

A Spirited Ephemera/35 Fair Attracts Good Audience That Knows Its Stuff

OLD GREENWICH, CONN. — Flamingo Eventz and the Ephemera Society of America presented Ephemera/35, in conjunction with its paper conference March 20–22 at the Hyatt Regency, that was, by many reports, well attended by a sophisticated audience who knew what it was looking for. Buying was brisk during the two-day show and the Friday confer-

ence was lively. “The show went very well. Everyone made money and things ran very smoothly,” said managers Tina and John Bruno. “The gate was slightly higher than last year by about 10 to 12 percent...many new faces in the crowd...lots of young people (YAY). They should all be this good!” First time exhibitor Craig R.

Olson of Artisan Books & Bindery, Islesboro, Maine, was more than pleased with the weekend. “The fair went well for me with nice sales,” he said. A first edition of *The Venture: An Annual of Art and Literature*, 1905, contained James Joyce’s first work published in book form but also endpaper Art Nouveau-style illustrations by Scottish artist Annie French, who once

owned the book. “The book gathered a lot of interest and sold — a nice surprise. One never knows with books at ephemera shows,” Olson said. “As far as ephemera, it was across the board with no real strong area. I did sell all of my architectural magazines related to Frank Lloyd Wright, which I hope indicates interest in his work is still strong. I found the show to be well run and a great venue. As always, I think I learned more from the folks who stopped by my booth than they did from me!”

Also making its debut at the show was the William Reese Company, New Haven, Conn., which reported having decent sales and anticipates doing this fair again next year.

Show veteran Eclectibles, Tolland, Conn., noted very strong sales. “The crowd was enthusiastic and spirited throughout to the point of buying to the final minutes of the fair,” said dealer Sheryl Jaeger. Sales were across the board, befitting the company’s name, as the dealers wrote up many friendship tokens, ball invitations and trade catalogs. A lifelong collection of hair, 1820s–1880s found in friendship tokens, schoolgirl art, albums and folk art pieces attracted some interest, but is so large, an institutional buyer will probably be the one to acquire this.

“I love the ephemera fair. It is one of my favorite events, business and otherwise, of the year. It is in a lovely setting, with quality

dealers — the cream of the ephemera world — and more pertinently, a real quality public,” said Peter F. Blackman of White Fox Rare Books & Antiques, LLC, West Windsor, Vt. “The customers coming through are generally sophisticated collectors, and they are generally very respectful of your material. I also, of course, am happy that they are collectors who are motivated buyers.

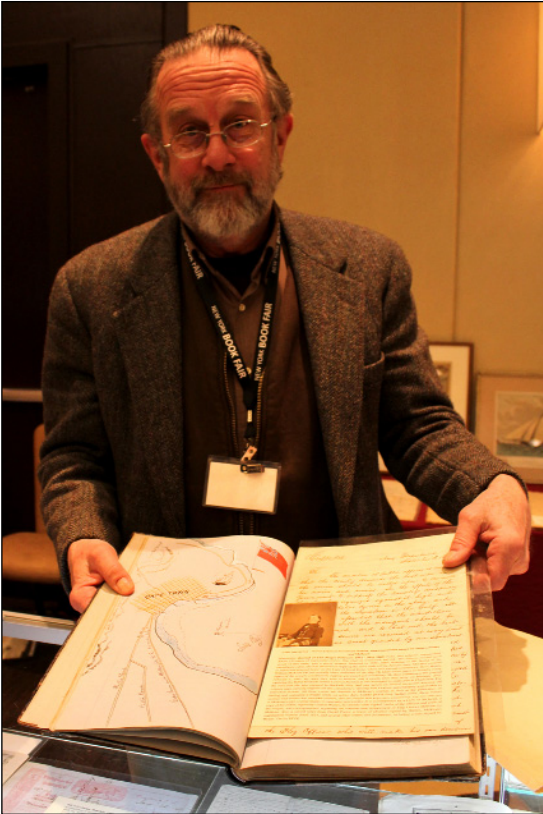
Sales were strong across the board from a good number of children’s books to art folio. “I also liked that I sold to a broad range of people, and had a nice mix of past customers/clients and new faces. Among the new customers was a young couple in their 20s, who bought something rather expensive. I liked the way they studied the album and seemed to appreciate it on an aesthetic basis.”

