

Houghton Rare Books Bring Over \$3 Million

The two-day sale of rare books from the collection of Arthur A. Houghton Jr. was completed yesterday at Christie's, the London auctioneer's. Sales totaled \$3,281,714, and a representative of the auctioneer's in New York called it "the biggest book sale ever."

John Howell, a San Francisco book dealer, made the costliest purchase. He bought the nearly 300-year-old William Hack maritime atlas manuscript, sea charts of the West Coast south past Acapulco, Mexico, for \$253,200.

In all, 297 books and manuscripts were sold. United States dealers bought 20 of the 26 lots on sale. Miniature books will be sold in November and the sale will end next June.

Mr. Houghton is a former curator of rare books at the Library of Congress and a former trustee of the New York Public Library.

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