

# The Potomack Company

AUCTIONS ~ APPRAISALS ~ ESTATE SALES

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## POTOMACK COMPANY BRINGS SIGNED GEORGE WASHINGTON LETTER TO AUCTION JUNE 11

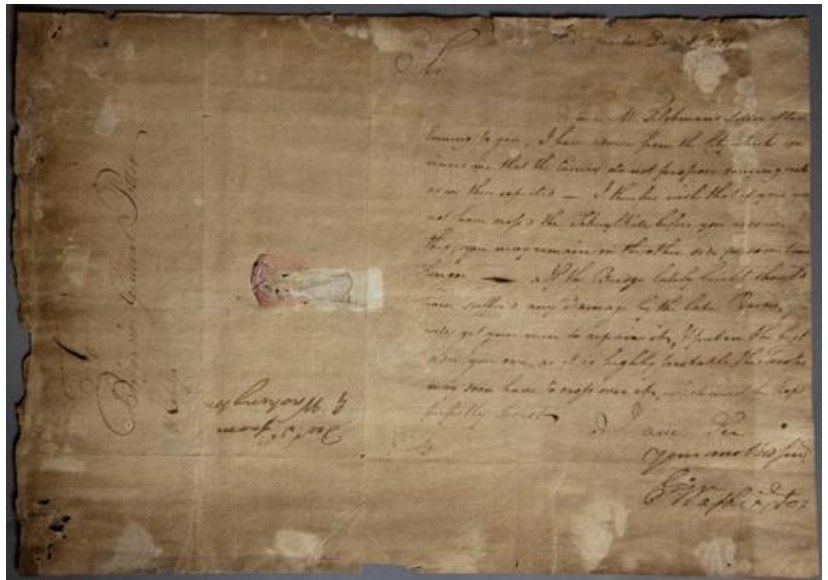
*Gilbert Stuart Portrait of America's Founding Father  
Among Treasure Trove of Items*

**Alexandria, VA, June 1, 2011 –**

A confidential letter written by George Washington to a trusted officer concerning troop maneuvers preceding the Battle of Valley Forge is a highlight of The Potomack Company's June Catalogue Auction on June 11 at its gallery in Old Town Alexandria.

Written on December 1, 1777, to Brigadier General James Potter, the dispatch discusses military maneuvers during the Revolutionary War, stressing Washington's instructions "must be kept perfectly Secret" regarding troop preparations while his army was en route to Valley Forge.

The letter is cited in the published papers of George Washington in the Library of Congress and features the distinctive signature of the nation's first president as well as the remnants of the red wax seal that held the contents from view during transit to Gen. Potter.



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The Washington letter will be sold by The Potomack Company along with other significant items related to the first American president, including an *Athenaeum* Portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828) that will be sold by private treaty. The Stuart portrait, purchased in 2001 by Washington, D.C. philanthropist Betty Casey as a key part of the collection she envisioned for the once-proposed D.C. mayor's mansion, was displayed at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia from 2004 to 2006.

“We're thrilled to be able to sell these two historically significant items,” said Potomack Company Founder Elizabeth Wainstein.

Another painting with a George Washington connection in the June 11 auction is Frederick Kemmelmeyer's *Frederick II Reviewing the Troops at Potsdam*, which could possibly have inspired Kemmelmeyer's famous work, *Washington Reviewing the Western Army, at Fort Cumberland, Maryland*, now in the collection of the Winterthur Museum of Art.

Signed American paintings of interest in the sale include *Sunset* by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902), *After Nature – Brooklyn* by John Williamson (1826-1885), *5<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 55<sup>th</sup> St.* by Guy Wiggins (1883-1962) and *Portrait of a Child* by John Brewster, Jr. (1766-1854).

Separately, The Potomack Company announced today that its June sale will also include select contents of Patricia Kluge's Charlottesville estate. Dozens of highly styled drapes that were custom designed for the lavish Georgian-inspired country manor, along with a matched set of four Armas Garbi 20-bore sidelock ejector guns reputedly presented to Mrs. Kluge by the King of Spain and a collection of African art and statuary will be included in the June 11 auction.

The auction catalogue is available for viewing in the gallery and online at [www.potomackcompany.com](http://www.potomackcompany.com). The Potomack Company auction gallery is located at 526 North Fayette Street in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

### **About The Potomack Company**

The Potomack Company is a leading Washington, D.C. auction house, specializing in fine art and antiques. Founded in 2006, The Potomack Company has handled some of the most significant and interesting pieces to come to auction in the Washington, D.C. area, including the historic marble Arlington Cemetery Urns, Dorothy Draper's furnishings for the Greenbrier Resort, and

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the Salahi White House Sari. In October 2010, the company received global attention and achieved record prices for Asian works of art. Founder Elizabeth Wainstein, formerly of Christie's, has assembled a robust roster of experts in fine art, Asian works of art, furniture, jewelry and applied arts, among other areas of expertise. For additional information about the June 11 auction or to consign, please call 703-684-4550 or visit [www.potomackcompany.com](http://www.potomackcompany.com).

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