

DIRECT LENDING INVESTMENTS, LLC - FINE ART SCHEDULE
March 6, 2020

NO	FLAG NAME	EARLIEST/LATEST DATE OF ORIGIN	HISTORY	Original Purchase Price	Reference
1	George & Martha Washington Quilt	1876	Patriotic Quilt made for the 1876 Centennial Celebration which consists of 2 rare printed cotton textiles of George & Martha. These are flanked above and below by pairs of parade flags that feature the crests and flags of various nations that participated in the Centennial International Exhibition. The six-month long, Worlds Fair event was held in the city of Philadelphia. All of the fabrics used on the front of the quilt would've been available as souvenirs at the expo and it's likely that the maker purchased them there, took them home and proceeded to make this as a memento of her attendance.	\$ 28,000	Pg. 1 & 2
2	Abraham Lincoln Memorial Banner	1890/1909	Made in memoriam of the beloved President. Made either during the last decade of the 19th century out of general patriotism, or very likely in 1909 in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of Lincoln's birth.	\$ 18,900	Pg. 3 & 4
3	Navy Jack with 30 Stars Flag	1848/1850	Like the British Royal Navy, American vessels flew 3 flags. When at anchor or moored, the Jack is flown at the bow (front), the national flag or "ensign" is flown at the stern (back), and the commission pennant is flown from the main mast. When under way, the Jack is furled and the ensign may be kept in place or shifted to a gaff if the ship is so equipped.	\$ 27,000	Pg. 5 & 6
4	United We Stand Civil War Regimental Flag	1861/1865	During the Civil War, U.S. Army regulations set forth that an infantry unit would carry 2 flags. These included a national colors, meaning the Stars & Stripes, and a regimental colors, also referred to as a federal standard. This flag is the regimental battle flag of a Civil War Volunteer Unit. This is their own, personalized version of the federal standard and would have been carried alongside their Stars & Stripes.	\$ 81,000	Pg. 7 - 9
5	Roosevelt Campaign Banner	1932	This campaign banner was produced in 1932 to promote the candidacy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt for President of the United States. The banner was produced by the Sweeny Lithograph Company in Belleville, NJ and is signed in the lower right. An example of the same variety is held in the collection of the Smithsonian and documented in "Threads of History: Americana Recorded on Cloth, 1775 to the Present" by Herbert Ridgeway Collins (Smithsonian Press, 1979), as item #1085 on page 422. Collins served as Curator of Political History at the Smithsonian Institution and his text is widely agreed to be the best available reference of American Political textiles.	\$ 3,900	Pg. 10 & 11
6	Lincoln & Hamlin Parade Flag	1860	33 star American Parade flag was made for the 1860 campaign of Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin. Great Star designs take on many forms. In this particular example, note that there is a star between each arm of the large star and that there is a triangle of 3 stars in the very center. Among collectors, the Great Star represents the Rolls Royce of geometric star configurations. It is thought to have come about shortly after the War of 1812, when Congressman Peter Wendover of New York requested that Captain Samuel Reid, a War of 1812 naval hero, create a new design that would become the 3rd official format of the Stars & Stripes.	\$ 37,400	Pg. 12 & 13
7	New York 71st Volunteer Infantry Flag	1880/1913	35 star parade flag, bears important battle honors of the New York 71st Volunteer Infantry. This is one of only 3 known varieties of parade flags with battle honors printed on them, and thus it is an exceedingly rare example. The flag was most likely made for reunion of the members of the 71st sometime between the 1880's and the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913. The New York 71st Volunteer Infantry was comprised of men and boys from Delaware, Cattaraugus, New York and Ulster counties. The first corps of this group was recruited in Colchester, New York by Captain William H. Elwood, under the command of General George B. Hall. This took place on June 27th, 1861. They proceeded to Staten Island, where they consolidated with a company from Great Valley, NY in the brigade led by General Daniel Stickles. They participated in many important conflicts other than those listed on the flag. When their initial terms of service were up, most men dropped their guns and returned home. Lincoln pleaded with his regiments to remain for an extended term, and the NY 71st Volunteers were among the very few who heeded his call.	\$ 10,700	Pg. 14 & 15
Total Purchase Price				\$ 206,900	



EXCEPTIONAL 1876 QUILT FEATURING THE IMAGES OF GEORGE & MARTHA WASHINGTON, MADE FROM PATRIOTIC TEXTILES AND FLAGS THAT WERE PROBABLY ACQUIRED IN PHILADELPHIA AT THE CENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

Available: Sold
 Frame Size (H x L): 93.75" x 78"
 Flag Size (H x L): 83" x 67.25"

Description.....:

Patriotic quilt made for the 1876 centennial celebration; a stunning example, the centerpiece of which consists of two extremely rare printed cotton textiles that feature George and Martha Washington. These are flanked above and below by pairs of parade flags that feature the crests and flags of various nations that participated in the Centennial International Exhibition. This six-month-long, Worlds Fair event was held in the city of Philadelphia. All of the fabrics used on the front of the quilt would have been available as souvenirs at the expo and it is likely that the maker purchased them there, took them home and proceeded to make this as a memento of her attendance.

