

NEAL AUCTION COMPANY'S SPRING ESTATES AUCTION ACHIEVES \$2.75 MILLION

Neal Auction Company's May 3 and 4 auction of fine art and antiques garnered considerable interest from around the country and abroad. International purchasers included bidders from Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Jordan, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom among others.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

The highlight of Neal Auction Company's Spring Estates Auction was **lot 84**, a hand-colored engraving after **John James Audubon (American, 1785-1851)** titled *Pileated Woodpecker*, No. 23, Plate CXI, from the Havell edition of *The Birds of America*. Estimated at \$20,000 to \$30,000, the elephant folio engraving reached \$64,625.00 against eight active telephones and considerable salesroom interest. The \$64,625.00 achieved at Neal Auction Company represents the second highest price ever achieved at auction for the Audubon work; the first being an example from *The Magnificent Sachsen-Meiningen Collection of Audubons* which sold in New York in 2004. Neal Auction Company's exemplary May offerings of Audubon engravings were without royal provenance, but instead came from a local Estate collection.



On the artist's last visit to New Orleans, in 1837, the French language edition of the Courier referred to Audubon as "L'auteur, né à la Louisiane..." Audubon was so pleased with the reception New Orleans gave him that he wrote his friend John Bachman, "I am glad, and proud Too; that I have at last been Acknowledged by the public prints as a Native Citizen of Louisiana." And in a letter to his wife, written at the same time, he refers to New Orleans as, "My 'Natal City!'"

– Davidson, Marshall B., *The Original Water-Color Paintings by John James Audubon for the Birds of America*, American Heritage/Bonanza Books, New York, 1985, with plate 94.

Located in Audubon's "Natal City," Neal Auction Company has an accomplished history of selling the artist's works at auction, often achieving world record prices.

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Lot 80, the hand-colored engraving titled *Night Heron or Qua Bird* after **John James Audubon (American, 1785-1851)**, also performed exceedingly well. With a presale estimate of \$15,000 to \$25,000, *Night Heron* achieved \$41,125.00 — again, second in price only to the 2004 New York example sold from the Ducal House of Saxe-Meiningen.

Neal Auction Company's *Canada Goose (lot 78)*, after **John James Audubon (American, 1785-1851)**, performed commendably. With significant telephone and floor interest, the elephant folio engraving reached \$32,312.00.

Other engravings after **John James Audubon** worth note were **lots 81, 82, 83** and **85**. Estimated at \$5,000 to \$7,000, **lot 81**, the *Red-Shouldered Hawk*, saw \$10,575.00, while **lot 82**, the *Ferruginous Thrush* reached \$8,225.00 against a \$2,000 to \$3,000 estimate. **Lot 83**, *Purple Grackle or Common Crow Blackbird*, achieved \$7,050.00 with a \$3,000 to \$5,000 presale estimate, while **lot 85**, the *Painted Bunting*, with the same presale estimate saw \$9,400.00.



AMERICAN REGIONAL ART

The highlight of Neal Auction Company's May offerings of American Regional Art was a painting by the nationally acclaimed contemporary New Orleans artist, George Rodrigue. With a retrospective of the artist's works currently on exhibition at the New Orleans Museum of Art, the popularity of George Rodrigue has never been greater, as evidenced by this painting's extraordinary recent sale.

GEORGE RODRIQUE

Lot 352, George Rodrigue's (American/Louisiana, b. 1944) 1994 oil titled *Corporate Dog*, performed exceptionally well.

With an estimate of \$25,000 to \$35,000, the painting, which depicts three images of the artist's iconic "blue dog," achieved \$63,450.00 against seven telephones, two absentee bids and considerable interest on the salesroom floor.

