

LES COLLECTIONS



ARISTOPHIL

## THE ARISTOPHIL COLLECTIONS

18-22 NOVEMBER & 4 DECEMBER 2019

Paris • The 4 auction houses gathered under the name OVA (The Auction Houses for the Aristophil Collections - Aguttes, Artcurial, Drouot Estimations and Ader) are pleased to announce that the Autumn series of sales will take place from 18 to 22 November and later on 4 December 2019 at Drouot.

This new session includes 6 sales. The first auction gathers Anglo-Saxon and Latino-American autographs, manuscripts and rare books from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, exploring literary, artistic, historical and scientific productions. The second sale includes works by the greatest authors of French 19<sup>th</sup> century literature such as Lamartine, Flaubert, Stendhal, Dumas, Maupassant, Chateaubriand or Baudelaire. Victor Hugo will be particularly featured through his novels, poetry and his works for theater. Auctions n°24 and 25 consist of a single collection about the French Academy, gathered by six generations of the marquis de Flers family starting in 1830. It will be offered in its entirety, first by Drouot Estimations and then by Ader and will take visitors and bidders through candidacies, elections, receptions or even the creation of French dictionary across a fine selection of letters, manuscripts and documents. The last sale of the week will focus on History of France through its Kings, Emperors and Presidents from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. On 4 December, the 27<sup>th</sup> auction of the series will be dedicated to Jean Cocteau and organised by Drouot Estimations.

Since 20 December 2017, 21 auctions of the Aristophil Collections have been organised by the OVA (Aguttes, Artcurial, Drouot Estimations and Ader) at Drouot. Highlights include 3 lots selling above €1M among 11 lots that sold above €500K, 90 preemptions by museums and institutions and a total of sales that reaches €41M.

**SALE N°22 • AGUTTES • 18 NOVEMBER • 2PM**  
VARIOUS THEMES • Britannica | Americana

**SALE N°23 • ARTCURIAL • 19 NOVEMBER • 2PM**  
LITERATURE • French literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

**SALE N°24 • DROUOT ESTIMATIONS • 20 NOVEMBER • 2PM**  
LITERATURE • French Academy | Part I

**SALE N°25 • ADER • 21 NOVEMBER • 2PM**  
LITERATURE • French Academy | Part II

**SALE N°26 • AGUTTES • 22 NOVEMBER • 2PM**  
HISTORY • Great Historical Figures

**SALE N°27 • DROUOT ESTIMATIONS • 4 DECEMBER • 2PM**  
LITERATURE • Jean Cocteau

**Consultation on demand at each  
auction house until 9 November**

**Public exhibition - Drouot - Saleroom 9**  
Friday 15 November - 11am / 6pm  
Saturday 16 November - 11am / 6pm

And each morning prior to the  
afternoon's auction from Monday 18  
to Friday 22 November - 11am / 12pm

### PRESS CONTACTS

For auctions n° 22 and 24 to 27: Mathilde Fennebresque / +33 (0) 6 35 03 49 87 / mfennebresque@drouot.com

For auction n° 23: Anne-Laure Guérin / +33 (0) 6 33 96 25 96 / alguerin@artcurial.com

[www.collections-aristophil.com](http://www.collections-aristophil.com)



LES OPÉRATEURS DE VENTE POUR LES COLLECTIONS ARISTOPHIL

**DROUOT**  
PARIS

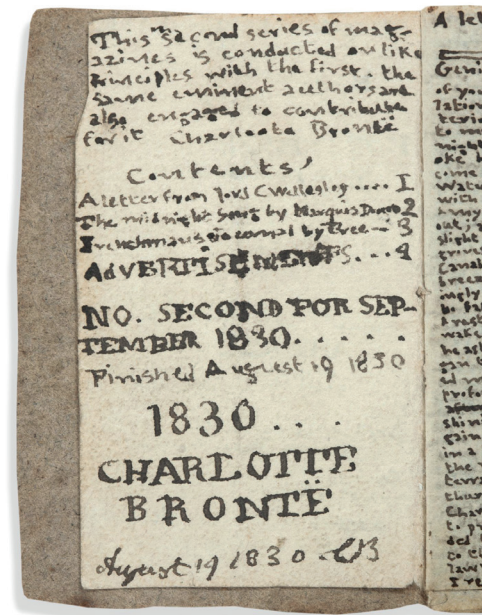
## BRITANNICA / AMERICANA

Monday 18 November at 2pm, Drouot, Paris | Experts: Ariane Adeline and Thierry Bodin

Leading the sale and probably the most moving piece, is the unpublished miniature manuscript that **Charlotte BRONTË (1816-1855)** wrote when she was only 14 years old (estimate: €600,000-800,000). This is a unique opportunity to acquire such a precious autograph piece of the origin of this genius novelist, as well as a glance at the children's games and the imaginary world of the "Glass Town" of the Brontë children.