The quilt is dated "1876" above George's image and the date "1776" appears above Martha to note the 100-year anniversary of American independence. The wide borders of the quilt are made of 39 star parade flags that are likewise printed on cotton. Although the official star count on the American national flag in 1876 was 37 stars, the 38th state, Colorado, joined the Union on August 1st of that year. Flag-makers didn't care what was official. They just wanted to be selling flags and, if at all possible, "one-uping" their competitors. Some produced 39 star flags, in anticipation that yet another state would soon be added. 39 star flags were common in 1876, perhaps even more so than 38 star flags.

In my experience with flags and patriotic textiles, I have never before encountered the two in this quilt that feature George and Martha Washington. Although their maker is unknown, other similar textiles exist that feature the borders around their edges, which are comprised of a series of 6-pointed stars. 6-pointed Stars-of-David are also repeated throughout the white background. I would suggest that the person that designed the pattern was of Jewish faith, based upon other objects with 6-pointed stars that appear in the late 19th century that are linked to Jewish makers.

Mounting: The quilt has been hand-stitched throughout to a background of 100% cotton twill, black in color, which has been washed to reduce excess dye. And acid-free agent was added to the wash to further set the dye and the fabric was heat-treated for the same purpose. A supportive aluminum framework was used to create a pillow mount for added support. The mount was then placed in a black-painted, hand-gilded and distressed Italian molding with a serpentine profile and a rippled inner edge. The glazing is U.V. protective acrylic.

Condition: The overall condition is quite good considering the fabrics and the date. Cotton parade flags are thin and not made for a textile of this nature. There is some splitting throughout, the worst of which occurs in the two 39 star flag textiles with international flag borders. Extra stitches were added in the affected areas and archival adhesives were expertly applied to the batting underneath some areas. There is some water staining and bleeding.

Collector Level: Flags for the truest Patriots. My best offerings

Flag Type:

Star Count: 39

Earliest Date of Origin: 1876

Latest Date of Origin: 1876

State/Affiliation: Pennsylvania

War Association: 1866-1890 Indian Wars

Price: SOLD

E-mail: Inquire



ABRAHAM LINCOLN MEMORIAL BANNER WITH A DRAMATIC PORTRAIT IMAGE, LATE 19TH CENTURY - 1909

Available:	Sold
Frame Size (H x L):	75" x 67"
Flag Size (H x L):	65" x 56.5"

Description.....:

Early banners depicting portraits of American presidents are highly desired by collectors of political memorabilia, but none as much as those made for Abraham Lincoln. This particular banner was not made as a campaign piece, but rather in memoriam of the beloved president. It was either made during the last decade of the 19th century out of general patriotism, or very likely in 1909 in celebration of the 100-year anniversary of Lincoln's birth, which was pursued with great fanfare. I know of no others to have survived in this exact style, which shows an especially attractive, bearded portrait image.

The portrait is executed with a combination of block printing and hand painting. The head was printed with either a copperplate or wood block, while the jacket and background were painted by hand. The portrait is a youthful adaptation of a popular engraving, the likeness of which was based on a photograph taken by Andrew Berger at the studio of Matthew Brady.

Because all early Lincoln banners are rare, especially those large in scale, the acquisition of this rather dynamic example was an extraordinary find. It appears to be very similar to a banner hung on the town hall in St. Albans, Maine in 1909 for the Lincoln centennial. The portrait on the St. Albans banner different, and the photo was taken at a distance, but close inspection reveals that it is clearly similar in nature.

Mounting: The banner has been hand-stitched to 100% cotton, black in color, which has been washed to reduce excess pigment. And acid-free agent was added to the wash to further set the pigment and the fabric was heat-treated for the same purpose. The mount was then placed in a black-painted, hand-gilded and distressed Italian molding. The glazing is U.V. protective acrylic.

Condition: There are three old tears in the thin white fabric with associated stitched repairs. There is one to the left of the portrait, one above, and one in the lower breast area. There are minor stains throughout the white center and a small number in the blue border. There is fabric loss in the fragile silk fringes. The overall presentation is outstanding. This state of preservation is perfectly expected in an antique textile made for outdoor use and the exceptional rarity of Lincoln banners warrants far worse condition than what is present here.

