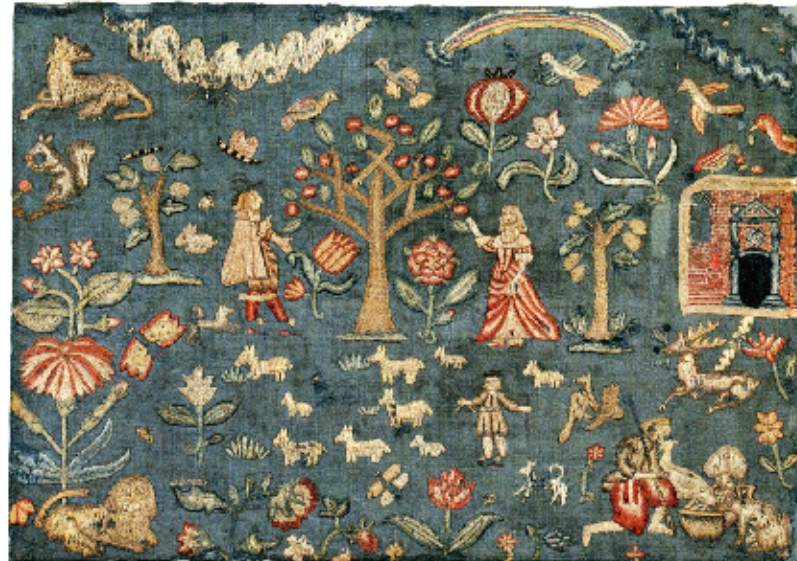


COLONIAL BOSTON NEEDLEWORK SHOOTS TO \$903,000 AT SKINNER

BOSTON, MASS. — Two relics of Boston's Colonial era topped Skinner's March 1 sale. Said to be among a handful of Seventeenth Century American pictorial embroideries, a needlework picture brought \$903,000 including premium, selling in the room to Woodbury, Conn., dealer David Schorsch.

Strikingly English in its design

of inspiration, the 17¼-by-24¼-inch work features a Tree of Life and a



courting couple as its central motif. Pendant images, also embroidered with wool and metallic thread, include a prodigal son, a brick building with a mica window and abundant flora and fauna scattered on the blue-green linen ground. The embroidery descended in the family of its maker, Sarah Phillips, who may have worked it as early as the 1660s. According to Skinner, Sarah was a daughter of Reverend Samuel Phillips (1625–1696), who immigrated from

Boxted, England, in 1630. Also of interest was an example of Paul Revere's well-known 1770 engraving of the Boston Massacre. It fetched \$135,000. The print variant shows the clock's hands set to 10:20. Another version of the print records the time as 8:00. The print descended in the family of Maine governor John Fremont Hill (1855–1912). A complete report will appear in an upcoming issue.

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