



THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Art Auction Sources



Going Once... Going Twice... Sold!

This bibliography was compiled by the Cleveland Museum of Art's Ingalls Library reference staff to accompany a series of three workshops on the auction market (fine arts, decorative arts, and prints and photographs) presented at the Library. Given the scope and depth of the Library's collection, only the most important titles, databases, and websites are included. We hope this bibliography will help you map a methodology for researching objects.

For a history of the auction market, consult the sources listed below as well as the *Grove Dictionary of Art* entry under "Auction." The Ingalls Library subscribes to many bibliographic databases which provide access to journal articles about auctions, auction houses, etc.

The bibliography is divided into eight sections:

- Books about Auction Houses and the Auction Market
- Art Sales Sources for the Fine Arts
- Decorative and Applied Arts
- Prints
- Photographs
- Auction House Publications and Websites
- Cleveland Auction Houses
- Auction Price Databases

Books about Auction Houses and the Auction Market

Faith, Nicholas. *Sold: The Revolution in the Art Market*. London: Hamish Hamilton, 1985.

HF5477 .G74 S67 1985

A profile of Sotheby's under the dynamic leadership of Peter C. Wilson, the famous auctioneer, that provides an interesting glimpse into the world of selling and collecting works of art.

Lacey, Robert. *Sotheby's: Bidding for Class*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1998.

HF5477 .G74 G675 1998

A gossipy history of the famous auction house.

McNulty, Tom. *Art Market Research: A Guide to Methods and Sources*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2006.

N5200 .M39 2006

"From the gallery to the auction house, this book explores the major venues of art acquisition. It introduces basic terminology for the art collector and covers the basics of artwork analysis and documentation, including a concise overview of database researching methods and online resources."

Marquis, Alice Goldfarb. *The Art Biz: The Covert World of Collectors, Dealers, Auction Houses, Museums, and Critics*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1991.

N8600 .M38 1991

"This is an impassioned, whistle-blowing essay on the outrageous glitz biz of the contemporary New York art scene."

Mason, Christopher. *The Art of the Steal: Inside the Sotheby's—Christie's Auction House Scandal*. New York: G. P. Putman's Sons, 2004.

HF5477 .G74 S6746 2004

An account of the price-fixing collusion between the two auction houses.

Reitlinger, Gerald. *The Economics of Taste*. London: Barie and Rockliffe, 1961–70. N 8675 .R44 1961 vols. 1–3.

A classic history of the international art auction market.

Smith, Charles W. *Auctions! The Social Construction of Value*. New York: Free Press; London: Collier Macmillan, 1989. HF5476 .S56 1989

“[S]ociologist Charles Smith reveals [that] the mechanical law of supply and demand rarely governs the auction process. Based on years of participation in and observation of different types of auctions and interviews with hundreds of auctioneers, Smith gives us not only a theoretical understanding of the auction process but the sights and sounds as well.”

Watson, Peter. *From Manet to Manhattan: The Rise of the Modern Art Market*. New York: Random House, 1992. N6447 .W3 1992

A history of the modern auction market.

———. *Sotheby's: Inside Story*. London: Bloomsbury, 1997. N8620 .W37 1997

An undercover account in illegal trafficking in antiquities that ultimately find their way to the auction market.

Wooley, Robert. *Going Once: A Memoir of Art, Society, and Charity*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995. N8604 .W66 A3 1995

An interesting and sometimes very funny profile of the auction market by auctioneer and former head of Sotheby's decorative arts department.

Art Sales Sources for the Fine Arts

Art Sales Catalogues. Zug: IDC, 1986–. REF A99 L95a Microform
Based on Lugt's *Répertoire des Catalogues de Ventes*. . . . Ingalls Library owns parts 1 (1600–1825) and 2 (1826–60).

Christie's London. *Microfiche Collection of All Objects Sold at Christie's*. London: Christie's, 1980.

REF Microfilm Collection

Useful for the images, but the textual information is very uneven.

Frederickson, Burton B. *The Index of Paintings Sold in the British Isles during the Nineteenth Century*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1988–.

REF ND47 .I5 1988

An important reference source for auctions of paintings in the British Isles. The explanatory text is a crash course in understanding auctions, auctioneers, auction catalogues, and the development of taste, collecting, and market conditions in 19th-century England and the Continent.

Fredericksen, Burton B., and Benjamin Peronnet. *Répertoire des Tableaux Vendus en France au XIXe siècle*. [Los Angeles]: Provenance Index of the Getty Information Institute, 1998–.

