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Music boxes continue to entertain with beautiful sounds

By Barbara Miller Beem

Greeting cards with sound chips, cell phones with ringtones, and even dog toys that sing a tune: These days, the hills aren't the only places that are alive with the sound of music. But that wasn't always the case. In the past there would have only been music in the house if there was a musical instrument (and someone who could play it). With the introduction of the music box, however, everything changed. And this holiday season, one antique mall in Oklahoma City is celebrating 20 days of "A Music Box Christmas," showcasing 20 different Victorian music boxes.

The first cylinder music box dates to the last years of 18th-century Switzerland. As its name implies, this music box was characterized by a horizontally positioned cylinder that featured hand-set pins. The machine was put in motion by turning a crank or lifting a lever back and forth. When the spring-driven cylinder rotated, the pins rolled over steel teeth attached to a stationary comb. Musical tones resulted.

This process was refined a century later in Leipzig with the 1886 introduction of the Symphonion music box, which relied on a disc rather than a cylinder to supply the notes. Music was sounded from a disc when tuned steel teeth were struck, activated by projections on the underside of a turning metal disc. Simplifying the finer points in the two procedures, Larry Baker, an expert in the field of vintage music boxes, declared, "They basically did the same thing." However, as music lovers were about to realize, there were advantages to metal discs



Left: This six-bell cylinder music box, made in Switzerland circa 1890, features an inlaid rosewood cabinet. It plays eight tunes. Images courtesy of 23rd Street Antique Mall

Right: A Criterion disc player sits atop an original matching cabinet full of 15 ³/₄-inch discs.

Switching out one disc for another was a relatively easy process. And discs, which could be mass-produced on stamping machines, were easier and less expensive both to make and purchase than was the case with cylinders, which were made individually by hand. Those who could afford a disc music box could purchase discs with their favorite songs at a reasonable price, choosing from a broad offering of musical selections.

These metal discs were sold by a variety of music box companies, but not all discs could

b e

Above:

For one nickel, a music lover could hear one song on this coin-operated Regina disc player, made circa 1898.

played on every disc music box. To alleviate this situation, some manufacturers worked together to make their discs and music boxes compatible with those offered by their competitors. Even though "hundreds and hundreds of tunes from all over the world" were produced for disc music boxes, Baker noted that many of them were geared to American listeners. According to Baker, the wide range of offerings included patriotic tunes, religious music and songs for dancing.

And, of course, Christmas carols.

Demand for disc music boxes spread throughout the United States, and the New Jersey-based Regina Company became the best-



Left: A walnut "Concert Roller Organ," featuring a hand crank with wood cylinders called "cobbs." The gold-colored decoration on the top, front, sides, and back is original.

known domestic supplier, Baker Records noted. show that the company shipped 100,000 music boxes between 1892 and 1921, with sales topping more than \$2 million a year, a princely sum at the time. He pointed out that even though they were considered to be a luxury by many turn-of-the-last-century families, music boxes were available in many different models with a wide range of price tags. Basic models, Baker

SEE MUSIC BOXES ON PAGE 23

Above: A Regina disc music box, "Style 11," with a logo picture in the lid.

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World War I posters commanded attention at EDS

By William Flood

NEWS

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BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — On Nov. 11, Estate and Downsizing Specialists (EDS) hosted an exciting online auction, featuring a diverse collection of ephemera, militaria, vintage toys, and photographic items. The event offered a rich selection, like World War I wartime posters, vintage postcards, antiquarian books and magazines, and collectible toy vehicles. A total of 603 lots were presented exclusively through HiBid.

Noteworthy in this sale were two dozen World War I war effort posters. The top seller was a 'Joan of Arc' poster by William Haskell Coffin, which fetched \$250. This 30 by 20-inch poster, promoting U.S. government war savings stamps, was stored rolled and showed light wear, creases, and marginal tears. An offer of \$205 won a 'Weapons for Liberty' poster from the Third Liberty Loan campaign, sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. Also stored rolled, it showed similar wear but had three repaired tears. Close behind, at \$195, was a 'Clear the Way, Buy Bonds' poster from the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign, featuring striking graphics by illustrator Howard Chandler Christy. It showed heavier wear compared to the others.

