



Historically important Amer. Chippendale furniture turns up in Feb. 28 UK auction

Privately owned by English family, its provenance dates back to US Secretary of the Treasury, NY Governor and Civil War Major General John Adams Dix

EPPING, UNITED KINGDOM, February 26, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- EPPING, U.K. – Although no one knows exactly how or when it made its way across the Atlantic, a very rare 18th-century American [bureau/desk](#) has emerged as the furniture highlight of a February 28 Greater London auction.

[Boningtons](#) auction house in Epping, Essex, immediately identified the private consignment as an American Chippendale-period piece. Made of mahogany with secondary white poplar, the desk is a magnificent example of furniture craftsmanship, with a well-carved shell motif below the central drawer, three drawers at either side, and elaborate original brass escutcheons. It stands on four masterfully carved ball-and-claw feet. The bureau/desk is offered by Boningtons with a \$28,000-\$42,000 estimate.

While it easily stands on its own merit, the bureau/desk also comes with intriguing provenance. By repute, it was formerly the property of John Adams Dix (1798-1879), a US Civil War (Union) major general, US secretary of the treasury and US senator.

Dix was notable for arresting the pro-Confederacy Maryland legislature, preventing the divided border state from seceding, and for arranging a system for prisoner exchange via the Dix-Hill Cartel in partnership with Confederate Major General Daniel Harvey Hill. He was also United States minister to France from 1866 to 1869 and served as New York's 24th governor from 1873 to 1874. As a civilian, Dix was president of the Union Pacific Railroad from 1863-1868, during the construction of the First Transcontinental Railroad.

Boningtons' Feb. 28, 2018 Fine Art & Antiques Auction featuring the 18th-century American Chippendale-period bureau/desk will begin at 11 a.m. UK time (6 a.m. US Eastern Time). The gallery is located in Epping, Essex, in Greater London. All methods of bidding are available, including absentee, phone and live online (www.the-saleroom.com). For additional information, contact Boningtons by emailing admin@boningtons.com or calling 011 44 208 508 4800. Web: www.boningtons.com.

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