estimated 76 of the original 7,160 exist today.

*Neal Auction Company's 29 lots of Confederate currency from the Estate of Fisher E. Simmons Jr. exceeded \$225,000.00.*

## #10 · LOT 250 · KENTUCKY INFANTRYMAN · attr. JOSÉ FRANCISCO XAVIER de SALAZAR y MENDOZA

**Lot 250**, a handsome portrait of a Lexington, Kentucky Light Infantryman, which Neal Auction Company attributed to **José Francisco Xavier de Salazar y Mendoza (Mexico/New Orleans, 1750-1802)**, realized \$32,862.00, with four telephones competing against the saleroom floor.



## NOTEWORTHY LAGNIAPPES

### ESTATE OF FISHER E. SIMMONS JR.

Of the eighty lots offered from the Simmons Estate, only one passed. With a presale estimate of \$173,800 to \$266,000, the Simmons Estate reached a grand total of **\$624,000.00**.

### BELLE CHENIERE

The Dr. and Mrs. William Hayden *Belle Cheniere Collection* from Paris, Texas, which began the Louisiana Purchase Auction™ with a 98-lot single owner sequence, showcased a chronological history of American art, as reflected through various

mediums and forms. The *Belle Cheniere Collection* realized over **\$304,000.00**, greatly exceeding its presale estimate.

#### **MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON**

Neal Auction Company offered fifty-two lots (**687-738**) of Mesoamerican art from the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. With widespread interest from all parts of the globe, the group of pre-Columbian works achieved an impressive **\$68,430.00** against a presale estimate of \$28,725 to \$42,575.

#### **NATIVE AMERICAN CRAFTS**

A group of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Chitimacha (Charenton, Louisiana) baskets (**lots 494-503**) collected by Sarah McIlhenny, of the Avery Island pepper sauce family, and sent to Charles M. Biddle Jr., of the Philadelphia Biddle's, served as a fine tribute to the Louisiana tribal craft during the 2009 Louisiana Purchase Auction™. The group, which was discovered still packed within the 1922-postmarked "Ball Jar" box in which it was shipped, received intense saleroom interest. More than doubling its \$13,200 to \$20,800 presale estimate, the group of ten baskets reached a sale total of **\$42,900.00**.

#### **WALTER ANDERSON - SHEARWATER POTTERY**

Two watercolors by **Walter Inglis Anderson (American/Mississippi, 1903-1965)** featured in the annual Louisiana Purchase Auction™ performed admirably well. **Lot 423**, *Horn Island: A Triptych*, exceeded expectation to achieve \$28,680.00, while **lot 424**, Anderson's **Burnt Pines with Ducks** brought \$15,535.00.

**Lot 422**, a massive, circa 1930 Shearwater bowl designed and hand-carved by Walter Anderson and noteworthy for its impressive size and early uranium glaze, garnered considerable interest both over the telephone and in the room, selling to a distinguished local antiquarian for \$23,900.00.

*Neal Auction Company continues to dominate the market in terms of works sold by Walter Inglis Anderson, holding the world record price of \$159,500.00 for Study for the Mural of History of the South, which sold on December 6th, 2003.*

### **PRESS CONTACT AND INFORMATION**

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**REID HINSHELWOOD** ▪ ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CONSIGNMENTS

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