

Vol. 56 Issue No. 2852

#### WWW.ANTIQUEWEEK.COM

#### JUNE 25, 2024

### Oaxacan carvings are a favorite Mexican folk art

By William Flood

They're often referred to as "whimsical" or even "other-worldly." The Mexican wood carvings known as Alebrijes are revered as one of our southern neighbor's most popular folk art forms.

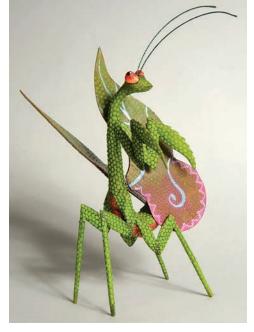
Alebrijes, pronounced "ah-leh-breehess," come from the Mexican state of Oaxaca. The region, pronounced "wa-haka," sits in southern Mexico bordered by the Pacific Ocean. The area is home to important pre-Columbian sites including Monte Albán, with its ancient pyramid, the Meso-American city of Yagul, and Mitla, a religious site established more than 1,000 years ago.

Oaxaca is also home to numerous indigenous people, among them the widely-known Zapotecs and Mixtecs. People there have been making figural pieces from clay and wood for over 2,000 years— before contact with the Spanish and even predating the ancient Aztec and Toltec civilizations. Typically, carvings were used as decoys, toys, and religious symbols. After Spanish colonization, many of the objects began to reflect Catholic influences.

While Alebrijes echo Zapotec and Mixtec traditions, their origins are 20th century. The intricately carved and painted wood figures emerged in the







**Above:** Many of the parts on this mantis, from the antennae to the wings and legs, are separate carvings, a sign of a traditionally-made piece.



**Above:** Cartonería (papier-mâché) artist Pedro Linares López is considered the father of Alebrijes (Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

late 1930s. The story goes that in 1936, Pedro Linares López (aka. Pedro Linares, 1906-1992), a papier mâché folk artist in Mexico City fell ill with a fever and dreamed up fantastical animal figures. He said that during lucid dreams, he was transported to a mythical forest where he encountered multi-colored creatures like winged donkeys, roosters with horns, and a lion

Left: A young carving apprentice checks for imperfections in a sculpture in Jacobo and María Ángeles' workshop in San Martín Tilcajete, Oaxaca. (Photo: Wikimedia Commons) Right: Oaxacan carvings often portray mythical, imaginary figures like this one (\$65)

with a dog's head. The story continues, that the creatures shouted the word "alebrijes," which has no meaning in Spanish.

After recovering, Linares began creating the imagined creatures out of papier mâché and intricately handpainted them in a style drawn from his heritage. He named them Alebrijes

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### Railroad creamer poured \$407 bid at Collins & Company

#### By William Flood

NEWS

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ELIZABETHTON, Tenn. — On May 16, Collins & Company Realtors and Auctioneers hosted a substantial online-only railroad memorabilia auction on HiBid. Over 900 lots originating from two lifelong collections were offered, encompassing railroad lanterns, locks and keys, uniforms, silver and china, depot items, and ephemera, from rail lines nationwide.

The auction's highest bid of \$407 went for a silver soldered Southern Railway creamer with its lid. Stamped on the bottom was "Reed and Barton #5108-S 2P." It was one of 45 silver items offered in the sale that were once aboard lines like the Illinois Central, Norfolk & Western, and the Rock Island Railroad. Other silver pieces that sold well included an open-mouth pitcher-style silver soldered creamer by Barton & Reed for the Norfolk & Western Railroad, that bid to \$196. A pitcher-style silver creamer with hinged lid by Reed & Barton for the Southern Railway made it to \$104.

For bidders interested in railway dinnerware, there were six dozen lots with railroad china. Some offerings held individual pieces, while others held matched sets or mixed collections. Representative rail lines included the Baltimore and Ohio, Denver and Rio Grande, and Milwaukee Road. Coming out on top, at \$93, was a Southern Railway System "peach blossom" patterned square serving bowl. The railway logo and Buffalo China maker's mark were on the reverse.

Another china lot held a pair of "peach





**Above:** Some impressive bids were struck for silver pieces like this soldered Southern Railway creamer with its lid that grabbed the auction high of \$407.

blossom" dinner plates — one 10 ½-inches, the other 9-inches — grabbed for \$75. Both were back-marked with the railway logo and Buffalo China maker's mark. A \$56 bid picked up a three-piece Atlantic Coast Line lot, each stamped "Sterling Vitrified China East-Liverpool-Ohio U.S.A." The collection contained a 5 ¾-inch oval bowl, a circa-1951 oval relish dish, and a slightly chipped 1957 round plate cover.

Railroad lanterns are always popular, and this auction did not disappoint with over two dozen to choose from. Bidding was heavy, eventually landing at \$226 for a vintage 12-inch Peter Grey and Sons single-lens example in good used condition, showing some paint loss. It sported embossing for the manufacturer and for New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

Bidding went to \$196 for a vintage four lens Louisville & Nashville lantern. The 17 ½-inch piece featured embossing for "Dressel, Arlington NJ USA" on the top and "L&N 28" on the side. It was used, with some rust and signs of aging. Two different 19-inch brass Norfolk and Western caboose wall lanterns with their glass sconces, stamped "Handlan St. Louis USA," sold solidly at \$141 and \$103.

Railroad locks and keys also did very well, with the highest, going to a Baltimore & Ohio Yale lock at \$226. The brass lock, sans its key, was stamped on both sides, "B & O Signal Dept Shenandoah Division." A

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**Right:** Railroad-branded lighters included this Southern Railroad Hestia piece that sold for \$26.