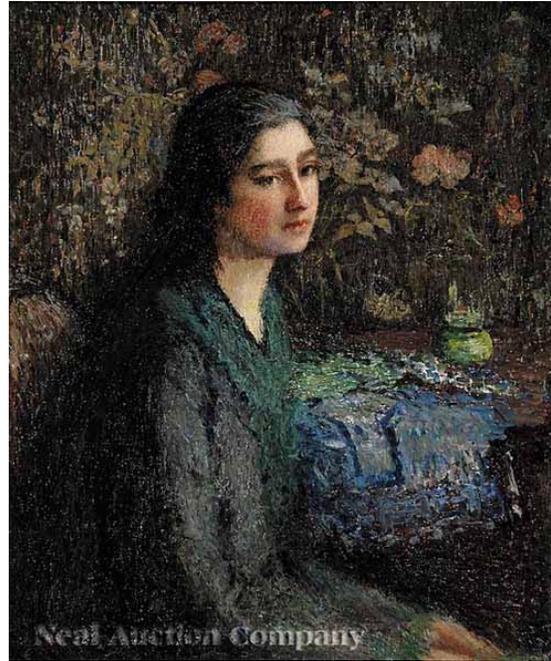


HELEN M. TURNER

...a painter of unpretentious portraits... of the intimate hours of life in the seclusion of homes. Miss Turner reveals, unconsciously, the woman's point of view. Her interiors are especially feminine with their swift yet searching glance over the texture of materials, the influence of light, the character of a room, and the relation of people to their dwelling place.

—Phillips, Duncan, *A Collection in the Making*, New York, Weyhe, 1926, p. 56

Neal Auction Company's **Helen Maria Turner (American/New Orleans, 1858-1958)** painting titled *Italian Girl* (**lot 311**) achieved \$55,812.00. The oil on canvas, later affixed to masonite, was dated 1921, the year in which Turner became the third woman elected to full Academician status at the National Academy of Design.



Neal Auction Company continues to hold the world record price for a work by the artist with *The Sisters*, which sold on December 2002 for \$93,250.00.



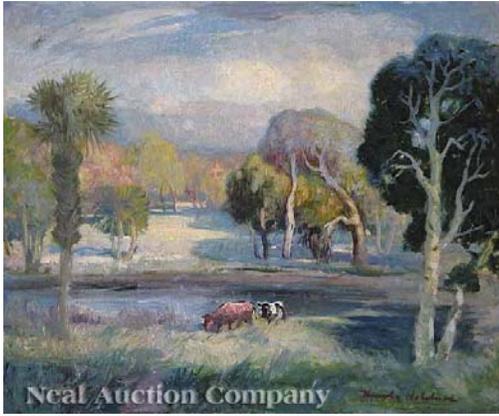
WILLIAM AIKEN WALKER

Lot 268, the first of Neal Auction Company's **William Aiken Walker (American, 1838-1921)** paintings - titled a *Cabin Scene with a Moss-Laden Live Oak Tree*, achieved \$42,300.00 against considerable interest. **Lot 269**, *The Cabin*, another small **William Aiken Walker (American, 1838-1921)** painting, also performed exceptionally, achieving \$32,900.00.

GEORGE LOUIS VIAVANT

Neal Auction Company's May sale saw two watercolor still lifes by New Orleanian artist George Louis Viavant, with both witnessing exceptional results. **Lot 289**, a 1917 **George Louis Viavant (American/New Orleans, 1872-1935)** watercolor titled *Nature Morte: Wood Duck*, achieved \$21,150.00; while the following **Viavant** watercolor depicting the *American Woodcock* (**lot 290**) realized \$10,000.00.





KNUTE HELDNER

Neal Auction Company's **Knute Heldner (American/Louisiana, 1877-1952)** painting depicting a *Florida Landscape with Palm Trees and Cows (lot 319)* experienced intense competition. With an estimate of \$8,000 to \$12,000, the Florida landscape sold for \$19,387.00.

Neal Auction Company continues to maintain the record price for a work sold at auction by the artist. *The Pig Woman – A Southern Idyl* sold in October 2004 for \$76,750.00.

CLARENCE MILLET

Lot 312, Neal Auction Company's **Clarence Millet, A.N.A (American/Louisiana, 1879-1959)** oil on canvas titled *Louisiana Winter* performed commendably, achieving \$19,200.00 and selling to a young collector within the room.



