

Holabird's four-day Western Trails & Treasures Premier Auction, Feb. 24-27, appealed to novice and veteran collectors

The auction contained nearly 2,500 lots in a wide array of collecting categories, especially Western and Native Americana. Important collections were offered.

RENO, NV, UNITED STATES, March 9, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Fans of [Western Americana](#) turned out in droves for Holabird's massive, four-day Western Trails & Treasures Premier Auction, held February 24th thru 27th, online and live in the gallery located at 3555 Airway Drive in Reno. Nearly 2,500 lots crossed the auction block in a wide array of categories, at price points that appealed to novice collectors and seasoned veterans.



Scarce, 19th century Central Pacific Railroad (Calif.) specimen stock certificate for \$100 par shares, with a vignette at the bottom of three allegorical females (\$750).

The sale was loaded with important collections, to include Part 2 of the Ron Lerch Western directory collection; Part 2 of the Joe Elcano Nevada collection; more from the Ken Prag railroad stock collection; more from the Stuart MacKenzie Montana collection; the Bill McKivor mining, numismatic and Americana collection and more, plus great rarities from other private collections.

Following are highlights from the auction. Online bidding was facilitated by iCollector.com, LiveAuctioneers.com, Invaluable.com and Auctionzip.com. Prices include the buyer's premium.

Day 1, on Thursday, February 24th, was dedicated to general Americana, in categories that included general books, gaming, saloon and brewing, jewelry, furnishings, musical instruments and memorabilia, model train and car, badges, geographically sorted lots and miscellaneous.

Day 1 highlights included a lot of five publications relating to Philippines travel ephemera, all from the first half of the 20th century, an example being a rare official program for the Philippine

Carnival held in Manila in 1910, 80 pages (\$10,938); and an archive of about 400 photographs of San Francisco and the Northern Redwood Corridor, taken circa 1932-1935 by photographer Russell William Angel, including many shots of California's majestic redwood trees (\$3,000).

Also sold on Day 1 was a rare and large Staffordshire blue and white ironstone transfer foot bath and pitcher set made by an unknown craftsman, the pitcher 13 ½ inches tall (\$2,625); a group of six antique bitters bottles, from various locales, to include Philadelphia, South Redding (Mass.), Richmond (Va.) and Toronto, Canada (\$875); and an Independent Oil ceramic enameled sign in red, white and black ("From Coast to Coast – Independent Oil") with each side 27 inches (\$875).

Day 2, on Friday, February 25th, was a busy one, featuring [stocks and bonds](#) (in the categories of mining, railroad, transportation and miscellaneous); and numismatics (to include currency, scrip and ephemera; ingots and bullion; coins, medals and tokens). More than 625 lots were offered.

Day 2 star lots included a San Francisco Mint silver ingot, .999 fine, weighing 6.61 oz. and showing the old style, pre-World War II logo of the Mint of San Francisco (\$7,230); a men's ring of one troy ounce of solid 14kt gold carefully holding a 1/3 Stater gold coin from the 6th century BC, one of the first of all world gold coins (\$3,250); and a rare Hudson Bay Company 1820 one-pound sterling certificate, issued at York



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Men's ring of one troy ounce of solid 14kt gold carefully holding a 1/3 Stater gold coin from the 6th century BC, one of the first of all world gold coins (\$3,250).

Factory and signed by two officials (\$1,000).

Silver ingots, in addition to the one described, were popular with bidders. Examples included:

- A set of three Engelhard silver ingots, 999+ fine, weighing three, four and five ounces, produced before the German chemical company's acquisition by BASF in 2006 (\$2,169).
- Two 10-ounce Escalante Mine silver ingots produced in 1990 by Johnson Matthey (U.S.) for Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation (Albuquerque, N.M.) (\$1,446).
- A Carson's (Philadelphia) jade assay .999 fine silver ingot, 9.81 troy ounces (\$1,448).

A collection of 35 brilliant uncirculated Benjamin Franklin half-dollar coins, dated 1948-1963 and housed in a Capital Plastics holder, went for \$1,438; a lot of three rare tokens from the Bullfrog, Nevada mining district (example: "Mountain Bell Club, Rhyolite, Nev., Good for 12.5 Cents in Trade"), changed hands for \$2,250; and a Carson City (Nev.) U.S. Mint canvas bag, 19 inches tall, brought \$2,125. The mint used silver from the nearby Comstock Lode mining district.