Collector Level: Advanced Collectors and the Person with Everything

Flag Type:

Star Count:

Earliest Date of Origin: 1890

Latest Date of Origin: 1909

State/Affiliation: Illinois

War Association: 1861-1865 Civil War

Price: Please call (717) 676-0545 or (717) 502-1281

E-mail: Inquire



U.S. NAVY JACK WITH 30 STARS, AN ENTIRELY HAND-SEWN, PRE-CIVIL WAR EXAMPLE WITH GREAT COLOR AND BOLD VISUAL QUALITIES, WISCONSIN STATEHOOD, 1848-1850

Available: Sold
 Frame Size (H x L): 66" x 87.25"
 Flag Size (H x L): 51.5" x 72.75"

Description.....:

Like the British Royal Navy, American vessels flew three flags. When at anchor or moored, the jack is flown at the bow (front), the national flag or "ensign" is flown at the stern (back), and the commission pennant is flown from the at the main mast. When under way, the Jack is furled and the ensign may be kept in place or shifted to a gaff if the ship is so equipped.

The American Navy jack is a blue flag with a field of white stars. The design is the mirror image of the canton of an American national flag. In scale, the jack was meant to be the same size as the canton of the corresponding Stars & Stripes ensign with which it was flown.

Made sometime between 1848 and 1850, this terrific early example has a complement of 30 stars, arranged in a fairly rectilinear pattern, comprised of 5 rows with 6 stars each. All have one point canted in the 11:00 position when the flag is viewed on its obverse (front). With fat, starfish-like profiles, the stars are notably huge, encompassing much of the available space. Both these and the field are made entirely of wool bunting. This is typical for the canton and stripes of American national flags of the 19th century that were produced for maritime use, but the stars of such flags are almost universally made of cotton. Wool stars are encountered on only the rarest of occasions in my experience and are a particularly interesting find.

The flag is entirely hand-sewn, as-is expected in this period. The stars are single-appliquéd, meaning that they were applied to one side of the flag (in this case the obverse), then the blue fabric was cut from behind each star, folded over and under-hemmed, so that one appliquéd star could be viewed on both sides. While some flag experts have suggested that this method was a means of conserving fabric, since the maker didn't have to sew a star to both sides, others suggest that the real purpose was to make the flag lighter in weight. I believe that it probably was intended to serve both functions.

I always find single-appliquéd stars more interesting, both because they are evidence of a more difficult level of seam-work and stitchery and because with two rows of stitching instead of one, they naturally appear earlier and more hand-made than their double-appliquéd counterparts. This method of construction appeals to connoisseurs of early American textiles, who appreciate the texture and homemade qualities of single-appliquéd work. Although on rare occasion the technique can be seen on flags made into the very beginning of the 20th century, it tends to be most prevalent in flags of the Civil War (1861-65) and prior, and is the method of choice on the very earliest American flags with appliquéd stars. Note the careful use of two colors of thread, chosen accordingly with the colors of the adjacent fabric.

A sleeve of coarsely woven linen binds the hoist, through which a braided length of cotton rope was passed and stitched into place, with a loop at the top and a wooden toggle below. This type of hoist is typical for maritime use.

The field is constructed of three lengths of wool bunting, and of particular note is its beautiful shade of Prussian blue. When this appealing and fairly unusual color is combined with the size and shape of the stars, the irregularity of their placement within the rows, and the their beautiful single-appliquéd construction, the result is a dramatic display of folk quality and visual interest.

The 30th state, Wisconsin, joined the Union on May 29th, 1848. The 30 star flag was official until July 3rd, 1851, but 30 star flags would not likely have been made following the addition of California in 1850. Flag-makers paid little heed to official star counts unless required by the person(s) requesting that flags be produced to some particular design. While the Flag Act of 1818 dictated that the star count would officially change on the 4th of July following the date of a state's acceptance, stars were generally added by the makers of flags when the state was added (sometimes even beforehand). This means that the 30 star flag had a realistic window of production of just over two years.

Flags made prior to the Civil War are rare, comprising less than one percent of 19th century flags that exist in the 21st century. Prior to the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, the Stars & Stripes was simply not used for most of the same purposes we employ it in today. Private individuals did not typically display the flag in their yards and on their porches. Parade flags didn't often fly from carriages and horses. Places of business rarely hung flags in their windows. Private use of the national flag rose swiftly during the patriotism that accompanied the Civil War, then exploded in 1876.

Even the military did not use the flag in a manner that most people might think. Most people would be surprised to learn that the infantry wasn't authorized to carry the Stars & Stripes until the 1830's, and even then did not often exercise the right, because it was neither required nor customary. The primary purpose before the Mexican War (1846-48) was to mark ships on the open seas. While the flag was used to mark garrisons and government buildings, the flags of ground troops were often limited to the flag of their own regiment and a federal standard.