GEORGE DAVID COULON

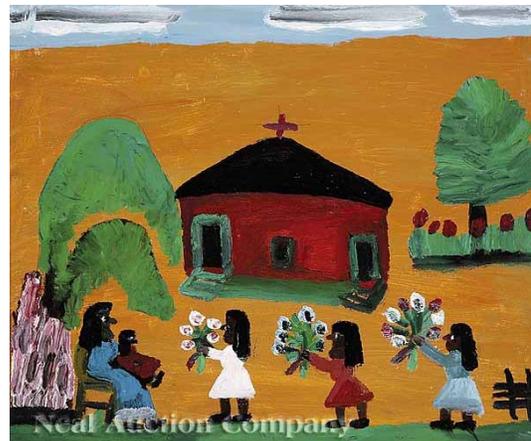
Lot 291 also performed well, selling for more than twice its low estimate. The small **George David Coulon (French/New Orleans, 1823-1904)** oil on board depicting *Louisiana Scenery* achieved \$10,575.00.

Neal Auction Company continues to maintain the record price for a work by the artist sold at auction. *Lake Pontchartrain* sold in December 2004 for \$27,400.00.

CLEMENTINE HUNTER

Neal Auction Company's May sale witnessed many good examples of Clementine Hunter paintings. Among those which greatly exceeded estimate were **lots 372, 373, 374, and 871** which sold for \$8,225.00, \$10,282.00, \$7,637.00 and \$7,637.00 respectively.

Against an estimate of \$3,500 to \$5,500, **lot 373**, the **Clementine Hunter (American/Louisiana, 1886-1988)** oil titled *Nativity*, achieved \$10,282.00.



Neal Auction Company continues to maintain the record price for a work by Clementine Hunter with *Cane River Baptism*, which sold in October 2007 for \$19,980.00.

THEORA HAMBLETT

Lot 873, a small 1974 **Theora Hamblett (American/Mississippi, 1893-1977)** oil on canvas affixed to masonite titled *Horse Grazing*, saw competition on the phones, within the room, and through left bids, eventually selling to an absentee collector for \$9,600.00.



Neal Auction Company continues to maintain the record price for a work by the artist sold at auction with *Stealing Sticks* which achieved \$17,630.00 in December 2004.



MARGARET GRAHAM BOROUGHS ADAMS

Neal Auction Company established a world record price for the artist **Margaret Graham Boroughs Adams (Texas/New Orleans, 1882-1965)** with **lot 309**, an oil on board depicting *The Antique Shop*. Against an estimate of \$1,500 to \$2,500, the painting realized \$7,050.00.

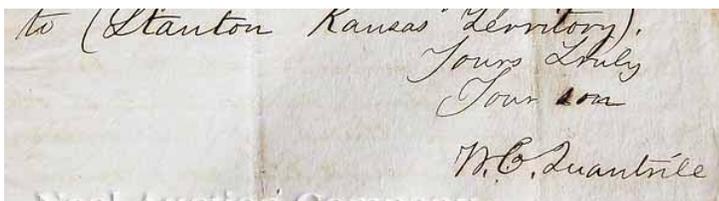
ANNE WILSON GOLDTHWAITE

Lot 379 is another lot for which Neal Auction Company established a world record price for the artist. *By the Window*, an oil on canvas affixed to board by **Anne Wilson Goldthwaite (American/Alabama, 1869-1944)**, achieved \$5,515.00—more than five times its presale estimate.



AUTOGRAPH WORKS ON PAPER

Neal Auction Company witnessed an impressive collection of autograph works on paper within its *May 3 and 4, 2008 Spring Estates Auction*, including several important examples of historic autograph memorabilia as well as a group of Marc Chagall autograph sketches sold to benefit the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio.



WILLIAM CLARKE QUANTRILL

Lot 271, an **Autograph Letter Signed by William Clarke Quantrill to His Mother**, received substantial interest from around the country. In the letter, dated October 3, 1857, Quantrill refers to the issue of slavery in the Kansas Territory (1854-1861) and predicts that “it is

certain to be a free state.” With an estimate of \$6,000 to \$9,000, the autograph letter written by the historic, if controversial, figure achieved \$32,900.00. **Lot 270**, the other 1857 **Autograph Letter Signed by William Clarke Quantrill** likewise performed well, achieving \$10,281.00.