The militaria category featured over 50 lots, including a five-book collection on the Civil War, which sold for an impressive \$180. The titles, in varying condition, included 'The Soldier in Our Civil War,' 'Tales of the Old Veterans (1892),' and 'Campaigns of the 124th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry.' Bids went to \$150 for a World War II sterling identification bracelet for 'R.H. Upsall' paired with a newer Air Force pin. Later, a U.S. Navy bronze medal



Above: Painter William Haskell Coffin (1878–1941), was commissioned to produce this World War I war effort poster (\$250)

Right: Military, firefighter, athletic, and other medals were offered. This bronze U.S. Navy medal from 1927 was picked up for \$51.

with its ribbon, inscribed 'Pete J. Ranard U.S.S. Holland 3 Oct 1927,' garnered \$51.

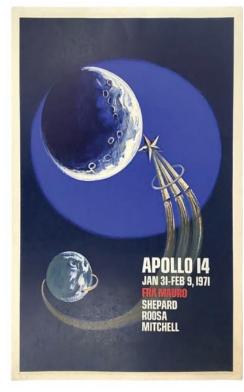
The war effort posters were just the beginning of an ephemera-heavy event, which also featured rare items like a John Lennon 'Bag One' lithograph from 1970. This piece secured the auction's highest sum, at \$850. The framed print,

> SEE ESTATE & DOWNSIZING SPECIALISTS PAGE 4



Above: This TWA flight attendant pin from the postwar era hit \$55.





Above: This 1971 Apollo 14 piece fetched \$170. It was among the many posters offered at the Nov. 11 Estate and Downsizing Specialists Auction.

Maryland festival highlights Chesapeake Bay's waterfowling legacy

By William Flood

EASTON, Md. — Each November, Maryland's Waterfowl Festival held in the town of Easton, brings together enthusiasts for a unique look at the traditions of waterfowling around the Chesapeake Bay. The festival offers an immersive experience celebrating both the sport of hunting and the culture and heritage of the Delmarva area.

The Tidewater region of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia known as Delmarva has a rich history of hunting dating back to the 1600s. Early settlers turned to the Bay and its tributaries for both sustenance and income. The area's wetlands along the Atlantic Flyway made waterfowl hunting an important aspect of the area's culture. As one local remarked, "Waterfowl hunting is part of who we are — it's as



Above: A pair of pintails by Pennsylvania's William Quinn (1915-1969) sold for \$26,000 artist Sandra Alanko (\$400) was one of



Above: This pastel harbor scene by local artist Sandra Alanko (\$400) was one of

much a tradition as the harvest."

A hallmark of the region's waterfowling legacy is the duck decoy. Delmarva gave birth to some of the most iconic decoys ever produced. Early carvers used locally available materials like cedar, pine, and cork to craft decoys that would fool even the most at auction.

discerning birds. Many of the carvers like the Ward Brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (circa 1885-1980), and R. Madison Mitchell (1901-1993) of Havre de Grace, Maryland became legendary. Now in its 53rd year, the festival offers with artists, field sports antiques, duck calling contests, retriever demos, and decoy carving exhibitions, offering a chance to explore Mid-Atlantic waterfowling herihundreds of paintings, prints, and other wall art available.

tage and perhaps take home a piece of that tradition.

SEE MARYLAND FESTIVAL PAGE 5

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Estate & Downsizing Specialists

From Page 2

numbered 22/300 and signed by Lennon, was in excellent shape. A complete set of these lithographs is part of the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

A 1971 Apollo 14 poster, depicting the spacecraft's flight, Fra Mauro crater, and astronauts Mitchell, Roosa, and Shepard, reached \$170. The 34 by 23inch piece was in good condition, with only minor creases, toning, and marginal tears. A bid of \$135 won a pair of Keystone Stereoscope sets in faux-book binders for bookshelf storage. One set was complete, while the other contained a mix of incomplete series.

The ephemera category also held 48 lots of collectible postcards. Those ranged from a single real photo postcard of western farming, complete with a 2-cent Trans-Mississippi series stamp, which scored a modest \$2, to a collection of over 150 holiday postcards from 1910-1920 (some written, others blank), taken home for \$200.

Things didn't stop with ephemera; it also held some intriguing advertising pieces. A vintage 30-inch metal



Coca-Cola thermometer, with only minor rust and scuffs, led the advertising category at \$220. More unusual was a 9-inch Standard Oil 'Research Test Car' plaque, showing signs of rust and age, that hit \$120. Another thermometer, a 13-inch metal Chesterfield cigarette example, also in good order, brought in \$82.50.

There was often overlap between advertising pieces and collectibles, attracting crossover buyers. Among the items was a 1940s-50s TWA stewardess



Above: Competition was strong on a box of 150 holiday cards from 1910-1920s, eventually landing at \$200.

