

CHRISTIE'S

RESULTS | NEW YORK | 6 OCTOBER 2002 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VALUABLE AND IMPORTANT BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS FROM THE LIBRARY OF EDWARD R. LEAHY

TOTAL: \$4,473,378

94% SOLD BY LOT; 26% NEW BIDDERS, WITH BUYERS FROM 13 COUNTRIES



New York – Christie's **Valuable and Important Books and Manuscripts from the Library of Edward R. Leahy** totaled \$4,473,378 with 94% of the lots sold. Leading the sale was Mr. Leahy's spectacular collection of modern British illuminated manuscripts and fine bindings, especially the works of Alberto and Francis Sangorski and George Sutcliffe. A selection of 15 lots [Lots 55-69] totalled more than \$800,000, two-times the combined pre-sale low estimate. The top lot of this group, "Guinevere" by Alfred Lord Tennyson, a superb manuscript in a jeweled binding encrusted with pearls, diamonds, rubies and other gems, sold for \$176,400, a world record for a modern illuminated manuscript.

The top lot of the entire sale was William Shakespeare's *Second Folio*, first issue, containing John Milton's first appearance in print—a fine copy in red morocco, which realized \$ 277,200. Additional highlights include Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, which achieved \$226,800 selling 113% by low

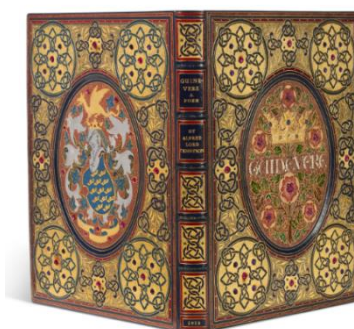
estimate; followed by Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Sign of Four*, inscribed, which fetched \$201,600, selling more than 10 times its low estimate of \$20,000; Machiavelli's *The Prince*, which fetched \$132,300, 189% of its low estimate; a rare first edition of *Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe achieved \$126,000; and *Life of Samuel Johnson*, inscribed by James Boswell which fetched \$119,700. It was also a great day for J.R.R. Tolkien. The "Rosetta Stone of Middle Earth," a remarkable letter in which Tolkien explains the development of runes and languages used in *The Hobbit*, 1943, sold for \$107,100, a world record for a letter by Tolkien.

- Browse full sale results [here](#).
- Press images can be downloaded [here](#).

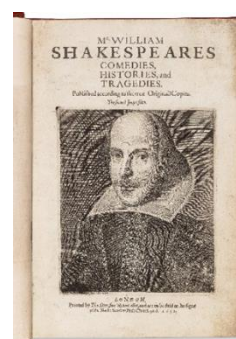
CHRISTIE'S EDWARD LEAHY | 6 OCTOBER | NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS



J.R.R. TOLKIEN
ON THE RUNES USED IN
THE HOBBIT, 1943
Price realized: \$107,100



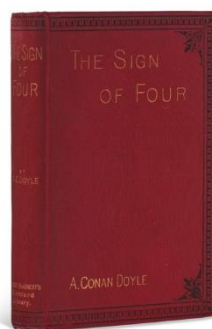
Guinevere by Alfred Lord Tennyson
ALBERTO SANGORSKI FOR
RIVIERE, 1913
Price realized: \$176,400



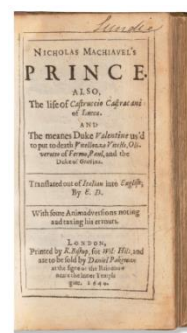
William Shakespeare
THE SECOND FOLIO,
1632
Price realized: \$277,200



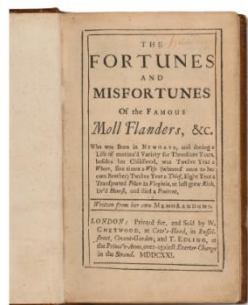
Mary Shelley
FRANKENSTEIN, 1818
Price realized: \$226,800



The Sign of Four, inscribed
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, 1890
Price realized: \$201,600



Machiavelli's The Prince
TRANSLATED BY EDWARD
DACRE, 1640
Price realized: \$132,300



Moll Flanders, the Litchfield-Borowitz-Manney copy
DANIEL DEFOE, 1722
Price realized: \$126,000



Life of Samuel Johnson, inscribed
JAMES BOSWELL, 1791-93
Price realized: \$119,700

PRESS CONTACT:

Edward Lewine | 212-636-2680 | elewine@christies.com

About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi*](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's *Shot Sage Blue Marilyn*](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*](#), 2019). Christie's is also recognised as a reference for prestigious single owner collections, having auctioned 8 of the 10 most important collections in history.

Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.

Recent innovations at Christie's include groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house ([Beeple's *Everydays*](#), March 2021), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

Browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at: www.christies.com or by downloading Christie's apps.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

 FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:



