

WILLIAM R. TALBOT

FINE ART, ANTIQUE MAPS & PRINTS

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A MAGNIFICENT SET OF MCKENNEY & HALL'S IMPORTANT INDIAN PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES WITH SUPERB COLOR

*“The most colorful portraits of Indians ever executed. . . .
The original oil paintings of which the plates were copies
were all destroyed in the 1865 Smithsonian fire.”*

—Howes, *USiana*, M 129

Col. Thomas L. McKenney and James Hall. *History of the Indian Tribes of North America with biographical sketches of the Principal Chiefs embellished with one hundred and twenty portraits from the Indian Gallery in the Department of War, at Washington*. Three folio volumes: vol. I (Philadelphia: Edward C. Biddle, 23 Minor Street, 1836); vol. II (Philadelphia: Daniel Rice and James G. Clark, 132 Arch Street, 1842); and vol. III (Philadelphia: Daniel Rice and James G. Clark, 132 Arch Street, 1844). 120 lithographed plates with superb bright original hand color heightened with gum arabic: 117 portraits after King and 3 frontispieces after Rindisbacher and Bodmer; uncolored lithographed sheet with two maps and one chart: “Localities of all the Indian Tribes of North America in 1833,” “Present Localities of the Indian Tribes west of the Mississippi,” and “Statement showing the number of each tribe of Indians;” 17 pages of facsimile signatures of subscribers on 9 leaves. Includes original subscription wrappers and bindery instructions. All three volumes in original binding, with spine restoration: original boards, marbled end papers, and original spine leather overlay with seven compartments containing gilt title and decorations. Binding boards worn at corners. Vol. I front free endpaper, with minor cracking. Some foxing on text as usual, some staining at lower edges of text pages in vol. II. (See separate sheet for remarks on individual plates.) Very clean and bright condition, overall excellent. \$150,000.

This excellent example of McKenney and Hall's renowned color-plate book documenting significant Native Americans includes portraits and extensive (sometimes unflinching) biographies of these important leaders and personalities of the frontier. Ostensibly the life work of Col. McKenney, the lithographs were based primarily on the oil portraits painted from life by Charles Bird King, although the work of many other artists was included in the form of copies of their work by King and Henry Inman. James Otto Lewis, Henry Schoolcraft, Gustavus Hesselius, Peter Rindisbacher, Karl Bodmer, and even Thomas Sully are among the important portraitists represented in the work. McKenney's work was originally issued between 1836 and 1844 in 20 parts with paper wrappers. Each subscriber would later combine the parts and have them bound into volumes according to his personal taste. The changes in publishers reflect some of the trials that McKenney endured in the process of issuing the work.

Thomas Loraine McKenney (1785-1859) held several offices in the administration of U.S. Indian affairs, finally serving as Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. During his service, McKenney instituted a national archives of the American Indian, effectively creating the first museum in Washington D.C. The archives included native artifacts, ethnographic texts, and portraits commissioned especially for the collection. The portraits, which McKenney exhibited in his office, proved extremely popular among visitors to the capital and later served as the basis for the illustrated *History*. Since McKenney had traveled to the nation's frontiers to negotiate treaties, and hosted Indian delegations at the capital, he acquired a

unique perspective on the subject of Native Americans. In realizing a publication of an unprecedented scope, however, little went smoothly for McKenney.

McKenney had completed an initial text draft for the *History* by 1831, and sent it to former president John Quincy Adams for editing. After Adams could no longer work on the project, a number of editors were engaged, until James Hall finally joined the project in 1836. In the many years it took to produce the *History*, McKenney was beset by incessant production setbacks, beginning with his initial difficulty in retaining an editor and continuing with the business difficulties of his several publishers. Added to these were problems of competition, debt, humiliation, and scorn. Fortunately for us, McKenney's vision and determination saw the project through to the best possible standards of the time. The *History* is a beautiful testament to his life and an invaluable document of the American Indians in the last days of their full glory. This is an excellent example of McKenney's superb work of Americana.