Left: This World War I war bonds poster (\$195) was illustrated in 1918 by Howard Chandler Christy, one of the most popular American portrait artists of the Jazz Age.



pin, marked 'Sterling by Blackinton' on the back, which sold for \$55. A brass HK-289 1901 Pan-American Exposition token in excellent shape brought in \$45. A modest \$27 won a set of 14 Cracker Jack prizes from the 1920s, featuring a dog, jockey, and racehorse, among others.

More than two dozen toy vehicles

were available,

including this

1950s-era plas-

tic-body car and

camper set, with its

box, that rolled away

for \$160.

Collectibles included 75 lots of toys and diecast vehicles. Those included



Below: A two-set collection of Keystone Stereoscope views, with their binders, did nicely at \$135.





Above: Three lots held items from John Lennon's "Bag One" series that depicted John and Yoko's wedding and honeymoon. This lithograph was the auction's top seller at \$850.

a friction car and camper set, marked SSS Japan, with its original box, taken home for \$160. Another \$160 picked up an antique pressed-steel Wyandotte Highway Freight toy semi-truck. The vehicle was worn, missing the back gate, and showed paint oxidation. A mere \$38 won a 1960s-era, 23-inch rideable Texaco fuel truck, in good condition, made in the USA by Brown & Bigelow.

For information on upcoming EDS auctions, visit: edsindiana.com

Left: A collection of six real photo postcards and 10 photos depicting American frontier life sold for \$65.



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Maryland Festival

FROM PAGE 2

A must-see was the special exhibition on Mid-Atlantic waterfowling history. It featured a remarkable collection of rare items, including decoys, guns, and gunning boats, all on loan from private collectors and museums. Many of the pieces were the rarest in existence. Robert Jester from Ocean City, Maryland, shared, "There are a million dollars' worth of birds in this room," and added, 'Some of those shore birds sell for \$20,000-\$40,000 apiece.'

One of the festival's most anticipated events was the wildfowl decoy auction hosted by Guyette and Deeter, the world's foremost decoy auctioneer. In a post-auction statement, officials estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 people attended, describing the bidding as "spirited." Final totals revealed the event generated \$3.2 million in bids. Among the offerings were a Ward Brothers canvasback, which sold for \$7,200, a pair of pintails by Pennsylvania's William Quinn (1915-1969) that fetched \$26,000, and a mallard by renowned Delaware Riv-



Above: A parking lot full of tailgaters outside the auction venue offered everything from new and collectible hunting decoys to antiquarian field sports books.

Below: Vintage shotgun shells boxes are an unusual collectible, but pretty prevalent at the festival. They can run from \$5 to nearly \$1,000.



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Above: This antique decoy collection of Chesapeake regional author and historian C. John Russel was part of the Heritage Exhibition.

er carver John English (1852-1915), which brought in \$10,500.

Beyond the main auction, two other venues provided additional chances to purchase wildlife and hunting memora-



Above: Modern carvers offer decoys ranging from utilitarian, like these modestly-price pieces, to impressive pieces of art priced in the hundreds or thousands.

Below: Antique and new bird calls are a popular item at the festival. In addition, there are duck-calling competitions for children to adults.

bilia. The Decoy Tailgate, held outside the auction hall, featured dozens of collectors selling items from their private collections. Don Weaver, a Louisiana native, and a collector for over 60 years, holds the world's largest decoy collection. "Tve sold 25,000 decoys over my lifetime," he said. This year marked his 35th festival appearance. Spread across a tarp in his space were dozens of decoys, with prices ranging from \$100 to \$300.

Nearby, a Buy/Sell/Swap bazaar offered an extensive array of field sports antiques. Vintage bird calls were popular, typically priced between \$15 and \$75. Woodworkers could find antique carving tools, often available for around \$50. The market featured a variety of other treasures, including vintage fishing reels, nautical antiques, oyster cans, and even old shotgun shells.

In addition to browsing Bay-themed antiques, visitors could shop the contemporary work of 75 painters, sculptors, and other creators. This year's featured artist was Texas-based sculptor Ronnie Wells, whose work greets visitors at the entrance to Ducks Unlimited's headquarters. His work included a bronze egret sculpture

Below: Oyster cans from Delmarva's oystering heritage are popular items at the festival. Expect prices from \$25 to over \$100.



Above: Decoy carving tools are sought by woodworkers. A Sheffield shaver (front) was \$58; an H & JW King brass thumb screw spoke shaver (middle) was priced at \$70; and (rear) an unnamed piece was available for \$35.

titled "Dancing Golden Slippers," priced at \$5,900. Other notable works included a striking marlin sculpture by Ocean City welder and artist Jeff Martin, valued at \$67,000.

