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Oyster plates were elegance on the half-shell

By WILLIAM FLOOD

In October, Antique Week acquainted readers with the popularity of oysters during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the fascination with collecting vintage oyster cans today. Another popular collectible from oysters' epicurean heyday is oyster plates, which were fixtures on the tables of gracious hosts for nearly a century.

As oysters became fashionable in the late 1800s, tableware manufacturers began creating beautiful specialized plates to serve the shellfish. As the oyster craze grew, so did the market for the serving plates. No fashionable Victorian or Edwardian table was complete without a set. Their adoption even spawned accompanying two or three-pronged silver forks for skewering the delicacies.

The handsomely-crafted plates were made by the finest porcelain and ceramics makers, most commonly in Europe. Early designs reflected the lavishness of the Victorian and Edwardian eras; they were highly ornate, embellished with details like gilded edges, and were typically hand-painted. Brightly colored Majolica and renowned French Limoges pieces were particularly popular.

As the 20th century progressed, oysters became more widely available. Simultaneously, mass-production of tableware made the unique serving dishes available to the public. Production factories were able to emulate the ornate designs that only the wealthy could previously afford. Given their newfound availability, oyster plates became popular gifts at weddings and other important events.

Although shipping and other advances made both the plates and seafood

Right:

Haviland

Limoges

porcelain

plate is

it featured 3 wells.

unusual in that

This



Above: These plates were spotted in an antique shop window in Annapolis, Maryland. Oyster plate prices in the store ranged from under \$100 to over \$3,000.

available to a wide geography, fresh seafood like oysters remained tied to coastal regions. As a result, oyster plates sold most heavily in states along the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts. Not surprisingly, that's where collectors tend to find them today.

Oyster plates are often confused with similar-looking deviled egg plates because they have several recessed wells to hold their contents. Oyster plates differ because their wells usually emulate a seafood shell rather than resembling oblong egg-shaped divots.

The circumference of the wells varied by the size or grade of the oysters a plate was intended to hold. Specifics also varied by geography, since different regions have different sizes of oysters. The wells' depth tells a different story. Oyster plates with deep recesses were used to serve oysters on the half shell, usually over ice. Unfortunately, the shells commonly scratched or damaged the delicate plates. The problem gave rise to plates with

shallow wells used to serve shucked oysters. The potential for damage also spawned plates made of more durable materials like ceramic, glass, pewter, and even silver

Oyster plates are found in a variety of shapes and configurations both utilitarian and to spark visual appeal. The number of compartments varies from one to over a dozen. A popular format is the "turkey plate" which has five wells in a pattern resembling a turkey silhouette. There are kidney-shaped plates that hold five to seven oysters along with cocktail sauce. Round or geometric patterns have as many as two

dozen divots and a center space for sauce. Those with four wells are known as "ladies' plates" while those that hold individual oysters are known as "shooters."

Plate design reflected the prevailing styles of their era. Those predating the 1920s tended to be more intricate, often having scalloped edges, gilding, inlays, and hand-painted sea or floral themes. Later ones, drawing aesthetics from the Bauhaus and other functional movements, were typically more streamlined and geometric.

Most oyster plates made before World War II were made in Europe. Some of the most popular came from French companies like Haviland, and Quimper the latter is among the oldest oyster plate



Above: Not as dainty as an antique, and evidenced by the website address on the bottom, this blue crab plate is modern. Yet, it still sells for about \$50.

manufacturers. In England, Wedgwood and Minton were prolific oyster plate makers. A couple of U.S. companies got into the game, notably Moser and Union Porcelain Works.

Particularly on mass-produced plates made after the 1890s, maker's marks and artist's signatures were relatively common. So, it's generally easy to identify a plate's manufacturer. Plus, many oyster plates reflected identifiable styles - like Haviland and Company's Limoges - which help pinpoint origins even in the absence of a manufacturer's identification.

Prices for oyster plates can vary

SEE OYSTER PLATES ON PAGE 31

Below: A circa 1970s placemat from Philadelphia's Kelley's restaurant attests to at least 50 years of interest in antique oyster plates.







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NEWS

Ohio blanket chest leads Meander Auctions' fall sale

By Susan Emerson Nutter

WHIPPLE, Ohio — Husband and wife duo, Andrew Richmond and Hollie Davis, are a force to be reckoned with. This power couple are a unique entity in the often perceived to be "for old people only" business of finding, researching, acquiring and selling antiques. This has been their passion for the past two decades.

"This summer, we hit the 20th-anniversary milestone of our work in the auction business," Hollie Davis notes, "and in one way or another, auctions have been what we've spent almost all of that time doing."

Recently, the couple went old school and purchased a building in Whipple, Ohio, creating Meander Auctions (formerly Ohio Company Antiques) where they do live, in-person auctions, but also host online only sales.

So why open up a brick and mortar at this stage in the game? Davis explains, "One of the reasons we wanted to have a building and do auctions in a more consistent way was that we think what people are always looking for is good service and flexibility. With a building, we can be a lot more flexible in offering options for both in-person preview, which people still seem to appreciate, and for picking up.

"In fact, we sent an email out to buyers





Above: This Ohio decorated blanket chest by Jacob Werrey, German Township, Fulton County, Ohio, dated 1882, was made of poplar and featured its original black over red stylized paint as well as green trim and feet. The poplar chest was dovetailed and retained a stenciled basket of flower as well as the initials "MB" and "1882." The chest sold for \$11,800.

in the Auerbach sale [Meander's live/in-person, on-line, absentee and phone bidding event held October 28] and told them to wait a bit to come pick up; that they might find something in our November sale they'd like. We were able to say we were happy to hold onto things for a couple weeks. And, in the same vein, we're committed to in-house shipping. It just keeps costs down, which keeps prices up and leaves more money in the consignor's pocket and helps buyers be

Left: This American painted gameboard wore wonderful original polychrome paint and was bid to \$922.50 during the November 8 Fall Antiques and Art sale hosted by Meander Auctions of Whipple, Ohio.

more competitive - if you can only spend \$200 on something, you have to factor in shipping, and by keeping shipping affordable, we let more of your budget go toward bidding."

Meander Auctions' November 8 online/ absentee bid event "consisted of material from a variety of consignors - a Columbus, Ohio estate, some lots from a couple in New York who were downsizing, and things from Delaware, Tennessee and of course all around Ohio," Davis noted.

The top lot of the day was a Jacob Werrey (German Township, Fulton County) Ohio decorated blanket chest dated 1882. Made of poplar and having a dovetailed box on turned legs, the chest retained its



Above: Still dressed in its original faux mahogany grain paint, this two-piece corner cupboard signed John Spitler and Hery Bahl[?] was bid to \$2,714.

original black over red stylized paint decoration with green trim and feet. The chest also featured a stenciled basket of flowers over "MB" and "1882". The box is signed on the underside, and though it is illegible, it matches the signatures on other Werrey chests. This 28 inch high by 28 inch wide and 23 inch deep beauty realized \$11,800. Prices include a buyer's premium.

An Ohio or Pennsylvania decorated corner cupboard signed John Spitler and Hen-

SEE MEANDER AUCTIONS PAGE 4

It was still not Ken's year at the Toy Hall of Fame

INSIGHTS

By Barbara Miller Beem

The die has been cast: From a field of twelve finalists, which emerged from thousands of nominating ballots, four classic toys have been chosen as this year's inductees into the National Toy Hall of Fame at The Strong Museum of Play. This year's winners, announced on November 10, are baseball cards, Cabbage Patch Kids, and Nerf toys. The Fisher-Price Corn Popper was also granted entrance under special circumstances (more on that later). Those not making the final cut: four games (Battleship, bingo, Connect 4, and Bop It!), Slime, the Little Tikes Cozy Coupe, books ("Choose Your Own Adventure" gamebooks), and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Oh, and also Ken.

Nobody asked me, but I'm finding myself questioning some of these choic-

Well, actually, somebody did ask me. And not just me, but any member of the public who is so inclined to nominate their favorite toys, by mail or online, to be a finalist in what has become an annual tradition. This past year, whenever I remembered to do so, I nominated Rack-O, the best game ever and one that I am really, really good at playing. For the uninitiated, Rack-O involves putting 10 cards in numerical order on a little plastic rack. It's easy to pick up because there aren't many rules, but developing winning strategies takes a bit more time. I might add that another great boxed card game is Mille Bornes, especially entertaining when playing "boys against girls." But I digress.