The distinguished provenance of this set speaks to its significance as both an artistic and ethnographic treasure. The most recent owner of these volumes is Dr. Herman J. Viola, Curator Emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution and former director of the Smithsonian's National Anthropological Archives. Viola has authored numerous books on American history and is a renowned specialist on Native American history. His publications include *Exploring the West, After Columbus, Magnificent Voyagers, Little Bighorn Remembered, Seeds of Change, and Diplomats in Buckskins*. Viola's studies of the McKenney *History* are included in his *Indian Legacy of Charles Bird King, Washington's first museum: The Indian Office collection of Thomas L. McKenney, and Thomas L. McKenney, Architect of America's Early Indian Policy: 1816-1830*.

Ownership of the set by one of America's most important McKenney authorities combined with the volumes' excellent condition make this example of McKenney's classic work one of the best that we have seen on the market.

Refs.: Whitman Bennett, *American Nineteenth Century Color Plate Books*, p. 79; Field, *Indian Bibliography*, no. 992; Howes, M 129; William S. Reese, *Stamped with a National Character*, no. 24; Sabin, 43410; Herman J. Viola, *Thomas L. McKenney, Architect of America's Early Indian Policy: 1816-1830*.

**SET OF MCKENNEY & HALL'S IMPORTANT INDIAN PORTRAITS
AND BIOGRAPHIES**

Remarks on individual plates

As is usual with antique illustrated texts, the plates will exhibit some level of transference from adjacent text pages. Unless noted below, existing transference is considered negligible.

1. "War Dance of the Sauks and Foxes" (frontispiece, vol. I). Some transference. Minor marginal soiling.
3. "Kishkalwa" (facing p. 15, vol. I). Moderate transference.
6. "Pushmatah" (facing p. 31, vol. I). Moderate transference.
9. "Waapashaw" (facing p. 53, vol. I). Very slight transference.
10. "Meetakoosega" (facing p. 57, vol. I). Very slight transference.
12. "Little Crow" (facing p. 61, vol. I). Very slight transference.
13. "Sequoyah" (facing p. 63, vol. I). Very slight transference. Printer's wrinkle at l.r. Minor marginal spotting at l.l.
15. "Shaumonekuse" (facing p. 75, vol. I). Very slight transference.
17. "Quatawapea" (facing p. 81, vol. I). Very slight transference.
19. "Corn Planter" (facing p. 85, vol. I). Minor tear at l.r. edge.
21. "Caatoussee" (facing p. 95, vol. I). Very slight transference.
22. "Chippeway Squaw" (facing p. 97, vol. I). Very slight transference. Minor marginal spot at l.r.
23. "Petelasharro" (facing p. 101, vol. I). Slight transference.
24. "Choncape" (facing p. 107, vol. I). Slight transference.
25. "Wanata" (facing p. 109, vol. I). Slight transference.
26. "Peanuska" (facing p. 113, vol. I). Slight transference.
27. "Cataheccassa" (facing p. 115, vol. I). Slight transference.
28. "An Ojibway Squaw and her child" (facing p. 123, vol. I). Slight transference. Minor marginal spot at l.c.
29. "Okeemakeequid" (facing p. 125). Slight transference. Minor marginal spot at l.l.
30. "Waemboeshkaa" (facing p. 127, vol. I). Slight transference.
33. "White Cloud" (facing p. 141, vol. I). A few minor marginal spots at l.
34. "Female Flying Pigeon" (facing p. 147, vol. I). Very minor marginal foxing.
37. "Moanahonga" (facing p. 157, vol. I). Slight transference.
39. "Tachee" (facing p. 163, vol. I). Slight offsetting of ink in title.
40. "Anacamegishca" (facing p. 169, vol. I). Slight transference. Minor marginal spot at bottom.
41. "Wabishkeepenas" (facing p. 171, vol. I). Very minor marginal spot at bottom.
43. "Major Ridge" (facing p. 181, vol. I). Very slight transference.
44. "Lappawinsoe" (facing p. 197, vol. I). Very minor marginal spot at top.
46. "Shahaka" (facing p. 201, vol. I). Two very minor marginal tears at left edge.
47. "Tokacon" (facing p. 203, vol. I). Age toning at sheet edges. One minor marginal stain at l.l.
49. "Hunting the Buffalo" (frontispiece, vol. II). Minor marginal foxing at top. Some marginal staining at bottom.
52. "Mistippee" (facing p. 19, vol. II). Moderate marginal age toning at edges. Some marginal tears and chips at l. edge.
55. "Makataimeshekiakiah" (facing p. 29, vol. II). Very slight overall age toning.