Beyond language, a civilisation is also defined by its artistic and pictorial production. The sale includes important engraved books such as Lamoignon-Phillipps' magnificent copy of *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* [1754] by **Mark CATESBY (1683-1749)**, "the most famous comprehensive survey of the flora and fauna of south-eastern North America". This masterpiece, by the founder of American ornithology, is the most impressive survey about botany, zoology, climate and anthropology created during the colonial period, and the most important publication of illustrated natural history prior to Audubon (estimate: €40,000-50,000). Among this section that combines sciences and arts, the autograph manuscript of the episode entitled *The Lost Portfolio*, from **John James AUDUBON (1785-1851)**'s renowned *Ornithological Biography*, will be offered at an estimate of €4,000-6,000.

Sciences also include important highlights, with key names such as Isaac Newton, Samuel Morland, Thomas Edison, Charles Darwin and the incredible selection of letters by **Albert EINSTEIN (1879-1955)** including a major one on the theory of relativity sent to Richard de Baillhache in 1911 (estimate: €10,000-15,000).



**Charlotte BRONTË (1816-1855)**  
Autograph manuscript signed  
« CHARLOTTE BRONTË »,  
*Second Series of The Young Men's  
Magazines...*, August 1830  
Estimate: €600,000-800,000

## SALE N°23 • LITERATURE

## ARTCURIAL

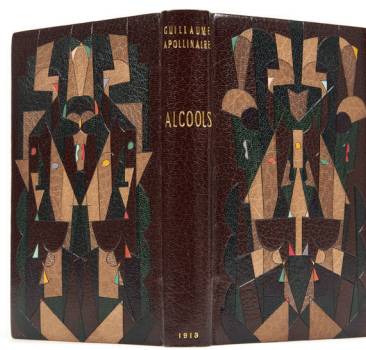
FRENCH LITERATURE OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

Tuesday 19 November at 2pm, Drouot, Paris | Specialist: Frédéric Harnisch

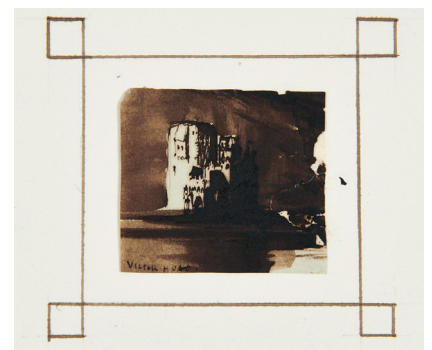
Highlighting Artcurial's sale is a 1913 original edition of *Alcools. Poems.* by **Guillaume APOLLINAIRE (1880-1918)**. The writer and poet signed and sent it to his friend and novelist Frédéric Boutet. It is illustrated with a drawing by Louis Marcoussis and presented in a stunning cubist binding by Paul Bonet. An original drawing by **Victor HUGO (1802-1885)** from an album of drawings and manuscripts dated circa 1840-50 and a sketch by French painter **Eugène DELACROIX (1798-1863)** will also be offered. The latter drawing was executed circa 1832-1845 for Moroccan Sultan Moulay Abd-er-Rahman and represents his palace of Meknes, surrounded by his guard and main officers. A signed autograph poem by **Guy de MAUPASSANT (1850-1893)** is featured on the back of an engraved ivory and silk screen, addressed to "A Madame la Comtesse Potocka" (estimate: €10,000-15,000) and a 34-letter correspondence between Maupassant and **Gustave FLAUBERT (1821-1880)** sent from 1870 to 1880 is estimated at €50,000-70,000.