Established in 1998 by a Salem, Oregon, museum, the Toy Hall of Fame now makes its home in Rochester, New York. Included among the 80 toys that have previously been honored are such

SEE INSIGHTS PAGE 5

Right: Drumroll, please! The 2023 inductees into the Toy Hall of Fame at The Strong Museum of Play are Nerf toys, Fisher-Price's Corn Popper, Cabbage Patch Kids, and baseball cards. Where's Ken? Image courtesy of The Strong Museum of Play



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Meanders Auction

FROM PAGE 2

ry Bahl (?) and dated either 1851 or 1857 made \$2,714. Of two-piece construction, the upper portion boasted two eight-pane doors with the lower having two paneled doors. Overall, the 85½ inch tall cupboard retained its original faux mahogany grain paint with old cream paint on the interior.

Meander's auction listing for this cupboard said, "The collector's receipt for this cupboard identifies Spitler as working in Adams County, Pennsylvania. Other equally vibrant faux mahogany grained cupboards are known from that area, including a corner cupboard attributed to Mount Pleasant that sold at Keno Auctions (New York), May 2010, lot 70. Genealogical research has identified a single John Spitler (1819-1898) that is the right age in Adams County. He was the son of Jacob (1782-1874) and Mary Diehl (1793-1884), and the familv lived in Mount Pleasant. Interestingly, however, the entire family, including John, moved west, settling in western Montgomery County, Ohio by 1840. If this is the John Spitler who signed this cupboard, it would mean that the cupboard was made in Montgomery County, Ohio. Spitler is listed in all censuses as a farmer, which is typical of rural furniture makers during the 19th century. Research could not firmly identify a Henry Bahl[?] in either location. The best candidate is Henry Buhl (b. 1820), who was a Prussian-born day laborer in Dayton in the 1860 census. By 1870, he was working in the iron business."

Primitive decorative pieces selling out of this event included an oil on canvas signed portrait of a gentleman by John Brewster, Jr. (Connecticut/Maine, 1766-1854) which was won with a bid of \$5,842. The half-

Below: Featuring acid etched crimson flowers against a butterscotch-yellow background, this marked "Galle" cameo vase was 18 inches high and sold for





Above: This oil on canvas portrait of a gentleman by John Brewster, Jr. (Connecticut/Maine, 1766-1854) sold for \$5,842.50.

length portrait of a gentleman with dark hair wearing a white shirt, white waistcoat and black coat with one hand inside the front closure measured 29 inches high by 24 ½ inches wide (sight); in a period frame, 35 ½ inches high by 30 ¾ inches wide.

Meander Auctions noted in their listing, "This portrait was included in a 1961 exhibition of Brewster's work that originated at the Connecticut Historical Society, and then traveled to Colby College, and finally to the Addison Gallery Phillips Academy in Andover, MA. It was discussed in Nina Fletcher Little, "John Brewster, Jr. 1766-1854. Deaf-Mute Portrait Painter of Connecticut and Maine," which appeared in

Below: With four large branches carved with deities, birds and flowers, this coral figure sold for \$4,425.



Above: Possibly African American, this early 20th century, cotton quilt had an unusual graphic pattern in various colors and a flannel backing. It sold for \$1,476.

the October 1960 issue of the Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin in advance of the exhibition.

A wonderfully graphic pieced quilt; possibly African American, early 20th century was made of cotton and boasted an unusual pattern in a variety of colors complete with a flannel backing. Measuring 73 inches by 84 inches, this quilt sold for \$1,476.

A colorful early 20th century painted pine gameboard made of a single board with an applied border did well bringing \$922.50. The 26 ½ inch high by 14 ½ inch wide board retained its original polychrome paint, while an English, early 19th century



Above: This 4 1/4 inch high mocha ware mug made \$584.25

pearlware, mocha ware mug with a tapered body, square handle, and marbleized decoration sold for \$584.25.

Decorative items without the primitive aspect selling strong included a large fourbranch coral carving of deities, birds, and flowers; early to mid 20th century Chinese, was taken to \$4,425. The total weight of this piece came in at 1316 grams, and it stood 15 ½ inches high. A similar two-branch 12-inch-high coral example, but this having a carving of a goddess and flowers realized \$3,068. It weighted 754 grams

"It was gratifying to see the coral pieces get the attention they deserved," Davis

Standing 18 inches high, a late 19th century French Galle cameo vase sold for \$2,952. The vase wore acid etched crimson flowers against a butterscotch-vellow background, and a 1903-S \$20 Double Eagle Coronet gold sold strong bringing \$1,968.

Richmond and Davis felt the auction was a success, but by no means do they sit upon such laurels. "We're always looking at what we can do to streamline things, how we can offer better service. How do we strike the balance in lotting things between making them attractive to collectors but making shipping practical for dealers," Davis explains. "When someone asks us for something, we like to say the answer is yes what's the question? And where we are now is figuring out how to say yes as much as possible, which is the best kind of problem to have."

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Below: This1903-S \$20 Double Eagle Coronet gold coin sold for \$1,968.





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Cigar cutters took a nip out of the cigar for the perfect smoke

By David McCormick

Cigars began to grow in popularity in the 1800s; with that popularity came the need to cut the cigar clean to enhance the draw of the smoke. This in turn created a demand for a new tool—the cigar cutter. A cigar cutter is a mechanized tool; its function is to cut one end off a cigar so that it may be smoked pleasurably. The earliest cigar cutters were very basic; small scissors or knives constructed to lop off the end of the cigar in one clean

Later, cigar cutters became to take on more fanciful shapes such as revolvers, birds, horses, coins, medals, and even a miniature guillotine that would sit on a person's desk in their office. Many promoted events like the 1939 New York World's Fair Coin Cigar Cutter. Vintage cigar cutters also promoted products with their name on the front.

The origin of the cigar cutter is unknown, but an early description from 1859 by Frederick William Fairholt, in



Above: This antique 1880 - 90s cigar cutter in the form of a gun was offered for sale by eBay seller: everythingthatssilver for the buy-it-now prvice of \$224.79.

his book "Tobacco: Its History and Associations," tells the following tale as to its beginning. "In Berlin, a few years ago, an ingenious pocket-knife, entirely of steel,



Above: This set is perfect for any tobacco enthusiast. With intricate detailing and craftsmanship, the tabletop cutter includes a match holder and ashtray. The piece was made in France and was offered for sale by eBay seller: beg_barter_or_steal. for \$400.

> SEE VINTAGE CIGAR CUTTERS Page 9



Above: Circa 1891 countertop advertising cigar cutter. Ofered by eBay seller: beg_barter_or_steal for the but it now price of \$825.

Insights

FROM PAGE 2

diverse choices as Barbie and American Girl Dolls, sand and the top, the cardboard box and Hula Hoops. Four criteria are used to determine whether a toy deserves this honor. It must be an "icon" with "longevity," that is, enjoyed for multiple generations. There should be an element of "discovery" about it, and finally, it should be "innovative." Traditionally, three toys are inducted every year at about this time.

Except for this year. In honor of the Hall's "silver anniversary," the public was invited to select a fourth entrant from what was called the "Forgotten Five." Sort of like "Miss Congeniality." Still among what is now the "Forgotten Four" are My Little Pony, Pez, Transformers, and the pogo stick.

Historically, The Strong tries to spread out its inductees, with no more than one toy per category. Although I'm not a betting woman, my first thought when I saw two dolls in the list of finalists was "uh oh." It could only mean one thing, the winning doll might be the one for which women (on behalf of Santa) stood in line to purchase for their daughters back in the 1980s (I'm talking about you, Mona Naomi, the talking "Kid" that ate batteries). Or it would be the doll for which these same women and their now-adult daughters stood in line to see (and cry over) this summer at their local multiplex.

I guess we have our answer. Even though this was "her" year, it wasn't his. Adding insult to injury is the fact that G.I. Joe was inducted into the Hall

in 2004. In the end, I suppose it proves that it's true, he's "just Ken."

