

USA - Boston

Richard Miles, 617-771-1212

rmiles@AcumenStrategies.com

Europe - Lausanne

Christine Urfer, +41 78 619 05 00

christine@pur-pr.com

Chateau d'Hauteville Auction
Includes *The Americana Collection*,
Revolutionary War of 1812 & Civil War Antiques



Geneva, Switzerland, August 30, 2015 –The Chateau d'Hauteville estate sale of items representing 250 years of American and European family history -- valued at over \$1 million -- will be Friday and Saturday September 11 and 12. Pre-sale viewing will be Friday through Sunday, September 4 through 6.

The majestic Swiss Hauteville Manor overlooking Lake Geneva has been the home of the Grand d'Hauteville family of Barons since its 18th century construction. The auction is of items collected by generations of Hauteville families includes: furniture, paintings, objets d'art, textiles, American Union and Confederate military uniforms, costumes, jewellery, silver, antiquarian books, US Presidential photographs, and many other valuables.

Key dates are:

- **Public viewing:** Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 4, 5 and 6, from noon until 7 pm
- **Public sale:** Friday and Saturday, Sept. 11 and 12

Full catalogue: <http://www.swissauction.ch>

YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTlfoKWDY0w>

High-res images: http://ftp.hoteldesventes.ch/public/HDV_GVA_Photos_Hauteville_2015/

The 18th century Hauteville mansion is considered among the most beautiful in Switzerland, and reigns over the 70-plus acre property with vast terraces and gardens overlooking Lake Geneva in St-Légier, above Vevey, in Switzerland

The \$1 million collection -- including upwards to \$300,000 of American objects -- will be sold without a reserve (no minimum sale price) rendering them accessible to all potential buyers.

"We are honoured to be able to open the doors of Hauteville Manor to the public and to organise this historic sale" stated Bernard Piguet, the CEO and principal auctioneer of Hotel des Ventes of Geneva. "It is actually very rare these days to find such a house that still contains the personal properties that represent the lives of its owners during the last 250 years ago".

Viewing Auction Items and The Mansion

For the first time since its construction in 1760, Hauteville Manor along with its original furniture and fittings, will be open to the public preceding the sale on September 4, 5 and 6, 2015.

Visitors will have access to most of the Manor's 30 rooms, where they can envision the owners' regal lives – browsing from reception rooms to dressing rooms, the studies and bedrooms, the extensive library, and the cellars and unique hiding places.

On auction and viewing dates guests also will be able to examine the exceptional Italian-style baroque fresco paintings -- by the Petrini brothers of Lugano -- that adorn the 23-foot high walls of the great hall.

Visitors may then continue outside along the French style terraces overlooking Lake Geneva.

The Grand d'Hauteville Family Collection To Be Offered at Auction

All the objects presented have figured in the lives of this influential and affluent family of chatelaines, politicians, financiers, soldiers and farmers.

In addition to the useful objects one would expect in such a mansion of this period, medals, monarchical souvenirs for services rendered, antiquities from journeys abroad, personal military effects from the American Civil War and many other collectables were discovered and will be sold.



The Grand d'Hauteville American Heroes

Certain members of the American branch of the Grand d'Hauteville family featured significantly in two major events in the history of the United States – in the American Revolutionary War of 1812 and the Civil War.

An unexpected discovery at the manor was that of a medal belonging to General Alexander Macomb, ancestor of the Grand d'Hauteville, who was a hero at the Battle of Plattsburgh, New York.

The Plattsburgh Battle victory on September 11, 1814, marked a turning point in the country's war of independence. General Macomb was victorious with only 1,500 American soldiers pitted against 10,000 British forces, a win that was credited to his remarkable military strategies.

Before being promoted to Commanding General of the United States Army, Congress awarded General Macomb a unique gold medal, weighing 248g, in recognition of his achievement Estimated value of \$20,000 - 30,000. At about this time General Philip Kearny, a member of the d'Hauteville family, had returned from serving in the French cavalry in Algiers and was named aide-de-camp for General Macomb.

Military Uniforms, Period Attire and Flags

Captain Frédéric Sears Grand d'Hauteville (1838-1918) served in the Union Army during the American Civil War (1861-1865). His entire uniform (Estimated value: \$5,000 - 8,000) was discovered in a wardrobe in the Manor's extensive loft. It had been carefully wrapped and labelled using American newspapers dated 1945, and nothing had been touched for almost 70 years!

The bicorne hat box (Estimated value: \$1,000 - 1,500) also hid two small silk Union flags, both carrying 13 stars (Estimated value: \$800 - 1,200).

Frédéric Sears Grand d'Hauteville also returned home to the Manor with the spoils of war: a very large and rare Confederation Flag from 1861 (Estimated value: \$20,000 - 30,000).