**Eugène DELACROIX (1798-1863)**  
Study for Moulay Abd-er-Rahman, Sultan of  
Morocco, surrounded by his guard  
and main officers [c. 1832-1845]  
Estimate: €12,000-15,000



**Guillaume APOLLINAIRE (1880-1918)**  
*Alcools. Poèmes* (1898-1913), Paris,  
Mercure de France - Original edition  
Cubist binding by Paul Bonet  
Estimate: €25,000-35,000



**Victor HUGO (1802-1885)**  
Original drawing mounted with an  
album of drawings and manuscripts,  
composed circa 1840-1850  
Estimate: €15,000-20,000

FRENCH ACADEMY | PART 1

Wednesday 20 November at 2pm, Drouot, Paris | Expert: Thierry Bodin

FRENCH ACADEMY | PART 2

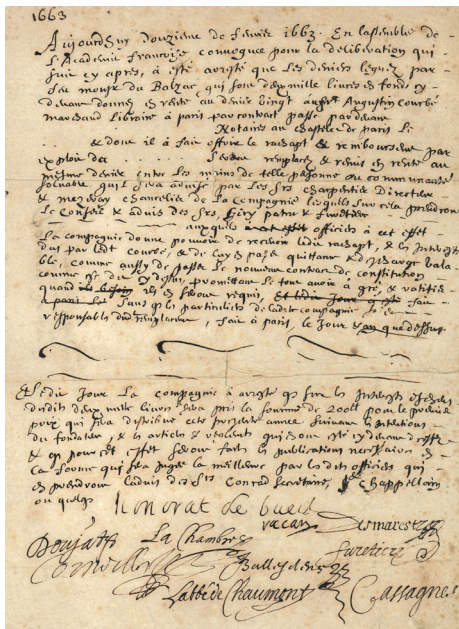
Thursday 21 November at 2pm, Drouot, Paris | Expert: Thierry Bodin

DROUOT ESTIMATIONS



The sales Drouot Estimations and Ader will offer consist of a single collection on French Academy, gathered by six generations of the marquis de Flers family. Started around 1830 by Hyacinthe Pellevé de La Motte-Ango, marquis de Flers (1803-1866), the collection was substantially enriched by his son Camille, the historian of King Louis-Philippe. When Camille passed, the contents gathered until then were given to his brother Raoul (1846-1907); whom transmitted it to his son Robert de Flers (1872-1927), famous dramatic actor, editor-in-chief of Le Figaro and who himself, joined the French Academy in 1920. The collection was continued by his son François (1902-1986), and was finalised by his grand son, the late Philippe de Flers (1927-2012), who nearly doubled its content, filling in the blanks or completing it with relevant documents, including some about non-members of the Academy, unlucky candidates, as well as its enemies.

The entire collection was acquired in 2009 by Aristophil and in 2010, book editor Gallimard published and illustrated the highlights of it. The collection includes over 7,000 letters, manuscripts and documents and will always remain the greatest collection ever assembled on this theme.



The first part, dispersed by Drouot Estimations, will tell the story of the Academy, from its foundation in 1634 to its abolition in 1793 during the Revolution. At first, men of letters gathered informally around Valentin Conrart (1603-1675), but with the support of Cardinal de Richelieu, these meetings took a more official turn. Extremely rare autographs by about thirty of the founding members are presented in the sale. After a long wandering, the Academy and its forty seats were welcomed by Colbert at the Louvre. Then the motto "To Immortality" was born. Around these men of letters, the Academy included scholars, prelates, men of the church and of the state. Nearly all the great writers of the time were welcomed, from Corneille to Voltaire. But an order issued on 8 August 1793 by the National Convention abolished the French Academy, along with any "literary societies licensed by the Nation".

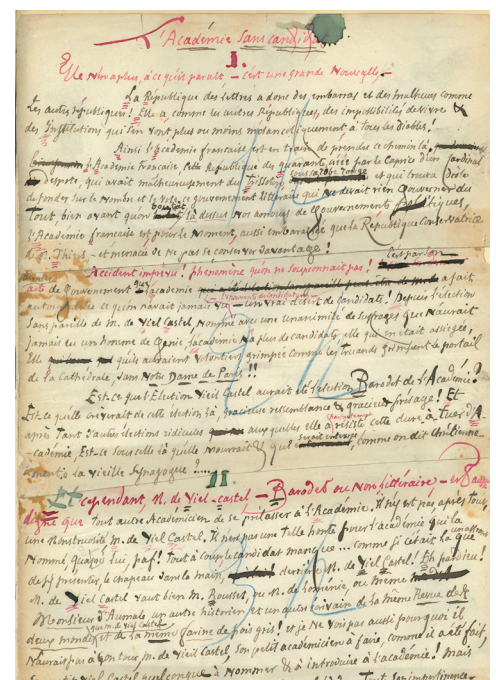
Pierre CORNEILLE (1606-1684)

Piece signed « Corneille », and signed by 8 other academicians in Paris, on 12 February 1663 regarding Guez De Balzac's legacy to found a Price Estimate: €20,000-25,000

Ader's auction will focus on the Academy's rebirth, first by founding the National Institute in 1795 and its literature and applied arts class and its reorganisation in 1803 with the linguistic and French literature class. By Royal order, the institution takes its name back on 21 March 1816 in exchange for excluding 11 members. Collectors and connoisseurs will be able to live through its activities until the 1980's, including with the forgiven speech Chateaubriand still gave when a foreign member – Julien Green – was elected, the first woman to join – Marguerite Yourcenar –, as well as the unsuccessful candidacies of Balzac, Beaudelaire and Zola, or even the sometimes fierce attacks against the institution, such as Barbey d'Aurevilly's. A fascinating correspondence by Marcel Proust to Robert de Flers, who where in school together and remained close friends, will also be offered.