REF ND47 .R46 1997

Covers auctions of paintings in France during the 19th century.

Frick Art Reference Library. *Frick Art Reference Library Sales Catalogue Index*. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1992.

REF N8602 .F75 1992

An important source providing access to 60,000 auction sales, including catalogues, many of them owned only by the Frick, covering the years 1766 to 1992.

Graves, Algernon. *Art Sales from Early in the Eighteenth Century to Early in the Twentieth Century*. London: A. Graves, 1918–21; Reprinted: New York: Burt Franklin, 1979.

REF N8675 .G72 vols. 1–3

A review of major British sales covering almost two hundred years; includes important provenance information.

Lancour, Harold. *American Art Auction Catalogues, 1785–1942; A Union List*. New York: New York Public Library, 1944.

REF Z5939 .A1 L3

The counterpart to Lugt; records American sales.

Lugt, Frits. *Répertoire des Catalogues de Ventes Publiques, Interessant l'art ou la curiosité, tableaux, dessins. . .* La Haye: M. Nijhoff, 1938–87.

REF N8650 .L8 vols. 1–4

The most important sales source covering the years 1600–1925 and a primary source for early art sales.

Mireur, Hippolyte. *Dictionnaire des Ventes d'Art faites en France et à l'Etranger pendant des XVIII et XIX siècles. . .* Paris: Maison d'Éditions d'œuvres Artistiques, Chez de Vincenti, 1911–12.

REF N8675 .M6 1911

The basic source for 18th- and 19th-century French sales. Especially important for its inclusion of obscure artists.

Redford, George. *Art Sales: A History of Sales of Pictures and Other Works of Art*. London: Bradbury, Agnew, 1888.

REF N8675 .R4 1888 vols. 1–2

An historical account of important British sales from 1628 to 1887 with interesting articles on important collections that were auctioned. It also has a continuation

that covers the years 1887–1918. One of the most important resources for retrospective sales.

Sotheby's London. *Sales Catalogue Collection*. Ann Arbor: Xerox University Microfilms and Sotheby, Parke-Bernet, 1973.

REF Microfilm Collection

Includes more than 15,000 catalogues issued by Sotheby's London from 1734 to 1970. Filmed from the auctioneers' annotated copies.

Decorative and Applied Arts

Ames, Kenneth L., and Gerald W. R. Ward. *Decorative Arts and Household Furnishings in America, 1650–1920: An Annotated Bibliography*. Winterthur, DE: Winterthur Museum, 1989.

REF Z5956. D3 D43 1989

Provides access and orientation to the study of household furnishings used in the United States from the 17th century to the early 20th century and designed for use by the general public, collectors, and college and university students. Full annotations and chapter introductions are by subject specialists. Introduction by Ames surveys the state of current scholarship in the field.

Antique Trader Antiques & Collectibles, 2007 Price Guide. Iola, WI: Krause Publications, 2006.

REF NK1125 .A594 2007

“America's #1 selling price guide” is arranged by subject, with color illustrations, and includes a contributor directory. Prices reflect a cross section of what is bought and sold each year.

Boger, Louise Ade, and H. Batterson. *Dictionary of Antiques and the Decorative Arts, a Book of Reference for Glass, Furniture, Ceramics. . . .* New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1967.

REF NK30 .B57 1967

A classic in the field. Line drawings, photographs, and some plates accompany alphabetically arranged entries. A classified list of subjects and terms, related within particular fields of research and grouped together, sets this volume apart. Includes bibliography and supplement.

Bronner, Simon J., ed. *American Folk Art: A Guide to Sources.* New York: Garland, 1984.

REF Z5956. F6 A53 1984

Bibliography of folk art studies in America arranged by topic, with annotations and introductory essays by specialist contributors. Introduction traces the history of folk art scholarship from its origins to the present.

Campbell, Gordon. *The Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

REF NK28. G76 2006

Two-volume alphabetical encyclopedia with bibliography. Provides design history of generic objects as well as biographies of designers and manufacturers; defines techniques and materials and profiles major production cities.

Coulson, Anthony J. *A Bibliography of Design in Britain 1851–1970.* London: Design Council, 1979.

NK1443.C68 1979

Broadly based introductory bibliography to “the more accessible works” in the field, including both contemporary and later writings on designers, exhibitions, competitions, and technological developments. Includes some periodical articles. The chapter on international exhibitions and guides is exceptional.