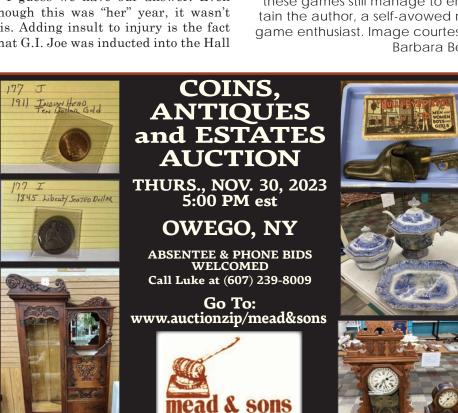
On the other hand, the idea of books as toys would have been an interesting choice. And while I understand the nod to baseball cards, here of late, they've gotten to be the toys for, er, big boys. As for the Bop It!, well, I'm speechless.

Finally, I am disappointed that there are no games in the mix this year, even though I don't like board games. Not at all. I would opt for having my fingernails ripped out if given the choice between that or playing Chutes and Ladders. But Connect 4 is a family favorite, and those of us who have played the game with my granddaughter Marigold know that we don't stand a chance of beating her.

I don't always agree with the choices made for the Toy Hall of Fame. And it seems that I'm not the only one. Even a strong online campaign has yet to push Hess trucks over the finish line. But in the end, this generally joyous, sometimes puzzling competition conducted by The Strong makes us think about toys and games and their importance in our lives and personal development. That's a good thing. The other day I came upon my 50-year-old (now vintage) backgammon set. Although I've never really figured it out, maybe this is my year. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, my family is looking forward to playing an after-dinner game that will never be honored at The Strong: the Seinfeld Trivia Game. In

Right: Not in the Toy Hall of Fame, these games still manage to entertain the author, a self-avowed nongame enthusiast. Image courtesy of Barbara Beem the meantime, this disappointed fan of oles will just have to find consolation in Rack-O, Ken, and the Baltimore Orithe words "wait till next year."





auctioneers



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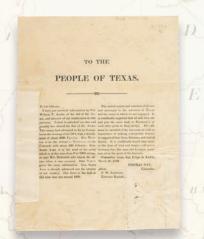
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Thomas Gay Broadside Announcing the Fall of the Alamo, "To the People of Texas." One page, 7.75" x 10". [San Felipe de Austin: Printed by Baker and Bordens, March 16 or 17, 1836.] Streeter notes that this is "[t]he first news at San Felipe of the Fall of the Alamo" and only 150 copies were printed.

Starting Bid: \$75,000



A. B. Gray. Southern Pacific Railroad. Survey of a Route for the Southern Pacific R.R., On the 32nd Parallel by A. B. Gray, for the Texas Western R.R. Company. Cincinnati, O: Wrightson & Co.'s ("Railroad Record,") Print, 1856. First edition, with 33 lithograph plates and two maps including Preliminary Map to Accompany Report of A. B. Gray of the Route of the Texas Western Railroad... (furnished from another copy). Exceedingly rare to find complete.

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Chas. W. Pressler & A. B. Langermann. Map of the State of Texas. Austin: General Land Office, 1879. Folio. Bound in period boards; the individual pages are sections of the map. If put together for display, it would measure over eight feet. We have heard of one other copy located at the General Land Office which is in poor condition. Starting Bid: \$50,000

John Salmon "RIP" Ford Autograph Letter Signed. Five folio pages, Head Quarters Rio Grande Military District, Fort Brown; April 21, 1861. Writing nine days after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, Ford writes to Texas Governor Edward Clark informing him of "intelligence of the opening of hostilities between the Confederate States and Mr. Lincoln's government." Starting Bid: \$10,000

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EVENT FINDER



Florida Sarasota Gentlemans Mega Auction Dec 02	22
Georgia Atlanta Scott Antique Market Dec 07	1
Illinois Arcola 2-Day Black Friday Auction Nov 24 Ottawa Public Auction Nov 26	
Indiana Greenfield Live Auction Nov 25 Greentown Antique & Collectible Show and Sale Dec 30 Indianapolis Online Only Auction Nov 25 Shipshewana Antique & Miscellaneous Auction Dec 06	9 20
Maryland Glen Arm, Online Only Auction Nov 22	21

Massachusetts Beverly Thanksgiving Sale Nov 25	.18
Michigan Kalamazoo Kalamazoo Toy Show Nov 25 Tecumseh Christmas Open House Nov 25	
Missouri Lone Jack Mid Americana Auction Dec 10	.12
New Jersey Bloomfield Estate Treasures Auction Dec 06	.32
New York Geneseo Fine Art & Antiques Auction Nov 29 Owego Coin, Antique & Estate Auction Nov 30	
Ohio Alexandria Public Auction New 20	5

Pennsylvania Denver Vintage Swatch Watch Auction Nov 30 11 Downingtown Online Auction Dec 06 27
Tennessee Johnson City 30th Annual Thanksgiving Saturday Auction Nov 2519
Texas Dallas Texas History Collection Auction Dec 02
Virginia Damascus 2-Day Auction Dec 09
West Virginia Jane Lew Outstanding Antique Auction Nov 2521
Wisconsin Sun Prairie 3-Day Auction Dec 079

Planning a trip? Event Finder can help you locate auctions and shows. All events listed under the Event Finder heading are advertised in this issue of AntiqueWeek. Events are listed by state, then by town with a brief description of the event, the opening date and finally the page number where the ad can be located.

Event Finder is only for advertised events. Auctioneers and show managers who want to be listed in our free calendar listings may continue to do so. Those free listings will be contained in the Auction or Show calendar sections.

While we have taken great care in compiling the information shown here, we strongly urge you to call the auctioneer or show manager listed for the event in case of cancellations or postponements. We also encourage auctioneers and show managers to contact us with any changes to their schedule. AntiqueWeek is not responsible for errors or omissions.

Calendars can also be searched online at www.antiqueweek.com For advertising information please call 800-876-5133 ext. 133 or e-mail advertising@antiqueweek.com

SHOW CALENDAR

E.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

MICHIGAN, Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Toy Show 9am-2pm UniqueEventsShows.com

MICHIGAN, Tecumseh, Christmas Open

10am-5:30pm Hitching Post Antique Mall tel: (517) 423-8277 Day 1 of 8

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

MICHIGAN, Tecumseh, Christmas Open House MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27
MICHIGAN, Tecumseh, Christmas Open

Day 3 of 8

Tuesday, November 28

MICHIGAN, Tecumseh, Christmas Open House Day 4 of 8

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

MICHIGAN, Tecumseh, Christmas Open House Day 5 of 8 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
MICHIGAN, Tecumseh, Christmas Open

House
Day 6 of 8

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 01

MICHIGAN, Tecumseh, Christmas Open House Day 7 of 8

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 02

MICHIGAN, Tecumseh, Christmas Open House Day 8 of 8 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market 9am-3pm Canning Attractions tel: (323) 560-7469

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

INDIANA, Greentown, Antique & Collectible Show and Sale
Sat. 9am-4pm; Sun. 10am-3pm Dave Turner tel: (765) 627-8310
Day 1 of 2

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
INDIANA, Greentown, Antique &
Collectible Show and Sale
Day 2 of 2

Tell Them You Saw Their Ad In AntiqueWeek

AUCTION CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

MARYLAND, Glen Arm, Online Only Auction

No Time Given Richard Opfer Auctioneering Day 1 of 9

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

MARYLAND, Glen Arm, Online Only Auction Day 2 of 9

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

ILLINOIS, Arcola, 2 Day Black Friday Auction

No Time Given Vernon Yoder tel: (217) 268-3444 Day 1 of 2

INDIANA, Lebanon, Online Auction No Time Given One Stop Auction Shop tel: (317) 758-7467

MARYLAND, Glen Arm, Online Only Auction Day 3 of 9

NEW YORK, Clarence, 3 Day Antique

10am SchultzAuctioneers.net Day 1 of 3

OHIO, Delaware, Great Estates Auction No Time Given AmeliaJeffers.com Day 1 of 2

PENNSYLVANIA, Carlisle, Black Friday Antique Auction 9am Rowes Auction Service

tel: (717) 574-1008

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 ILLINOIS, Arcola, 2 Day Black Friday

