



For Immediate Release

LiveAuctioneers.com to host online auction of tablets from Cecil B. deMille's cinematic classic, *The Ten Commandments*.

September 2, 2003

New York City – Avid collectors of entertainment industry and pop culture memorabilia are on a constant quest for the Holy Grail: that one perfect piece to be the focal point of their collection. On September 14, 2003, collectors will have the chance to own the Holy Grail itself, when LiveAuctioneers.com presents the online auction for the legendary Tablets from Cecil B. deMille's timeless epic, *The Ten Commandments*.

In one of the film's most memorable scenes, Moses (played by Charlton Heston) descends from his mountain with the Tablets in hand, and finds his people worshipping a golden calf. He throws the tablets into the Den of Iniquity, which is swallowed up by a crevice that opens in the earth.

Although they are among the most identifiable and recognizable props in motion picture history, no more than a handful of Tablets were created for the film, with only four pair, including this set, known to exist. The Tablets were crafted of thick, richly hewn fiberglass over wood and were created by Paramount Studios scenic artist A.J. Ciruolo at the request of deMille, who insisted the props be authentic in every way. Rather than relying on the studio research department to meet deMille's exacting standards of authenticity, respected Egyptologist Henry Noerdlinger was hired to do the job. His extensive research encompassed the traditional differences among the world's religions in the sequence of the Commandments, as well as the actual number of Commandments on each of the Tablets. According to researchers at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, the lettering on the Tablets would likely have been of early Canaanite style developed during the late Bronze Age, the time of Moses.

The Tablets measure approximately 24" x 12" x 1¼". They are in an excellent state of preservation, having been presented to the consignor, a Publicist for the film, by Paramount executive Bernard Serlin, who had stored them in his studio office. Also included with the lot is a copy of *Stereophonic Music from the Sound Track of Cecil B. deMille's production of The Ten Commandments*; an original monograph, entitled "Moses and Egypt," by Henry S. Noerdlinger; an explanation sheet used in conjunction with the display of the Tablets, which describes their creation; and five original foreign souvenir programs produced by Paramount for use with the distribution of the film.

Undoubtedly one of the most important pieces of film history to make its way to the auction block, this lot literally and figuratively represents the Holy Grail in motion picture memorabilia and is expected to collect upwards of \$30,000. LiveAuctioneers.com will host online bidding for the auction, which will be held September 14 at 1:30 PDT at the Beverly Garland Hotel in Hollywood, California.

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The two Tablets, as well as rare autographs and entertainment industry memorabilia, are offered for sale by JulienEntertainment.com in association with Odyssey Auctions. Other lots for the Hollywood Legends and Pop Culture Sale auction include George Harrison's legendary Rosewood Telecaster guitar used for The Beatles' final live performance, as well as autographs from Hollywood and music industry celebrities, and stage and film costumes worn by stars such as Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Gene Kelly and Elizabeth Taylor. Interested parties can place an absentee bid on any item at www.liveauctioneers.com up to one hour before the start of the sale, or register to participate via the Internet in real time while the auction takes place. There is no cost to register. Those who do not wish to bid can still watch the action live by going to www.liveauctioneers.com at the time of the event.

For more information about LiveAuctioneers.com and the Hollywood Legends and Pop Culture Sale, contact Julian Ellison, CEO of Live Auctioneers, at (646) 214-8900 or julian.ellison@liveauctioneers.com.

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About Live Auctioneers

Live Auctioneers brings the auction house experience online, worldwide. Buyers participate in real time, bidding on lots from their desktop as the auction is being conducted live at the auction house. Live Auctioneers works with more than 70 prestigious auction houses around the globe, and has an alliance with eBay Live Auctions. To view the catalog of upcoming auctions, visit www.liveauctioneers.com.