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FSF FREE SOFTWARE
F O U N D A T I O N

Auction Booklet

For the virtual FSF Memorabilia Live
Auction on March 23, 2025.

About the FSF Memorabilia Auction

Silent Auction

- **When?** March 17-21
- **Where?** LibrePlanet wiki
- **What?** 25 auction items

Live Auction

- **When?** March 23, 14:00-17:00 EDT
- **Where?** Galene
  (link provided upon registration)
- **How?** register at https://u.fsf.org/45x
- **What?** 6 auction items

This is your chance to get your very own personal souvenir of the FSF, from original GNU art to a famous katana and the Internet Hall of Fame medal of the FSF's founder. At the beginning of the fortieth anniversary year, the Free Software Foundation Inc. (FSF) is organizing an unprecedented memorabilia auction, starting as a silent auction on March 17, and culminating in a virtual live auction on March 23, 2025.

For this auction, the FSF decided to entrust some of the historically important free software memorabilia that were in the FSF's office and archive to the free software community instead of locking them away in a storage unit where no one can enjoy them. Hopefully, this way some of these unique items will be displayed in galleries or on the walls of free software enthusiasts. All auction proceeds will go towards the FSF's mission to promote computer user freedom.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@fsf.org if you want to know the fair market value of any of the auction items or if you have any other questions.

About the FSF

The Free Software Foundation Inc. (FSF), founded in 1985, is dedicated to promoting computer users' right to use, study, copy, modify, and redistribute computer programs. The FSF promotes the development and use of free (as in freedom) software -- particularly the GNU operating system and its GNU/Linux variants -- and free documentation for free software. The FSF also helps to spread awareness of the ethical and political issues of freedom in the use of software, and its websites, located at https://www.fsf.org and https://www.gnu.org, are an important source of information about GNU/Linux. Its headquarters are in Boston, MA, USA. Donations to support the FSF's work can be made at https://donate.fsf.org. Its headquarters are in Boston, MA, USA.

About the GNU System

In September 1983, Richard Stallman announced the plan to develop a free software Unix-like operating system called GNU. GNU is the only operating system developed specifically for the sake of users' freedom. See https://www.gnu.org/gnu/the-gnu-project.html.

In 1992, the essential components of GNU were complete, except for one, the kernel. When in 1992 the kernel Linux was re-released under the GNU GPL, making it free software, the combination of GNU and Linux formed a complete free operating system, which made it possible for the first time to run a PC without non-free software. This combination is the GNU/Linux system. For more explanation, see https://www.gnu.org/gnu/gnu-linux-faq.html.

"GNU HEAD" BY ETIENNE SUVASA (1992)

The facts

- **Start price:** $10,000
- **Measurements:** 18"x16" with frame
- **Entails:** "GNU Head" drawing plus golden, ornate wood frame
- **Estimated shipping cost in the US:** $40 to the EU: $100

Description

This unassuming pen-and-ink illustration is the blueprint for the iconic GNU logo you see everywhere. More than just a smiling beast, it represents the heart of the free software movement from dorm rooms to data centers worldwide. Owning this is like having the original band poster, drawn by hand, from your favorite group before they became big.

STALLMAN'S KATANA

The facts

- **Start price:** $5,000
- **Measurements:** 41" long
- **Entails:** katana and scabbard
- **Fair Market Value:** $2,500
- **Estimated shipping cost in the US:** $40
- Note that due to import restrictions we most certainly can not ship the katana to addresses outside the US.

Description

Once upon a time, this 41-inch blade turned heads at the FSF's tech team office. Donated by FSF friends and fans of the XKCD webcomic 225, it became a lighthearted "weapon" in the war for user freedom. As RMS himself is anti-violence, he made a silly joke by examining the katana closely instead of brandishing it, symbolizing that software freedom can be defended with wit. In a legendary photo, this was perceived as if he sniffed the blade. Between the etched dragon on the scabbard and the wavy hamon on the blade, it's as flashy as it is symbolic — especially if you like taking on proprietary software with style (and a dash of humor).

