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Goggles Earhart Used for Transatlantic Flight Fetch \$120,000

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By Daniel Taub

Oct. 10 (Bloomberg) -- The goggles Amelia Earhart wore during her 1932 transatlantic flight sold for \$120,000, and the illuminated glove **Michael Jackson** donned on a 1984 tour fetched \$60,000 during a memorabilia auction in California.

The prices were within estimates of Calabasas, California- based auctioneer **Profiles in History**, which projected the goggles would sell for \$100,000 to \$150,000 and the glove for \$60,000 to \$80,000. An Apple computer owned by "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry, expected to fetch \$800 to \$1,200, went for \$7,500. The sale prices exclude a 15 percent buyer's premium that goes to the auction house.

"These are things that are completely standalone and unique, and represent important moments in our collective conscious," **Joe Maddalena**, president of Profiles in History, said in an interview before the auction.

The three lots were among more than 1,000 items of Hollywood and historical memorabilia up for sale. The two-day auction, which ended last night, also included uniforms and props used in the "Star Trek" television shows and movies, costumes Jackson wore on stage, and aerospace memorabilia including the baseball cap **Neil Armstrong** wore after Apollo 11's splashdown from the 1969 moon mission. The hat was expected to sell for \$10,000 to \$12,000 and went for \$12,000 before the buyer's premium.

Aviation pioneer Earhart wore the goggles on her 1932 flight, when she became the first person to cross the Atlantic twice and the first woman to fly solo nonstop across the ocean. The trip also was the fastest transatlantic flight, breaking **Charles Lindbergh's** record. Earhart disappeared five years later while attempting to circumnavigate the globe.

'Unconventional Nose'

The lot included a typed, signed letter about the goggles that Earhart sent to aerial cinematographer Ray Fernstrom, whose son sold the goggles.

"That particular pair are rather historic," wrote Earhart, the subject of a movie starring **Hilary Swank** and **Richard Gere** being released Oct. 23. "Also they have grown accustomed to me, and cling around my unconventional nose more effectively than new ones."

The Jackson glove is one of just two **illuminating gloves** the singer wore during the Jacksons' 1984 Victory tour, Profiles in History said. Given in 1986 to its designer, Ted Shell, the glove is fitted with 50 small lights that "twinkle at random for added visual impact on stage," according to the auction catalog.

Jackson's Death

Maddalena said he placed the \$60,000-to-\$80,000 estimate on the glove before Jackson's June 25 death, and didn't change the projected price when the item was put up for sale. He said while the price was a "realistic value," the glove could have sold for "anything," given the worldwide attention to Jackson's death.

The Macintosh computer was given to Roddenberry by **Apple Inc.**, then called Apple Computer Inc., in the mid-1980s. Not long after, Roddenberry gave it to his son, Rod, and showed him how to use it. Rod Roddenberry said he doesn't recall his father, who died in 1991, writing any "Star Trek" scripts on the Macintosh. It was put up for auction by Gene Roddenberry's assistant, Richard Arnold.

The entire auction brought in almost \$5 million, more than the \$3 million expected, Maddalena said afterward.

"It definitely exceeded our expectations," he said. "For it to be \$5 million is astounding."

To contact the reporter on this story: **Daniel Taub** in Los Angeles at dtaub@bloomberg.net.



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