

Auctions

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Highlights of the season.

DE WITT Clinton's sofa, a model of the Statue of Liberty, Ethel Merman's charm bracelet, two paintings from the collection of Walter H. Annenberg and the contents of the luxury liner United States are highlights of the auction season that begins in New York this weekend.

Wine buffs are among the most loyal followers of the corkscrew sales at Phillips, Son & Neale, 79th Street, east of Second Avenue, the fifth of which takes place tomorrow at noon. Among the 150 European and American 19th- and 20th-century openers is a Dutch silver design, its handle depicting a gaucho and his horse, which may sell for as much as \$500.

A collection of 1,500 cookbooks assembled by Marcus and Elizabeth Crahan over 40 years will be auctioned at Sotheby's, York Avenue at 72d Street, on Oct. 9 and 10. A Sotheby's spokesman said that the sale includes the oldest known cookery book, "Appicius Culinarius," a 15th-century work documenting recipes going back to the time of Jesus (up to \$30,000), and a first edition of the earliest printed cookbook, written by Bartholmaeus Platina, a librarian at the Vatican. Mrs. Crahan was a medical librarian and her husband a forensic pathologist with the Los Angeles Sheriff's office.

'Liberty' to Heirlooms

Americana enthusiasts will be able to bid on a rare model of Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty on Dec. 7 at Christie's, Park Avenue and 59th Street. The 49-inch metal "Liberty" is the earliest of six models the sculptor made as part of the campaign to raise funds to construct the statue in New York Harbor a century ago. This is the only model cast before 1883, and it is labeled Avoiron et Clémont. The Paris foundry later changed its name to Avoiron et Cie, the name appearing on the five other casts. Of zinc alloy electroplated with copper to simulate bronze, the model to be auctioned was made with gas tubing that allowed the torch to light, but it has since been wired for electricity. Estimated at up to \$150,000.

Heirlooms of historical interest are among the Americana treasures of Dr. C. Ray Franklin, a sixth-generation descendant of Benjamin Franklin, to be sold by Christie's on Oct. 13. Among the 200 antiques owned by the Asheville, N.C., ophthalmologist to be auctioned are an 18th-century mirror given by the family of George Washington to the family of Benjamin Franklin (up to \$25,000) and a Federal-period New York sofa attributed to Duncan Phyfe (up to \$150,000).

Governor Clinton's early-19th-century sofa, also attributed to Phyfe, will be sold Feb. 2 at Sotheby's in the collection of Berry Tracy (up to \$100,000). Mr. Tracy, who changed the look of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where he was curator in charge of decorative arts until June 1981, is selling a collection of about 125 antiques from his Goshen, N.Y., 18th-century farmhouse and moving to Florida.

Art Sales in November

Impressionist and modern-art sales in November include two major works from the collection of Walter H. Annenberg, former Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, which will be sold at Christie's on Nov. 13. Monet's "Promenade (Argenteuil)," an 1875 landscape, may bring as much as \$1 million, and Picasso's 1920's "Woman With a Guitar" is expected to sell for up to \$1.8 million.

Sotheby's sale the following night offers Corot's "Woman in a Big Hat With a Mandolin," painted in the early 1850's. David Nash, who heads fine-art sales at the auction house, said that this portrait, showing a wistful figure in a landscape, is a type of large figural Corot rarely seen on the market in recent years. He expects it



Detail of "Woman in a Big Hat With a Mandolin" by Corot, to be auctioned Nov. 14 at Sotheby's.

to bring about \$3 million. It is one of six art works from the collection of David Bakalar, a Boston electronics industrialist, in Sotheby's sale.

Jewelry and memorabilia from famous personalities include those of Ethel Merman, who died last February. The ephemera are noteworthy and include theatrical posters, framed photographs of Miss Merman with Ginger Rogers and Queen Elizabeth II and a gold bracelet with 14 charms, each commemorating one of her Broadway shows (estimated to bring up to \$2,000).

Everything from ship's telegraphs to teapots will be auctioned from the 1950's luxury liner United States, the fastest ocean liner ever built, on Oct. 8-14 by Guernsey's, one of New York's smaller auction houses. The sale, in Norfolk, Va., is expected to bring \$1 million to \$5 million, dispersing thousands of furnishings and fittings from the superliner, which is being stripped before its conversion into a luxury cruise vessel by its owner, United States Cruises Inc. of Seattle.

For Numismatists

A Viennese cabinet by Koloman Moser, which was sold in an Egyptian auction by a member of King Farouk's family 20 years ago, will be auctioned at a Sotheby's sale of 20th-century modern objects in Monte Carlo on Oct. 7. The 1900 rosewood cabinet, inlaid with nickel-plated brass, bits of glass and colored wood, has portraits of three women with haunting faces and long hair on the inside of the cabinet doors. Estimates at more than \$100,000.

Coins collected in many parts of the world by Mr. and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb (he was Ambassador to Peru and Cuba in the 1940's) will be sold by Christie's in sales over the next two years, the dates of which have yet to be announced. Mrs. Norweb, whose maiden name was Emery May Holden, was a granddaughter of Liberty T. Holden, who made his money in silver mining and became a founder of The Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Cleveland Museum of Art. She was renowned as a collector of American, British, Continental and other coins from her youth until her death at age 88 last March.