**~ HOW IT WAS MADE ~**

In 1942, Czech American lithographer, Theodore Ohman, produced this stunning lithograph of the Declaration of Independence. The original Declaration had hung in the U.S, Patent Office from 1841 – 1876, in a hall opposite a window, exposing it to sunlight which accelerated the deterioration of the ink and parchment. The combined effects of aging, sunlight and fluctuating temperature and relative humidity took their toll on the document.

In 1856, it was described by an observer in *United States Magazine* as “That old looking paper with the fading ink.”

Using the last photograph taken of the original Declaration before it was permanently sealed in the National Archives in 1903 and an 1823 William Stone print from a copperplate engraving of the Declaration, Ohman was able to combine the original writing with the exact appearance of the parchment. This required the meticulous placing of every word and signature over the cracks in the Declaration, exactly as it would be if the signatures and script were undamaged.

The Ohman lithograph, depicting the Declaration in its actual size is imprinted in the lower right corner *“Copyright 1942, by the Ohman Co., Memphis, Tenn.*

*The Ohman lithograph is in the collections of the National Archives, Library of Congress, and Independence Hall.*

Source: Legendary Auctions.com – The Declaration of Independence – Original Ohman Lithograph