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## MEL FISHER'S LEGENDARY UNDERSEA TREASURE COMING TO AUCTION

*Noteworthy Collectibles Being Sold from the Spanish Galleon, Nuestra Señora  
de Atocha*

NEW YORK – On July 20, 1985, American treasure hunter Mel Fisher discovered the sunken treasure of the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*, the most famous member of a fleet of Spanish ships that sank in 1622 after sailing into a violent hurricane. To mark the thirty-year anniversary of this astonishing discovery, on August 5 New York City-based auction house [Guernsey's](#) will auction off select items from Fisher's esteemed Collection. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Michael Abt, Jr. Have a Heart Foundation, which works to provide Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) to schools nationwide.

Known to many as the most successful treasure hunter of all time, Fisher's remarkable and dedicated efforts lead to the discovery of many noteworthy undersea wrecks. The \$450 million dollar cache or "Atocha Motherload" was discovered after a 16-year search by Fisher and his team. His work, well-documented in both print and film, also lead to landmark decisions by the United States Supreme Court, which confirmed Fisher's ownership to recovered treasure.



Fisher's daily mantra, "Today's the Day!", kept his spirits alive throughout this lengthy and costly expedition. On July 20, 1985 his perseverance paid off: over 40 tons of

silver and gold were located at the site of the wreck off the Marquesas Keys. Including more than 100,000 Spanish silver coins known as "pieces of eight," gold coins, the finest Colombian emeralds, silver and gold artifacts, and over 1,000 silver bars, the *Atocha* contained riches vast enough to replenish the nearly depleted treasury of the Spanish Crown.

To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fisher's landmark discovery, Guernsey's will hold an auction of nearly 40 treasured items retrieved from the *Atocha*, as well as other extraordinary wrecks discovered by Mel Fisher and his team. Guernsey's will also be offering approximately 100 rare and sought-after silver coins from the *Atocha* and her sister ship, the *Santa Margarita*.

A portion of the proceeds from this Auction will go to benefit the Michael Abt, Jr. Have a Heart Foundation, which works to provide Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) to schools nationwide. Michael was a bright, active, and popular young 12 year-old boy who collapsed during his weekly gym class. The cause was Sudden Cardiac Arrest; and despite the efforts of numerous coaches, teachers, and school officials who tried to administer CPR, no AED was present – an instrument which could have saved Michael's life. The Have a Heart Foundation continues to raise money to purchase AEDs and professional training for school staff throughout the United States in Michael Abt, Jr.'s name.

Immediately preceding the sale of items from the Fisher family's revered Collection will be 65 lots offered by the Arader Gallery. Beginning at 5:30pm, these pieces highlight the history of Caribbean pirates and their treasure. Amongst the items offered will be historic maps and views, paintings and watercolors, parrot engravings by Jacques Barraband, plus rare books and atlases.

A beautiful collectors' catalogue showcases the many items with detailed photographs and descriptions. It will be available for \$20 in person; \$28 shipped domestically or \$50 shipped internationally. To order the catalogue, for telephone bidding, to arrange for an advance preview, or for any other questions, please contact Guernsey's or visit [www.guernseys.com](http://www.guernseys.com).

The Mel Fisher Collection Auction will begin at 7p on August 5 at Arader Galleries, 1016 Madison Avenue, New York City. Public previewing of the lots will take place on Tuesday, August 4 from 10am to 7pm, and on the day of the auction from 10am until 5pm. Internet bidding will be on both [liveauctioneers.com](http://liveauctioneers.com) and [invaluable.com](http://invaluable.com).

For additional information visit [www.guernseys.com](http://www.guernseys.com) or contact Guernsey's at 212-794-2280. For media inquiries or to request an interview, please contact Maggie Beaudouin at 212.255.8455.

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

In its fortieth 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 S.S. United States) to vintage racing cars on to artwork from the Soviet Union, pre-Castro Cuban cigars, and the \$3 million-dollar baseball, the firm has few rivals when it comes to the presentation of wildly diverse artwork and artifacts. The John F. Kennedy, Franklin Roosevelt, Princess Diana, Elvis Presley, Jerry Garcia, John Coltrane, Dick Clark, Mickey Mantle, and the Beatles events were all conducted by Guernsey's.

Guernsey's is particularly proud of its work with the Library of Congress in the preservation of the complete Rosa Parks Archive. In the midst of its series devoted to the legendary, Holocaust-related poster collection of Dr. Hans Sachs, other upcoming sales in 2015 include Historic Artifacts from the Kennedy White House, Atocha Undersea Treasures, and a remarkable, recently-discovered work by Pablo Picasso.

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