ILLINOIS, Arcola, 2 Day Black Frida Auction Day 2 of 2

INDIANA, Greenfield, Live Auction 9am Marc Huber tel: (317) 339-8000

INDIANA, Indianapolis, Online Only Auction No Time Given RipleyAuctions.com

MARYLAND, Glen Arm, Online Only Auction Day 4 of 9

MASSACHUSETTS, Beverly, Thanksgiving Sale

No Time Given Kaminski Auctions tel: (978) 927-2223 Day 1 of 2

NEW YORK, Clarence, 3 Day Antique Auction Day 2 of 3

OHIO, Delaware, Great Estates Auction Day 2 of 2

TENNESSEE, Johnson City, 30th Annual Thanksgiving Saturday Auction 10:30am Kimball Sterling

WEST VIRGINIA, Jane Lew, Outstanding Antique Auction 10am joerpylesuctions.com

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

ILLINOIS, Ottawa, Public Auction 10:30am Higdon Auction Service tel: (815) 496-2587

MARYLAND, Glen Arm, Online Only Auction Day 5 of 9

MASSACHUSETTS, Beverly, Thanksgiving Sale Day 2 of 2

NEW YORK, Clarence, 3 Day Antique Auction

Monday, November 27
MARYLAND, Glen Arm, Online Only

Tuesday, November 28

MARYLAND, Glen Arm, Online Only Auction Day 7 of 9

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 MARYLAND, Glen Arm, Online Only Auction Day 8 of 9

NEW YORK, Geneseo, Fine Art & Antiques Auction No Time Given Cottoneauctions.com Day 1 of 2

TEXAS, Dallas, Rare Book Auction No Time Given Heritage Auction Galleries tel: (877) 437-4824 Day 1 of 2

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
MARYLAND, Glen Arm, Online Only
Auction
Day 9 of 9

NEW YORK, Geneseo, Fine Art & Antiques Auction Day 2 of 2

NEW YORK, Owego, Coin, Antique & Estate Auction
5pm Luke tel: (607) 239-8009

OHIO, Alexandria, Public Auction 11am MuncySells.com

PENNSYLVANIA, Denver, Vintage Swatch Watch Auction 9am MorphyAuctions.com

PENNSYLVANIA, Kinzers, Public Auction 10am Embassy Auctions tel: (717) 442-8529

TEXAS, Dallas, Rare Book Auction Day 2 of 2

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 02 FLORIDA, Sarasota, Gentlemans Mega

Auction 10am FreedomAuctions.com

TEXAS, Dallas, Texas History Collection Auction No Time Given Heritage Auction Galleries tel: (877) 437-4824

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 06INDIANA, Shipshewana, Antique &

Miscellaneous Auction 9am Shipshewana Auction tel: (260) 768-4129

NEW JERSEY, Bloomfield, Estate Treasures Auction 10am Nye & Co. Day 1 of 2

E-Mail: Advertising@antiqueweek.com Thursday, December 07

NEW JERSEY, Bloomfield, Estate Treasures Auction Day 2 of 2

WISCONSIN, Sun Prairie, 3 Day Auction No Time Given MatthewsTAC.com Day 1 of 3

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 08

WISCONSIN, Sun Prairie, 3 Day Auction Day 2 of 3

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 09

VIRGINIA, Damascus, 2 Day Auction 10am Appalachian Trading Post Day 1 of 2

WISCONSIN, Sun Prairie, 3 Day Auction Day 3 of 3 $\,$

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

MISSOURI, Lone Jack, Mid Americana
Auction
Noon SoulisAuctions.com

VIRGINIA, Damascus, 2 Day Auction Day 2 of 2

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

TEXAS, Dallas, Historical Platinum
Auction

No Time Given Heritage Auction Galleries tel: (877) 437-4824

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Vintage Cigar Cutters

FROM PAGE 5

was fabricated for the use of cigar smokers. It had all the strength of the usual knife, but the spring was so constructed that it did not shut down to the edge of the blade; the cigar end being placed through the aperture at the end, the point of the knife, on being pressed down by the finger, cut off the end of the cigar."

Vintage cigar cutters can be found in a number of basic types; pocket-size punchers or slicers; this type can be attached to a watch chain. Then there are the scissor-style clippers. Another type is large and sits on the counter of a shop. Finally, there is the combination-set model that includes the cutter, ashtray, and match holder. The countertop variety may be found in a cigar shop, whereas the combination sets could sit on a coffee table in



Above: 1930s German made cigar cutter. Offered for by eBay seller: look-whatifoundco at the buy it now price of \$249.99.

one's home, or on an office desk.

Various materials are used in creating cigar cutters; precious metals of gold and silver or less costly steel, iron, tin, or even wood may be used. Nineteenth-century cigars were of the thin cheroot type, so the early examples were small to accommodate those smaller cigars. In the 1900s the bigger cigar came into vogue.

As with any antique or vintage object, it's "buyer beware." Do your homework and check things out carefully. A great

Antique Lady Churchill guillotine pocket cigar cutter early 1900s offered at the buy-it-now price of \$125.00 by eBay seller: beg_barter_or_steal

source of knowledge is the "Antique Cigar Cutters and Lighters," by Jerry Terranova and Douglas Congdon-Martin. This volume offers beautiful color photographs documenting these wonderful

Ignatius Taschner brass and copper bird cigar cutter. Offered for sale by eBay seller: the rent for the buy-it-now price of \$439.

objects. It also offers informative descriptions. This text places the cutters in their historical context, and contains helpful information. A value guide is included.

Below: Vintage cigar cutter horse head silver plate equestrian with stirrups and vine with leaves motif. mid-20th century. 5.75 inches long. Offered for sale at the price of \$175.99 by eBay seller: surferz11



Antique and Collectible Show and Sale

December 30 & 31

HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS BLOCK BUILDING Greentown, Indiana

Saturday, December 30th, 9 AM-4 PM Sunday, December 31st, 10 AM-3 PM

Adm \$3.00 - Children 12 and under free QUALITY ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES ONLY.

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Collecting antique nibs makes writing history

By Larry Lemasters

A nib is the small part of a quill, fountain pen, or dip pen that comes into contact with the ink and writing surface. There are dozens of different types of nibs, varying in shape and size and the material from which they are made.

Collectors primarily search for metal nibs, which originated in ancient Egypt some 2,500 years ago. In ancient times, writing nibs were made of bronze or copper. Metallic nibs competed with reed pens for hundreds of years with reed pens being the more reliable pen for achieving quality writing. Metallic nibs continued to be made as one-off, hand-made luxury items until approximately 1800.

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, two companies, Peregrine Williamson in the United States and Wise in Britain, began manufacturing steel pens and nibs. However, John Mitchell and Josiah Mason established a steel nib manufacturing plant in Birmingham, England, in the 1820s, and the use of steel nibs in pens rapidly gained popularity.

Modern fountain pen nibs, which always interest collectors, may be traced back to a gold nib which had a tiny ruby chip attached at the point. Other old nibs of interest are ones made of platinum, including nibs made of iridium and osmium. Iridium tipped nibs were popular in the 1830s. Today's nibs are mostly made of stainless steel or alloyed gold with some nibs made of 14 or 18 carat gold.

Steel nibs retain sharp points much better than old-fashioned bird quills, bronze, or copper nibs, and steel nibs can be attached to and removed from pen holders, allowing a collector to remove nibs easily for his or her collection. Finally, metal nibs are easily mass produced, making them available for collections.

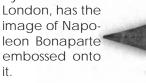
Collectors usually divide nibs into three shapes — the broad nib, the snub nib, and the pointed nib, but when searching for nibs to collect, collectors enjoy searching for historic nibs, which are nibs that were actually used for a historic document.





Above: This box of vintage B-3 nibs, manufactured by Hunt Manufacturing, was offered on the Internet for \$13. As with many collectibles, original nib packaging adds to the depth of a collection.

