

NEAL AUCTION COMPANY'S WINTER ESTATES AUCTION ACHIEVES \$3.3 MILLION

With strong bidding in all categories, Neal Auction Company's February 23 and 24, 2008 Winter Estates Auction was a tremendous success, with results underscoring the current market strength and collector's enthusiasm for high quality pieces.



FINE ART

The highlight of Neal Auction Company's Winter Estates Auction was **lot 68**, a newly discovered **Jan Lievens the Elder (Dutch, 1607-1674)** unsigned oil portrait of *A Military Commander, perhaps Friedrich Wilhelm, the Great Elector of Brandenburg*. The painting, dated to circa 1654/1664, made its way to Neal Auction simply as a portrait by an anonymous artist. After diligent study, research, and expert affirmation, Neal Auction Company was able to attribute the portrait to Lievens. With sixteen phone bidders and several salesroom bidders, the heretofore unknown portrait sold for an unprecedented \$152,000.00 to a collector within the room.



The Winter Estates Auction saw a sizable offering of Vietnamese modern and contemporary art, including paintings, drawings and watercolors, by artists never before offered at auction in the United States. The highlight of the collection was **lot 203**, a **Nguyễn Gia Tri (Vietnamese, 1908-1993)** lacquer triptych titled *Spring Garden*, which garnered considerable interest from the Asian art

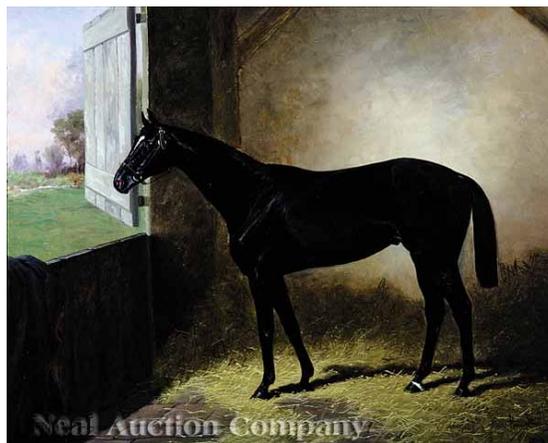
collecting community, both in this country and abroad. With two active telephones from Asia and two collectors on the salesroom floor, the painting reached \$51,000.00, selling against a New Orleanian under-bidder to a European collector within the room.

Also performing remarkably well, was **lot 416**, a **Pair of Unsigned Roman or Neapolitan School Architectural Fantasies**, dated to the mid to late 17th century. The pair of oils, including *A Triumph of David* and *An Antique Procession* achieved \$48,000.00 against considerable telephone and floor interest.



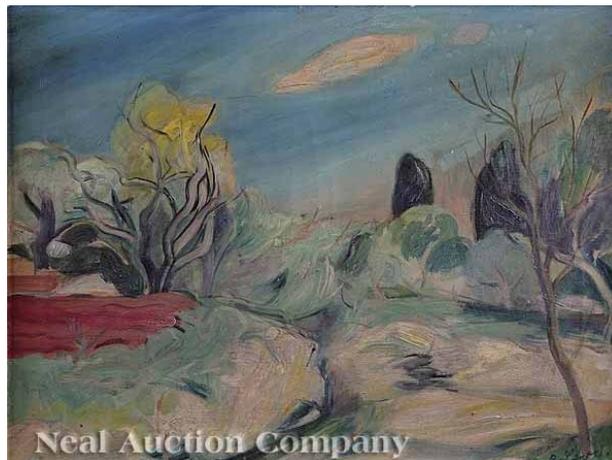
Neal Auction Company's American Painting highlight was **lot 383**, an oil by **Alfred de Gault (American/New Orleans, mid-19th c.)** depicting one of the most celebrated landscape wonders of Cuba, the *Yumuri Valley*. With considerable interest, the painting achieved a world record price of \$41,125.00.

Of note within the American paintings category was **lot 380**, *Charade*, an oil painting depicting the beloved stakes and handicap winning colt by **Henry Stull (American, 1851-1913)**. The 1889 painting descended through the breeder's family to Neal Auction where it achieved an impressive \$23,500.00.



Part II of the *Wyndham Canal Place Collection* included many important offerings this auction, including European paintings, furniture and decorative objects. **Lot 605**, a **Georges-Jules Victor Clairin (French, 1843-1919)** oil on canvas from the Wyndham Collection titled *A Fashionable Company in Renaissance Dress*, performed commendably, selling above estimate at \$23,500.00.