A standout in Blackman’s booth was a World War I cartoon album, possibly made by a prisoner of war. The 2,700-page album in eight volumes features colorfully painted cartoons and caricatures depicting the early part of World War I, beginning in 1914 and possibly all the way through 1915 on every page.

Many of the cartoons are not really tied in to day-to-day events, but rather personalize and personify the war into a few stock characters: the kaiser, his sidekick of a fictional youthful son named Willie, a lion representing Britain, John Bull, Uncle

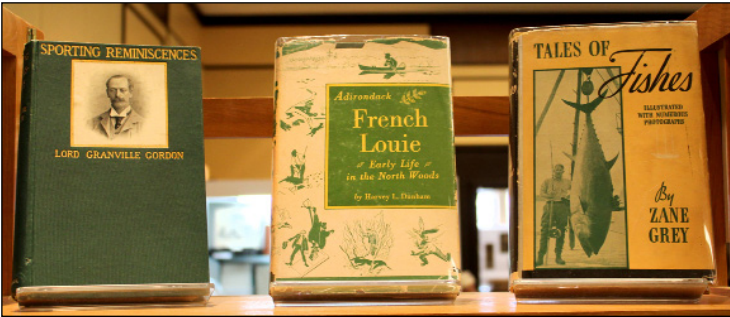


Quadrille, London



Greg Gibson displays a manuscript journal of the USS *Niagara*, February 1861–May 1862. Civil War ship captain’s voyages, Ten Pound Island Book Company, Gloucester, Mass.

Review and Photos by
Antiques and The Arts Weekly
Andrea Valluzzo, Assistant Editor



Gary White Bookseller, Montrose, N.Y.



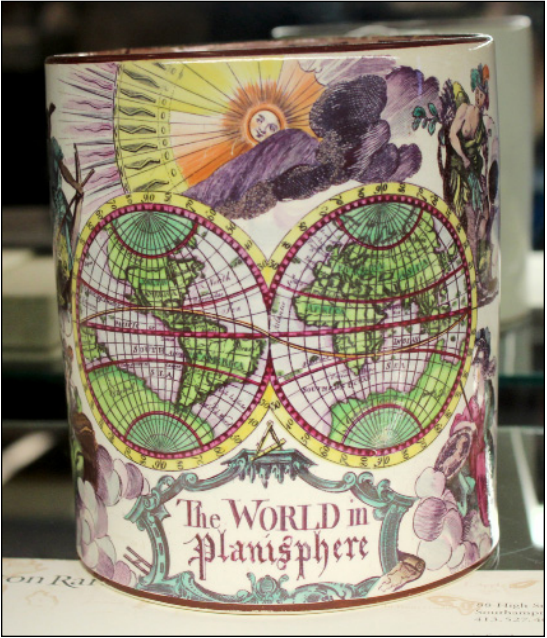
This book was a standout at White Fox Rare Books & Antiques, LLC, West Windsor, Vt.



Jeffrey H. Marks Rare Books, Rochester, N.Y.



James E. Arsenault & Company, Arrowsic, Maine



A pearlware mug, circa 1800–10, with transfer print and freehand color, depicting a double-hemisphere world map, was featured in the booth of Boston Rare Maps, Southampton, Mass.



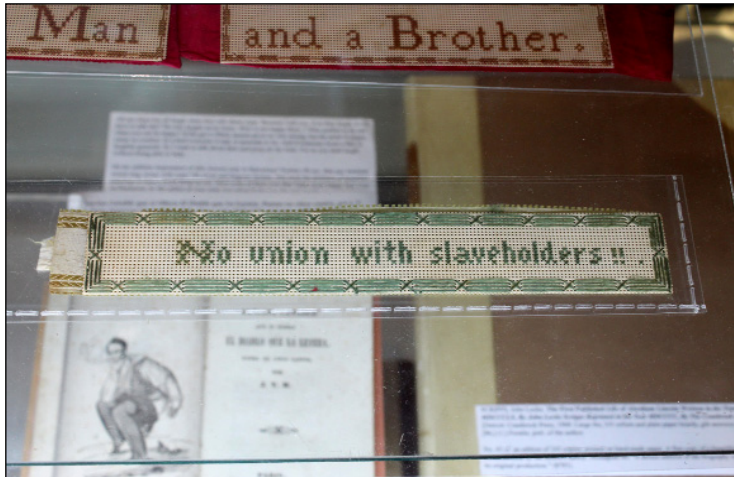
Cardtique, Stillwater, Minn.