Further Comments on Terminology & Use:

While the technical name for this type of flag was a "union jack," the confusing verbiage, being the same as the nickname of the most recognizable British flag, has resulted in a common shortening of the term to simply "the jack". Interestingly enough, the British Union Jack is not the proper name for that signal either. The design commonly called the "Union Jack" is actually the "Union Flag," though practically no one uses or is even familiar with the term. The only time that it can be properly called the "Union Jack" is when it is, in fact, flown as the jack on a British Navy ship. Because the British fly various national flags: the white ensign (Royal Navy), blue ensign (non-navy ships in public service), and red ensign (merchant ships), each of which is composed of a wide field the corresponding color, with the Union Flag design as its canton, the use of the Union Flag as the jack on Royal Navy ships employs the same logic as using the blue field with stars, without the red and white striped field, as the American jack.

Early American ship paintings suggest that the various flags and pennants common to U.S. Navy ships, were sometimes flown on non-navy vessels. One may occasionally observe them in portraits of merchant ships and yachts, dressed with a complement of colorful ensigns and signals for special occasions. Because ship paintings were often commissioned, with both painter and purchaser wishing to display the craft in the most splendid manner possible, flags may be present in these images that were not regularly flown or even appropriate in the chosen setting. The same can be true in the sketched and painted views of U.S. Navy ships.

Mounting: The flag has been hand-stitched to 100% natural fabrics throughout for support. It was then hand-stitched to a background of cotton twill, ivory in color. The mount was then placed in a black-painted, hand-gilded and distressed Italian molding. The glazing is U.V. protective Plexiglas.

Condition: There is very minor to moderate loss in the blue wool bunting, with the most affected area being the bottom, fly-end corner, followed by the upper corner on that end and the bottom of the hoist, adjacent to the binding. There are minor to moderate losses in the white wool bunting of the stars. There is moderate soiling in one star and very limited, minor soiling elsewhere. Many of my clients prefer early flags to show their age and history of use.

Collector Level:	Advanced Collectors and the Person with Everything
Flag Type:	Sewn flag
Star Count:	30
Earliest Date of Origin:	1848
Latest Date of Origin:	1850
State/Affiliation:	Wisconsin
War Association:	1777-1860 Pre-Civil War
Price:	SOLD
E-mail:	Inquire



CIVIL WAR REGIMENTAL FLAG WITH A DRAMATIC WARTIME EAGLE AND PATRIOTIC TEXT THAT READS: "UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL," HAND-GILDED AND PAINTED ON CORNFLOWER BLUE SILK, 1861-65

Available:	Sold
Frame Size (H x L):	58.75" x 80.5"
Flag Size (H x L):	42.5" x 66.25"

Description.....:

During the Civil War, U.S. Army regulations set forth that an infantry unit would carry two flags. These included a national colors, meaning the Stars & Stripes, and a regimental colors, also referred to as a federal standard. This second flag, when issued by the federal government, displayed a federal eagle with a shield upon its breast, bearing the typical arrows and olive branches gripped in its talons, set upon a dark blue ground, with an arch of stars above. The eagle had a red streamer in its beak bearing the "E Pluribus Unum" slogan (out of many, one). Another streamer below the entire device was left blank so that a unit designation could be added (if time, materials, and the will of the presiding officer allowed,) after the flag was issued.

When the war broke out in 1861, the federal government did expand the regular army, but mostly it relied upon local volunteer units that were organized on state level. These were equipped by the states themselves, or else by wealthy persons or organizations wishing to donate to the Union cause. States supplied both types of colors. A great deal of variation followed as both government and independent flag-makers interpreted the regulations and formats differently, and states provided input that sometimes altered the imagery to include state-associated symbols. Pennsylvania, for example, generally followed the federal format, while Connecticut merged the Federal eagle with state symbolism. In some instances the federal eagle was painted on one side and the state crest on the other. And in some cases the regimental flag had the state device only. Interpretations of devices of all kinds varied by maker and artist.

In early 1862, the federal government retook the responsibility for the provision of regimental colors. But private groups or individuals that raised units often had their own flags made and presented them in formal ceremonies. These usually did not follow the form of federal standards at all, but rather put forth their own designs, including localized references in form of slogans, figures, landscapes, etc., plus eagles in various forms and a myriad of patriotic and military symbols. State and local militia groups that existed pre-war had their own flags that could either be carried as-is, or retired so that new flags could be produced for Civil War service. In either case these would often bear devices, dates and references specific to the history of the unit itself. Many of these local militias were comprised of veterans of other wars. Many were immigrants and the nationalities of their membership were conveyed through words and/or symbols on either their regimental flags, their national colors (Stars and Stripes), or both.

As a result of the above, the breadth of designs carried by units varied extensively and the inconsistency of it even within a state, let alone across states, was rampant. The same was true of uniforms.

This flag is the regimental battle flag of a Civil War volunteer unit. This is their own, personalized version of the federal standard and would have been carried alongside their Stars & Stripes. Made entirely of silk, the cornflower blue color so stunning that it is easy to understand why this is the most desired shade in flag collecting. Sometimes encountered in the cantons of cotton flags, especially homemade examples, it is seldom ever seen in silk flags, especially those with an expansive solid field, such as regimental colors. In fact, I have never seen a silk Civil war flag in this color in the antiques marketplace.