Photos of Presidents and Generals

An extremely rare album created and annotated by Frédéric Sears Grand d'Hauteville in 1862 contains 158 original photographs of key figures in the American Civil War

(Estimated value: \$4,000 - 6,000) including President Abraham Lincoln, General Ulysses S. Grant, the secessionist President Jefferson Davis, Confederate General Robert E. Lee, among others.

Official Documents

Also featuring in The Americana Collection are documents and diplomas of the Grand d'Hauteville family signed by hand by six American Presidents from George Washington to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Silver, Crystal and Porcelain

Over 500 pieces of silver -- evidence of the luxurious parties given at Hauteville -- and porcelain and crystal wares by Meissen, Sèvres, Nyon and Baccarat attest to the elaborate galas given at the estate.

Paintings, Prints and Drawings

Outstanding paintings and furniture include:

- Family portrait of Pierre-Philippe Cannac by Jean-Etienne Liotard (1702-1789) (Estimated value: \$20,000 - 30,000);
- Chinese lacquer chest of drawers from the Louis XVI period (Estimated value: \$30,000 - 50,000); and
- Set of 4 Louis XVI period gilt bronze wall lights (Estimated value: \$15,000 - 20,000), which come from the personal home of Rodolphe-Ferdinand Grand in Paris.

Additional offerings include prints and drawings depicting the Manor and the region, which were created during the 18th and 19th centuries, and show the evolution through the years of the area and the shores of Lake Geneva.

Antique Books

The manor's extensive library of over 4,000 works with Cannac and Grand d'Hauteville bookplates and dating from the 17th to 19th centuries depict voyages and explorations of the period. Among the intriguing subjects covered in the books are creating economical self-sufficiency in agriculture, botany, beekeeping, silkworm farming and vine growing.



Antique Fine Jewellery

The jewellery section offers approximately 80 lots, including numerous armorial and historical pieces like the ornamental hair jewellery -- "guardians of the memory of loved ones" -- mentioned by Aimée Grand d'Hauteville in her will.

As with all aristocratic families, the Grand d'Hauteville family conserved fine antique jewellery.

- Two delicate 19th century sets of jewellery in their original cases that belonged to Aimée Grand d'Hauteville (1791-1855), Daniel's daughter. One consists of a necklace, two bracelets, a pair of drop earrings and a hair combe that comprise a gold set with natural pearls and 33 peridots (Estimated value: \$12,000 - 18,000).
- For collectors of precious stones, the sale includes a three-carat diamond cut in a way that was typical of the 18th and 19th centuries (Estimated value: \$12,000 - 18,000) and an Art Deco ring set with an untreated Colombian emerald.



Prestigious Recognition

With close relations among key influential figures in Europe, Daniel of the Grand d'Hauteville family received the prestigious title of Knight of the Order of Vasa (Estimated value: \$1,000 - 1,500). The recognition was reliquary given by Pope Pius VII, and contains a fragment of the Holy Cross (Estimated value: \$400 - 600).

Grand Tour of Europe Keepsakes

A "Grand Tour" during the late 18th and early 19th centuries was a term used for a journey made across Europe by the aristocracy and the d'Hauteville family was no different. During such

explorations, they collected many souvenirs and include such as a rare items as...

- Urbino majolica charger dated 1544 (Estimated value: \$8,000 - 12,000),
- Portrait miniature of Louis XVIII set in a tortoiseshell box (Estimated value: \$1,000 - 1,500), and
- Shards of gilt mosaics collected in 1820 from the Saint Mark's Basilica in Venice and fragments of the frescos from Herculaneum and Pompeii (Estimated value: \$ 500 - 800).

Antique Textiles and Clothing

Antique textiles and period clothing of the period were also discovered in the manor. The meticulous inventory performed by Hôtel des Ventes uncovered

- Important collection of 18th century 'habits à la française,' and
- Collection of waistcoats that illustrates the grand style of this essential item of clothing from the Louis XV period to the French Restoration.

Specialists at the Hôtel des Ventes auction house also discovered an important collection of period shoes, coats and numerous 19th century dresses. These wares attest to the constant evolution in fashion -- with certain outfits were reused as costumes for the theatrical performances organised at the manor.

For additional information about the viewing and sale, please contact either Bernard Piguet, CEO and principal auctioneer of the Hotel des Ventes, or his media contact Ms. Christine Urfer, who are noted below.

Sale of the Estate

Additionally, the Hauteville Chateau and its surrounding 70+/- acres are also being offered for sale.

For all additional information

Bernard Piguet, CEO and Principal Auctioneer
bpiguet@swissauction.ch
+41 22 320 11 77

Fanny Moncorgé
fmoncorge@swissauction.ch

USA media contact

Richard Miles, Acumen - Boston
617-771-1212
rmiles@AcumenStrategies.com

European media contact

Christine Urfer
+41 78 619 05 00
christine@pur-pr.com
Lausanne, Switzerland

- end -