Goose River Exchange, Rockport, Maine



Rabelais, Biddeford, Maine



Savoy Books, Lanesboro, Mass.

Sam and others.

Among the highlights seen here were a New York World's Fair banner at Ian Brabner Rare Americana, Wilmington, Del.; a photographic collection of New York City brothels, 1987–1991, shot by Philip Fagan, on offer by Tomberg Rare Books, Old Greenwich, Conn.; animal and fish prints at Anne Hall Antique Prints, Sturbridge, Mass.; and a pre-Mexican War order book of uniforms for Civil War generals, 1836–1846, as well as a set of six Civil War diaries at High Ridge Books, Inc, South Deerfield, Mass.

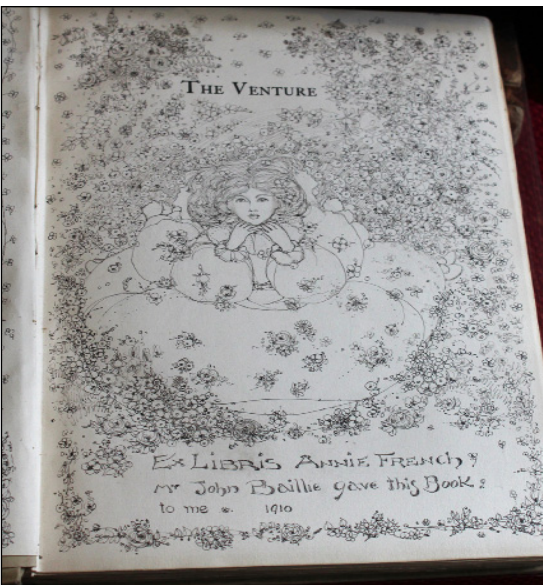
Tamerlane Books, Havertown, Penn., offered a rare copy of *The Hermit Priest: A Tale of "The Illinois Country,"* with five original lithographs by Robert Riggs, pencil signed, while Paper Americana, Alma, Mich., featured a Chief Two Moon Bitter Oil, tri-

fold store display.

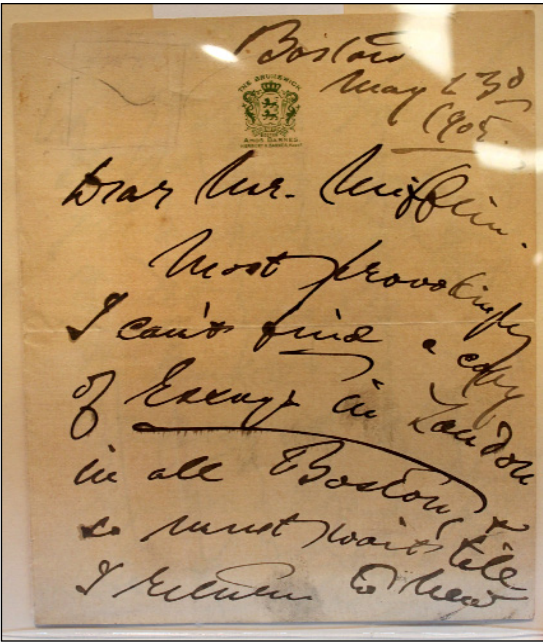
Rabelais, Biddeford, Maine, specializes in food and drink ephemera and brought a large selection of menus, trade catalogs, manuscript recipe collections, and sales included menus, an early charitable cookbook from the Midwest and some product cookbooks.

Fellow Maine dealer James Arsenault & Company of Arrowsic also was pleased with the show, noting above-average sales and a focused and enthusiastic crowd.