PAIR OF GCC GNU LETTER DRAWINGS BY ETIENNE SUVASA

The facts

- **Start price:** $7,500
- **Measurements:** approx. 14"x11"
- **Entails:** two drawings with frames
- **Estimated shipping cost in the US:** $40
- **Estimated shipping cost to the EU:** $100

Description

These two drawings show a gnu forming the letter "G" and a corresponding gnu forming the letter "C" for GCC. These original GNU artworks were drawn by the Gary Torrisi studio and are on the cover of the book *Using GCC - The GNU Compiler Collection Reference Manual for GCC*.

Internet Hall of Fame medal

The facts

- **Start price:** $3,000
- **Measurements:** 16"x14"
- **Entails:** medal with frame
- **Estimated shipping cost in the US:** $40
  to the EU: $100

Description

When Richard M. Stallman, the founder of the FSF, was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame, it was the ultimate nod to free software's immense impact on the Internet. The Internet Hall of Fame is an honorary lifetime achievement award administered by the Internet Societyin recognition of individuals who have made significant contributions to the development and advancement of the Internet. The medal is shiny, and the frame is fancy, but the real radiance is the recognition that the Internet might look much more locked down and dull without those original free software seeds. Hang it on your wall, and you'll be reminded that hacking for user freedom can change the world.
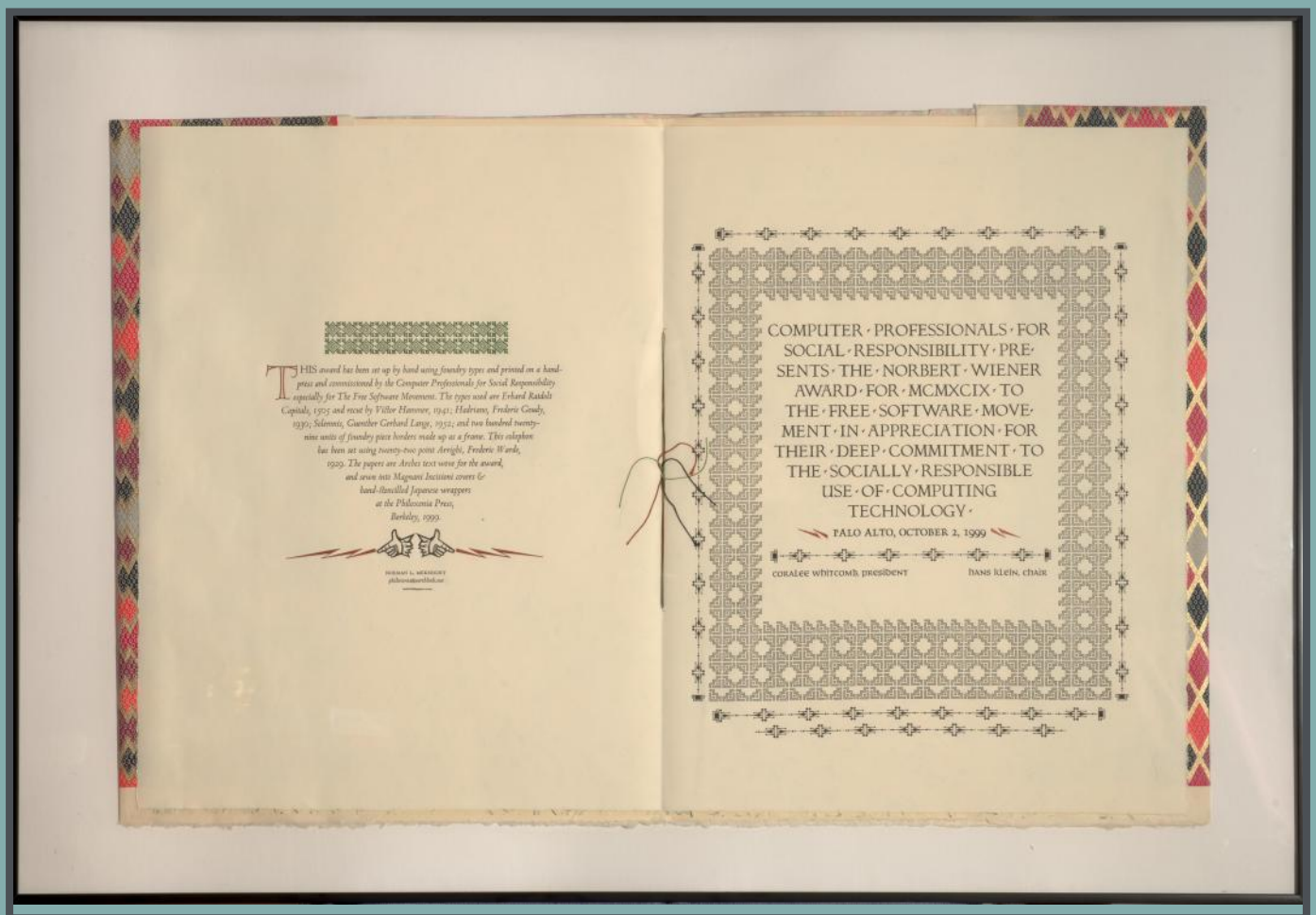
"GNU PARTY" BY ETIENNE SUVASA (1993)