Regimental colors were typically 6 x 6.5 feet (72 x 78 inches) for battle flags produced with infantry and artillery specs, produced by the Philadelphia, New York, and Cincinnati Depots, employed under contract with the federal and state governments. Measurements of locally sourced flags varied from one commercial maker to the next, and some were homemade, but all were universally smaller with but scarce exception.

This particular flag was at some time re-bound around the perimeter and could have perhaps been slightly larger, but probably not by much. The present size is characteristic of most of its kind and precisely what one should expect, rectangular as opposed to square, like most of its locally-sourced counterparts.

Several things are especially desirable and interesting about the central device, that consists of a bold eagle, perched on a horizontal shield. This aggressive wartime stance can be seen on numerous patriotic objects during the 1860's and 70's. The pose is appealing because it is different from the norm throughout American history and because it is visually pleasing.

The eagle and its surrounding elements were gilded onto the silk ground, then painted with a bronze colored wash to distinguish the various features and render shading. The result is an almost monochromatic image that is both very unusual and very beautiful. Only the lettering is executed differently, painted in black.

Many of the stars on silk, Civil War battle flags were gilt-painted, as were numerous elements within state and federal emblems. Never before, however, have I seen a flag on which the entire device was gilded, then embellished in this manner. The flag is constructed of two separate panels of silk, front and back, each of which were pieced in multiple segments with treadle stitching. The same device appears on both sides.

The slogan that appears on the streamer above reads "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." This is a common enough phrase on the tongues of modern Americans to be universally known and uttered in all manner of circumstances. The words today, on many fronts, are almost as relevant as they were 150 years ago during the Civil war and 225 years ago during the Revolution.

The earliest attribution in print is attributed to Greek storyteller Aesop, where it appears in his fable "Four Oxen and a Lion." In early America, it first appears in "The Liberty Song", penned by Founding Father John Dickinson, written and published in the Boston Gazette in July of 1768. In his lyrics, Dickinson wrote: "Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall!" It's fair to assume that Dickinson, an academic, was well-acquainted with the fable, and that the image it painted of the strong, stubborn patriots versus the Lion of the British monarchy, was a fitting metaphor.

Another American patriot, Patrick Henry, used the phrase in his last public address, in March of 1799, during which he denounced The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions that proposed measures expanding states' rights. Clasp his hands and swaying unsteadily, Henry declared, "Let us trust God and our better judgment to set us right hereafter. United we stand, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs." Henry collapsed at the end of the speech into the hands of bystanders and was carried almost lifeless into a nearby tavern. He died just two months later.

It is of interest to note that the phrase had actually been the unofficial motto of Kentucky since it gained statehood in 1792 (adopted as official in 1942) and has always appeared on the state seal either metaphorically or literally. The state's first governor, Isaac Shelby, was particularly fond of the stanza from Dickinson's verse.

Curiously enough, while we tend to equate the words with American patriotism, I have never actually seen it painted or embroidered on a flag in its entirety, or any other patriotic American textile, for that matter, that dates to the 18th or 19th century. Because of this fact, and because it has such poignant meaning, it is a terrific feature to be included here.

The flag actually has verbal history to the 35th regiment in nearby Ohio, which borders Kentucky on the northern edge. In fact, the 35th mustered in on September 20th, 1861, in Butler County, at the town of Hamilton, which is part of the modern-day Cincinnati metropolitan area. Located in the most extreme Southwest Corner, many say Cincinnati has more in common with Kentucky than it does with its own state, Southern-leaning and caught in the middle both physically and politically between North and South.

The 35th spent the majority of its first year-and-a-half of service in Kentucky. While 750 of the 921 men who mustered into service under its leading officer, Brigadier General Ferdinand Van Derveer, were recruited from Butler County, numerous Kentucky residents who sided with the Union would have crossed the border to enlist and anyone among the entire group may have had roots there and been fond of the "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" slogan.

Whatever the case may be, the verbal history seems to be supported in part by the slogan itself and I have seen few Civil War flags in the marketplace that match this one in outright beauty as piece of 19th century art.

As a colorful side note, the 35th were nicknamed the Persimmon Regiment, after 15 of its members were captured by the Confederate Army during a skirmish, just three months into its term of service. Instead of fighting the Confederacy, these particular men instead chose to find and eat persimmons. It turns out they were not alone in their admiration for the southern fruit, as by the end of the war they shared the title with the 73rd Illinois and the 100th Indiana.

Mounting: This is a partial stitch mount and partial pressure mount between 100% hemp fabric and U.V. protective Plexiglas. The mount was placed in a black-painted, hand-gilded and distressed Italian molding with a wide ogee profile.