This nib, made by W. Curtis of London, has the image of Napoleon Bonaparte' embossed onto





This 14-carat gold nib is found in an External fountain pen, circa 1910, that was made by Mabie Todd & Company of New York. The pen is valued at \$1,250.

Left and Below: This Art Deco fountain pen, circa 1931, holds a 14-carat nib. The pen was offered on eBay for \$2,250.





Above: This Platinum 3776 nib is highly sought after. It came in three colors and two different trim versions, allowing a collector to search for several versions of it.

Below: Made by Sommerville & Co, this nib, called the "emancipation pen," was issued to mark the end of serfdom







Mid-Americana at Auction

Featuring Folk, Tramp, Outsider & Native American Art With Country Furniture and Accessories in Old Paint

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 12 NOON



Attributed Cushing and White



Shooting Gallery Target Collection Including This Rare Brass and Copper Plated Target Signed C. W. Parker, Abilene. Kansas



Copper Cow Weather Vane with Iron Head Attr Harris



A Small But Formidable Collection of 19th Century American Weather Vanes, Including this example Attributed J.W. Fiske, NY



1877 Applique with Child's Hand Outline Stitched in Each Block



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Folk Art Including an Exhibited Pull Toy, Former Kahn Collection



Tramp Art Crown of Thorns with Painting in Carved Corn Frame



Fancy Butternut Pie Safe with Heart & Diamond Tins



Exceptional Shooting Gallery Targets



A Large and Outstanding, Near Life-sized, Lady Lion Tamer Shooting Gallery Target Circa 1890



J. E. Merriman Santa Fe Illinois Blue Decorated 4 Gallon Churn



One of Three Good Whirligigs



Furniture and Accessories in Old Paint



Tramp Art Including this Massive and Complex Box

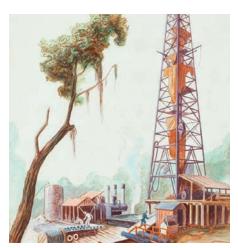


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Fine Art & Antiques | November 29th & 30th



Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975) Oil Well Est. \$50,000-\$80,000



John Stobart (British, 1929-2023) Straight Wharf, Nantucket Est. \$20,000-\$40,000



Charles Allen Winter (1869-1942) Pandora Est. \$8,000-\$12,000



Tiffany Studios *Daffodil* Lamp Est. \$30,000-\$50,000



Tiffany Studios *Woodbine* Table Lamp Est. \$10,000-\$15,000



Fine and Rare Duffner & Kimberly *Poppy* Floor Lamp Est. \$30,000-\$50,000



Duffner & Kimberly *Griffin* Hanging Fixture Est. \$10,000-\$15,000



Birger Sandzén (1871-1954) Study of Juniper, Pikes Peak, Colorado Est. \$7,000-\$10,000



Jasper Francis Cropsey (1823-1900)

Hastings on Hudson
Est. \$10,000-\$15,000



Attrib. to Sheldon Peck (1797-1868) Est. \$7,000-10,000



William Aiken Walker (1838-1921) One of several. Est. \$3,000-\$5,000



Acoma Pueblo Pottery Olla Est. \$500-\$800



19th Century Sheet Metal Indian Weather Vane Est. \$2,000-\$4,000



Ceremonial Parade Fire Hat Est. \$2,000-\$4,000



Rare French Guilmet Industrial Automaton Car Clock Est. \$15,000-\$25,000



Rare Ithaca Prototype Skeleton Clock Est. \$2,000-\$4,000



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PUBLIC AUCTION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

IN THE PITSTICK PAVILION 3401 N. STATE, RT. 23, 31/2 MILES N. OF I-80 OTTAWA, IL - EXIT MILE MARKER 90

PREVIEW FROM 8:30 A.M. 'TIL AUCTION STARTS AT 10:30 A.M.

EXCELLENT AUCTION of Native American Artifacts, Antiques, Fossils, Rocks, Paper-Mache Duck Decoys, and other Collectibles from Several Estates; A Collection of Fossils, Mazon Creek Fossils, Dinosaur Egg, Fish Fossil, Petrified Wood, Other fossils, Polished Rocks, Agates and Other Cut Slabs, Iron Broad Axe, Brass Trumpet, Wooden Toolbox, Jug Made by The Kirkpatrick Family of Vermillianville, IL near Lowell, IL, Many Jars of Marbles, Redware, Old Spurs, BB Guns, Round Hand-Painted Box, Other Misc, Navajo Rug, Hudson Bay Blanket, Other S.W. Rugs, Beaded Moccasins, Mississippian Pottery, quaw Pottery Jar, Pictured in Warmans Indian Price Guide, Caddo Pottery Bowl, Indian Baskets, Peace Pipes, Other Stone Pipes, War Clubs, Stone Axes, Bannerstones, Discoidals, Gorgets, Pendants, Celts, Stone Spud, Many Spear Point Arrowheads, Bird Points, Stone Knife blades, Hardins, Dovetails, Fulsom Point Frame of Quartz Arrowheads, Dickson Points, Adena Points, Snyder Points, Chinese Neolithic Jade and Bronze Items from (4000-2500 BC) Many Box Lots of Collectibles and Many More Things Too Numerous To List Or Picture!





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Heavy 18K yellow gold Tiffany & Co. expandable pencil fob



Edward Howard, 23 jewel w/sapphire jeweling, original 18K case



Man's jadeite and 14K yellow gold ring



US Presidential Gold Life Saving presentation medal, 1901, by George T. Morgan



Tiffany & Co. heavy 18K gold pendant watch w/extraordinary open work gold, enamel, and red foil dial



Swiss, minute repeater w/freesprung balance, 18K case



Plojoux singing bird box with enamel accents and original box



Silver love token bangle bracelet



Waltham, American Watch Co, Model 1872, 21 jewel, 14K



US Indian \$5 gold, 1909-O, NGC AU55, low mintage of 34,200

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presents an Estate of Bill Venable

2-DAY AUCTION

Amazing collection of over 300 Pedal Cars, Over 200 Firearms & So Much More! **Location: 30437 Blossom Road**

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Date & Time: SATURDAY, December 9th at 10:00 AM Sunday, December 10th at 1:00 PM



























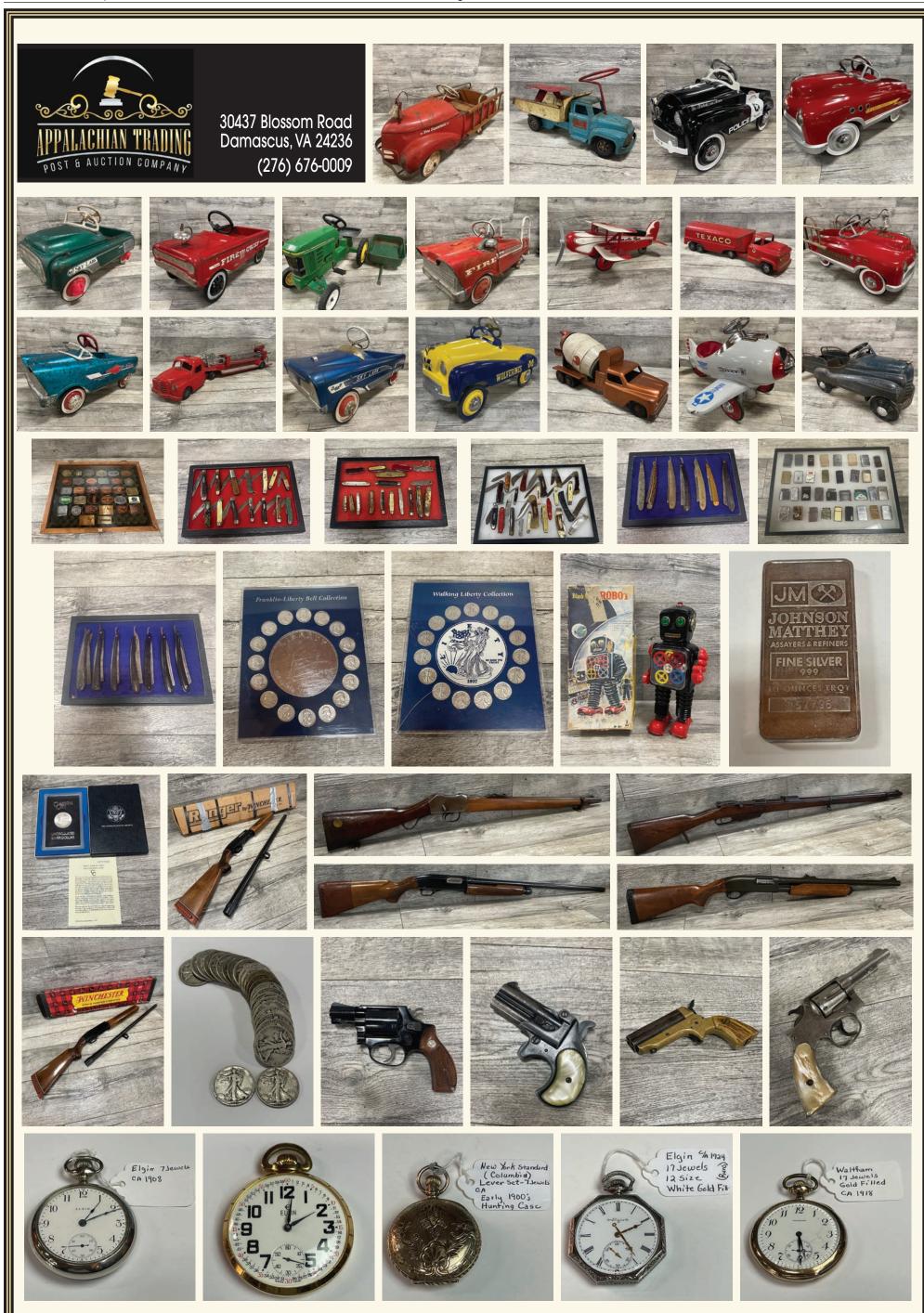








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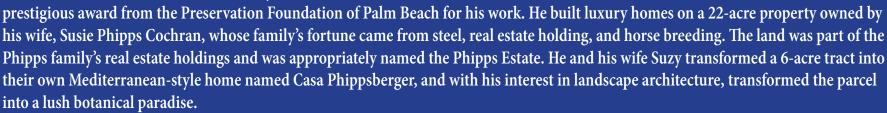


Be sure to look at the Entire Auction on invaluable.com for both days! We will be uploading more pictures/items every day!



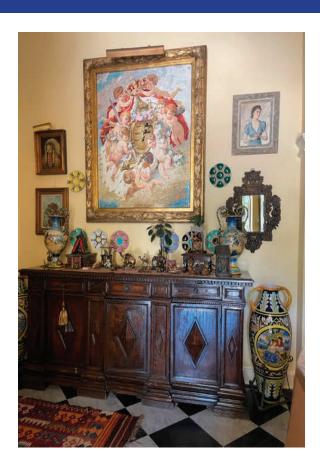
Annual Thanksgiving Sale November 25th and 26th, 10AM - 5PM 117 Elliott St, Beverly, MA 01915

Robert "Bob" Eigelberger was a long-time Palm Beach resident known throughout the county as a successful architect, developer, and preservationist of the "North End" of Palm Beach County. In 1988, he was honored with a



Kaminski Auctions will be offering the contents of his home, including ornaments from his garden and a vast antique Majolica Collection, in their two-day Annual Thanksgiving Auction on Saturday and Sunday, November 25th and 26th, starting at 10:00 AM.

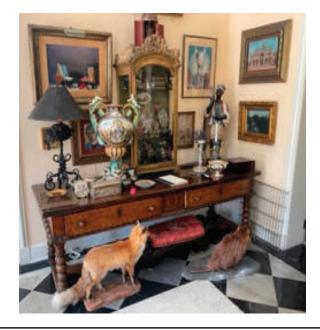
Preview: Monday-Friday, November 20th - November 24th, 9AM-5PM. No preview on Thursday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving Day. Day of Sale beginning at 8:00 AM. The preview will be open during the live auction.













 $Consignments\ now\ invited,\ contact\ consignments@kaminskiauctions.com$

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THANKSGIVING SATURDAY (NOV. 25TH) 30TH ANNUAL AUCTION **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2023, 10:30 AM**

THANKSGIVING SATURDAY 30TH ANNUAL AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25th, 10:30 AM

125 West Market Street, JOHNSON CITY, TN

Two living estates of retired CEOs and other consignments. Be here for our 30th annual auction with some great items.

One of the CEO's was a big game hunter and has decided to sell his kills. They will all sell at noon. Silver coins, sterling flatware, rare Marge Carson Hollywood Regency set of custom chairs, Country furniture, Lalique perfume bottles,

Western items from a neat Man Cave, Lennox China. fine prints, High end stereo, Early plantation desk, High end Steel Flex leather sofas, Steel Flex Ostrich leather recliners, Pullman RR toys, Jungle room items, silver rounds, Maitland Smith inlaid table and wall art, Oak icebox and Larkin style

> desk, Upscale jewelry from a Dallas Heiress, Mint Zebra rug, Collection of ivory canes (instate buyers only), Rare plumbers tool trunk, fine carpets, high end patio furniture plus much more.

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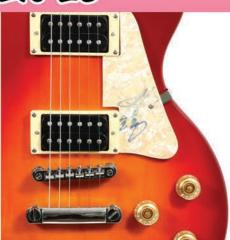
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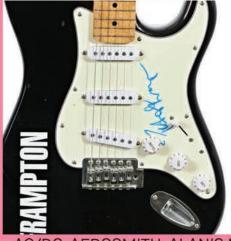
1 PM THIS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

















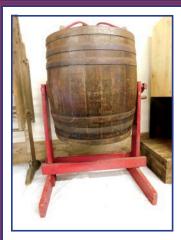
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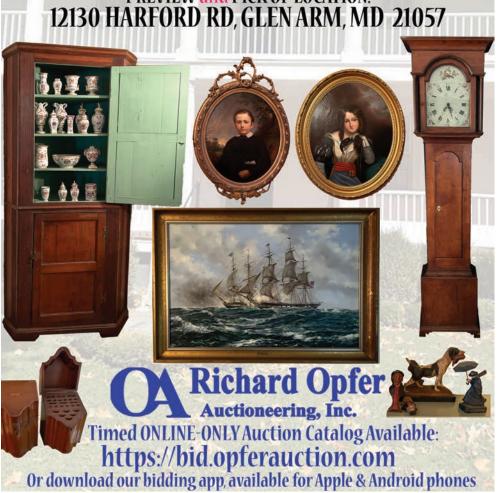
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Giving thanks for Saturday Evening Post covers

By Larry Lemasters

The Saturday Evening Post was one of the most widely circulated and most influential magazines in America for nearly 50 years. America's middle class especially enjoyed The Post from the 1920s through the 1960s. Known for its quality fiction, informative non-fiction, funny cartoons, and impeccable illustrations, The Saturday Evening Post reached nearly two million homes every week in its heyday.

The Saturday Evening Post premiered in 1821 and often links its start to Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette, which was published in the same building many years earlier.

The Saturday Evening Post gained prominent status as a leader in publishing current event articles, editorials, human-interest stories, poetry, and fiction by leading writers of the time. However, The Post is best remembered and collected because it commissioned some of America's top artists to illustrate both the cover, advertising, and inside stories each week. Artists such as Norman Rockwell, John Philip Falter, N. C. Wyeth, J. C. Leyendecker, Constantin Alajalov, and Jan Balet.

Today, collectors enjoy finding original Saturday Evening Post covers, prints, and advertisements with famous artists names attached, and collectors frame quite a few of their finds. While different collectors often search for different themes when collecting Post covers, many collectors want covers that reflect Thanksgiving Day with its warmth, family values, and fellowship.

Norman Rockwell painted the majority of The Post Thanksgiving covers that are collected. Rockwell, America's most beloved 20th century illustrator, is famous for his depictions of daily life in small town America. The world he showed us is populated with friendly policemen, Boy Scouts, children, families, dogs, and smiles. Most of the smiles come from us — his fans. Asked why he painted what he did, Rockwell replied, "I'm not a historian. I just painted the things I saw around me. I was showing the America I knew and observed to others who might not have noticed it as I did. I painted life as I would like it to be."

