

PRESS RELEASE

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What do Ferdinand de Lesseps, Alfred Nobel and John Law have in common?

The answer is: scripophily. Indeed, their names or signatures appear on antique shares which are going to be publicly auctioned on March 13, 2010 in the city of Antwerp by The Scripophily Center. Founded 1984 in Belgium, this auction-house is a world-leading specialist in the collecting field of historic financial documents, otherwise known as Scripophily (scrip=ownerships right / philos=to love).

Two of the absolute auction highlights are shares from the French East India Company, dated 1720 and 1770. This company was founded by the Scotsman John Law, a notorious gambler, brilliant mathematician and heavily influential economist who first made France the wealthiest country on earth, only to lead the country to an unprecedented economic collapse a few years later. The two shares in his company – a competitor to the successful English and Dutch East India Companies – are next to unique: overall, only 4 such shares are known to have survived and none other from the period when John Law was running the company. Their start prices are €10.000 to €15.000.

In the case of Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, the famous builder of the Suez Canal and promoter of the Panama Canal, the auction will offer a unique set of printer proof bonds of the Suez Canal Company personally signed by de Lesseps. The catalogue indicates a start price of €9000.

That Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite and founder of the Nobel Prizes, was also a capable businessman is perhaps not so well-known. Yet, he founded explosives companies in many different countries around the world. For the first time, a share personally issued to him, will come under the hammer. A, according to the auction-house, moderate start price of €3.500 will likely attract bids from keen collectors all over the world.

The full auction catalogue, with 1443 antique shares and bonds from over 90 different countries, can be found on www.booneshares.com. Most lots are priced between €50 and €1000 though there exceptions on both ends.

For more information, please contact Mario Boone, the managing director of The Scripophily Center.

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Previously unseen share in the Monte Carlo casino from 1884, start price €3000

About The Scripophily Center bvba : Founded in 1984 as one of Europe's very first professional auction houses focused entirely on Scripophily (= the collecting of historic shares & bonds). Over the years, the C.V.S. grew from an important Scripophily pioneer in the Benelux to a top world player. The last 7 years, its bi-annual auctions are constantly ranked amongst the top 3 in the world. Its March 2009 Silver Jubilee Auction was, worldwide, the biggest Scripophily auction ever (+€650.000 turnover). The Scripophily Center's clientbase is particularly strong in Western Europe, Russia and North America. Since 2001, this family business has been headed by the 2nd generation in the person of 35-year old Mario Boone, a master of financial economics with a strong passion for financial & economic history.