Condition: The flag has been re-bound along the perimeter with matching silk, probably during the late 19th or early 20th century. There is only very little loss in the gilded and painted elements, which are entirely original. There is minor soiling throughout, accompanied by a moderate area of staining in the upper, fly-end quadrant. This was professionally cleaned. Many of my clients prefer early flags to show their age gracefully.

Collector Level:	Flags for the truest Patriots. My best offerings
Flag Type:	Sewn flag
Star Count:	
Earliest Date of Origin:	1861
Latest Date of Origin:	1865
State/Affiliation:	Ohio
War Association:	1861-1865 Civil War
Price:	SOLD
E-mail:	Inquire



A GALLANT LEADER: PORTRAIT STYLE BANNER MADE FOR THE 1932 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN OF FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Available:	Sold
Frame Size (H x L):	Approx. 61.5" x 50"
Flag Size (H x L):	49.5" x 39"

Description.....:

Printed in heavy ink on cotton, this large scale, patriotic, campaign banner was produced in 1932 to promote the candidacy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt for President of the United States. This was the first of four times that FDR would seek and win the nation's highest office. The imagery features a slightly unusual, three-quarter, rightward-facing portrait of the future president, set within an Art Deco style, circular medallion with 4 stars in the bottom right-hand corner. Above his image, the slogan "A Gallant Leader" appears in stylized script. Below is simply "ROOSEVELT" in bold, block text with an elongated profile that compliments the tall and narrow form of the textile itself.

The banner was produced by the Sweeny Lithograph Company in Belleville, NJ and is signed in the lower right. An example of the same variety is held in the collection of the Smithsonian and documented in "Threads of History: Americana Recorded on Cloth, 1775 to the Present" by Herbert Ridgeway Collins (Smithsonian Press, 1979), as item #1085 on page 422. Collins formerly served as Curator of Political History at the Smithsonian Institution and his text is widely agreed to be the best available reference for American political textiles.

A Brief Biography of Franklin Delano Roosevelt:

After entering Harvard University in 1900, Franklin Roosevelt became active with the school newspaper Harvard Crimson. He became its editor in 1903 and that same year became engaged to Eleanor Roosevelt, his fifth cousin and the niece of President Theodore Roosevelt.

Enrolling in Columbia Law School in 1905, he passed the bar in 1907 and was employed by the prominent New York law firm Carter, Ledyard, and Milburn. In 1910 he was asked to run for the Democratic senate seat representing his childhood home of Dutchess County, NY. Long held by Republicans, his win on the Democratic ticket represented a significant victory. In 1912 he won again, but was resigned in 1913 when newly elected President Woodrow Wilson appointed him Assistant Secretary of the Navy. This became an increasingly important position as the U.S. prepared to enter WWI.

Like his cousin Theodore, Franklin aspired to rise in the political world. In 1920, he ran for vice president on the unsuccessful Democrat ticket of James Cox. The loss prompted FDR to reenter the business world, and shortly thereafter, in the summer of 1921, while vacationing with his family, Franklin started feeling weak and sickly. He was soon diagnosed with Polio. Like Theodore, he kept his charisma and humor in the face of adversity and made the decision to reenter politics by running for Governor of New York in 1928. Although he was unsure of his body's strength, he defied all physical odds and won the gubernatorial election in 1928 and again in 1930.

By 1932 a second Roosevelt had gained the White House. FDR went on to win again in 1936, 1940, and 1944. His election to his fourth presidential term led to the passing of the 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which imposed a two-term limit.

Mounting: The textile has been hand-stitched to 100% cotton twill, black in color. The black fabric was washed to remove excess dye. An acid-free agent was added to the wash to further set the dye and the fabric was heat-treated for the same purpose. The mount was then placed in a black-painted, hand-gilded and distressed Italian molding. The front is U.V. protective acrylic.

Condition: There is minor foxing, dye loss, and fabric loss.

Collector Level: Intermediate-Level Collectors and Special Gifts

Flag Type:

Star Count:

Earliest Date of Origin: 1932

Latest Date of Origin: 1932

State/Affiliation: New York

War Association:

Price: SOLD

E-mail: Inquire



33 STARS IN AN INTERESTING VARIATION OF THE "GREAT STAR" CONFIGURATION, MADE FOR THE 1860 CAMPAIGN OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN & HANNIBAL HAMLIN, WITH WHIMSICAL SERPENTINE TEXT

Available: Sold
 Frame Size (H x L): 22.5" x 28.25"
 Flag Size (H x L): 11" x 16.75"

Description....:

33 star American parade flag, printed on glazed cotton, and made for the 1860 campaign of Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin. Note the combination of the bold and whimsical, block-printed lettering with its serpentine format and this beautiful variation of what is called the "Great Star" configuration, a large star made out of smaller stars.