Beyond sculptures, the festival showcased a strong selection of two-dimensional art. Sandra Alanko, a local artist from Tilghman Island, brought to life the beauty of boats, harbors, and migratory birds through her work. Additionally, Lori Dunn from Ontario captivated visitors with her remarkable scratch art, crafted with precision using an Exacto blade.

Of particular importance were pavilions staffed by conservation organizations like Ducks Unlimited and ShoreRivers, reinforcing the festival's commitment to preserving the region's wetlands and wildlife. Just as early families relied on the land and water for survival, today's conservation efforts help ensure these resources remain for future generations.

The Waterfowl Festival celebrates the Chesapeake Bay's enduring legacy, with rare sporting antiques, exceptional decoys, and breathtaking artwork. It's a weekend that brings the region's cultural and historical traditions to life, making it a must-attend for collectors and history lovers alike. Don't miss next year's festival, where more treasures and stories of the Bay's legacy await.

For information on next year's show, visit: waterfowlfestival.org

Below: The festival holds a vast array of wildlife-themed folk art, like this pair of taxidermy toads playing a parlor game.







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Indiana	Michigan	Pennsylvania
Shipshewana Antique & Miscellaneous Auction Dec 18	Ypsilanti Auction Jan 0113	Downingtown Americana Auction Jan 1624



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.

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SHOW CALENDAR

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 12	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 09	Sunday, March 23	Sunday, July 13	SUNDAY, AUGUST 10	TUESDAY, AUGUST 19
CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea	CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea	WISCONSIN, Wausau, Wausau Show	CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea	CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea	COLORADO, Golden, Centennial State
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9am-3pm R.G. Canning tel: (323) 560-7469	9am-3pm R.G. Canning tel: (323) 560-7469	Day 2 of 2	9am-3pm R.G. Canning tel: (323) 560-7469	9am-3pm R.G. Canning tel: (323) 560-7469	No Time Given
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 COLORADO, Lakewood, Denver Postcard & Paper Show No Time Given DenverPostcardShow.com Day 1 of 2	SUNDAY, MARCH 09 CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market 9am-3pm R.G. Canning tel: (323) 560-7469 SATURDAY, MARCH 22 WISCONSIN, Wausau, Wausau Show	SUNDAY, APRIL 13 CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market 9am-3pm R.G. Canning tel: (323) 560-7469 SUNDAY, MAY 11 CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market 9am-3pm R.G. Canning tel: (323) 560-7469	FRIDAY, JULY 18 COLORADO, Lakewood, Denver Postcard & Paper Show No Time Given DenverPostcardShow.com Day 1 of 2	FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 COLORADO, Castle Rock, Rocky Mountain Book & Paper Fair No Time Given RMABA.org Day 1 of 2	Day 1 of 2 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20 COLORADO, Golden, Centennial State Champ Stamp & Postcard Show Day 2 of 2
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18	& Sale	SUNDAY, JUNE 08	SATURDAY, JULY 19	SATURDAY, AUGUST 16	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
COLORADO, Lakewood, Denver Postcard	Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 10am-3pm Zurko	CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea	COLORADO, Lakewood, Denver Postcard	COLORADO, Castle Rock, Rocky	CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea
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AUCTION CALENDAR

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 MICHIGAN, Mecosta, Online Car Auction No Time Given Miedema Auctioneering tel: (616) 261-4987

PENNSYLVANIA, Denver, Fine &Decorative Arts Auction No Time Given MorphyAuctions.com Day 1 of 3

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

PENNSYLVANIA, Denver, Fine &Decorative Arts Auction Day 2 of 3

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 INDIANA, Shipshewana, 3 Day Auction No Time Given Chupp Auctions tel: (260) 768-7616 Day 1 of 3

PENNSYLVANIA, Denver, Fine &Decorative Arts Auction Day 3 of 3

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 INDIANA, Fowler, Train Auction 10am ToysTrainsAndOtherOldStuff.com

INDIANA, Shipshewana, 3 Day Auction Day 3 of 3

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 OHIO, Middlefield, Antique & Collectible Auction 4pm AaronMast.hibbid.com

WISCONSIN, Waterloo, Advertising Auction No Time Given Matthewsauctions.com Day 1 of 3

WISCONSIN, Waterloo, Advertising Auction Day 2 of 3

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 WISCONSIN, Waterloo, Advertising Auction Day 3 of 3

Monday, December 30 ILLINOIS, Arcola, Winter Ag Advertising Auction 9am Tri-County Auction