De Winter, Patrick. *European Decorative Arts, 1400–1600: An Annotated Bibliography.* Boston: G. K. Hall, 1988.

REF Z5956.D3 D38 1988

“In this volume have been gathered over twenty-two hundred annotated references to selected published material dealing with the various types of furnishings made for the church, the palace, and the home, as well as objects made for personal adornment, produced in Europe during the time that spans the late Gothic and Renaissance periods.” Authoritative, comprehensive, well-organized, and fully annotated.

Ehresman, Donald. *Applied and Decorative Arts: A Bibliographic Guide.* 2nd ed. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1993.

REF Z5956.A68 E47 1993

Three chapters on type (general, ornament, folk) are followed by subjects from arms to wallpaper, each having an annotated list of bibliographies, dictionaries, general history, and geographic specific history. Included are monographs, price guides, and major exhibition and museum catalogs. “See also” references are valuable.

Maloney, David J., Jr. *Maloney's Antiques and Collectibles Resource Directory.* 4th ed. Dubuque, IA: Antique Trader, 1997.

REF NK1127 .M36 1997

Originally published as *Collector's Information Clearinghouse Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory.* Arranged by subject, in-trade and collections, museums, libraries, periodicals, and services.

Miller's Antiques Price Guide 2007. London: Octopus Publishing Group, 2006.

REF NK1133 .M53 2007

Lavishly illustrated price guide to antiques includes a useful directory of experts. Contents list guides the reader to subjects. Though published in England, prices are listed in U.S. dollar values.

Miller's Collectibles Price Guide 2007. London: Octopus Publishing Group, 2006.
REF NK1125 .A395

A companion guide to *Miller's Antiques* that covers advertising to watches, with full-color illustrations and U.S. dollar values.

Solon, Louis M. *Ceramic Literature: An Analytical Index to all Works Published in all Languages on the History and Technology of the Ceramic Art*. . . . London: C. Griffin, 1910.
REF TP785.C4 1910

An excellent bibliography and biography for 19th-century ceramic art, annotated with incredible detail. International in scope from Sèvres to stoves, the first part is alphabetical by author; the second part is arranged by country and subject. Nearly a century old, it contains long-lost information.

Trench, Lucy, ed. *Materials & Techniques in the Decorative Arts: An Illustrated Dictionary*. London: John Murray, 2000.
REF NK30 .M38 2000

Arranged in alphabetical order by material (alabaster) to technique (wrigglework), this work also includes illustrations of craftsmanship and tools. Period engravings and modern photographs enhance descriptions. An essential work.

Wertkin, Gerard C. *Encyclopedia of American Folk Art*. New York: Routledge, 2004.
REF NK805 .E6 2004

More than just folk art, this extensive reference tool contains artist, author, and collector biographies, subject entries, excellent bibliography, and cross references. Arranged alphabetically.

Prints

Griffiths, Antony. *Prints and Printmaking: An Introduction to the History and Techniques*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1996.
PSR NE400 .G74 1996

A fully revised second edition of the highly regarded 1980s edition and extraordinary source for basic information regarding the printmaker's technique. Each chapter is dedicated to a different method of printing. Extensive examples illustrate the details of each style. The book closes with a short bibliography, a detailed glossary, and a thorough index.

Ludman, Joan. *Fine Print References: A Selected Bibliography of Print-Related Literature*. Millwood, NY: Kraus International Publications, 1982.
REF Z5947.A3 L82

An unparalleled bibliography dividing the scholarship on printmaking into nine chapters, including connoisseurship, history, medium and technique, types of collections, reference works, and subject matter. These distinctions are further subdivided to make it more useful. The volume closes with two indexes, one for authors, the other for museums and galleries.

The Print Club of Cleveland, 1919–1969. Cleveland: [1969].

CMA REF NE1 .P6625 1969

The Print Club of Cleveland, 1969–1994. Cleveland: Print Club, 1994.

CMA REF NE1 .P6625 1994

No CMA bibliography on print resources would be complete without a reference to the Print Club of Cleveland. These two volumes are an excellent place to begin. Further information on the Print Club is also available in Ingalls Library's institutional clipping files.

Riggs, Timothy A. *The Print Council Index to Oeuvre-Catalogues of Prints by European and American Artists*. Millwood, NY: Kraus International Publications, 1983.

