

# John F. Kennedy

The Robert White Collection, considered the world's foremost privately owned assemblage of material relating to JFK's life and career, to be sold at auction.

This December at New York City's Park Avenue Armory, an auction of unparalleled proportion and range will be conducted when the Robert White Collection, known to collectors globally, will be sold. Focusing on virtually every aspect of John F. Kennedy's life, the range of material is hard to imagine as it extends from JFK's childhood to his marriage to Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, from his early political aspirations to his mounting successes first as a Congressman, then Senator and finally, President. Guernsey's, known for producing many of the most popular auctions in recent times, is honored to be representing a Collection of such importance.

The Collection will be presented December 13 – 17. The event will be held live in New York with bidding extended to those wishing to participate in "real time" on eBay Liveauctions. A substantial catalogue will be available from Guernsey's five weeks before the event. Truly massive in size, the auction is being divided into sections in keeping with the periods of John F. Kennedy's life and career. Just as there will be significant material relating to the late President's role as a public servant, so will there be material relating to JFK as a man, a brother, a husband and a father. Objects pertaining to Jacqueline Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and those close to John F. Kennedy in daily life and in office will be in abundance.

The smallest of samplings from the Auction would include such artifacts as the passports used by Jacqueline and John F. Kennedy in the early 1950s, the wristwatch worn by the President at his Inauguration and two of JFK's White House rocking chairs. A special Presidential West Point ring, his monogrammed leather wallet, the red, white and blue "hotline" telephone and examples of Jackie and JFK's elegant clothing are further examples of auction artifacts. The Collection is so comprehensive that it even includes the flags that flew from the Presidential limousine on that fateful 1963 date in Dallas. Hundreds of unpublished White House and family photographs will be offered side by side an enormous array of written ephemera ranging from Presidential "doodles" to JBK and RFK letters on to such important documents as the handwritten speech the then Senator John F. Kennedy presented at the 1956 Democratic Convention where he nominated Adlai Stevenson for President. To be sure, the nearly two thousand lots (many containing multiple items) offered without minimum reserve will allow bidders at every level, fascinated with the remarkable political scene of the mid-twentieth century, to participate.

As a young teenager, Robert White became fascinated with the career of Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. By the time JFK became President, Robert was devoting most of his time to understanding the workings of the Kennedy Administration and avidly collecting objects relating to it. Robert's many letters to Kennedy cabinet members

serve as testimony to the passion of the young man. Although obviously the assassination struck a staggering blow to all Americans, to Robert it was almost crippling. Written correspondence with Evelyn Lincoln, President Kennedy's secretary throughout most of his political career, helped get Robert through those difficult times. Over the years the White and Lincoln families built a close friendship around their shared interests. The friendship extended until the deaths of both Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln in the mid-1990s. As "kindred spirits," Robert inherited the many treasures Mrs. Lincoln saved from her years with JFK.

Hoping to finance his dream of seeing his now vast Collection embedded in a museum, Robert sold a relatively small portion of his Collection through Guernsey's in 1998. Following that sale, Robert was able to achieve his goal as the main body of his Collection filled eleven galleries at the Florida International Museum. Sadly, five years later, Robert White suddenly passed away. His unrivaled Collection was returned to his family where it was hotly sought after by collectors and sellers of historic artifacts from around the world.

Recognizing the importance of the Collection, the National Archives reviewed the Collection. Following a year of study the Archives and the Kennedy family requested a selection of objects from the White family. Recognizing the need to see some of Robert's Collection returned for public access, the White family were rewarded for their assistance by the acknowledgement that they were then free to deal with the Collection as they wished. Today, preparations are actively underway for the monumental auction that lies ahead.

To learn more about the auction and/or reserve a catalogue (Guernsey's catalogues often sell out), interested parties should visit the firm's website ([www.guernseys.com](http://www.guernseys.com)) or contact the auction house directly (212-794-2280, [auctions@guernseys.com](mailto:auctions@guernseys.com)).