



Neal Auction Company
Auctioneers & Appraisers of Antiques & Fine Art
4038 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA, 70115
(504) 899-5329 • Fax (504) 897-3808 • www.nealauction.c

For Immediate Release
April 28, 2003

Contact: Neal Auction Company
Neal Alford, Sr. Vice-President
Katie Hovas, Vice President
(504) 899-5329

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Denise A. Estopinal
The Estopinal Group
(504) 269-9233
(504) 495-2564

Houmas House Plantation Rare Early Louisiana Collection Sought by State, Regional, & National Museums, Art Historians, Antique Dealers, Private Collectors

Extraordinary Louisiana Furnishings, Art & Artifacts On-Premises Auction

New Orleans, La. – The Houmas House Plantation’s rare early Louisiana antique and art collection is being sought by state, regional, and national museums, art historians, antique dealers, and private collectors. The extraordinary collection of antiquarian Dr. George B. Crozat will be auctioned on-premises of the historic 1700’s property on the Mississippi River near Burnside.

According to the Neal Auction Company Sr. Vice-President Neal Alford, this early Louisiana furnishings collection is a last of its kind in the state and possibly in the southern region of the United States.

Alford said, “The Louisiana furnishings, art and artifacts have attracted considerable state, regional and national interest among museums curators, historians, private collectors and antique dealers. We are especially mindful during the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase of the rich culture and traditions of our state. The Houmas House historic property and antique collection is an extraordinary example of the history of Louisiana that is still very much with us.”

Houmas House Plantation
Louisiana Collection
Page 2

When Dr. George B. Crozat died on October 4, 1966 the editors of the New Orleans *States-Item*, wrote a tribute to him on the editorial page. They described him as an “orthodontist of international repute,” and a “member of a pioneer French family,” and further adding, “he was also noted for restoration of old Louisiana homes, the most famous being Houmas House of Burnside Louisiana. His death is a loss to the community.”

Jessie J. Poesch, Professor of Art History at Newcomb College and Tulane University compares Dr. Crozat to the early collectors of American antiques including, Henry Francis Dupont who established Winterthur Museum in Delaware; Francis P. Garvan, whose collection was given to Yale University; Electra Havemeyer Webb, who created Shelburne Museum in Vermont; and Ima Hogg of Houston whose Bayou Bend collection is now a part of the Houston Museum of Art.

Professor Poesch said, “Dr. Crozat was truly a pioneer preservationist and collector of Louisiana furniture. In the years since Dr. Crozat’s death, thousands of visitors have enjoyed seeing Houmas House, walking under the oak trees, seeing the assemblage of furniture and artifacts he brought together.”

The plantation flourished for many years as a vast 20,000 acre sugar cane domain. Dr. George Crozat purchased Houmas House in 1940 and lovingly restored and furnished the residence with his collection of Early Louisiana and American Federal furniture, decorations, art and artifacts. Houmas House is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dr. Crozat’s spectacular collection is distinguished by an important assemblage of very rare early 19th century poster beds, unique group of Louisiana armoires which have been studied by various scholars and antiquarians for many years, historical paintings, prints and maps, important statuary including “Eve before the Fall” by Hiram Powers, and an important 1818 Casimir Carbonnier lifesize portrait of Major General Neil Campbell, who escorted Napoleon to his exile in Elba. Rare American mirrors, French decorative arts, and a renowned collection of early brass, china and utensils found in the early house are also among the items to be auctioned.

Houmas House Plantation
Louisiana Collection
Page 3

A preview exhibition will be held to benefit the Louisiana Preservation Alliance. The Louisiana Preservation Alliance promotes the preservation of historic resources and heritage of Louisiana through education, technical assistance, outreach and advocacy. The preview is scheduled Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday, May 13 through Thursday, May 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, May 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The on-premises auction will be Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. and Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m. Houmas House Plantation is located on River Road near Burnside

The Neal Auction Company will conduct the on-premises auction. The Neal Auction Company has achieved international recognition as the South's preeminent antique and auction gallery.