CONFEDERATE GENERAL AUTOGRAPHS

Lot 272, An Important Album of Confederate General Autographs from 1865-1896, garnered substantial interest. The album, estimated at \$5,000 to \$7,000, included signatures, photographs, tipped-in letters and newspaper articles from and relating to over 50 Confederate generals. Against several competing telephones, the album reached \$18,800.00



MARC CHAGALL

Lot 169, Neal Auction Company's **Marc Chagall (French, born Russia, 1887-1985)** sketch titled "Pour Efreim" received international attention.

The poignant drawing was executed in two campaigns: first in ink for Elaine Shaffer (American flautist (1925-1973)) in 1971 and then again in crayon for Efreim Kurtz (Russian-born conductor (1900-1995), married Elaine Shaffer, 1955) in 1973—

likely after Shaffer's demise on February 19th of that year. "Pour Efreim," Chagall's touching homage to Elaine Shaffer for his friend, Kurtz, her grieving husband, achieved \$11,331.00, selling to a French collector on the telephone.

Neal Auction Company's following **Marc Chagall** lot, **170**, likewise performed well. The 1957 *Self-Portrait* ink sketch on hotel stationery, also inscribed to Elaine Shaffer, sold against seven competing phones to a New York collector for \$5,400.00.

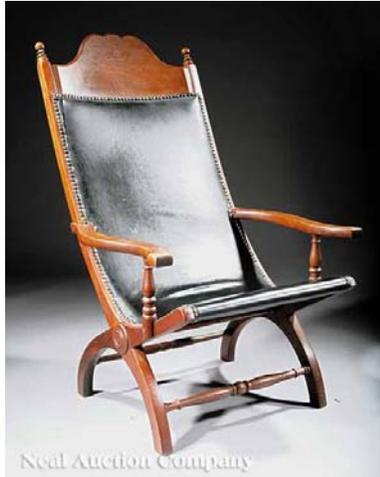


AMERICAN FURNITURE

Neal Auction Company's May American Furniture offerings witnessed considerable attention from around the country.

AMERICAN ROCOCO: PRUDENT MALLARD

The highlight of Neal Auction Company's furniture offerings was **lot 861**, a mid-19th century **American Rococo Carved Mahogany Half-Tester Bed** attributed to Prudent Mallard, New Orleans. Against four interested telephone bidders, the bed reached \$31,725.00.



AMERICAN CLASSICAL: LOUISIANA

Lot 292 also performed well. The mid-19th century **Louisiana Classical Carved Walnut Campeche Chair** with acorn finials achieved \$27,025.00 against a presale estimate of \$8,000 to \$12,000. With origins in the “Butac” chair known in Campeche, a port city of the Yucatan Peninsula, scholars Cybele Gontar and Francis Puig posit that this Central American chair form evolved in the Lower Mississippi River Valley during Spanish rule of the late eighteenth century. The design was then further adapted by Thomas Jefferson for the “Campeachy” chair at Monticello.

LATE FEDERAL: THOMAS CONSTANTINE

A circa 1810 **Late Federal Carved Mahogany Armchair (lot 252)** bearing the partial label “Constanti... Maker...” sold well above its \$4,000 to \$6,000 estimate, achieving \$23,500.00. Thomas Constantine and his brother John created chairs for the United States Senate Chamber, the North Carolina Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives Chamber.



AMERICAN CLASSICAL: ANTHONY QUERVELLE

Lot 411, a circa 1825 **American Classical Carved Grecian Sofa** attributed to Anthony Quervelle, and similar to an example illustrated in Smith, “The Furniture of Anthony Quervelle, Part V: Sofas, Chairs and Beds,”

published in the March 1974 *Magazine Antiques*, attracted six telephone bidders as well as salesroom interest. Against an estimate of \$6,000 to \$8,000 the Quervelle “Grecian” sofa achieved an impressive \$19,975.00.

AMERICAN ELIZABETHAN REVIVAL: HART, WARE & CO.