Lot 530, Neal Auction Company's **Rudolf Levy (German, 1875-1944)**, painting titled *Beyond the Red Fields*, generated exceptional interest both here and abroad. The painting's untouched condition, coupled by the remarkable and heroic story of it and its owner's journey through World War II lent greatly to the painting's appeal. Purchased directly from the artist in Berlin sometime before 1928, the painting, through caring custodians, was spared the artist's ultimate and tragic fate. Hidden from the Nazis during the war, *Beyond the Red Fields* was eventually



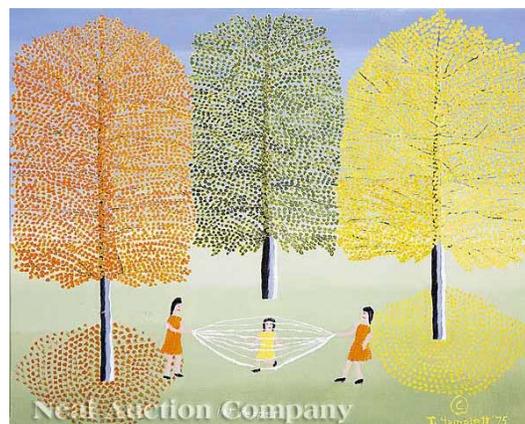
brought to the United States where it descended in the family to Neal Auction Company's consignee. Against several European telephone bidders, the painting sold for \$20,562.00.



Lot 172, two Pendant Portraits of *Kentucky Governor James Gerrard (1749-1822)* and his wife *Elizabeth Mountjoy Gerrard*, attributed to **(Charles) Chester Harding (American/Kentucky, 1792-1866)**, achieved a record price at auction for unsigned works by the artist, realizing \$15,275.00, against a \$7,000 to \$9,000 estimate.



A **Theora Hamblett (American/Mississippi, 1893-1977)** painting titled *Hot Pepper* performed well this sale. Maintaining the record price first established by Neal Auction in 2004 and then reestablished again in 2007, Neal Auction Company's sales of Theora Hamblett's works continue to dominate the market for the artist with **lot 509** achieving \$15,312.00.



Neal Auction Company's **Nicolai Ivanovich Vasilieff (Russian/American, 1892-1970)**, *Still Life with Fish*, lot 529, also sold well, achieving \$14,100.00.



Lot 1101, Neal Auction's **Etienne Adolph Piot (French, 1850-1910)** oil called *Late Night Visitor* achieved remarkable results, selling for \$13,512.00 against a presale estimate of \$4,000 to \$6,000.

Having raised the bar last December by reaching one of the highest prices ever achieved for a work by **Eanger Irving Couse (American, 1866-1936)** at auction, (on December 1, 2007, Couse's 1907

painting titled *The Evening Camp* sold for \$257,000.00), Neal Auction Company's a-typical Couse offering this sale, **lot 382**, performed exceptionally well. The small painting, depicting a French coastal scene in *Étaples*, achieved a handsome \$12,000.00 doubling its low presale estimate of \$6,000.



Against a presale estimate of \$7,000 to \$9,000, **lot 384**, Neal Auction Company's **John James Audubon (American, 1785-1851)** hand colored Havell engraving from 1837 titled *Glossy Ibis* achieved \$9,400.00.

EUROPEAN FURNITURE

Offerings of good quality, monumental European furniture captured the vanguard during February's Winter Estates Auction, with many examples offered from the Wyndham Canal Place Collection.

Neal Auction's European furniture highlight was **lot 295**, **an Antique Monumental Régence Carved and Giltwood Salon Table** from the Wyndham Canal Place Collection, which sold impressively at \$39,500.00.





Also from the Wyndham Collection was **lot 289**, an **Antique Louis XVI-Style Gilt Bronze-Mounted Mahogany Commode à Vantaux**, after Guillaume Benneman, which more than doubled its presale estimate, reaching \$38,775.00.

Lot 987, The Wyndham Collection's **Antique Regency-Style Lacquered and Chinoiserie-Decorated, Bronze-Mounted Pedestal Sideboard** greatly exceeded estimate, achieving \$38,775.00 amid considerable phone and floor competition.