REF NE90 .R54 1983

An invaluable resource, the PCI is available in both print and electronic editions. Arranged alphabetically by author or publisher, this volume includes known birth and death dates, location of hard-to-find catalogs, as well as an index of artists known only by either monogram or nickname. In addition, the PCI indexes multi-artist catalogs, though inconsistently. Coverage is limited to catalogs published before 1972 in the text. The online database includes coverage through mid 2005, and incorporates Japanese artists.

Simmons, Rosemary. *Collecting Original Prints*. London: A&C Black Publishers, 2005.

PSR NE885 .S472 2005

A solid popular introduction to collecting prints that covers much of the same ground as the book by Griffiths (above) in slightly less detail. However, Simmons discusses conservation and collecting further. Vividly illustrated, with a long glossary.

Photographs

Gael, Diane VanSkiver. *Ohio Photographers, 1839–1900*. Nevada City, CA: Carl Mautz, 1998.

REFTR139 .G34 1998

A unique look at early photographers in the state of Ohio. A select list of photographers and studios are covered with biographical information, dates, locations, and mediums; a more comprehensive list follows. It is not annotated, however. An extensive bibliography and occasional images fill out the book.

Jeffrey, Ian. *The Photography Book*. London: Phaidon, 1997.

REFTR650 .E5 2006

Collected here are many of the most famous, gripping, impossible-to-forget images, and information on the photographers who took them. Perfect for those moments when a name is on the tip of your tongue, but you just can't remember. The only fault with the book is its age.

Lenman, Robin. *The Oxford Companion to the Photograph*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

REFTR9 .O94 2005

“*The Oxford Companion . . .* serves as a source guide to the lexicon of photography, as well as its history. Entries vary from the technical, discussing how photographs are made, to [biographies], discussing all manner of people. Illustrated with black & white and color photographs, *The Oxford Companion . . .* is a fantastic first source for questions about the history, process, and people of this medium.”

Noble, Laura. *The Art of Collecting Photography*. Switzerland: AVA Publishing, 2006.

TR6.5 .N63 2006

For the amateur as well as advanced collector. By discussing how individual works fit into an overall collection, the author lends to the sense of adventure and the journey inherent in collecting photographs. Well-known and lesser-known photographers are profiled side by side to highlight how each might be appraised and acquired. The book closes with an international directory of galleries, photography fairs, festivals and events, and a list of auction houses.

The Photographic Art Market. Langhorne, PA: Photographic Arts Center, 2006.

REFTR6.5 .P52 2004

An annual price guide to the photographic art market initially written by Peter H. Falk, the renowned author of *Who Was Who in American Art*. After a brief explanation of how to read the entries, it begins the listing, from A to Z by artist name. Each volume tracks the vital auction information. If you find the Gordon's online interface too complicated, this is a fine substitute.

Warren, Lynn. *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography*. New York: Taylor & Francis Group, 2006.

REFTR642 .E5 2006

A three-volume set with a list of entries and a thorough glossary of terms. The latter is essential for the study of such a technical medium. Entries provide a solid grounding in their topics and coverage is both broad and deep. Color and black-and-white plates illustrate many entries. Each volume is indexed individually.

Auction House Publications and Websites

Each year, Ingalls Library receives more than 3,000 catalogues from auction houses around the world. These catalogues are shelved in the library's "Recent Acquisitions Area" until the date of sale and then stored in the library stacks. Ingalls Library's collection of auction catalogues, both hardcopy and on microfiche or microfilm, numbers more than 125,000 volumes.

Christie's Magazine.

Published seven times each year.

www.christies.com

Sotheby's Preview.

Published seven times each year.

www.sothebys.com

Both *Christie's Magazine* and *Sotheby's Preview* include information as well as feature articles on forthcoming sales, news of the auction market, and short articles on collections and collectors and works of art and artists.

La Gazette de la Hôtel Drouot.

Published weekly.

www.gazette-drouot.com

The primary source for information on French auctions. Includes price lists for objects sold at Drouot auctions. Unlike Christie's and Sotheby's, Hôtel Drouot does not publish individual price lists for each auction.

Phillips dePury & Company

www.phillipsdepur.com

Consult the website for information about the auction house, forthcoming sales, auction results, etc.

Other smaller auction houses also publish newsletters and magazines that can be found in the Ingalls Library “Recent Acquisitions Area” along with many other art periodicals that track the auction market.

