

JAZZ, The Auction

A REMARKABLE COLLECTION OF EXTRAORDINARY ARTIFACTS
FROM JAZZ'S MOST LEGENDARY NAMES
TO BE SOLD FEBRUARY 20TH AT JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER,
FREDERICK P. ROSE HALL, NEW YORK CITY

On Sunday, February 20, Guernsey's will be conducting the most momentous auction ever held focusing on the great names of Jazz. Not a sale of simple memorabilia, this auction will contain such important objects as the saxophones of Charlie Parker, John Coltrane and Gerry Mulligan, Dizzy Gillespie's and Clark Terry's trumpets, J.J. Johnson's trombones, Benny Goodman's clarinet and Lionel Hampton's vibraphone. Imagine the opportunity of owning handwritten compositions and arrangements by Coltrane or Thelonious Monk, or the unreleased tape recordings of Bird (tapes of music no one has heard in half a century) and one begins to get a sense of the magnitude of this auction.

Although obviously the hundreds of auction items can't all be listed here, consider the colorful(!) language used by Louis Armstrong in an uproarious thirty-one page letter as just one of many documents relating to Satchmo's landmark career. Given early recognition as a Jazz vocalist, the auction even includes material from the beginning of Barbra Streisand's career. The Jazz Murals of Franz Kline, paintings of Miles Davis and original Hirschfeld caricatures depict Jazz in art while the smoking jacket of Monk, the tails of Benny and the gowns of Peggy Lee and Ella Fitzgerald add style. Indeed, among the many discoveries this event is bringing to light are John Coltrane's early writings leading to his masterpiece A Love Supreme.

Working directly with the families of these wonderful artists, the vast majority of items in the auction will be sold without minimum reserve while substantial portions of the proceeds will be going to several worthy Jazz-related foundations. February 18th and 19th are public preview days at Jazz at Lincoln Center's fabulous new home, Frederick P. Rose Hall, on Broadway at 60th Street in New York City. Guernsey's has produced a comprehensive auction 200 page catalogue with hundreds of images of the objects being sold along with historic Jazz photos. In its effort to produce the finest book possible, the auction house has enlisted the aide of several Jazz historians including Phil Schaap and Barry Kernfeld.

Catalogues are available from Guernsey's (\$36 in U.S., \$50 int'l...212-794-2280, www.guernseys.com or auctions@guernseys.com). For those unable to attend what certainly will be a memorable event in person, absentee bidding will be available by telephone or through eBay Live Auctions.

Jazz, The Auction...as cool as it gets.