**Above:** Twenty-six lanterns were offered. Prices ranged from \$2 for a modern Starlight 222 handheld, to \$226 for this Peter Grey and Sons employed on the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.



Left: Uniform accessories included badges like this Boston & Maine conductor's hat badge (\$26).

### **Dealers at East Hampton show discuss antiquing trends**

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — Trends in antiquing tend to ebb and flow based on societal influences and personal taste. Find out what is hot this season at the East Hampton Antiques & Design Show which will be held July 13-14 at Mulford Farm in East Hampton.

Common themes that resonate are "Quality over Quantity" – looking for that unique one-of-a-kind piece regardless of period, tabletop sculptures rich in tactile textures and color, antiques and art inspired by the natural world, and elegant tabletop design.

One dealer, Andrew Spindler, said "In a world with so much good, but somewhat homogeneous design, people really crave pieces that add character and individuality to their homes. In my world, it's always been about the mix. I favor antiques that have great sculptural form and interesting surfaces — things that might be hundreds of years old, but that read as 'modern'. I also think collections that show passion, even obsession, in **Right:** Federal 2 drawer blanket chest in the original blue paint, circa 1810. Image courtesy of Wells & Company

a good way, turn interiors into places of wonder and personality."

Ronald J. Wells said, "Highly sought after pieces include tactile tabletop sculptures, early American pieces with original painted surfaces, and American folk art."

Sheryl Ann Dunleavy added, "Our clients are seeking antiques that are elegant yet relaxed, often with a touch of whimsy. We see tremendous interest in antiques and art inspired by the natural world, especially those celebrating animals of all sorts. Clients often bring garden pieces, traditionally kept outdoors, indoors for a fresh look. They cherish the character and timelessness that these pieces give their living spaces."



William Drucker said, "A return to entertaining at home, interest in

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PUBLISHER: **Tony Gregory** Telephone: 1 800 876 5133 ext 321 tony@antiqueweek.com

### **Contacts**

SUBSCRIPTIONS/DELIVERY Telephone: 1 800 876 5133 subscriptions@antiqueweek.com ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES: Telephone: 1 800 876 5133 Fax: 1 800 695 8153 AntiqueWeek (ISSN 0888-5451) is published weekly (except Christmas week) by

### MidCountry Media, Inc.

P.O. Box 90 27 N Jefferson St. Knightstown, IN 46148-1242

Founded in 1968 by Tom and Peggy Mayhill. US subscription \$47.00 per annum. Periodicals postage paid at Knightstown, Indiana 46148 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send changes of address to P.O. Box 90, Knightstown, IN 46148

MANAGING EDITOR: Connie Swaim Telephone: 1 800 876 5133 ext 131 Connie@antiqueweek.com ADVERTISING MANAGER: Dan Morris Telephone: 1 888 342 3232 dmorris@antiqueweek.com Fax: 1-850-342-1777

Jessica Davis Telephone: 1 800 876 5133 ext 133 advertising@antiqueweek.com



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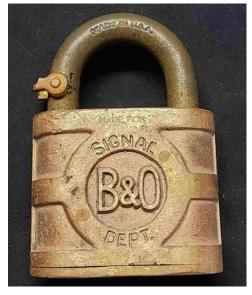
### **Collins & Company**

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Denver & Rio Grande key, with employee number "6271" engraved on the reverse sold for \$102. Another key, a rare one for the Tennessee Central, engraved "C136" and "F S" on the back got \$88.

There were a couple of lots with railroad furniture. One piece, a 10-foot double-sided wood station bench possibly from the Kingsport, Tenn., station, got the auction's second-highest sum of \$278. Other railroad furnishings including a vintage lounge car chair (unidentified line), with typical wear from use, picked up for \$46. Later, an 11 ½-inch by 9 ½-inch, pre-1940s stained glass railcar mirror, in solid vintage condition with only a small crack in the glass, went for just \$6.

There were nearly three dozen lots with uniforms or related accessories. The highest in the category, at \$102, went for an employee pin badge engraved, "A & H. RR" and the number "35" in the center. Even more striking was the nearly-complete 1960s Pullman porter uniform, originally



**Above:** Railway locks included pieces from Chesapeake & Ohio, Illinois Central, and Western Atlantic. This brass Baltimore & Ohio example pulled \$226.



**Above:** A boxed set of six large and six small New York, New Haven, and Hartford railroad buttons went for just \$15.

tailored in Ohio. The white top featured button holes for removable buttons (not included) paired with dark flat-front trousers. It went home for a modest \$75.

Bids hit \$59 for a B & O Railroad conductor's uniform hat with a gold-tone B&O badge. The cloth hat had a straw frame, patent leather brim, and was in good shape except for minor peeling of the leather on the inner edges.

Over five dozen lots held various types of ephemera, ranging from rail company stock certificates to timetables and train menus. As is typical for paper collectibles,





**Above:** A 10-foot double-sided wooden bench, possibly from the Kingsport, Tenn., station, hit the auction's second-highest bid at \$278.

most of those sold for wallet-friendly prices. One lot with a set of six railroad menus was won for \$37. The collection included a 1964 Frisco Railroad menu, a New Haven Railroad Dining Car Service menu, one red and two black Chessie dining car pieces, and a Southern Chief LA to Chicago route menu.

Coming in at \$31 was another mixed ephemera lot, with a collection of Clinchfield Railroad material. In that set was a November 1984 time table, a branded envelope, notepad, and copy of the Clinchfield Link newsletter from July 1960. Soon after, a group of five timetables with a 1941 Chesapeake & Ohio, 1941, 1942, and 1957 Pennsylvania Railroad, and a 1947 Southern Railway System example, was picked up for \$19.