Also performing well was **lot 80**, a mid-18th century **George II Carved Giltwood Console** with a red campan griotte marble top. With an estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000, the piece achieved \$23,500.00

AMERICAN FURNITURE

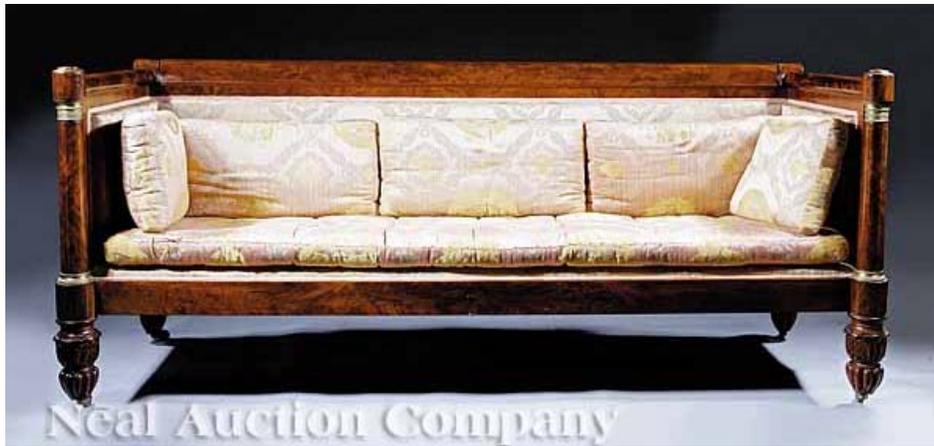
American Furniture offerings this February included fine examples by many important makers including J. & J.W. Meeks, Herter Brothers, Joseph Barry, Henry Connelly, Bembe & Kimbel, Doe Hazelton and Co., George Hunziger, Dutreuil Barjon and more.

Leading its category was **lot 957**, a 1903 **Steinway & Sons "Model A" Carved Tiger Oak Grand Piano** with a conforming bench, which sold very well. Against a presale estimate of \$12,000 to \$18,000, the Steinway reached \$37,600.00.





The highlight of Neal Auction Company's American Furniture offerings, however, was **lot 858**. Realizing more than six times its presale low estimate, the **Pair of mid 19th century American Rococo Carved and Laminated Rosewood Armchairs**, attributed to J. & J.W. Meeks, New York., reached \$32,900.00, a record price for a pair of chairs by the famous firm.



Lot 378, Neal Auction Company's **American Classical Gilt Bronze-Mounted Mahogany Box Sofa**, circa 1825, New York, performed remarkably well, achieving \$32,900.00 against an estimate of \$8,000 to \$12,000.

Generating considerable regional interest was **lot 728**, a **circa 1840 Important New Orleans Carved Mahogany Armoire**, bearing a stenciled label "**From Dutreuil Barjon**" on the interior backboard. In the 1834 *Michel's City Directory*, the Barjon shop advertised "a large assortment of furniture made in this city, and in the newest and most fashionable style." Dutreuil Barjon and his son Dutreuil Barjon, Jr., both free men of color, were two of the most noted cabinet makers in the Crescent City during the mid-19th century. With an estimate of \$7,000 to \$10,000, the Barjon armoire sold for \$30,550.00





Lot 411, a circa 1825 **American Classical Carved Mahogany Secretaire and Bookcase** from Baltimore, greatly exceeded expectation. Against a presale estimate of \$7,000 to \$10,000, the Baltimore piece achieved an impressive \$23,500.00.

Lot 34 saw equally impressive results. With an estimate of \$8,000 to \$10,000, the circa 1825 **New York American Classical Stenciled Mahogany Pier Table**, very similar to a labeled Meeks piece in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, sold for \$20,400.00.



Another American Classical piece worth note was **lot 413**, an early 19th century **New York American Classical Mahogany Bookcase** which reached \$19,975.00 against considerable saleroom and telephone interest.



Neal Auction Company continues to dominate the market in sales of **Bembe & Kimbel “House of Representatives” armchairs**. Having achieved the record auction price of \$24,675.00 last October, this February’s offering was characteristically good. **Lot 262**, a circa 1856 **American “House of Representatives” Carved Oak Armchair**, attributed to **Bembe &**

Kimbel, New York, after a design by Thomas Ustick Walter, achieved \$19,387.00 – the second highest recorded price achieved at auction.

Lot 263, a circa 1856 **American “House of Representatives” Carved Oak Desk**, attributed to the **Doe Hazelton Company of Boston**, again, after a design by Thomas Ustick Walter, reached \$16,200.00



Neal Auction Company established two world record prices this February with **lots 253 and 254**, two branded **George Hunzinger** American Innovative armchairs, which, offered sequentially, established, broke, and reestablished world record prices. The first, **lot 253**, a late 19th century **American Innovative Carved Walnut and Gilt Armchair, branded Hunzinger** realized \$12,337.50; while the second, **lot 254**, a late 19th century **American Innovative Carved Walnut Armchair, branded Hunzinger** achieved \$18,212.50.



