

Rare Collection Of Louis Burmeister World War II Photos At Jon Lee's October 20 Auction



Antique Japanese Katani/Tsurugi swords.

EAGLE BRIDGE, N.Y. — On Saturday, October 20, Jon Lee Auctions will sell approximately 250 lots in two sessions at its auction gallery at 4 Niles Road.

Session one, starting at 10:30 am, includes an important collection of original World War II photographs, which will be sold in about 55 lots.

The collection is from a single owner, Sargent Louis Burmeister, who was with the Fifth Marine Division in World War II. He was a military photographer who was among the three photographers at the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima. There has always been some controversy about this event because only Associated Press Joe Rosenthal's iconic image was used. The negatives from the two military photographers, George Burns and Burmeister, were "lost."

Other highlights of session one are an antique Japanese Edo period Katana sword and an antique Japanese Tsurugi straight sword — possibly

Tenth Century. It is almost certain that the Japanese flag and swords were taken after the battle.

Marine *Camera Magazine* of Japan, Camp Lejuene magazine belonging to Bernard Battistoni, 1945 *Life* Magazines and an Iwo Jima military magazines with several photos credited to Louis Burmeister and two boxes of World War II letters will be offered. There is a Japanese flag; grenade and sand taken from Iwo Jima; a box with a hand-drawn map, dates and places during the occupation of Japan.

There are two albums: the first contains 134 photos of the entire operation at Iwo Jima, from ships approaching the island with Mount Surabachi looming in the background, beaching at Iwo Jima, battle pictures of Marines with flame throwers and explosions, the surrender and the dedication at the cemetery for the fallen warriors of the Fifth Division. Most of these photographs are annotated on the back in Sgt Burmeister's hand with dates



Oil on board portrait from Armonk, N.Y., 1835.

and chilling statements. Some of the photos and statements are very gritty and may seem insensitive, but they were the thoughts of a man in the midst of war.

The Fifth Marines were the first to land at Iwo Jima and had far more casualties than any other troops. Entire companies of men lost their lives during the first days of battle. It is difficult to imagine taking these pictures in this extreme



Iwo Jima photo by Sgt Louis Burmeister, one from a large collection, many with handwritten dates and comments.

environment.

There is also a photographic print of the flag raising by Joe Rosenthal. The photographs may have some historical significance because most, if not all, were never published. The second album consists of about 195 photos of the occupation at Sasebo, Kyusho, Fukuoka, Nagasaki and Kyoto.

Burmeister took many pictures of the beauty of Japan and the destruction from bombing raids. Most notable are those of Nagasaki, of which there are 40. Burmeister was among the first American military to enter the atomic area of Nagasaki and take photographs. Most of these photos are annotated also with dates and thoughts, some

unsettling. There is also a photo of the bombing of Hiroshima from the air. There are some group photos where Burmeister identified his fellow Marines.

Session two will start at conclusion of session one and consists of antiques, sterling silver, artwork, an 1835 folk art painting on board of a woman from Armonk, N.Y., country items, glass and china, Asian, Pre-Columbian copper items, collection of Nineteenth Century Union Bakelite photo cases, early glass and china, antique Boch Delft, costume jewelry, old radios, folk art plus much more.

For additional information, www.jonleeauctions.com or 518-527-0531.

European Furniture & Decorative Arts —

Skinner To Collaborate With Phillip Thomas For Oct. 13 Sale



Interior designer Phillip Thomas.



Louis XIV-style ormolu-mounted boule work lacquered cabinet.

BOSTON — Skinner's European furniture and decorative arts sale on October 13 features interior designer Phillip Thomas, who was invited to collaborate on a series of vignettes, incorporating pieces from the auction.

The auction will include more than 600 lots of ceramics, silver and European furniture and decorative arts of the Eighteenth through the early Twentieth Centuries. The sale features a collection of more than 100 antique and modern glass paperweights and silver. Included are Grand Tour monuments from the private collection of philanthropist couple Frederic and Jean Sharf, who were

instrumental in shaping various collections at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston.

Alongside the sale, Thomas will lead a workshop on how to incorporate antiques in today's interiors along with a special preview of the sale on October 12 at 5:30 pm.

Thomas promotes the marriage of classical art and furniture with modern design, along with the philosophy that creating a home should be enjoyable for all. "What really keeps my eye engaged is when an interior incorporates pieces from various eras," he said. "I wanted to create vignettes that would demonstrate to the Skinner audience the wonderful variety

of pieces that could be easily translated into varied interiors, from the most traditional to the most contemporary."

Skinner is at 63 Park Plaza. For information, 617-350-5400 or www.skinnerinc.com.

NEW ORLEANS, LA. — The New Orleans Museum of Art presents, "Teaching Beyond Doctrine: Painting and Calligraphy by Zen Masters," on view to January 20, featuring 40 paintings and works of calligraphy by Zen masters of the Edo period (1615-1868), The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden are at 1 Collins Diboll Circle. For information, 504-658-4100 or www.noma.org.



Three pieces of Russian .875 silver-gilt cloisonne enamel, Moscow, late Nineteenth Century.