Some of the other enticing items included an Illinois pocket watch, with a 10k gold

Left: One happy bidder picked up this logo-shaped glass ashtray for the Penn-sylvania Railroad for just \$10.



**Above:** Two 19-inch Norfolk & Western caboose lanterns were offered. They bid to \$141 and \$103.

case and Southern Railway leather fob. It reached \$201. A 22-inch by 20-inch vintage domestic #3 U.S. Mailbag, in expected used condition with rust stains around the rivets, was snagged for \$76. And, a vintage Southern Railroad cigarette lighter by Hestia was won for \$26. The good-condition Japanese-made lighter was engraved, "The Southern serves the South" on both sides.

For information on upcoming Collins & Company auctions, visit: www.collinsandcompany.info

Below: This seven-piece Union Pacific Railroad china set, with the beautiful streamliner logo, sold for \$20





Below: Among all the ephemera were popular railroad menus. This set of six hit \$37.



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### Black Bear Antiques has moved to a new home in Blue Ridge, Ga.

BLUE RIDGE, Ga. - There will be magic in the mountains of north Georgia the week of July 1 when Black Bear Antiques and Interiors officially opens its doors. The 21,000-square-foot antique mall is located at 4177 East 1st Street in Blue Ridge. Just look for the 14-foot-tall, 500-pound bronze bear standing outside. He's inviting folks to come on in and browse.

Black Bear Antiques is not a new business. It was a prime destination in nearby Ellijay for tourists and shoppers seeking quality antiques and collectibles for 15 years, but when the opportunity arose to snap up the anchor tenant spot in a perfectly located strip center in Blue Ridge, The Ahlers Group (the Atlanta-based firm that owns Black Bear Antiques) pounced.

"We had occupied our Ellijay location since 2008, when we first opened Black Bear Antiques," said Kris Triplett, Director of Retail Operations for The Ahlers Group. "We were proud to serve the Ellijay community, but we just felt that now was the right time to freshen things up in beautiful Blue Ridge. Also, it's larger than our previous location, so we can spread out a bit."

The new facility will serve as the new home for 80 dealers, offering locally sourced and locally made goods, interiors and cabin décor, woodworking and crafts, antiques, collectibles and more. "The merchandise is in a wide variety," Triplett said, "so whether you're a seasoned collector, a design enthusiast, or a curious explorer, there's something for everyone."



The decision to move from Ellijay to Blue Ridge was a fairly easy one for The Ahlers Group. "Blue Ridge seems to have it all, from the beautiful mountains to the lake," Triplett said. "The town boasts a charming downtown and Main Street, amazing fall festivals and a booming cabin market. There really is not a

Left: Black Bear Antiques will officially open for business the week of July 1, at 4177 East 1st Street in Blue Ridge, Georgia. The 21,000-square-foot mall will be the new home to 80 dealers.

season or time to be in Blue Ridge anymore, since it now accommodates locals and visitors year-round."

Black Bear Antiques will be conveniently located right off GA-515, a two-minute drive from downtown Blue Ridge and a block off of Main Street. It's also a 5-to-7-minute drive from Lake Blue Ridge. The bronze bear, weighing more than 500 pounds, previously stood outside the Ellijay location and has made the move to Blue Ridge. The Ellijay store is closed.

The new location was previously a thrift store and, before that, an Ingles grocery store. Other tenants currently in place include Beauty Depot, Farmers Insurance, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Discount Boutique, Crossfit Fannin, Dollar Tree and Wildflowers Health Foods.

Black Bear Antiques is a member of the Blue Ridge Chamber. The two will partner for a planned "grand opening" and ribbon-cutting ceremony the week of July 15. A soft opening was planned for the week of June 24th.

Black Bear Antiques' hours of operation will be Monday-Saturday from 10a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

For more information about Black Bear Antiques visit www.blackbearantiques.com

### **East Hampton**

#### FROM PAGE 2

setting an elegant table is trending. Georg Jensen iconic designs create memorable fine dining experiences at home."

A preview Cocktail party will be held on July 12.

Tony Ingrao and Randy Kemper, principals of the architectural and interior design firm Ingrao, Inc., are the Honorary Chairmen of the Cocktail Party, which offers patrons an early buying opportunity of the extraordinary array of antiques, jewelry, textiles, collectibles, and timelessly chic furniture and accessories. Ticket proceeds from the Preview Cocktail benefit the East Hampton Historical Society.

In addition to being principals of an internationally recognized design firm - which has redefined the world of modern luxury - Tony and Randy have been longtime East Hampton residents with deep ties to the East End community.

Both the Preview Cocktail Party and the Antiques & Design Show take place on the bucolic grounds of the Mulford Farm, located on James Lane in the heart of East Hampton Village.

Maintained by the East Hampton Historical Society, this 4-acre property features a restored 17th-century farmhouse as well as several barns and outbuildings that are among the oldest on Long Island.

The East Hampton Antiques & Design Show features a diverse assembly of more than 50 antiques and art dealers, housed in elegant white tents across the farmstead's greensward. The focus of the show is on vintage decorative items for the home and garden as well as art. Classic rattan and bamboo furniture, lighting, textiles, architectural elements, American and European country decorated furniture, Art Deco and Moderne, garden ornaments, wrought-iron accessories, industrial items, paintings, trade signs, period jewelry, weathervanes, and mirrors will be for sale. With a broad range of styles from classic to contemporary represented, there is truly something for everyone.

For more information visit www. easthamptonhistory.org.