Sales were healthy at Savoy Books, Lanesboro, Mass., which sold its usual mix of Americana in printed paper, pamphlet and manuscript form to a mix of trade and private customers. "It's a very good fair and a great sponsoring organization, with many pleasant exchanges and socializing with colleagues," said dealer



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Bartleby's Books, Chevy Chase, Md.

Robert Fraker.

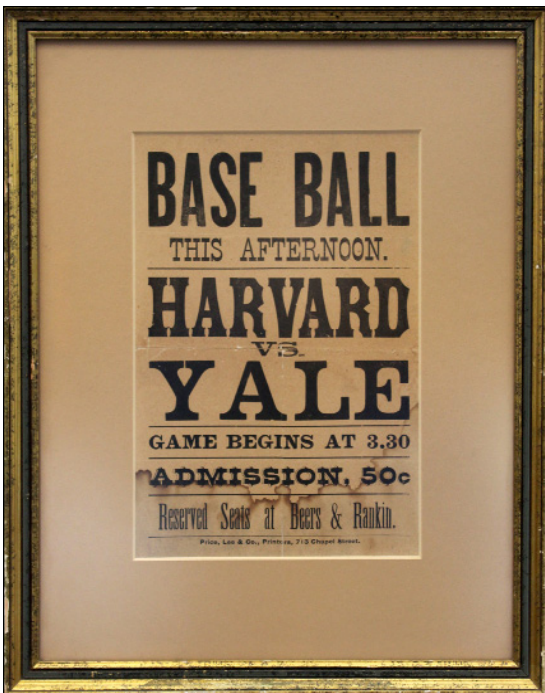
Nautical specialist Ten Pound Island Book Company, Gloucester, Mass., likely made its booth rent and then some in the first five minutes of the fair when it sold a rare grouping of about 30 sea charts from the Nineteenth Century for five figures.

Bartleby's Books, Chevy Chase, Md., sold better than expected with mostly institutional sales

and a few sales to private collectors. "One thing about the Ephemera Society members is they are very specific in their needs, and if you do the fair on a regular basis, you have a base of customers you know what they're looking for. The problem

is always finding fresh material," said John Thomson.

The fair will return here next spring with more fresh material. For more information, www.flamingoeventz.com or www.ephemerasyociety.org or 603-509-2639.



William Reese Company, New Haven, Conn.



Be-Hold, Yonkers, N.Y.

‘Washington Crossing The Delaware’ Crosses The Mississippi To Museum

WINONA, MINN. — The Minnesota Marine Art Museum recently unveiled a key version of Emanuel Leutze's great 1851 masterpiece "Washington Crossing the Delaware," possibly the most famous and iconic American painting of all time. Leutze painted three versions of his famous image. The earliest version was destroyed in Germany during World War II. A near replica is one of the most visited and treasured works of art at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Minnesota Marine Art Museum's authentic version, measuring 40½ by 68 inches, has descended with a distinguished provenance in private ownership for 164 years. For most of the past 40 years, from the presidencies of Richard Nixon to that of Barack Obama, it has been on loan and prominently displayed at the White House, Washington, D.C.

Perhaps no other Nineteenth Century painting is so recognized around the world as inspiring image of George Washington leading his troops across the icy Delaware River to an



"Washington Crossing the Delaware," 1851, by Emanuel Leutze (1816–1868), oil on canvas, 40½ by 68 inches. Private collection. Courtesy of Minnesota Marine Art Museum.

epic Christmas Night victory over British troops at Trenton, N.J.

The Minnesota Marine Art Museum's version, one of only two extant paintings by Leutze of this subject, was recently acquired by the Burrichter/Kierlin collection in the museum's galleries of American art. This version has its own exceptional history, having been previously exhibited at the New York Crystal Palace in 1853, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

in 1854 and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1895. It now takes its place in one of the nation's premier collections of Hudson River School-era paintings, along with masterworks by Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, John Frederick Kensett, Frederic Church, Jasper Cropsey and Martin Johnson Heade and many other important figures.

The Minnesota Marine Art Museum is at 800 Riverview Drive. For information, 507-474-6626 or www.mmam.org.

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