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## **The Kennedy Era...at Auction**

**Treasured, historic items from the late President and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy to be sold October 7. Also featured: The Francis Gary Powers Espionage Collection and other significant items from the 1960's political scene**



In this, the one hundredth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's birth, Guernsey's is excited to announce that on October 6/7, the auction house will be conducting its third event focusing on the late President. \*Following a preview exhibition, the Auction will be held live at 680 Park Avenue. Those unable to attend can bid via various online bidding platforms. (\*Guernsey's 1998 and 2005 John F. Kennedy auctions are still widely spoken of to this day.)

At the core of the sale will be the Lt. Henry Hirschy Collection. Lt. Hirschy was stationed in the White House throughout the JFK presidency and indeed, it was the Lieutenant's Naval sword that was chosen to be displayed for thirty days in the East Room of the White House honoring the late President as a sorrowful nation mourned. Importantly, the auction will also include the second, matching Naval sword chosen for the momentous occasion. Among other treasures within the Hirschy Collection is one of the late President's leather "bomber" jackets and rare transcripts of Mr. Kennedy's most noteworthy speeches including his address to the Nation during the Cuban Missile Crisis and his "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech.

Complementing the Hirschy Collection will be the Jacqueline Kennedy-related property of Mary Gallagher, former personal secretary to Mrs. Kennedy from 1957 to 1964, and whose book *My Life with Jacqueline Kennedy* was an international best seller.

Important artistic renderings of President Kennedy will be featured in the sale including the original oil on canvas, intimate portrait created by noted artist Aaron Shikler. Mr. Shikler's full body portrait of the President is the much-admired painting chosen by the Kennedy family to permanently hang in the White House. Also being sold are several original versions of sculpture Robert Berks iconic bust of the President. Rarest of these are two of what are believed to be only six castings of his heroic-sized bronzes.

Were the above two collections not extraordinary enough, the auction house has chosen to also include in the event the Francis Gary Powers Espionage Collection as provided by Mr. Powers' son. Following a distinguished career in the Air Force, Captain Powers joined the CIA where his piloting efforts proved critical during the height of the Cold War. Shot down while on a espionage mission over the Soviet Union, it was the Francis Gary Powers / U-2 saga that became the basis for the recently popular Steven Spielberg motion picture, *Bridge of Spies*.

The nearly one hundred lots in the Francis Gary Powers Collection will include such espionage treasures as his flight suit and trench coats, his writings while imprisoned in the Soviet Union and rare Russian propaganda posters.

**Auction Update:** Over the last month, news has been circulating regarding Guernsey's October 7th Auction focusing on President John F. Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy, and other important figures from the early 1960's. Of particular

note will be the Francis Gary Powers Collection consisting of many historic items relating to Powers' failed Cold War espionage mission.

The two Naval Officer's swords that were chosen to stand in the White House symbolic of the late President remain amongst the most significant items in this, or any, auction. But Guernsey's has just released information about a number of other treasured items in the sale. The "Restofus" is a terrific 17' mahogany speed boat owned by the Kennedys and often driven by JFK. One of the President's famed rocking chairs was gifted by Jackie Kennedy to NYC's charismatic Mayor Ed Koch; this chair will be offered along with another JFK rocker from Air Force One. And what is believed to be the only known privately-owned watercolor painted by Mr. Kennedy when he was President will also be sold. Also included will be a canvas tote bag (+ balls) used by 24 year-old Jack Kennedy to carry golf balls.

The Auction will be featuring several historically significant film-related lots. One of these is unreleased twenty second footage (along with its 8mm camera) of the President on the morning of the assassination. Two massive canisters of exposed film come from the Powers U-2 spy mission over the Soviet Union. Though not film-related but also of great historic importance is a letter in the Auction from President Kennedy to Sir Winston Churchill. In this hand-annotated document, the President is requesting permission to name a nuclear Polaris submarine in honor of the British Prime Minister. In the letter, Kennedy writes, "Providence for war is the best prevention of it." Yet another historic item reflecting on the diversity of the Auction is the South Vietnamese flag removed from Saigon during the frenzied helicopter evacuation of U.S. personnel.

For more complete information, please visit [www.guernseys.com](http://www.guernseys.com) or contact the New York auction house.

#### **ABOUT GUERNSEY'S**

In its forty first year, Guernsey's has built a reputation as the auction house known for representing the most extraordinary properties. From the largest auction in history (the ocean liner SS United States) to vintage racing cars on to artwork from the Soviet Union, pre-Castro Cuban cigars and the \$3 million baseball, the firm has few rivals when it comes to the presentation of wildly diverse collections. The John F. Kennedy, Franklin Roosevelt, Princess Diana, Elvis Presley, Jerry Garcia, John Coltrane, Dick Clark, Mickey Mantle, Duke Ellington and the Beatles events were all conducted by Guernsey's.

The Holocaust-related Dr. Hans Sachs Poster Collection, antique gold jewelry and rare emeralds from the wreck of the legendary Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Atocha, and the complete archive of Rosa Parks are among the auction house's most recent projects.

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