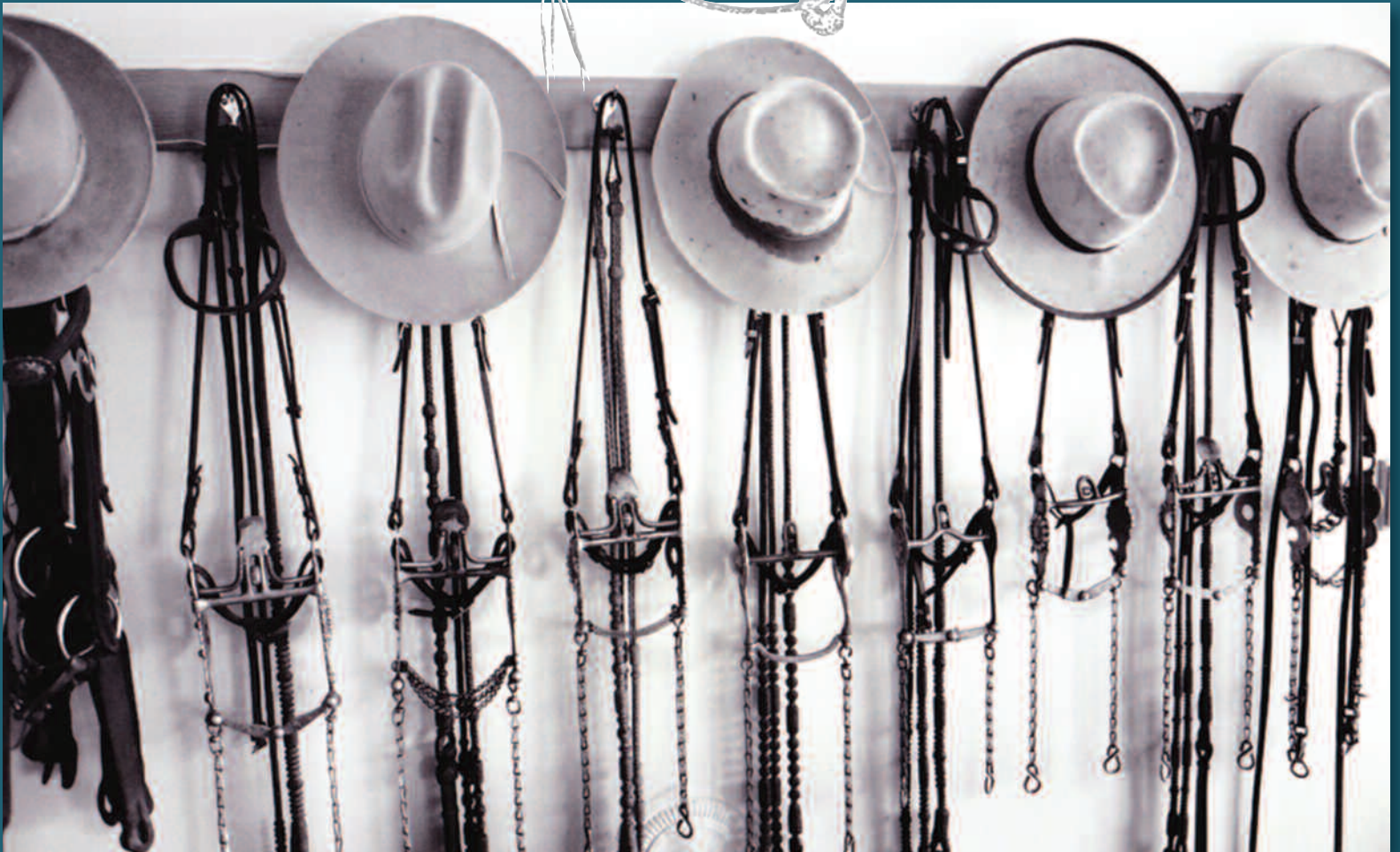


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The Photography of Con Haffmans

Remembering the Dorrances

Texas Ranch Life, with Amy Auker

Lighting Out – Wyoming's Hole-in-the-Wall Country

Making History

By Melissa McCracken

The original photograph of Billy the Kid – you know the photo: in his hat and boots, Winchester by his side – will be sold at auction this June, and is estimated to bring between 300,000 and 400,000 dollars. The photo is actually a tintype, produced sometime around 1880 in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, and is the only known, authenticated photograph of The Kid in existence. It has been passed down through a single family for over 130 years.

At the same auction is the personal collection of Mr. Jordan B. Cottle, a performer in *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* and friend of William F. Cody. Cottle's extensive assortment of artifacts includes his personal scrapbook, meticulously assembled by Cottle and inscribed by Cody. It is a treasure trove of the ephemera of an era: letters, notes, cards, passes, tickets, photos, dinner menus. Gathered together, they capture a time and place in a way that a written account could never achieve.

Katherine ("Kay") Haley was a noted Ojai, California horsewoman and art patron, who collected contemporary Western artists. A friend and supporter of Edward Borein, she assembled the finest and most extensive collection of Borein's work in private hands. Now, ten-plus years after her death, her favorite Borein watercolor, "California Vaquero" will be sold at the auction as well, and is expected to fetch a handsome price.

Brian Lebel's Old West Auction will be offering these pieces (along with a few hundred more) at its 22nd annual event this June 25th in Denver, Colorado. Lebel's auction, and accompanying weekend dealer show, have always attracted collectors of fine Western art and artifacts, and Brian Lebel himself has been in the Old West antiques business for over 30 years. He is a man who has handled his share of historic



The Upham tintype or ferrotype, 3" x 2", photographer unknown, c. late 1879 or early 1880. It is the only authenticated photo of Billy the Kid, most likely taken by a traveling photographer in Fort Sumner New Mexico



This is probably one of the finest watercolors ever painted by Borein because of the quality of the draftsmanship plus the beautiful action of the principal figures. It is my favorite.

—Katherine H. Haley 1988

items. Yet, he says of the first time he held the Billy the Kid tintype, “my knees shook.” There’s something about being able to physically touch history that enchants people; that allows them to feel a connection with the past that is otherwise absent, even someone as accustomed to it as Lebel. (The reason you can’t touch the walls at the Alamo is precisely because *everybody* wants to.)

We recognize that history lives in more than just books,

and we understand that it’s vital that we preserve the artifacts of our American past and culture. We pretty much count on museums and private collectors to bear the primary responsibility for this preservation effort, and it will likely be museums and collectors that purchase the big-ticket items at Lebel’s auction. But the reason that Billy’s photo and Cottle’s scrapbook are still here a century later is because someone thought to take care of them when they were new. Kay Haley sat in Borein’s studio and collected his work when he was living, and as a result she helped to cement not just his legacy, but hers as well. Yes, it’s important that we preserve our past, but it’s equally important that we preserve our present.

What we make in this country matters; and also what we save, what we pass down. The flotsam and jetsam of our daily lives are the artifacts of the next century, and though we can guess at what might be considered historic a hundred years from now, we certainly can’t know. It would seem then that we need to be mindful of what we create and consume, and, of course, what we throw away. Not only because it matters now, but because it matters in the future. What will we leave behind? What will fill the museums of the 22nd century? History is being made every day in myriad tiny ways. That’s something worth remembering.

For more information about Billy’s tintype, Cottle’s scrapbook, Kay’s favorite watercolor, or any of the other historic and collectible items at Brian Lebel’s Old West Auction, visit www.denveroldwest.com.



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