

The Potomack Company

AUCTIONS ~ APPRAISALS

**RARE KENNEDY PREMONITION DEATH LETTER
AT POTOMACK COMPANY POLITICAL AUCTION
ON NOVEMBER 1, 2008**

A letter written by Senator John F. Kennedy in 1959 reflecting on the curious American trivia fact that every president until then elected in a year ending in zero had died in office will highlight The Potomack Company's American Historical and Political Auction on November 1.

The letter, almost a premonition of President Kennedy's untimely assassination, is a response to a query by a magazine writer named Harry Squires who was researching the peculiar coincidence that since 1840 no U.S. president elected in a year ending in zero had survived until the end of his White House term. It is dated May 27, 1959, and was written on United States Senate stationery.

Kennedy called the coincidence "thought-provoking" and admitted that he had never "reflected on this bit of Americana." He added that "the future will have to necessarily answer this for itself – both as to my aspirations and my fate should I have the privilege of occupying the White House. On face value, I daresay, should anyone take this phenomenon to heart... anyone, that is, who aspires to change his address to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue... that most probably the landlord would be left from 1960-1964 with a 'For Rent' sign hanging on the gatehouse door."

The Potomack Company Auctions is celebrating the 2008 presidential election with a Political and Historical Auction featuring items from the administrations of President James Madison to the current President George Bush and this year's campaign between Senators John McCain and Barack Obama. The sale features a bi-partisan assortment of signed historical documents, paintings, campaign buttons and other memorabilia representing three centuries of presidential history.

Among the notable presidential items to be sold are two White House calling cards bearing the signatures of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt framed with a photograph of the presidential couple seated at a table and laughing. A colorful commemorative

526 NORTH FAYETTE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, 22314
703-684-4550 (TEL) ~ 703-684-4554 (FAX)
WWW.POTOMACKCOMPANY.COM
VIRGINIA LICENSE #704

The Potomack Company

AUCTIONS ~ APPRAISALS

metal campaign plate from the 1908 inauguration of William H. Taft is inscribed “Grand Old Party 1856-1908/Standard Bearers” and depicts Republican presidential candidates during those years.

A signed photograph of Harry Truman is dedicated to his legal adviser Clark Clifford, the architect of his stunning 1948 defeat of Thomas Dewey. Another item of interest is a framed photograph of President John F. Kennedy with his signature and inscription, “For Robert S. Willson, with every good wish.”

Viewing hours at the gallery will begin on Saturday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and continue daily from 10 to 5 until the auction (Sunday hours 1 to 4 p.m.).

The Potomack Company is a fine arts and antique auction gallery located at 526 North Fayette Street in Old Town Alexandria. For further information or to consign, please call 703-684-4550 or visit www.potomackcompany.com.