Rockwell is best known for The Saturday Evening Post covers he painted. These covers tended to be idealistic in their view on American life, making Americans feel warm and protected while making critics cringe. Many critics considered Rockwell's work kitsch, calling it "Rockwellesque," a term that Rockwell enjoyed. Rather than defend his paintings, Rockwell often simply called himself an illus-

Below: Freedom from Want by Norman Rockwell. This painting graced The Saturday Evening Post on March 6, 1943, as an inside illustration.





Above: Famous J. C. Leyendecker Saturday Evening Post cover—November 24, 1928. Entitled Thanksgiving, 1628/1928, Leyendecker captured 300 years of Thanksgiving feasts with just two figures.

trator, which he was. He illustrated life as American's wanted it to be.

Rockwell painted more than 4,000 original works of art in his lifetime. He also illustrated more than 40 books, including Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. He painted portraits of Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon.

In 1916 Rockwell, then just 22-years-old, painted his first cover for The Saturday Evening Post. Over the next 47 years, he painted a total of 322 covers for The Post . Editors of the magazine called Rockwell "the greatest show window in America."

Among the best known of Rockwell's Thanksgiving Day Post covers and illustrations are: "Freedom From Want, March 6, 1963," which appeared as an inside illustration. "Home for Thanksgiving, November 24, 1945," which used a true to life

Below: Turkey in the Tree by J. C. Leyendecker was the cover illustration for The Saturday Evening Post on November



MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS . MACKINLAY KANTOR

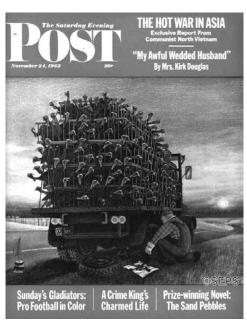
American soldier, Dick Hagelberg, who flew 65 missions over Germany, as a model. Rockwell painted Hagelberg in the kitchen with his real-life mother. World War II was over, and both Hagelberg and his mother were thankful that he made it home alive for Thanksgiving. "Refugee Thanksgiving, November 27, 1943," shows a young girl in Italy draped in the coat of an American G.I. Rockwell, even in war-torn America, was asking Americans to remember people less fortunate than themselves.

Other famous, collectible Thanksgiving Day covers include "Turkey Truck Has Flat" by Jan Balet. This cover, November 24, 1962, was Balet's only Saturday Evening Post cover, but it is certainly one of the more whimsical turkey covers, and it is a favorite among collectors.

ers for The Saturday Evening Post, tying Rockwell for the most cover paintings. Leyendecker's Thanksgiv-

Below: Home for Thanksgiving print by Norman Rockwell, showing a soldier and his mother sharing Thanksgiving Day together. This print is offered on the Internet for \$55.





Above: Jan Balet's only Saturday Evening Post cover was this whimsical Thanksgiving painting—Turkey Truck Has Flat—November 24, 1962. These turkeys look like prisoners planning a jailbreak.

Below: Baby Butcher by Leyendecker was on the November 26, 1921 cover. Turkeys had better beware of this "malevolent moppet" and his cleaver.



ing Day covers are highly collectible, including his "Turkey in the Tree" (November 25, 1939), "Thanksgiving 1628/1928" (November 24, 1928), and "Baby Butcher" (November 26, 1921), which sported a cherubic toddler getting ready to pluck and cook a turkey.

Collecting The Saturday Evening Post Thanksgiving covers is a hobby enjoyed by many collectors and one that can be passed down to a collector's children or grandchildren. So why not begin your special, unique and timeless collection today. Take your child and search a local antique shop for a Norman Rockwell Thanksgiving print.

 $J.\ C.\ Leyendecker\ painted\ 322\ cov-$ Below: This Thanksgiving Prayer painting was on the November 22, 1941, cover of The Saturday Evening Post. Painted by R. E. Miller, the girl's prayer with open eyes catches the true essence of Thanksgiving Day.



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304-472-9605.
buckantmal@aol.com

CHARLES TOWN - The Wooden Shoe Antiques & Lighting, 222 W. Washington Street. Oil & Electric Lamp Repair. Friday-Monday 11am-5pm. 304-725-1673 www.WoodenShoeAntiques.com Email: wdnshuct@aol.com

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WISCONSIN

TOMAH - Antique Mall of Tomah, Jct I-94 & Hwy 21 East, Exit #143, 1510 Eaton Ave. Vintage - Retro - Collectibles. Over 68 dealers. Open 7 days. www.antiquemalloftomah.com, Find us on Facebook!

WATERLOO - Waterloo Antique Mall, 255 S. Jefferson St. Large selection of antiques to mid century. 920-478-7379

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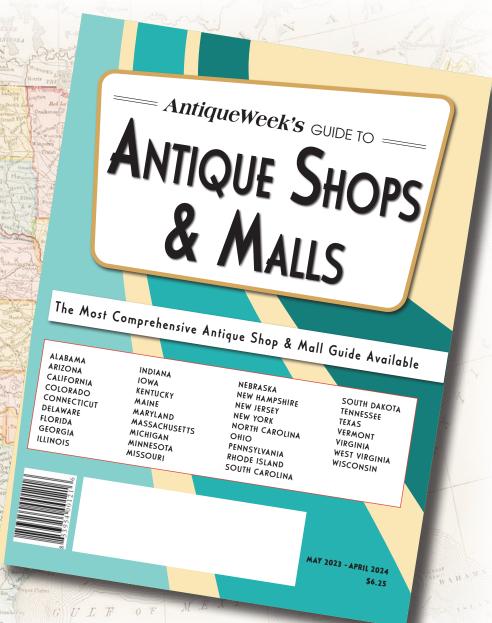
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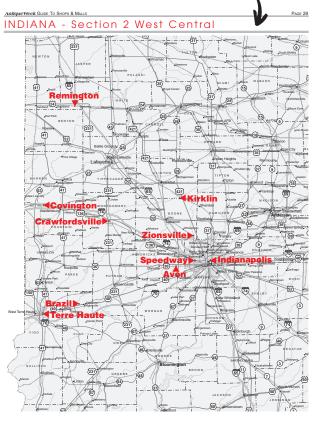


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- 4. All display advertisers are posted on the AntiqueWeek website at www.antiqueweek.com.

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You will be glad you're advertising in the Guide to Antique Shops & Malls. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Melissa Stephens 27 N. Jefferson St., PO Box 90, Knightstown, IN 46148

Email: awshopguide@antiqueweek.com

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AntiqueWeek strives to provide customers with the best delivery possible. Occasionally, areas of the country do not receive timely delivery of the paper. The goal of AntiqueWeek's late delivery staff is to work with the USPS to get your paper to you on time, every time. If your paper is not delivered on or before the issue date, please

These areas experienced multiple reports of late deliveries during the week of 10/17/23: Indiana, Illinois, Virginia, Ohio.

These states reported single reports of late delivery for the same week: Kentucky, North Carolina.

1-800-ASK-USPS or 800-275-8777 & 800-877-8339

Our staff members will continue to address the late delivery reports we receive. We are constantly striving to rectify the late delivery problem. Please call our customer care center at (800) 876-5133 or email subscriptions@antiqueweek.com to report late delivery. Continue to report delivery issues if problems are not fixed after the first call so staff members can continue to report these difficulties to the USPS.

In order to ensure everyone can see the paper on time, AntiqueWeek uploads each issue every Saturday morning to its website. The online issue is free to subscribers and totally keyword searchable. Visit www.antiqueweek.com.

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TOLL FREE HOURS: Mon. & Fri. 7am-4:30pm. Tues.-Thur. 8am-4:30pm Evenings & weekends answering machine will record your ad or message.

Exp. Date_

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Books must be out-of-print or at least 20 years old. If the book is not 20 years old & it is out-of-print, you
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Deadline – Wednesdays 12 days in advance of date of issue Rates for up to 10 priced items.

items in ad
up to \$42 \$ 7.00 \$43 thru \$70 \$11.30 \$71 thru \$115 \$16.15 \$116 thru \$159 \$20.80 \$160 & up \$22.70

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A checking copy containing the ad will be sent upon request for you to clip and return with sold items crossed off. We will publish the second time in our next available issue at no charge. Second time run must be submitted within THREE

Minimum for Sure Sale book ad is \$7.00. You must show one price per item. You may also add "will consider other offers.