Cleveland Auction Houses

Aspire Auctions
12730 Larchmere Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44120
216-231-5515
www.aspireauctions.com

Cleveland Auction Company
3910 Lorain Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113
216-631-3232
www.cleveauction.com

Gray’s Auctioneers
10717 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102
216-458-7695
www.graysauctioneers.com

Rachel Davis Fine Arts
1301 W. 79th Street
Cleveland, OH 44102
216-939-1190
www.racheldavisfinearts.com

Auction Price Databases

The databases and websites included in the following list represent those most often used by Ingalls Library reference staff. All these resources can be accessed from library OPACs by logging in and clicking “Search Collections” and then “View Online Resources.” For assistance, please visit the reference desk.

The letter following each database name indicates the subject coverage for the database.

D Decorative Arts
F Fine Arts
P Prints and Photographs
Ph Photographs

Artifact (D, F)

Artifact is the world’s largest and most comprehensive fine art auction database service including unabridged forthcoming and past auction catalogs and price results for more than 1,000 prestigious international art, antiques, and collectible auction houses of all sizes. These include Artcurial, Bonhams, Christie’s, Doyle’s, Eldred’s, Gallerie Koller, Hindman, Ritchie’s, Sotheby’s, Swann, Tajan, and Weschler’s to name only a few.

ArtNet (F, P, Ph)

ArtNet is the most comprehensive color-illustrated archive of fine art auction results worldwide. Representing art auction results from more than 500 international auction houses since 1985, the database covers more than 2.6 million artworks by 180,000 plus artists, ranging from Old Masters to contemporary art.

ArtPrice.com (F, P)

Covers 306,000 artists from the 4th century to the present in the following fine art categories: drawing, watercolor, painting, prints, posters, sculpture, installation,

photography, and audiovisual-multimedia. The staff at Artprice.com collects, processes, and analyzes art auctions covering 2,900 auction houses worldwide.

Art Sales Index (F, P)

Includes auction price records for works of art, excluding decorative arts. Online coverage began in 1997, however, the print version has been available since the early 1970s. Entries include the artist's name, life dates, and nationality, title of the work sold, size, medium, auction house, lot number, and selling price in various currencies.

Ask Art (F)

For each artist recorded, Ask Art summarizes what's available about the artist: life dates, methods, biographies, subjects for which best known; literature in which they are referenced, and the auction lots sold and unsold of their works. You will also find museum references, as well as what might be available for sale from dealers or individuals, or who is interested in purchasing items by particular artists.

Gazette Web (D, F, P, Ph)

Gazette Web provides information about French auction sales including PDF files of *La Gazette de la Hotel Drouot* containing the auction results of recent French sales. It also provides links to French auction catalogs online, a calendar of auction sales, and an index to French auctioneers.

Gordon's Print and Photography Prices (P, Ph)

While the interface for Gordon's leaves a lot to be desired, the scope of the database is not in question. Covering all manner of prints and photographs with more than 180,000 auction and dealer records, this resource is both essential and idiosyncratic. The number one destination online for print and photography prices.

iCollector (D, F, P, Ph)

Ebay partnered with iCollector for Internet trading of antiques, fine art, and premium collectables. Users must register for an account to browse auction catalogues.

Prices 4 Antiques (D)

P4A compiles results from 50 leading auction houses located throughout the United States, plus other specialist auctions. Links to dealers, auction calendars, and books about antiques.

Classification System

Ingalls Library began using the Library of Congress classification scheme in April 2006. The cataloging staff recently completed the conversion of all library materials (except journals) to the Library of Congress system. The subject outline for the classification schedule follows:

Library of Congress Classification System

- A General works
- B Philosophy, psychology, religion
- C Auxiliary sciences of history
- D History: general, Europe
- E–F History: Americas
- G Geography, anthropology, recreation
- H Social sciences
- J Political science
- K Law
- L Education
- M Music, books on music
- N Visual arts
- NA Architecture
- NB Sculpture
- NC Drawing, design, illustration
- ND Painting
- NE Print media
- NK Decorative arts
- NX Arts in general
- P Language, literature
- Q Science
- R Medicine
- S Agriculture
- T Technology (includes photography)
- U Military science
- V Naval science
- Z Bibliography, library science, information resources (general)

Ingalls Library
The Cleveland Museum of Art
11150 East Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44106-1797

Reference Desk
216-707-2530

Image Services
216-707-2547

Archives
216-707-2492

www.clevelandart.org

<http://library.clevelandart.org>

Cover: Honoré Daumier (French, 1808-1879)

The Auctioneer. Wood engraving.

The Cleveland Museum of Art,

Gift of Ralph King, 1921.1480.



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