61. "Keokuk" (facing p. 63, vol. II). Slight transference.
62. "Neomonne" (facing p. 81, vol. II). Very slight transference.
63. "Keeshewa" (facing p. 83, vol. II). Very slight transference.
65. "Watchemonne" (facing p. 89, vol. II). Slight transference.
67. "Menawa" (facing p. 97, vol. II). Slight transference.
70. "Metea" (facing p. 113, vol. II). Very slight transference.
71. "Thayendanega" (facing p. 117, vol. II). Very slight transference.
72. "Ahyouwaighs" (facing p. 139, vol. II). Very slight transference.
73. "Neamathla" (facing p. 143, vol. II). Moderate transference.
76. "Stummanu" (facing p. 153, vol. II). Slight transference. Slight age toning at l.r.
77. "Le Soldat de Chene" (facing p. 159, vol. II). Slight age toning at l.r.
85. "Foke Luste Hajo" (facing p. 179, vol. II). Very slight transference. Minor spot at l.
86. "John Ridge" (facing p. 181, vol. II). Very slight transference.
87. "The Chippeway Widow" (facing p. 185, vol. II). 3/4" stain at l.l.
88. "Micanopy" (facing p. 187, vol. II). Very slight transference. Very faint stain at l.l.
90. "Kaipolequa" (facing p. 197, vol. II). Very slight transference.
96. "Kanapima" (facing p. 233), vol. II). One minor spot at l.
97. "Encampment of the Piekann Indians" (frontispiece, vol. III). Very minor soiling. Very minor marginal tear at top edge.
98. "Nowaykesugga" (facing p. 8, vol. III). Very slight transference.
101. "Tahcoloquit" (facing p. 32, vol. III). Very minor spotting at top and bottom.
103. "Pashenine" (facing p. 48, vol. III). Very slight transference. Minor marginal spotting at l.l.
106. "Ledagie" (facing p. 72, vol. III). Moderate transference. A few minor spots.
107. "Ongewae" (facing p. 80, vol. III). Moderate transference. One minor spot at l.c.
108. "Nahetluchspie" (facing p. 88, vol. III). Moderate transference.
109. "Amiskquew" (facing p. 96, vol. III). Moderate transference.
110. "Itcho Tustinnuggee" (facing p. 104, vol. III). Moderate transference.
111. "David Cann" (facing p. 112, vol. III). Very slight transference.
112. "Tulcee Mathla" (facing p. 120, vol. III). Very slight transference.
113. "Jack O Pay" (facing p. 128, vol. III). Slight transference.
114. "Keeshewaa" (facing p. 134, vol. III). Slight transference.
120. "Apauly Tustennuggee" (facing p. 184, vol. III). Slight transference. Very minor marginal spot at b.c.

**SET OF MCKENNEY & HALL'S IMPORTANT INDIAN PORTRAITS
AND BIOGRAPHIES**

Subscribers, vol. III

Signatures

Maine	9	
Rhode Island	14	
New Hampshire	1	M.B. Pierce, Seneca chief
Massachusetts	66	
New York	85	including John J. Audubon
New Jersey	7	
Pennsylvania	156	
Delaware	12	
Maryland	27	
Washington, DC	22	including Martin Van Buren
Virginia	16	
North Carolina	6	
South Carolina	14	
Georgia	22	
Alabama	39	
Louisiana	159	
Mississippi	93	
Arkansas	1	
Tennessee	32	including Andrew Jackson
Missouri	41	
Kentucky	44	including the State Library of Kentucky and Henry Clay
Illinois	22	
Indiana	3	
Michigan	11	
Wisconsin	3	
Ohio	26	
Florida	20	
Texas	7	
Foreign	18	including Louis Philippe, King of France; William IV, King of Great Britain; Adelaide, the queen consort of William IV; Princess Victoria of Kent

U.S. Subscribers without Signatures

Maine	1
Massachusetts	1
New York	17
Pennsylvania	1
Maryland	1
Washington, DC	4
Virginia	3
South Carolina	27
Lousiana	6
Mississippi	21
Missouri	3
Ohio	2
Total	1,063