Right: 19th C. Austrian cold painted terra-cotta pug standing atop a circa 1900 "Renaissance Scroll" cast-iron garden bench. Image courtesy of The Ann Parke Collection



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### Pabst Breweries sign drank up a bid of \$27,060 at Morphy

LAS VEGAS – On June 7-8 at their Las Vegas gallery, Morphy's popped the cap off an effervescent selection of vintage soda pop signs and other colorful advertising pieces at a spirited auction that totaled \$1.4 million. The 1,329-lot sale was led by a gorgeous all-original porcelain and neon Pabst Breweries sign that attracted strong collector attention at the preview and went on to sell for more than four times the high estimate.

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The glossy double-sided Pabst sign, marked "ACME CHICAGO" and executed in brilliant primary colors, showed off unique Pabst graphics and time-defying fine condition. The 60 by 42-inch dazzler simply could not be faulted. It retained its original bubble glass inserts and "can." The sign's origin was documented by the original stamped metal tag reading "Local Union 15 International Association Of Sheetmetal Workers" and a second metal tag that was numbered "10720." Entered with a \$2,000-\$6,000 estimate, it racked up 29 bids before claiming top-lot honors at \$27,060.

Early soda fountain syrup dispensers found favor with collectors and included a stunning example of a hard-tofind Hires Root Beer ceramic dispenser with graphics of the company's mascot, known as the "Ugly Kid." Created by the esteemed German ceramics company Villeroy & Boch, the 19-inch dispenser was marked by the manufacturer and displayed excellent grade-9 condition, with the original metal spigot and lid still intact. It sold near the midpoint of its estimate range for \$18,450.

A rare circa-1896 ceramic syrup dispenser made by Wheeling Pottery Co., was an example of the first style of dispenser ever released by the king of soft drinks, Coca-Cola. The highly sought-after 21-inch-tall soda fountain antique caught bidders' attention because it is of a type seldom seen in the marketplace. It sold for a within-estimate price of \$10,455. Another elusive dispenser, a circa-1910s production emblazoned "Drink Grapefruitola 5¢," was decorated in an appealing palette of colors and graded a strong condition 9. It sold for \$6,765 against an estimate of \$1,500-\$3,000.

When it comes to innovative product marketing, no other soda pop brand has ever matched the success of Coca-Cola, which blazed a trail for others who followed. Since the company's first ad appeared in 1886 in the Atlanta Journal, its panoramic array of promotional signs and merchandise has inspired a legion of competitors who've battled for dominance – some more skillfully than others – in the lucrative soft drink market. Several lots in the auction demonstrat-

**Below:** Stunning example of hard-to-find Hires Root Beer ceramic dispenser with 'Ugly Kid' graphics. Marked "Villeroy & Boch Made in Germany." It sold for \$18,450. All images courtesy of Morphy Auctions



**Above:** Completely original double-sided porcelain neon Pabst sign in brilliant primary colors and marked 'ACME CHICAGO' was the top lot of the sale, achieving \$27,060.

ed the ingenious way in which Coca-Cola inserted its product into every aspect of American life, often using the power of suggestion. For example, as a customer entered a mom-and-pop grocery store, they might grab the Bakelite handle of a Coca-Cola door-pull sign, like the one Morphy's auctioned for \$4,920. Once inside the store, a shopper's attention might easily be diverted by a 42-inchtall Coca-Cola bottle on an electrified rotating base imprinted with the message "Hospitality Can Be So Easy ... " And in the midst of all those reminders, a carrier carton of refreshing Coca-Cola was never far from one's grocery cart. Pure genius! The fully-functional grade-8.5 revolving bottle with base offered by Morphy's was chased to a winning bid of \$5,166 against an estimate of \$800-\$1,600.

Other Coca-Cola items of special note included a circa-1900 "Hutchinson" Coke bottle of pale amethyst glass with a slug plate embossed Jasper, AL. Graded 8.75, it sold above high estimate for \$6,765. An unusual circa-1910s Coca-Cola diecut leather bottle clock de-embossed with the message DRINK BOTTLED Coca-Cola / SO EASILY SERVED was graded condition 8 and sold for \$5,166 against an estimate of \$1,000-\$2,000. Of a later era but certainly no less desirable, a shiny circa-1950s Coca-Cola single-sided die-cut tin sign showing a six-pack of Coke bottles in a white carton was graded 9.25. It ended its bidding run near the high estimate, at \$7,380.

**Below:** Circa-1910s Grapefruitola ceramic syrup dispenser with wonderful color throughout. Sold for \$6,765.



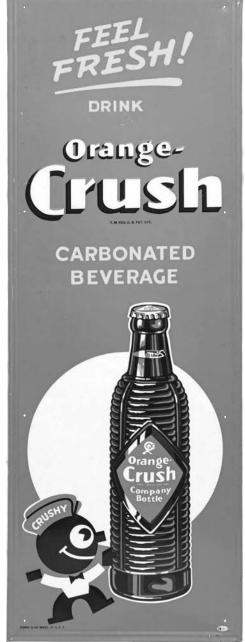
A circa-1940s Orange Crush single-sided embossed tin sign with an image of the brand's iconic "Crushy" mascot and the message "Feel Fresh! Drink Orange Crush Carbonated Beverage" sold above high estimate for \$7,995. A great-looking double-sided painted tin flange sign with a 7Up bottle graphic and the message "We Proudly Serve 7Up" sold within estimate for \$7,380.