Jules BARBEY D'AUREVILLY (1808-1889)

Autograph manuscript signed « J. Barbey d'Aurevilly », L'Académie sans candidats, a controversial article against the French Academy published in Le Gaulois on 19 May 1873 Estimate: €5,000-6,000



## GREAT HISTORICAL FIGURES

Friday 22 November at 2pm, Drouot, Paris | Expert: Thierry Bodin

**Louis XIV (1638-1715)**

Autograph letter signed  
« Louis », Marly 11 Mai 1711 to  
the Duke of VENDÔME  
Estimate: €12,000-15,000

Closing the week of sales, the 'History' auction by Aguttes will take visitors through France's past. A letter signed on 30 January 1410 by King **Charles VI (1368-1422)** orders the payment to be made to the cupbearer he just dismissed (estimate: €7,000-8,000) as well as letters by Kings Henry II, Henry III, Henry IV, François I<sup>st</sup> and **Louis XIV (1638-1715)** who sent a moving letter to the Duke of Vendôme after the Dauphin Louis succumbed to smallpox on 14 April 1711.

**Napoléon I<sup>st</sup> (1769-1821)** is the main character of this catalogue. An important ensemble of manuscripts the former Emperor dictated and edited when in Sainte-Hélène (estimate: €40,000-50,000), an autograph project for Ajaccio's defence (€20,000-25,000) will be offered, as well as the manuscript notes Napoléon made to the treaty written by **General Antoine, baron of Jomini (1779-1869)** – working for Russia – correcting how several battles were described (estimate: €8,000-12,000).

The period of Empire is also represented through documents by Joséphine de Beauharnais, Letizia Bonaparte, the Général Henri Bertrand, Claude-Joseph or Rouget de Lisle, etc. and contemporary history is told through letters of politicians such as Clémenceau, Schoelcher or Charles de Gaulle.

## SALE N°27 · LITERATURE

DROUOT  
ESTIMATION

## JEAN COCTEAU

Wednesday 4 December at 2pm, Drouot, Paris | Expert: Thierry Bodin

The sale dedicated to **Jean COCTEAU (1889-1964)** gathers numerous manuscripts, drawings, correspondences and books, most of which are from the collection of Carole Weisweiler. Cocteau's multiple facets are represented through various unpublished works. From the poet, there is the manuscript of his first book *La Lampe d'Aladin* (1909) and *Appogiatures* (1952); from the dramatist, there is the impressive illustrated manuscript of *Parents terribles*; from the intimist writer, there is *La Difficulté d'être*. Additional works unveil the film director and the artist (self portraits, portraits of his friends such as Apollinaire and Max Jacob) that Cocteau was. Original editions and correspondences are also featured in the sale, including love letters to Natalie Paley or the ones received by Cocteau from some of his colleagues.

**Jean COCTEAU (1889-1964)***Les Parents terribles*

Complete autograph manuscript  
Montargis, 6am in the morning  
of 22 February 1938

**Public exhibition – Drouot – Saleroom 4**

Tuesday 3 December – 11am / 6pm  
Wednesday 4 December – 11am / 12pm

**About OVA [The Auction Houses for the Aristophil Collections]**

Following two court orders, auction house Aguttes has carried out various logistical operations concerning the transfer, sorting, inventory-taking and conservation of works from the Aristophil collections. It then restored these works to their owners. Aguttes has also proposed a strategic plan for organising auctions in the coming years. As a result, part of the Aristophil Collections (assets belonging to the Aristophil company, now in receivership) will be dispersed in legal sales, while the rest (belonging to single owners or joint owners) will be sold at public auction.

The contents of public auctions has been entrusted to four auction houses: Aguttes, Artcurial, Drouot Estimations and Ader-Nordmann. Aguttes will act as the coordinator for sales of jointly-owned pieces and will also organise the legal sales and auctions of assets belonging to single owners.