Among printed parade flags, those made for the political campaign of President Lincoln are, collectively, the most desired. On this particular flag, the words Lincoln & Hamlin are overprinted in black across the field of stripes. This means that the advertising was added to the flag after the red and blue were printed. This was the standard practice, though some advertising flags have verbiage (as well as symbols and portraits) that are printed simultaneously with the blue used in the canton.

Great Star designs take on many forms. In this particular example, note that there is a star between each arm of the large star and that there is a triangle of three stars in the very center. Among collectors, the Great Star represents the Rolls Royce of geometric star configurations. It is thought to have come about shortly after the War of 1812, when Congressman Peter Wendover of New York requested that Captain Samuel Reid, a War of 1812 naval hero, create a new design that would become the third official format of the Stars & Stripes. A recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Reid became harbor master of New York following the war. During his lifetime, he created many innovations in signal use, including a system that could actually send messages from New York to New Orleans by sea in just two hours.

Use as a Naval signal had been the primary reason for the initial creation of an American national flag in 1777, but since there was no official star configuration, the appearance of our flag varied greatly. Reid's primary concern centered on both consistency and ease of recognition. His hope was that as more and more states joined the Union, and more stars were subsequently added to the flag, that the design would remain easily identified on the open seas. In 1818 Reid suggested to Congress that the number of stripes permanently return to 13 (reduced from 15) and that the stars be grouped into the shape of one large star. Reid's proposal would have kept the star constellation in roughly the same format, in a pattern that could be quickly identified through a spyglass as the number of states grew. His concept for the stripes was ultimately accepted, but his advice on the star pattern was rejected by President James Monroe, due to the increased cost of arranging the stars in what would become known as the "Great Star", "Great Flower", or "Great Luminary" pattern. Monroe probably didn't wish to impose this cost on either the government or civilians, so he suggested a simple pattern of justified rows. The Great Star was nevertheless produced by anyone willing to make it and its rarity today, along with its beauty, has driven the desirability of American flags with variants of this beautiful design.

The 33rd state, Oregon, entered the Union on February 14th, 1859. The 33 star flag was official from 1859-1861, and was thus still the official flag when Ft. Sumter was fired upon, on April 12th of that year. This event marked the beginning of the Civil War and a 33 star flag was flying at Ft. Sumter during the attack. Because the 34th state, Kansas, had already acquired statehood on January 29th, 1861, flag makers knew that the 34 star flag would soon become official. For this reason, 33 star flags were not produced in great quantity for the war, which would last until 1865, and the 33 can be considered to be more of a pre-Civil war flag than a war-period flag. 33's are considerably more rare than 34 and 35 star examples.

Flags made prior to the Civil War comprise less than one percent of 19th century flags that have survived into the 21st century. Prior to the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, the Stars & Stripes was simply not used for most of the same purposes we employ it in today. Private individuals did not typically display the flag in their yards and on their porches. Parade flags didn't often fly from carriages and horses. Places of business rarely hung flags in their windows. Private use of the national flag rose swiftly during the patriotism that accompanied the Civil War, then exploded in 1876.

Even the military did not use the flag in a manner that most people might think. The primary purpose before the Civil War was to mark ships on the open seas. While the flag was used to mark some garrisons, the flags of ground troops were often limited to the flag of their own regiment and a Federal standard. Most people would be surprised to learn that the infantry wasn't authorized to carry the Stars & Stripes until 1837. Even then it was neither required nor customary. It was not until the Civil War took place that most U.S. ground forces carried the national flag.

An example of this flag is recorded in "Threads of History: Americana Recorded on Cloth, 1775 to the Present," by Herbert Ridgeway Collins (1979, Smithsonian Press), item 296, p. 158. Collins formerly served as Curator of Political History at the Smithsonian Institution and his book is considered the foremost reference on American political textiles.

Don't be fooled by the seemingly backwards orientation. In the 19th century, the same flag ethics that exist today (which developed around the turn-of-the-century), did not exist. So in the mid 19th century, this was every bit as correct as what we now think of as a "forwards" and ethical manner of display.

It is interesting to note that Lincoln was hardly the favorite at the beginning of the campaign, winning the Republican nomination from the 3rd ticket. He then defeated John Bell (Constitution Party), John Breckinridge (Southern Democrat), and Stephen Douglas (Northern Democrat), to become the Republican party's first president. Lincoln was elected with a mere thirty-nine percent of the vote and carried no state south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Hannibal Hamlin, our nation's first Republican vice president, was born in Maine in 1809. He was an attorney who, in his political career prior to the White House, served as Chairman of the Maine State House of Representatives, as a U.S. Congressman and Senator, and as Governor of the State of Maine. He was a Democrat until 1856, but was an opponent to slavery. He did not run with Lincoln in the second campaign in 1864, but did return to the U.S. Senate from 1869-1881 and served as Minister to Spain from 1881-82.