A scarce, 19th century Central Pacific Railroad (Calif.) specimen stock certificate for \$100 par shares, with a vignette at the bottom of three allegorical females, rang up \$750; a first rendition Sutro Tunnel (Nev.) stock certificate #68, datelined New York October 18, 1868 and issued to Solomon Haas of New York for 100 shares, achieved \$625; and a 1902 Yosemite Valley (Calif.) Railroad Company specimen bond, with a spectacular Yosemite Valley vignette, rose to \$671.



Oil on canvas Western cowboy hunting scene by F. W. Trautwein, titled Meat's Not Meat Til It's In The Pan (1972), of a cowboy who's just shot a mountain sheep (\$1,875).



Lot of three rare tokens from the Bullfrog, Nevada mining district (example: "Mountain Bell Club, Rhyolite, Nev., Good for 12.5 Cents in Trade") (\$2,250).

Day 3, Saturday, February 26th, was packed with nearly 600 lots of minerals and mining;

directories (featuring Part 2 of the Ron Lerch collection); militaria; and political memorabilia.

Top lots included a copy of Brown & Dallison's Nevada, Grass Valley and Rough and Ready Directory (Calif.), 133 pages, with ads, compiled by Nat P. Brown and John K. Dallison, San Francisco (\$5,375); a rare 1853 copy of Hale and Emory's Marysville City (Calif.) Directory with residents alphabetically listed by occupations and addresses, plus businesses (\$9,150); and the original Placerville (Calif.) Directory of 1862 by Thomas Fitch, printed by the Placerville Republican, 128 pages, with a soft-cover reprint by the El Dorado County Museum (\$5,125).

One of only two known Nevada directories from 1868-69, a database of over 4,000 settlers, with addresses and often occupations, found a new owner for \$3,416; an authentic ore car for Caird Engineering Works, about 3 ½ feet tall, 4 feet long and 2 feet wide, with the end dump, switches and wheels all in working condition, went for \$3,375; and a Confederate D guard short saber Bowie knife, 22 ½ inches long with a 17 ¼ inch blade, the maker unknown, garnered \$2,625.

The auction's final day, Sunday, February 27th, featured art, Native Americana, transportation (railroad and steamer passes, ephemera and artifacts); plus many bargain and dealer specials that included general Americana, stocks and bonds and numismatics – a total of 625 lots on Day 4.

Art was led by a classic oil on canvas Western cowboy hunting scene by F. W. Trautwein, titled on the frame Meat's Not Meat Til It's In The Pan (1972), depicting a cowboy who's just shot a mountain sheep (\$1,875). Nothing could be found regarding F.W. Trautwein, or anyone of a similar name in Falk. But the quality of skill in artisanship of the horses and man was excellent.

A group of 18 railroad lock keys from multiple Iowa railroad lines (Newton & Northwestern RR, Cedar Rapids & Iowa City RY, Des Moines & Central Iowa RR, Mason City & Clear Lake RY and many others) went to a determined bidder for \$2,500. Also, a Carson and Colorado Railroad (Virginia City, Nev.) lock and key, stamped "Union Brass Mfg. Co. / Chicago", made \$1,708.

A Hudson River Line steamer pass, no. 1206, with a maroon title and lovely vignette of a paddle steamer that fills almost the entire upper half, issued for 1898 to B.P. Holland of the Norfolk, Virginia Beach & Southern Railroad, brought \$1,375; while a Utah Central Railway annual pass for 1885, issued to W. H. Hurlburt and signed by Mormon leader and important Utah figure John Sharp (as superintendent), made \$1,312. The Utah Central connected Salt Lake City with Ogden.

Holabird Western Americana Collections, LLC is always seeking new and major collections to bring to market. It prides itself as being a major source for selling Americana at the best prices obtainable, having sold more than any other similar company in the past decade alone. The firm will have its entire sales database online soon, at no cost – nearly 200,000 lots sold since 2014.

To consign a single piece or a collection, you may call Fred Holabird at 775-851-1859 or 844-492-

2766; or, you can send an e-mail to. To learn more about Holabird Western Americana Collections, LLC, please visit www.holabirdamericana.com. Updates posted frequently.

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