Mountain Dew was another brand that ignited bidder interest. A vibrant example of a rare single-sided vertical tin sign emblazoned "Ya-hooo! Drink Mountain Dew" displayed excellent colors and an image of a Mountain Dew bottle with whimsical "hillbilly" graphics. It rose to \$4,920. Following right behind it, pricewise, was a rare and desirable Mountain Dew figural point-of-sale display featuring the familiar mountain man character holding a "stoneware" jug. Standing 48 inches tall it sold for \$4,428.

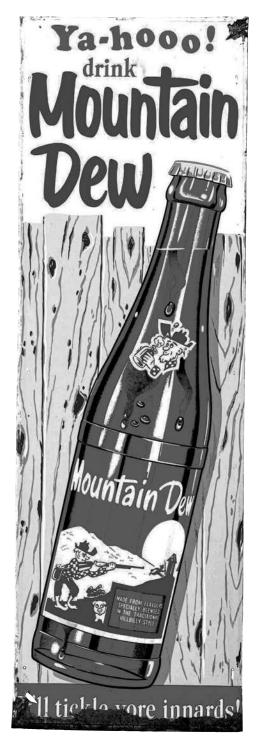
After the sale, Morphy Auctions' president, Dan Morphy, said, "We've always known there were many active collectors of soda pop and other types of antique advertising in the western states because ever since we launched our business 20 years ago, those collectors have been bidding remotely in our Pennsylvania-based sales. Now we're bringing the merchandise to them, which they especially appreciate because our satellite gallery is located in a city known for fun and entertainment."

For more information visit www.morphyauctions.com.

**Right:** Vibrant example of a rare single-sided vertical tin sign emblazoned 'Ya-hooo! Drink Mountain Dew.' Sold for \$4,920.



Above: Circa-1940s Orange Crush single-sided embossed tin sign with brand's iconic 'Crushy' mascot and the message 'Feel Fresh! Drink Orange Crush Carbonated Beverage. Sold above high estimate for \$7,995





**Below:** Painted double-sided tin flange sign with 7Up bottle graphic and the message 'We Proudly Serve 7Up.' Sold within estimate for \$7,380



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FRIDAY, JUNE 28 PENNSYLVANIA, Kutztown, Vintage Antique Extravaganza 9am-4pm Renningers.net	FRIDAY, JULY 12 GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets Day 2 of 4	SUNDAY, JULY 21 KENTUCKY, Burlington, Burlington Antique Show 7am-3pm Tony Pham tel: (513) 922-6847	SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets Day 3 of 4 PENNSYLVANIA, Somerset, Somerset	SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 KENTUCKY, Burlington, Burlington Antique Show 7am-3pm Tony Pham tel: (513) 922-6847	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 INDIANA, Shelbyville, Outdoor Flea Market 8am-2pm Nostalgia on 9 tel: (317) 392-7701
<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 29</b> MASSACHUSETTS, Cape Cod, 51st Annual Drummer Boy Antique Fair 9am-3pm BrewsterHistoricalSociety.org	SATURDAY, JULY 13 GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets Day 3 of 4 ILLINOIS, Chrisman, Pure Country	FRIDAY, JULY 26 ILLINOIS, Peoria, Aladdin Lamp Show No Time Given tel: (785) 379-9537 Day 1 of 2	Antiques, Artisans & Ales 9am-5pm Somerset Co. Chamber of Commerce tel: (814) 445-6431 SUNDAY, AUGUST 11	MINNESOTA, Rochester, Gold Rush Day 3 of 3 SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 MICHIGAN, Allegan, Allegan Antique	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 MICHIGAN, Allegan, Allegan Antique Market
Sunday, June 30 MICHIGAN, Allegan, Allegan Antique Market	Antique Show 9am-3pm Jill Mattingly tel: (312) 957-1065 Sunday, July 14 CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea	<b>SATURDAY, JULY 27</b> ILLINOIS, Peoria, Aladdin Lamp Show Day 2 of 2	CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market 9am-3pm Canning Attractions tel: (323) 560-7469 GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets	Market No Time Given Allegan Antiques tel: (616) 753-3333	No Time Given Allegan Antiques tel: (616) 753-3333 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 ILLINOIS, Grayslake, Grayslake Antique &
No Time Given Allegan Antiques tel: (616) 753-3333 Sunday, July O7 INDIANA, Lawrenceburg, Tri State	Market 9am-3pm Canning Attractions tel: (323) 560-7469 GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets	SUNDAY, JULY 28 MICHIGAN, Allegan, Allegan Antique Market No Time Given Allegan Antiques tel: (616) 753-3333	Day 4 of 4 FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 MINNESOTA, Rochester, Gold Rush Fri. & Sat. 9am-6pm; Sun. 8am Townsend	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 07 ILLINOIS, Strasburg, Flea Market at the Farm 7am Patsy Lenz tel: (217) 644-2667	Vintage Market No Time Given ZurjoPromotions.com Day 1 of 2
Antique Market 7am-3pm Tri-State Antique Market tel: (513) 702-2680	Day 4 of 4 OHIO, Milan, Mid Summer Antique Fest 8am-4pm Mid Summer Antique Fest tel: (419) 499-4001	THURSDAY, AUGUST 08 GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets No Time Given Scott Antique Markets tel: (740) 569-2800	Promotions tel: (507) 269-1473 Day 1 of 3 Saturday, August 17	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 08 CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market 9am-3pm Cannning Attractions tel: (323) 560-7469	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market 9am-3pm Canning Attractions
THURSDAY, JULY 11 GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets No Time Given Scott Antique Markets tel: (740) 569-2800 Day 1 of 4	SATURDAY, JULY 20 INDIANA, Shelbyville, Outdoor Flea Market 8am-2pm Nostalgia on 9 tel: (317) 392-7701	Day 1 of 4 <b>Friday, August 09</b> GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets Day 2 of 4	INDIANA, Shelbyville, Outdoor Flea Market 8am-2pm Nostalgia on 9 tel: (317) 392-7701 MINNESOTA, Rochester, Gold Rush Day 2 of 3	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 KENTUCKY, Burlington, Burlington Antique Show 7am-3pm Tony Pham tel: (513) 922-6847	tel: (323) 560-7469 ILLINOIS, Grayslake, Grayslake Antique & Vintage Market Day 2 of 2

