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COLLECTIONS

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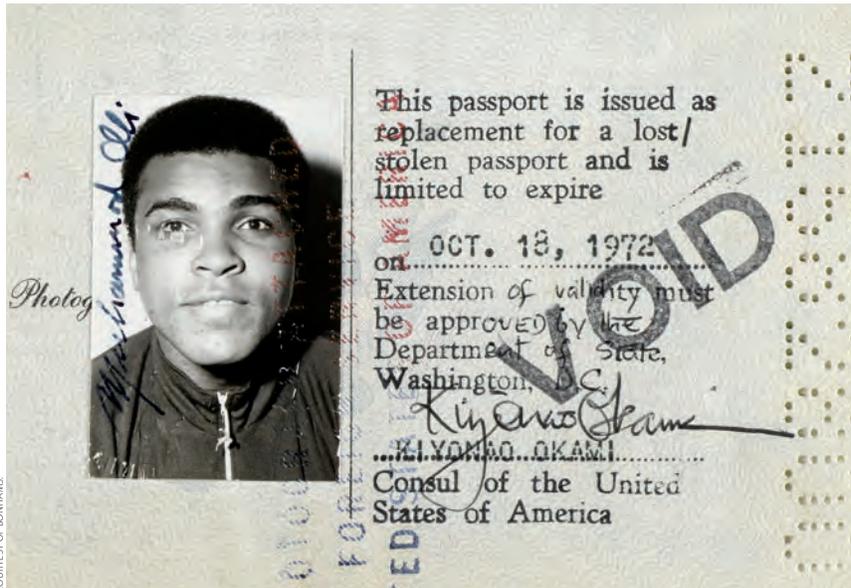
**Brontë's 200th
Birthday Bash**

**Five Centuries
of Women's
History at Duke**

THE ART OF

**Wallace
Stevens**





COURTESY OF BONHAMS

by Philip Jensen

Muhammad Ali's replacement passport, issued in Dublin on July 19, 1972. The boxer used this passport until March 1974, covering a period during which he traveled to eight professional fights.

Collectible Passports

This past June, within days of Muhammad Ali's passing, there was one last head-to-head: a battle of the boxing legend's passports, if you will. On June 8, Bonhams New York offered the three-time heavy-weight champion's "replacement passport," issued in Dublin on July 19, 1972, the day he defeated Alvin Lewis. Among the numerous stamps within are those from Ali's trip to Venezuela where he watched George Foreman fight Ken Norton in March 1974. In the other corner of the ring—offered on eBay through June 17—was the purported "missing passport," with stamps indicating its journeys to Japan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and finally, Ireland. The "replacement," estimated at \$25,000–35,000 failed to sell; the "missing" passport had reached upwards of \$16,000 but was mysteriously pulled on June 14, before the auction was scheduled to end.

Passport historian Tom Topol categorizes the Ali passports, and likewise the Brazilian passport belonging to international soccer star Pelé, which scored \$5,790 at Julien's

Auctions this past June, as "celebrity passports." Celebrity passports, as the name suggests, are those which sell primarily based on their subjects, rather than on their broader histories. Ali's passports document specific chapters in sports history, but are they coveted for their historical aspect or for Ali's fame? After all, passports featuring photos and signatures of celebrities would seem like a clear choice for collectors of autographs and personal memorabilia.

Collectors of "historical passports," according to Topol, who runs passport-collector.com, are more interested in passports that bear numerous or colorful stamps and visas, or those that show evidence of travel to rarely seen countries and smaller territories. Early passports, such as those issued before 1700 are "very difficult to find," he said, and passports used during times of war are especially desirable. Other points of interest include passports of Holocaust victims, ones which document special modes of transportation (e.g., a Zeppelin), diplomatic passports,

in brief

RING OF FIRE

The recent sale of Joan of Arc's silver-gilt ring at a London auction for £297,600 to the owner of a historical theme park in France caused a dispute over the exportation of historical artifacts.

NEEDLEPOINT MAP

An early eighteenth-century embroidered map of Washington, D.C., created by teenager Susanna Wilkinson Atkinson in 1807, sold for \$112,500 at Freeman's in April.

JEFFERSON'S HAIR

The only known lock of Thomas Jefferson's hair ever offered at auction—snipped by his doctor in 1826—fetched \$6,875 at Heritage Auctions in May.