Lot 360 was another lot which witnessed great success. Against a pre-sale estimate of \$8,000 to \$10,000, the 19th century **Federal Inlaid Mahogany Sideboard**, which, based on its label, was very likely restored by Meier & Hagen, New York during the 1860s, sold for \$18,212.00

Another piece which saw impressive results was **lot 92**. The early 19th century **Boston Classical Carved Mahogany Pier Table**, which, despite having a later “Egyptian” marble top, achieved \$16,450.00 against a presale estimate of \$4,000 to \$6,000.



Lot 260, a circa 1870 **American Renaissance Carved and Gilded Rosewood Sofa**, attributed to **Herter Brothers**, New York, achieved \$16,450.00.

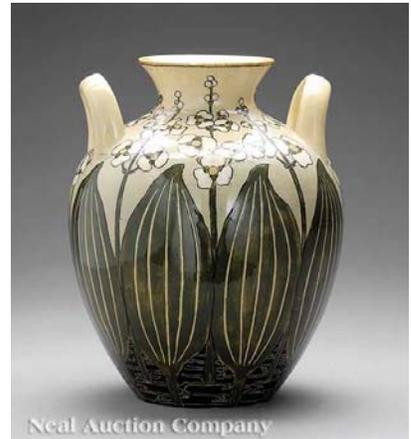


Another sofa which performed notably was **lot 857**, a mid 19th century **American Rococo Carved and Laminated Rosewood Sofa** in the “**Henry Ford**” Pattern, attributed to **J. & J.W. Meeks**, New York, which, against an estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000 realized \$14,687.00.

NEWCOMB POTTERY

Neal Auction Company's Winter Estates Auction saw an exceptional selection of Newcomb Pottery.

One of the outstanding pieces of Newcomb Pottery offered at auction this February was **lot 522**, a **circa 1895-1898 High Glaze Vase** decorated by **Mary Givens** with the base marked with the rare “Newcomb College” stamp. The impressive piece saw intense bidding in house, selling for \$29,375.00 and returning to Newcomb College thanks to the generosity of loyal alumnae such as Mignon Faget and Evelyn Chumo.



Lot 523, a **circa 1907 High Glaze Jardinière** decorated by **Marie de Hoa LeBlanc**, also did well, selling for \$21,150.00.

Exceeding expectations was **lot 521**, a **circa 1905 High Glaze Vase**, decorated by **Henrietta Davidson Bailey**, which reached \$18,213.00 amid very active bidding on the floor and on the phones. *This is a record price for a piece decorated by Bailey.*

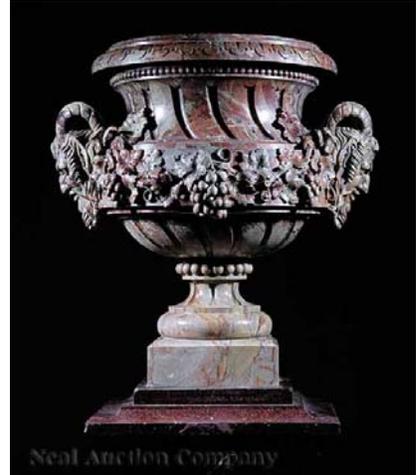


Lot 525, a 1917 **diminutive Matte Glaze Vase** decorated by **Sadie Irvine**, tripled its high estimate to reach \$2,350.00.

SCULPTURE

Neal Auction Company offered an exceptional grouping of sculpture this sale, with many items far exceeding expectations.

The highlight of Neal Auction Company's sculpture offerings was **lot 305**, a mid-19th century **Napoleon III Marble Urn and Bronze-Mounted Pedestal**, signed **Eugene Cornu (French, d. 1875)**, from the Wyndham Canal Place Collection. The urn received considerable interest from both phone and room bidders, selling for \$35,250.00 and achieving a world record price for the artist.



Lot 421, a 19th century **Continental Modeled and Polychrome-Decorated Terracotta Figure of a Chinese Gentleman**, probably Piedmontese, also saw impressive results. Amid heavy bidding, this sculpture sold for \$14,687.00, greatly exceeding its presale estimate of \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Lot 597, a late 19th/early 20th century **French Gilt Bronze Figure of Napoleon** stamped "Fabrication Française," reached \$9,187.00 more than doubling its presale estimate of \$4,000 to \$6,000.



MIRRORS

Neal Auction Company had an extraordinary offering of American and Continental mirrors this February.

Leading the mirror category was **lot 423**, a mid-19th century **Napoleon III Carved and Gilded Mirror** which achieved \$17,625.00.

Another mirror which performed well was **lot 491**, a circa 1810-1825 **American Federal Carved and Gilded Looking Glass**, which saw intense bidding from the phone and floor, reaching \$15,275.00.





Lot 105, a mid-19th century **Italian Carved and Gilded Mirror** in the Baroque taste, sold impressively, reaching \$9,694.00; while **lot 306**, a 19th century **Antique Carved Giltwood Overmantel Mirror** in the Adam taste reached \$8,225.00.



LIGHTING, SCONCES, CANDELABRUM

The highlight of Neal Auction Company's lighting offerings was **lot 375**, a rare and early 19th century **French Pair of Patinated and Gilt Bronze Two-Light Argand Lamps**, which sold for \$10,575.00.



Lot 401, an early 19th century **Regency Gilt and Patinated Bronze and Cut Crystal Two-Light Argand Lamp**, with plaques reading "Messenger & Son / 20 Greville St. London / & Birmingham," also performed commendably, reaching \$7,344.00.



CLOCKS

The Winter Estates Auction saw a sizable offering of continental clocks including **lot 307**, a circa 1820-1824 **Paris Porcelain Table Clock in the Form of a Gothic Church** with "Raingo Frs./ a Paris" movement and the base stamped "Ed. Honoré à Paris, Ancienne Maison Dagoty, No. 4 Boulevard Poissonnière." The clock experienced intense interest with bidders, selling for \$9,694.00.



With personifications of "Science" and "Poetry," **lot 1000**, a mid-19th century **French Gilt Bronze and Rouge Griotte Marble Figural Clock Garniture** signed "almson" (**Jean Jules Salmson, 1832-1902**), also performed well, achieving \$9,106.00 amongst active phone and room bidding.

PORCELAIN

Neal Auction Company had an outstanding selection of Paris Porcelain during the February Winter Estates Auction.



The highlight of the Winter Estates Auction in the porcelain category was **lot 425, an early 19th century Paris Porcelain Gilt and Polychrome Rafrâchissoir** inscribed "RiHoueT / Paris." The item saw heavy bidding both in the salesroom and with phone bidders, selling for \$5,875.00.

Continuing the trend of heavy bidding on quality Paris Porcelain was **lot 324, a 19th century Reticulated Figural Corbeille**, which, against a presale estimate of \$2,000 to \$4,000, sold for \$5,875.00.



Lot 427, a mid-19th century Jacob Petit Paris Porcelain Jardinière, marked by the retailer "Monginot / Boulevard des / italiens 20," also performed well, achieving \$5,581.00.

DECORATIVE ARTS, GENERAL

Two **circa 1900 Louis Vuitton Trunks** performed spectacularly amid intense bidding from the floor, phone and internet. **Lot 826**, the first Vuitton trunk, sold for \$17,150.00; while **lot 827**, the second trunk, sporting the "LV" logo, achieved \$10,200.00.



GARDEN ORNAMENTS

In keeping with Neal Auction Company’s tradition, February’s Winter Estate Auction offered a fine selection of good quality cast iron and bronze Garden Furniture and Fountains.



The highlight of category was **lot 281, a circa 1875 American / New York Cast Iron Fountain** with whimsical nibbling squirrel figures surmounting the base. Against a presale estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000, the fountain sold for \$22,325.00.

Also performing well was **lot 936, a pair of circa 1860-1880 American Cast Iron “Twig” Pattern Garden Benches**, which



reached \$7,050.00 and **lot 136, a circa 19th century Neapolitan Bronze Garden Fountain** depicting Cupid and a struggling dolphin, which achieved \$5,288.00—doubling its low presale estimate.

*Neal Auction Company’s **Important Spring Estates Auction** will take place on May 3 and 4, 2008 and will feature several very important collections from local estates and regional institutions.*

Prices Realized include Neal Auction Company’s standard Buyer’s Premium as reflected in their Conditions of Sale.

For more information about the Winter Estates Auction, please visit www.nealauktion.com

Press Contact: Bettine Field Carroll, +1 (504) 899-5329 or estates@nealauktion.com

**NEAL AUCTION COMPANY · 4038 MAGAZINE STREET · NEW ORLEANS · LA · 70115
TEL 504.899.5329 · FAX 504.897.3808**