### AUCTION CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

PENNSYLVANIA, Carlisle, Antique Auction SATURDAY, JUNE 29

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

THURSDAY. JULY 04

WEDNESDAY. JULY 10

E-Mail: Advertising@antiqueweek.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction No Time Given Leo Legare Auctioneer tel: (603) 595-9625 Day 1 of 17	3pm Rowe's Auction Service tel: (717) 574-1008 PENNSYLVANIA, Downingtown, Online Only Auction	ALABAMA, Northport, Estate Auction 10am Hal Hunt Auctions tel: (205) 333-2517 INDIANA, Charlestown, Estate Auction	INDIANA, Hanover, Antiques & Primitive Auction Noon Dave Gray Auctions tel: (812) 592-0401	NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 10 of 17	NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 16 of 17
WEST VIRGINIA, Weston, Antique Auction No Time Given Paul McInturff tel: (304) 842-2854 Day 1 of 8	Day 2 of 2 TEXAS, Dallas, Rare Book Auction No Time Given HA.com/6295	9am Heil's Auction Service tel: (812) 294-4451 INDIANA, Kirklin, Estate Auction 10am Zen Ziegler tel: (317) 385-2736	NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 6 of 17 WEST VIRGINIA, Weston, Antique Auction Day 6 of 8	FRIDAY, JULY 05 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 11 of 17	<b>THURSDAY, JULY 11</b> NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 17 of 17
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 2 of 17	WEST VIRGINIA, Weston, Antique Auction Day 3 of 8 FRIDAY, JUNE 28 INDIANA, Syracuse, Summer Spectacular Auction	INDIANA, Rensselaer, Estate Auction 9am Culp Auction Service tel: (219) 866-2996	Monday, July O1 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 7 of 17	SATURDAY, JULY 06 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 12 of 17	SATURDAY, JULY 13 MARYLAND, Frederick, Public Auction 9am Howard Parzow tel: (301) 351-6544 NEW YORK, Portville, Museum Auction 9:30am United Auctions tel: (716) 307-3405
PENNSYLVANIA, Downingtown, Online Only Auction 9am Pook & Pook tel: (610) 269-4040 Day 1 of 2	10am Kraft Auction Service tel: (574) 516-9395 Day 1 of 2 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin	INDIANA, Syracuse, Summer Spectacular Auction Day 2 of 2 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin	WEST VIRGINIA, Weston, Antique Auction Day 7 of 8 TUESDAY, JULY O2 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin	SUNDAY, JULY 07 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 13 of 17	NORTH CAROLINA, Ramseur, 2 Day Auction 10am C&A Auctions tel: (336) 824-8844 Day 1 of 2
WEST VIRGINIA, Weston, Antique Auction Day 2 of 8 Thursday, June 27	Auction Day 4 of 17 OHIO, Cedarville, Large Public Auction 10am Sheridans, LLC. tel: (937) 766-2300	Auction Day 5 of 17 TENNESSEE, Johnson City, Public	Auction Day 8 of 17 WEST VIRGINIA, Weston, Antique Auction Day 8 of 8	Monday, July 08 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 14 of 17	Sunday, July 14 NORTH CAROLINA, Ramseur, 2 Day Auction Day 2 of 2
KENTUCKY, Owensboro, Public Auction 10am Kurtz Auction tel: (800) 264-1204 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 3 of 17	OHIO, Marion, Estate Auction 9am Ben Higgins Realty & Auction WEST VIRGINIA, Weston, Antique Auction Day 4 of 8	Auction 10am WEST VIRGINIA, Weston, Antique Auction Day 5 of 8	WEDNESDAY, JULY 03 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 9 of 17	<b>TUESDAY, JULY 09</b> NEW HAMPSHIRE, Pelham, Online Coin Auction Day 15 of 17	Friday, July 19 OHIO, Columbus, Collectors Auction 10am Mike Albert Auctioneer tel: (614) 306-0772





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# Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10am EDT

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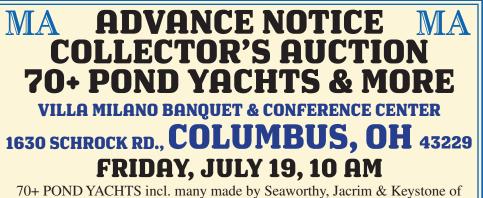
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Pictures And More Listing Will Appear As We Sort. Pictures On Auction Zip #22896. Shelter, Lunch And Parking As This Sale Is On Site. TERMS: Cash/Check w/ld/ CC.