Mounting: The exceptional, gilded American molding has a rippled profile and dates to the period between 1830 and 1860. The flag has been hand-stitched to 100% cotton twill, black in color. The black fabric was washed to reduce excess dye. An acid-free agent was added to the wash to further set the dye and the fabric was heat-treated for the same purpose. The glazing is U.V. protective Plexiglas.

Condition: There is minor foxing and staining throughout, accompanied by areas with moderate staining in the 4th white stripe adjacent to the hoist end and at the fly end, beyond the Lincoln's name. There is pigment loss in the black overprint and there is minor misprinting in the canton. There is minor fraying along the top and minor fabric loss at the top and bottom of the white hoist area. Many of my clients prefer early flags to show their age and history of use. The flag presents beautifully and the great desirability of Lincoln campaign flags warrants almost any condition.

Collector Level:	Flags for the truest Patriots. My best offerings
Flag Type:	Parade flag
Star Count:	33
Earliest Date of Origin:	1860
Latest Date of Origin:	1860
State/Affiliation:	
War Association:	1861-1865 Civil War
Price:	SOLD
E-mail:	Inquire



35 STARS IN A DOUBLE WREATH PATTERN ON A CIVIL WAR VETERAN'S FLAG WITH OVERPRINTED BATTLE HONORS OF THE NEW YORK 71ST VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

Available: Sold
 Frame Size (H x L): 27.75" x 35.75"
 Flag Size (H x L): 15.75" x 24"

Description.....:

35 star parade flag with double-wreath pattern canton. Bears important battle honors of the New York 71st Volunteer Infantry. This is one of only three known varieties of parade flags with battle honors printed on them, and thus it is an exceedingly rare example.

The flag is printed on plain weave cotton of a weight that is unique among known printed flags. The unusual, paint-like pigment is also unlike that found all other parade flags that I have handled. The atypical materials make it challenging to date, but I suggest that the flag was most likely made for reunion of members of the 71st sometime between the 1880's and the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913. A relative or friend may have produced the flags, which would explain their peculiarities. Though the maker was obviously skilled in printing, it is possible that he or she had never before made printed flags. This fact and a rushed schedule to produce them for the event would explain why the maker did not have access to the ordinary ink and coarse, glazed cotton that was typically employed in their manufacture.

The star design is also unique among parade flags, mimicking the medallion pattern found on Civil War cavalry flank markers (guidons). In printed flags, all known wreath designs (with more than 13 stars) have a center star and at least two flanking stars outside the pattern (more commonly four stars, one in each corner). That is also true of most flags with sewn construction. This flag has two consecutive wreaths of stars, but no central star and no flanking stars in the corners, which makes it a very interesting addition to any collection.

A small group of these flags was discovered many years ago by a Civil War collector, rolled up under a table at a Pennsylvania flea market. I had the opportunity to meet this collector and discuss the circumstances of his interesting discovery. While the flags were sold to various parties, they occasionally resurface. That was the case with this example.

Brief History of the 71st New York:

The New York 71st Volunteer Infantry was comprised of men and boys from Delaware, Cattaraugus, New York, and Ulster counties. The First Corps of this group was recruited in Colchester, New York by Captain William H. Elwood, under the command of General George B. Hall. This took place on June 27th, 1861, and men were enlisted for a three-year term of service (unless sooner discharged). They proceeded to Staten Island, where they consolidated with a company from Great Valley, NY in the brigade led by General Daniel Stickles. They participated in many important conflicts other than those listed on the flag. When their initial terms of service were up, most men dropped their guns and returned home. Lincoln pleaded with his regiments to remain for an extended term, and the NY 71st Volunteers were among the very few who heeded his call.

West Virginia was admitted into the Union as the 35th state on June 20th, 1863, and the 35 star flag was used during the closing years of the Civil War. Although 35 was the official star count until July 4th, 1865, most flag makers would have added a 36th star after the addition of Nevada on October 31st, 1864.

Mounting: The American walnut molding dates to the period between 1860 and 1890, has a figured grain on the widest portion of its surface, ebonized trim, and a gilded liner. The flag has been stitched to 100% cotton, black in color, which has been washed to reduce excess dye. An acid-free agent was added to the wash to further set the dye and the fabric was heat-treated for the same purpose. Spacers keep the textile away from the glazing, which is U.V. protective glass.

Condition: There is some pigment loss near the center of the top and bottom red stripes and there is some wear with associated fabric loss along the hoist. There are small tears along the hoist from where the flag was previously affixed to a wooden staff. There is minor fading and there is minor water staining and soiling throughout. Many of my clients prefer early flags to show their age and history of use.

Collector Level:	Advanced Collectors and the Person with Everything
Flag Type:	Parade flag
Star Count:	35
Earliest Date of Origin:	1880
Latest Date of Origin:	1913
State/Affiliation:	West Virginia
War Association:	1861-1865 Civil War
Price:	SOLD
E-mail:	Inquire