Sure Sale book ads must be paid for in advance of publication. Any reference to price lists, wants to buy, etc., must be run as separate ad.

BOOK ABBREVIATIONS

(See "vocabulary of abbreviations" in a dictionary for others.)

aeg – all edges gilded auth – author bk – book bks - books bdg – binding bkpl – bookplate bkstrp - backstrip bl – blue brok – broken buck – buckram – copyright ca – approximately cat – catalog chp – chipped cl – cloth col - color conts – contents cpy – copy cv – cover

1st - first

dec - decorated dict – dictionary disb – disbound dj – dust jacket dlr – dealer dw – dust wrapper ea – each ed – edition or editor Eng – English engr – engraved ex-lib – ex-library ep – endpaper f – fine facs – facsimile f/o – fold out fr – fair front – frontispiece fwd – foreword

fx – foxing

grn – green
hist – history
hndbk – handbook
hng – hinge
il – illustrated/illustration
ins – inside inscr - inscribed lea – leather If – leaf litho – lithograph ls – loose ltd – limited m – mint mag – magazine mssg – missing mrbld – marbled nd – no date np – no place

op – out of print ow – otherwise own – owner p - poor pamph – pamphlet pg – page photo – photograph port – portrait pp – pages ppd – postpaid pref – preface pres – prese copy previous

SASE - self addr. stamp. envelope sig – signature slpcs – slipcase sl – slight si – siigni sp – spine stns – stains teg – top edges gilt vf – very fine vg – very good vo – size vol - volume priv previous priv printed – privately printed w/o - without wr - wear pub – published/publishrbkd – rebacked yr - year

rev - revised

CVV_

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nm - name

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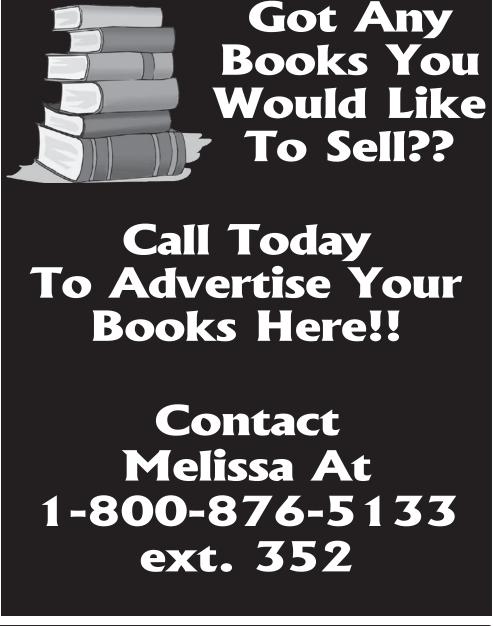


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2324



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Oyster Plates

FROM FRONT PAGE

considerably. Numerous factors including age, condition, manufacturer, and impressiveness of design influence value. For today's collectors, the condition of a plate is paramount, and serious collectors avoid plates with even minor damage. Old plates with chips or cracks (even scratches created by shells) are not considered collector grade. However, those with flaws are great for beginners as they can run under \$30.

Plates with intricate patterns or embellishments are more desirable than plain, albeit functional, examples. Good-condition pieces from sought-after manufacturers like Minton, Wedgewood, or France's Sarreguemines Pottery typically run from \$100-\$500. Pristine rare or otherwise exemplary plates can run into the thousands. There is some contradiction as to whether plates found in sets are more valuable than singles since fans are usually hunting for individual examples to add to their collections.

As tableware, oyster plates fell out of popularity about five to six decades ago. Concurrently, the oystering industry fell on hard times, and wistfulness helped drive interest in oyster industry-related remembrances. Folks in areas with a seafood heritage started amassing some pretty noteworthy collections. Betty



Above: The decoration on this "turkey" oyster plate certainly helps reinforce its nickname.

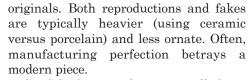


Above: The Sarreguemines factory in France was one of the popular makers of oyster plates. The company opened in 1784 and closed in 2007

Schulz, the late owner of Fisherman's Inn at Kent Narrows Maryland, started a collection at the restaurant in the 1970s. It is now considered the largest in the state, with over 300 plates. So important was the collection, that when the original building burned down in 1985, the plates were among the items the owners desperately tried to save. At the Kilmarnock (Virginia) Antiques Gallery, the self-proclaimed "Oyster Lady" has specialized in the plates for over 60 years and is reputed to be the largest seller of oyster plates in the country.

Oyster plates as serving trays enjoyed a revival in the early 2000s when television chef Paula Deen showcased her collection of oyster plates during episodes featuring her Southern oyster recipes. Whether as tableware or collectibles, interest in oyster plates has spawned reproductions. On the positive side, modern retailers like Williams-Sonoma have commissioned new plates in response to the demand. Even some of the original makers - most recently, Quimper - have released new editions.

On the flip side, given the prices for early plates, counterfeiting is now plaguing the industry, and experts suggest buying from a reputable dealer when prices warrant expertise. Reproductions and counterfeits, while not always easy to identify, are not made as exquisitely as the originals - particularly when contrasted to the pre-1900s



Good-faith reproductions will have obvious identification such as a company name and country of origin. Many sport small holes so the plates can be displayed on the wall. And, modern plates are a good thing for oyster enthusiasts. It's not advisable to serve from an antique oyster plate because of the risk of damaging the plate and because antique ceramics often contain high levels of lead. Contemporary plates can be employed as tableware while the antiques stay safely displayed. On the subject of display, experts suggest not hanging authentic plates for fear of breakage and putting stress on fragile porcelain. Instead, place them on a stand or display them in a cabinet.

If oyster plate collecting sounds appealing, don't be shy about purchasing what appeals to you. Value should be a secondary concern. While one collector might appreciate a gilded French-made plate from early Victorian times, worth



Above: This fine-condition, geometric pattern hand-painted French Majolica porcelain oyster plate, circa 1900, was priced reasonably at \$130.

Below: Servers for single oysters were known as "shooters." This set of five hand-painted gilded porcelain ones was listed on eBay for \$575.



hundreds of dollars. Another might just as readily appreciate a kitschy mass-produced piece that looks like shells mounted on a reef. Whatever the style or value, each oyster plate is a treasure reflecting a time when a well-hosted meal often included an oyster appetizer.



Above: A beautiful example of a five-well plate was made by Union Porcelain Works in Brooklyn, New York in 1881. (Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

Below: This fine-condition oyster plate was made by New York's Union Porcelain Works in 1881. It was priced at \$475.



Above: Antique oyster plates are often part of the decor at seafood restaurants, like the dozens on display at Mama's on the Half Shell in Baltimore, Maryland. (Photo: Flicker, Creative Commons)

Below: This historical image shows the Wedgwood showroom in London, circa mid-1800s, when oyster plates were first becoming fashionable on upper-class tibles.







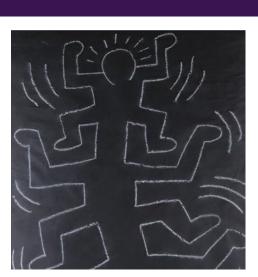
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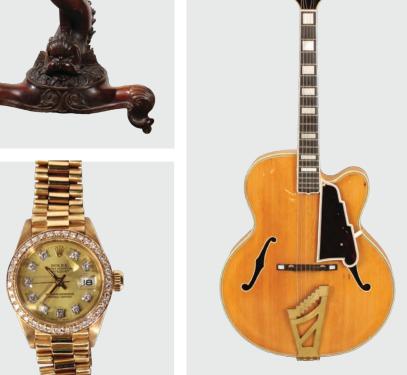
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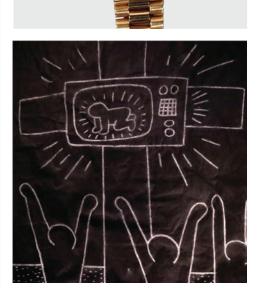
















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