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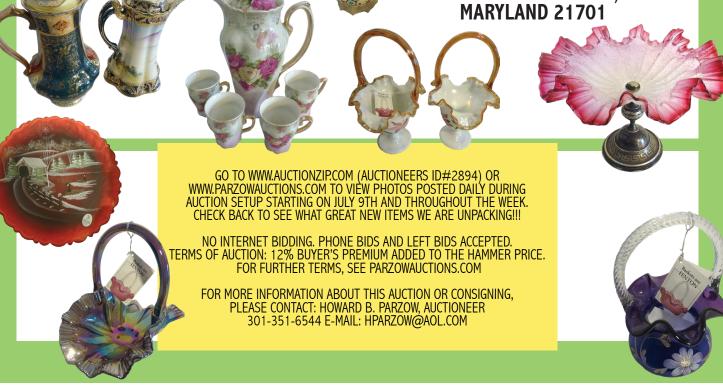
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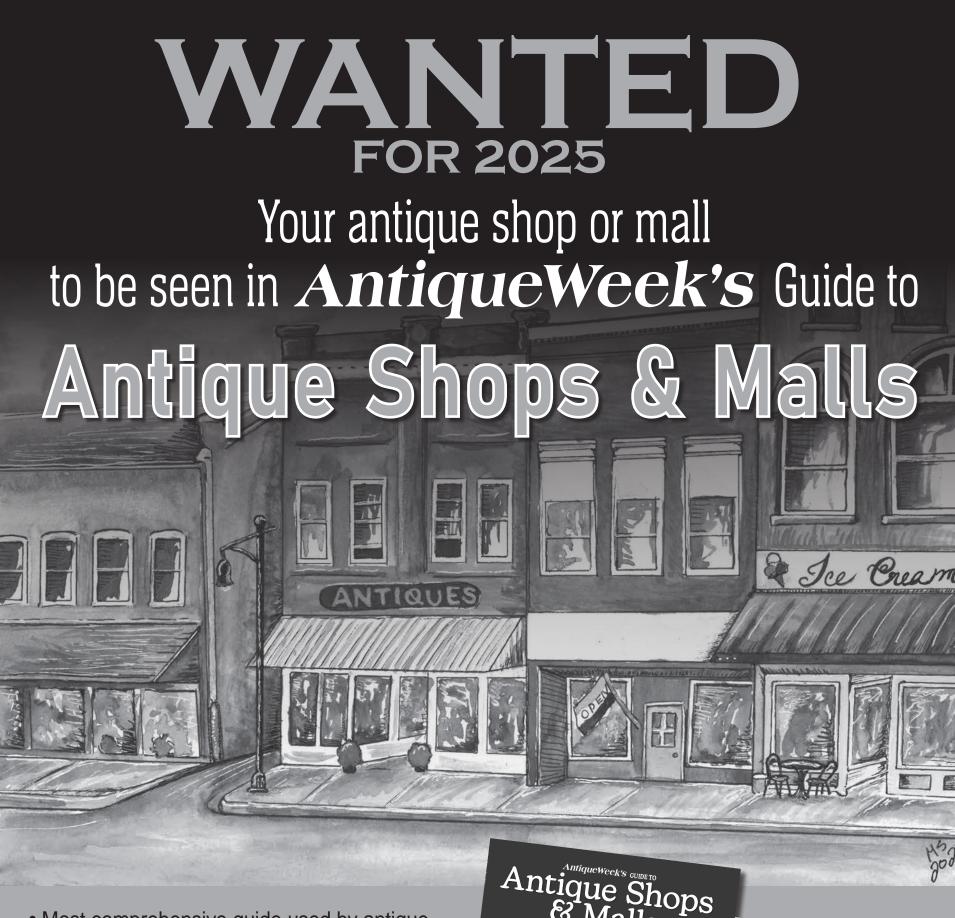
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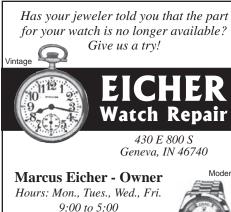
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**BEARDSTOWN - Beardstown** Antique Mall, 2104 Wall St., Beardstown, IL 62618. Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5, 217-323-4569, 6,000 sq. ft. See Facebook pg.

### EL PASO- El Paso Antique

Mall, 15 Linco Dr. 309-527-3705. Visit us on FB www.Facebook.com/ elpasoantiquemall7

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**JOHNSTON CITY - Shamrock** Antiques, Highway 57, Exit 59 toward Johnston City. Left on Hwy 37. 2 blocks on left. Wed-Sat. 10:30am-5pm. 618-983-5200. Shamrock303@frontier.com

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WATERLOO - Waterloo Antique Mall, 160 West Van Vleek St. Quality Dealers accepted. Open 7 days 11-5,

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#### **INDIANA SOUTH OF** I-70

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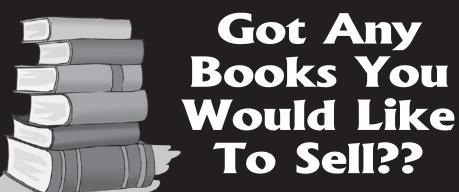


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### Mexican Folk Art

FROM FRONT PAGE

after the word conjured in his dream.

Linares gained national and international attention following a 1975 documentary on Mexican folk art that included his work. That, in turn, caught the attention of famed Mexican painters, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, who began commissioning Linares' figures.

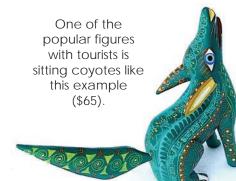
Also featured in the documentary was Oaxacan artist Juan Jiménez Ramiriez (1919-2005) who, in the 1950s, adapted Linares' ideas to carvings in wood. By the late 1960s, Ramiriez began exhibiting his carvings in Mexico and the United States. His work appeared in multiple museums, including the Smithsonian.

As a result of Remiriez' acclaim, other Oaxacan artists, particularly in the towns of Arrazola, La Unión Tejalapan, and San Martín Tilcajete began carving similar wooden figures. That was in the 1960s and 1970s when the Pan-American Highway and other roads were constructed in Mexico, providing a tourist market interested in Mexican folk art. The demand for Alebrijes soared in the 1980s from both tourists and international traders who supplied the figures to the gift industry, particularly in the American Southwest.