Lot 238, a mid-19th century **American Paint Decorated Bedroom Suite** by Hart, Ware & Co., Philadelphia, performed well. Inspired by a style that arose in France



during the reign of Louis Philippe, the bedroom suite sold for \$18,400.00 to an East Coast collector.

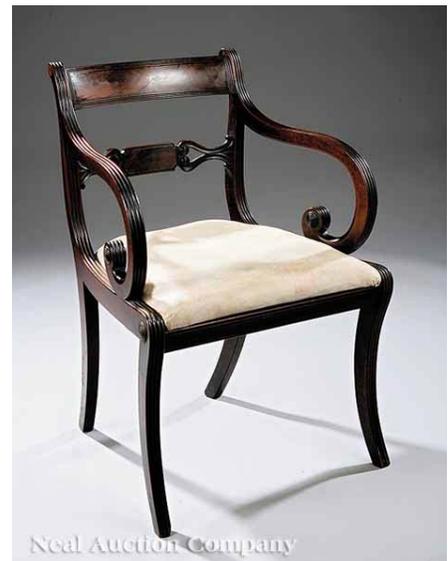
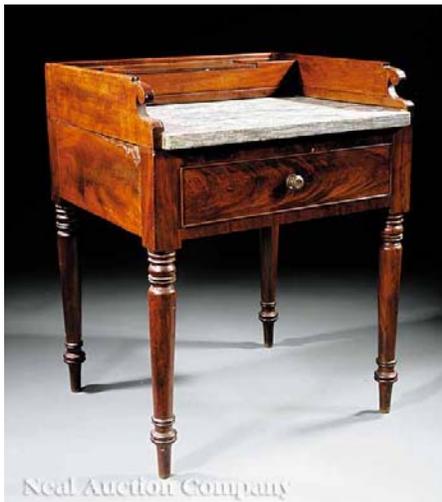


AMERICAN CLASSICAL: ANTHONY QUERVELLE

Following in Neal Auction Company's tradition of achieving success with fine Quervelle furniture, **lot 75**, a circa 1825 **American Classical Gilt-Stenciled and Bronze-Mounted Pier Table** attributed to Anthony Quervelle, and nearly identical to well-known Quervelle examples in the White House Collection and in the Philadelphia Athenaeum, sold for \$12,925.00.

AMERICAN CLASSICAL

Lot 433, an early 19th century **American Classical Mahogany Armchair**, sold well over its pre-sale estimate of \$2,000 to \$3,000. Amongst heavy room bidding, the early 19th century chair achieved \$9,100.00, selling to a young collector on the salesroom floor.



AMERICAN CLASSICAL: JOHN NEEDLES

Lot 279, an **American Classical Mahogany and Egyptian Marble Mixing Table** labeled "John Needles [wc. 1810-1852] Manufacturer Cabinet Furniture Hanover Street Baltimore," also performed very well, realizing \$7,300.00.

EUROPEAN FURNITURE

The Spring Estates Auction continued Neal Auction Company's tradition of offering Fine English and Continental Furniture, witnessing overseas interest on many lots.

LOUIS XV

Neal Auction's European Furniture highlight was **lot 204**, a mid-18th century **Louis XV Carved Walnut Commode**. With seven active telephone bidders, the commode almost tripled its presale low estimate of \$10,000, selling to a collector in France for \$27,000.00.





ENGLISH REGENCY

Lot 434, a circa 1805 **Regency Brass Inlaid Rosewood Center Table**, witnessed nine phone and multiple in-room bidders vying for it. With a presale estimate of \$8,000 to \$12,000, the center table achieved \$19,387.00.

LOUIS XVI REVIVAL

Lot 202 also saw great success. The 19th century **Louis XVI-Style Mahogany and Bronze Doré Mounted Bureau à Rognon** sold for \$15,900.00 amid considerable phone and floor interest.

Demonstrating the power of worldwide marketing, the bureau sold to a telephone bidder in Southwest Asia.



"IMPERIAL" RUSSIAN

Lot 144, a pair of late 19th century "palace" sized **"Imperial" Russian Carved Walnut and Bronze Mounted Armchairs**, also performed well, selling for \$17,625.00, again, to a collector in Southwest Asia.

