



Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841 – 1919)

Personal Artifacts and Archives Collection –
the largest collection of Renoir’s life in the world (thousands of items).

For the first time since acquiring the collection in 2005, the owner has authorized me to inform a select group of parties that the collection is available for purchase.

Acquired the collection from the auction house with which Paul Renoir, the son of Pierre-Auguste Renoir, consigned the collection. Auction house staff dedicated more than a year’s time in organizing the collection to prepare it for auction. Thus, it is truly a turn-key collection.

Since acquiring the collection in 2005, we have received numerous requests from museums around the globe to access, research and exhibit the collection – the most recent of which came within the past month from the Los Angeles County Museum.

Brief Overview:

- Renoir’s personal artifacts/documents: signature scarf, spectacles, pince-nez, cigarette holder, French Legion d’honneur medals, birth/marrigage cetrificates, , house deeds/leases, financials, funeral/burial receipts
- Renoir works: watercolor, pencil drawing, Portrait of a Woman, 2 charcoals on paper, Head of Women
- 40 letters-Renoir to wife, Aline
- Letters to his sons/unknown person
- Handwritten letters to Renoir from Rodin, Monet, Manet, Georges d’ Espagnat, Sacha Guitry
- Family photo albums – the rarest taken by his son the night before he died
- 100s of vintage original glass plate negatives of Renoir with family and at work
- Rare images of friends/models posed for paintings
- 56 lithographic copper plates of Renoir’s paintings
- Many more family items: ceramics by Jean Renoir w/Renoir at Les Collettes, miniature tea services
- Massive family archives: Renoir/art dealer correspondence, account ledgers, exhibition photos/ inventories, critics’ reviews
- Voluminous dossiers documenting Renoir’s works by category, private/institutional collection, painting authentication attestations
- Claude and Paul Renoir’s reference library

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More detailed Overview:

**PIERRE AUGUSTE RENOIR
PERSONAL ARTIFACTS AND ARCHIVES COLLECTION
SESSION I**

Historians and collectors world-wide will face off May 14, 2005 when Hantman's Auctioneers and Appraisers sell the Personal Artifacts and Archives Collection of French Impressionist artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir during a Live Gallery and Simulcast eBay Auction in Rockville, Maryland at 10:00 A.M. Bidders can bid live in the gallery sales room or in real time over the internet through eBay Live Auctions via Live Auctioneers.

The historical property was consigned to Hantman's by Renoir's grandson, Paul Renoir, son of Renoir's youngest child, Claude, commonly known as "Coco". After his death in 1919, Renoir's estate was divided equally between his three sons (Pierre, Jean and Claude) and each received art work and real property. (The estate partition document is in the sale.) Claude's share included, Les Collettes, Renoir's sprawling home in the south of France in Cagnes-sur-Mer.

Discovered in Les Collettes were photograph albums, personal documents, old bank books, expense ledgers, personal letters, estate and business documents. To preserve the integrity of this historic discovery, the collection will be sold as an entirety.

Renoir's personal artifacts include his signature burgundy and white silk polka dot scarf, spectacles, pince-nez, cigarette holder and French Legion d'honneur medals. Personal documents include his birth and marriage certificates, house deeds and leases, financial documents, even Renoir's funeral and burial receipts.

Renoir works include a small watercolor, Chateau des Brouillards, a pencil drawing, Portrait of a Woman and two charcoals on paper, Heads of Women.

Saved were forty tender letters Renoir wrote to his wife, Aline, and letters to his sons and unknown persons. Voluminous handwritten correspondence to Renoir includes letters from contemporary artists and friends like Rodin, Monet, Manet, Georges d'Espagnat and Sacha Guitry which provides a glimpse into the life and concerns of one of the world's greatest painters.

In one letter to his wife, Aline, Renoir wrote "get used to my oldness and start saving money because I am uncertain how much more I will be able to earn". Stricken by crippling arthritis throughout his body,

Renoir managed to paint into his later years and, with the aid of an assistant, experiment with sculptures towards the end of his life.



Family photo albums contain images of Renoir at home with his family, at work in his studio and garden and boating and dining with artist friends. The rarest photograph, taken by his son the night before he died, shows Renoir in bed wearing a night cap.

Hundreds of vintage original glass plate negatives depict Renoir in various daily pursuits with family and work. Most rare are images of friends and models posed in landscape settings for paintings.

Also in the collection are fifty-six lithographic copper plates of Renoir's paintings.

Other personal family items include Aline's silk embroidered shawl, kimono and jewelry box and documents pertaining to Renoir's wife, sons and family life. Ceramics made by Jean Renoir with Renoir at Les Collettes while recuperating from World War I battle wounds and miniature tea services are part of the collection.

Renoir's career was influenced greatly by prominent French art dealers and collectors, Bernheim-Jeune, Durand-Ruel and Vollard. The massive archives assembled by Claude, and grandson, Paul, includes correspondence to Renoir from those dealers, account ledgers, exhibition photographs, inventories and critics' reviews (some annotated by Renoir with his reactions). Voluminous dossiers document Renoir's works by categories, international private and institutional collections, and painting authentication attestations. Claude and Paul Renoir's reference library is part of the collection.