PRINTING PAGODA

A three-tier turned wood pagoda, c. 770 CE, with an interior cavity containing a block-printed *dharani* called "the earliest authenticated physical example of printing," sold for \$20,000 at Christie's New York on June 16.

RARE CHRONOMETER DISCOVERED

The Newport Historical Society in Rhode Island recently identified in its collections an eighteenth-century chronometer made when several men were competing to produce an accurate marine timepiece.

VINTAGE BASEBALL CARDS

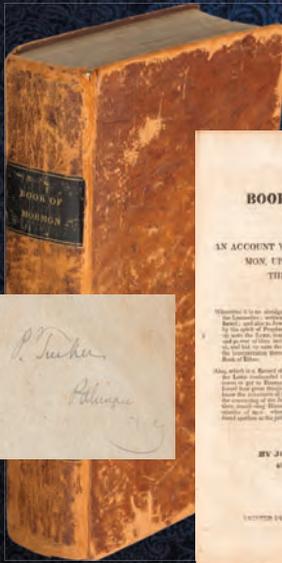
The Metropolitan Museum of Art's summer exhibition, *The Old Ball Game: New York Baseball, 1887-1977*, will include nearly four hundred baseball cards from historic home teams like the Brooklyn Bridegrooms.

D-DAY FLAG

This past June, Dutch art collector Bert Kreuk purchased the 48-star US flag that led the June 6, 1944 invasion for \$514,000, more than five times Heritage Auctions' pre-sale estimate.

RARE BOOKS AUCTIONS

September 15, 2016 | Dallas | Live & Online



Joseph Smith. *The Book of Mormon.*
 Palmyra: Printed by E. B. Grandin, for the Author, 1830. First edition. Copy belonging to Pomeroy Tucker, foreman of the press E. B. Grandin, signed by him with annotations throughout.

Estimate \$70,000

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"The only known passport existing of JFK in private hands," according to Heritage Auctions, which sold it in November 2015 for \$52,500. The 1951 passport was a "special VIP passport issued by Secretary of State Dean Acheson, bearing his seal and signature as well as that of the young congressman."

and those with historical significance, having been "issued by presidents, consular, issued abroad, [or] issued by significant diplomats."

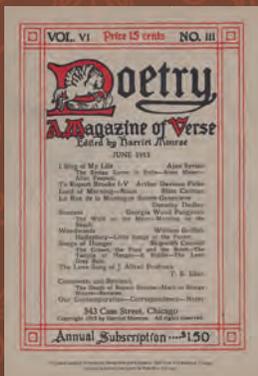
Keeping in mind these distinctions, other prominent examples of passports recently sold at auction include those of John F. Kennedy, who traveled in 1951 as a young congressman to Europe and the Near and Far East, and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy. The couple's passports were both sold by Heritage Auctions in 2015 for \$52,500 and \$45,000 respectively. Writer Franz Kafka's Czechoslovak passport (lacking his photo) was sold by Bonhams New York in 2015 for \$37,500. Rock star Joey Ramone's passport fetched \$12,454 at RR Auction in 2013. Perhaps most strikingly, Lou Gehrig's passport, which has been touted as the "most expensive" passport sold, realized \$262,900 in 2014 at Heritage Auctions.

As to the future of passport collecting, Topol believes that the trend is moving "sadly away from the historical quality documents to 'quantity' modern documents as they might be more easily available for beginners with not so deep pockets."

Although the focus of the field may be changing, the auction results above indicate that there is strong interest in passports as collectible documents. And as long as people continue to explore the past, paying homage to either history or the cult of personality, there should be some great discoveries out there waiting to be found. 📖

Philip Jensen is a freelance writer living in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Among his other works, he has also written the introduction to Ethel Archer's posthumously published collection of poems, *Shadow and Shine*.

JETT W. WHITEHEAD RARE BOOKS



The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock

ELIOT, T. S.
 CHICAGO: POETRY, VOL VI, NO 3, JUNE, 1915.

1st edition, original printed paperwraps (as issued). The first published appearance of Eliot's landmark poem that two years later became the title poem of his first book, *Prufrock And Other Observations* (Egoist, 1917). (Gallup C18.) Arguably the most important, and certainly the most scarce of the early Poetry magazine issues. Three small tears to rear cover, and one short closed tear to front cover, else fine. Overall a remarkable and lovely copy. Very scarce. Item #5940. Price: \$3,500.00



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