LOUIS XV

Lot 402, a **Louis XV Walnut Commode** from a local New Orleans Estate, saw impressive results. Amid competitive phone and room bidding, the mid-18th century commode more than doubled its pre-sale low auction estimate, reaching \$14,100.00.





ITALIAN BAROQUE-STYLE

Lot 215, a pair of ornate 19th century **Italian Baroque-Style Encoignures**, saw great interest and achieved \$14,100.00. The encoignures will find a new home in Asia.

LOUIS XV

Another period French piece that sold well was **lot 166**, a late 18th century **Louis XV Provincial Fruitwood Commode en Tombeau**, which surpassed its pre-sale estimate and achieved \$10,300.00.



LOUIS XV

Lot 32, a mid-18th century **Louis XV Walnut Commode** from a local Estate, also performed well. Against a pre-sale estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000, the piece realized \$10,575.00.

DECORATIVE ARTS

Neal Auction Company's Spring Estates Auctioned included many nice decorative arts examples, including lighting, clocks, silver, porcelain and sculpture. Highlights from these categories include:

BACCARAT

Lot 69 performed exceptionally well. Against five competing telephones, the pair of late 19th century elaborately **Cut Crystal Eighteen-Light Chandeliers**, probably by Baccarat, reached \$56,400.00, selling to a Texas collector.



BERGER, 8 RUE DE LA CHAUSÉE À PARIS



In terms of Neal Auction Company's clock offerings, two stood out among the crowd. **Lot 72**, a 19th century **Napoleon III Gilt Bronze and Marble Figural Mantel Clock**, saw substantial competition. Against a \$3,000 to \$5,000 estimate, the clock, marked "Berger, 8 Rue de la Chaussée à Paris," realized \$11,162.00, selling to a collector from France.



COUTURIER À PARIS

Lot 201 also garnered attention from the clock collecting community. The circa 1790 **Louis XVI Gilt Bronze Cartel Clock**, marked "Couturier à Paris," achieved \$8,225.00 against a presale estimate of \$2,500 to \$3,500.



BAILEY & CO, PHILADELPHIA

Lot 284, a circa 1850 **Bailey & Co., Philadelphia Coin Silver Tea Service** decorated with repoussé Chinoiserie landscapes, garnered great interest. Against an estimate of \$7,000 to \$9,000, the set achieved an impressive \$13,512.00, selling to a Florida collector.



HYDE & GOODRICH, NEW ORLEANS

Lot 302 also witnessed considerable attention. The rare, circa 1850 **Hyde & Goodrich New Orleans Coin Silver Hot Water Urn** reached \$10,575.00.



PARIS PORCELAIN

Lot 7, a mid-19th century **Paris Porcelain Dinner Service**, sold for \$10,868.00 amid interest from five telephones, two absentee bids, and several interested saleroom bidders.

The highlight of Neal Auction Company's sculpture offerings was **lot 460**, an unsigned, early 19th century **Regency Patinated Plaster Figure of a Vestal**, designed after the colossal marble original by Jean Antoine Houdon now in the Louvre. Against considerable interest, the Neal Auction Company example more than doubled its pre-sale estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000 and sold for \$14,100.00.



Lot 397 also performed well. The **Grand Tour Antique White Carrara Marble Portrait Bust**, possibly depicting Tsar Nicholas I of Russia based on a comparison to a C.D. Rauch (German, 1777-1857) similar example, sold for \$9,600.00.



JEWELRY



Lot 525, an Art Deco White Gold, Sapphire and Diamond Necklace, achieved a handsome \$16,450.00; while **Lot 524**, a custom made Tiffany & Co. Yellow Gold Choker soared well above its \$3,000 to \$5,000 estimate to reach \$10,575.00



Lot 526, a circa 1930 Art Deco Platinum and Diamond Bracelet, also performed commendably, achieving \$16,450.00.

All prices realized are rounded to the nearest dollar amount and include Neal Auction Company's Buyer's Premium as listed in their Conditions of Sale.

Consignments are currently being accepted for Neal Auction Company's annual Louisiana Purchase Auction, scheduled for September 27 and 28, 2008

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