While the traditional papier mâché Alebrijes are still made, particularly by Linares' descendants, today's soughtafter pieces are the ones made of wood, specifically a local wood known as Copal. Copal only grows in the Oaxacan region. It's considered a sacred tree in local culture, used for incense in religious ceremonies for generations.

Artists harvest the Copal wood from the branches, not the roots, to preserve the tree and ensure a continuing supply of material. Artists take a piece of branch and intuitively — some say mystically — determine what kind of creature the shape suggests it should be. As a result, no two Alebrijes are exactly alike. Figures can range from real animals to imagined creatures or even religious objects. Certain subjects, like armadillos, dragons, and lizards are particularly popular.

The basic figure is hand-carved beginning with a machete. Then it's refined using small knives, and sometimes chisels. Often, small details like ears, tails, and wings are carved separately, and eventually inserted into





**Above:** Elaborate examples like this three-headed dragon eating an armadillo can sell for \$1,000 or more, particularly if carved by a famous artist.

small holes in the body. Depending on the size and complexity, carving can take anywhere from a few hours to weeks.

Once the carving is complete, the sculpture is left to dry. Typically, the wood is treated with a solvent, often gasoline, to kill any insect eggs in the wood. Cracks formed during the drying process are filled with a sawdust/resin mixture. The curing process can also take many weeks.

Once dry, it is sanded smooth. Then, the artist applies a base coat of paint using a large brush or sponge. Afterward, small brushes are used to apply the stunning Zapotec-inspired designs. Originally, paints were made from natural ingredients. As Alebrijes became more popular, many artists switched to readily-available acrylic paint.

Traditionally, the men completed all the work, from selecting the wood to painting the sculpture. Given today's popularity and the volume being made, work is usually shared among family members. The men usually do the carving while the women and children tackle the sanding and painting. That said, it's usually only the male carver's name that adorns the piece.

As Alebrijes became popular with tourists, many artists and artisan households began focusing on simple pieces that could be produced quickly and sold inexpensively. Yet, other sculptors focused on craftsmanship, making larger and more intricate pieces, with commensurate prices. Those often appear in boutiques, galleries, and even museums.

Today, creating Alebrijes is an important part of the Oaxacan economy. Many area households have at least one family member involved in making the figures. Each artist or household has a signature style that distinguishes their work.

Likewise, each of the three traditional carving towns - particularly in the towns mentioned above — has a distinct connection to the art. Arrazola is located very close to Monte Albán, providing a solid tourist trade. Nearly 100 families create the carvings, earning the town its nickname, "Cuna de Alebrijes" or the cradle of fantastic wooden figures. San Martín Tilcajete, population 2,000, is about 20 miles away. It has enjoyed the most commercial success, starting with Isidro Cruz, who learned to carve when he was 13. Since then, the town has given rise to a remarkable number of the better-known carvers. La Union Tejalapan is known for rustic religious pieces like angels and Day of the Dead motifs, often painted subtly using traditional natural pigments.

The market for Alebrijes is divided into two camps. The first is the touristquality pieces that are inexpensive and usually sold in Oaxacan towns or at gift shops worldwide. The other has higherquality, labor-intensive pieces often rooted in traditional techniques. Those are the pieces typically found at galleries, high-end boutiques, and art auctions.

Production-quality pieces are often tou one-piece carvings. Later carvers often did not learn the technique of making individual extremities like ears and legs that fit into a figure's body. Thus, a clue to a more valuable Alebrije is removable pieces. Still, one-piece carvings aren't necessarily inferior and can still represent stunning work. A less distinguishable dividing line is the use of natural — albeit duller — pigments by traditional artists versus more vibrant acrylic paint favored by volume producers. Ra



**Above:** Alebrijes are carved from branches of the Copal tree native to Oaxaca. The tangled, twisted branches inspire elaborate figures like dragons and curve-tailed lizards.

As with any folk art, various artisans have earned reputations for their work. They include Jacobo Angeles, Julia Fuentes, Manuel Jiménez, and Martin Sandiego and Miguel Sandiego. Fortunately, most artists sign their pieces, so identification is straightforward.

Pricing for carvings depends on the artist involved, size, sophistication, and of course quality. Tourist pieces sold in Mexico can cost as little as \$1 each. At gift shops stateside, those same items will typically run \$10-\$25. Gallerygrade examples can easily run several hundred to several thousand dollars depending on the complexity and artist involved.

Alebrijes rank at the top of Mexico's folk art scene and continue to delight buyers. The market is now global in scope and the traditions are being passed down to a third generation of Oaxacan carvers. Overproduction, however, is threatening the native copal supply, and reforestation attempts have been somewhat ineffective. Another threat is cheap imitations coming from Asia. To make matters worse, economic instability and tensions between Mexico and the U.S. have put a huge dent in tourism, which Oaxacan artists depend on.

Despite those challenges, these unique sculptures are still being made and make a great addition to a folk art collection. Each one purchased helps preserve local artistic traditions and contributes to the livelihood of an Oaxacan artisan family.

If you are interested in this unique art form, a good resource is Oaxacan Wood Carving: The Magic in the Trees by Shepard Barbash (Author), and Vicki Ragan (Photographer).



family member involved in making the

**Below:** The best Alebrijes are elaborately painted and have many individually carved parts like those found on this dragon.



**Below:** Simple pieces, like this sitting frog, can be found in tourist shops in Mexico and the Southwest U.S. for under \$20.