The facts

- **Start price:** $3,000
- **Measurements:** approx. 16"x15"
- **Entails:** drawing with frame
- **Estimated shipping cost in the US:** $40 **to the EU:** $100

Description

Seven gnus, a table of treats, and an all-out party atmosphere—this piece screams, "Welcome to the party; hacking is fun!" Etienne Suvasa created his artwork in 1993 for Richard Stallman's *Free Software, Free Society*. Later, it decorated the cover of *Introduction to the Command Line*, reminding all novices that messing with the command line can be as festive as a donut-laden birthday bash. Who says computing can't be celebratory?

NORBERT WIENER AWARD FOR SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Text on the right

"Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility presents the Norbert Wiener Award for MCMXCIX to the Free Software Movement in appreciation for their deep Commitment to the socially responsible use of computing technology. Palo Alto, October 2, 1999. Coralee Whitcomb, president. Hans Klein, chair."

Text on the left

 "This award has been set up by hand using foundry types and printed on a hand press and commissioned by the Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility especially for The Free Software Movement. The types used are Erhard Ratdolt Capitals, 1505 and recut by Victor Hammer, 1941; Hadriano, Frederic Goudy, 1930; Dolemnis, Guether Gerhard Lange, 1952; and two hundred twenty-nine units of foundry piece borders made up as a frame. This colophon has been set using twenty-two point Arrighi, Frederic Warde, 1929. The papers are Arcges text wove for the award, and sewn into Magnani Incisioni covers & hand-stenciled Japanese wrappers at the Philoxenia Press, Berkley, 1999. Norman L. McKnight, philoxenia@earthblink.net."

The facts

- **Start price:** $4,000
- **Measurements:** 23"x22"
- **Entails:** award plaque on high quality paper with frame
- **Estimated shipping cost in the US:** $70
- **Estimated shipping cost to the EU:** $130

Description

If ever there was an award that said, "You're changing the world," this is it. Hand-lettered and gorgeously framed, it thanks the Free Software Movement for being "socially responsible" back in 1999 — meaning folks realized free software wasn't just about code but about ethics and community. Think of it as proof that the hacker mindset can transform society one commit at a time.

The Norbert Wiener Award for Social and Professional Responsibility recognizes "significant contributions to research in systems science and engineering, human-machine systems, and/or cybernetics."

We look forward to seeing you at the FSF Memorabilia Auction on March 23, 2025!