INDIANA, Shipshewana, 2 Ring Auction 9:30am Chupp Auctions tel: (260) 499-0216

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 04 MICHIGAN, Grand Ledge, New Year Auction 10am Americana Auctions tel: (517) 243-9090

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

PENNSYLVANIA, Downingtown Americana Auction 9am PookandPook.com Day 1 of 2

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

INDIANA, Shipshewana, Antique & **Miscellaneous Auction** 9am Shipshewana Auction tel: (260) 768-4129

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 INDIANA, Shipshewana, 3 Day Auction Day 2 of 3

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 KENTUCKY, Versailles, Estate Auction 9:30am Roy Lancaster tel: (859) 489-0877

OHIO, Middlefield, Antique & Collectible Auction 9am AaronMast.hibid.com

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 01

MICHIGAN, Ypsilanti, Gallery Auction

NEW YORK, Penn Yan, New Years Day

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9am AaronMast.Hidbid.com

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PAGE 10 **Opera glasses: A close-up view with elegant design**

BY DOUG GRAVES

Long before the big screen brought us up close and personal to all the action, people attending live theater, operas and sporting events wanted to be able to see every tiny detail no matter how far away they were from the action. The solution? Opera glasses.

The first binoculars were developed in 1608 by Dutch optician Hans Lipperhey, with Galileo's telescope arriving a year later.

Johann Kepler (1571-1630) invented binoculars, which gave a much wider field of view. In 1617, Anton Schyrle inserted an extra lens and the image was re-inverted to become a terrestrial telescope. Not until the mid-18th century did a Venetian optician named D. Salva invent the bridge that connected two small Galilean telescopes, a bridge that is still in use today.

Jacques LeMaire is credited with the invention of the opera glass in 1823, and his design had a profound impact on the form. Prior to LeMaire's design, opera glasses were little more than simple refracting lenses mounted in metal frames. LeMaire, an accomplished optician, created a sophisticated system of double convex lenses that allowed for much greater mag-

> SEE OPERA GLASSES PAGE 14

Below: The pair shown here is made by renowned craftsman Jacques LeMaire from his factory in Paris. These had dual purposes: miniature binocular and opera glasses. (photo courtesy Antiques from France)





Above: They were oftentimes called theatre binoculars, though most know them



Right: Even in the late 19th century opera glasses were highly decorative. This French enameled pair by LeMaire of Paris sported floral reserves in a midnight blue base ground within gilttooled and pearlescent swag borders. The pair sold for \$300 at a recent auction. (photo courtesy Antiques from France)

Left: The opera glasses shown here were made in Paris, France in 1895 and made

of gilt metal, mother-of-pearl and enamel. The classes themselves measure four inches, the handle five inches. (photo credit Cleveland Museum of Art)



as opera glasses. Shown is one with bone cover. (photo courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Below: Early 20th century mother-ofpearl opera glasses and case. The glasses are marked with the name of the vendor "Ryrie Bros. Toronto". (photo courtesy Ryrie Brothers)







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Opera Glasses

FROM PAGE 10

nification. His design quickly became the standard for opera glasses and remained the basis for most modern designs.

The making of fine opera glasses entailed knowledge not only in optics. Each opera glass piece was worked on by painters, goldsmiths and other artists. By the second half of the 19th century, they had become essential fashion accessories for theater-goers.

An Englishman named George Adams



Above: Shown are opera glasses from renowned maker Colmont of Paris. This pair was made in the early 1900s. Colmont was in business from the 1880s to early 1950s. Those in the U.S. could purchase Colmont instruments from Sears and other major firms. (photo courtesy Cleveland Museum of Art)

Below: Pictured is a telescoping opera glass from Vienna, Austria (circa 1930). It is made of mother-of-pearl with yellow metal mounts. When closed it measures just 1 3/8 inches tall. (photo courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art)

her head.



Season 29 of Antiques Roadshow is set to premier on Jan. 6

BOSTON — From a sapphire ring with a jaw-dropping mystery to a season-topping \$650,000 work of art, the all-new season of Antiques Roadshow stuns and surprises in episodes filmed across the country. Season 29 kicks off with a first-time stop in Bentonville, Ark., premiering Monday, January 6 on PBS.

This season the series travels to five cities, stopping at distinctive venues that are treasures in their own right, including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville; Springs Preserve in Las Vegas; Living History Farms in Urbandale, Iowa; Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms in Littleton, Colo., and Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. "The magic of Roadshow is with thousands of fans attending our events each Tour, we don't know what they will bring or what we'll discover," said executive producer Marsha Bemko. "And after 29 years our new season doesn't disappoint — many of the stories and treasures left even us speechless."

One" oil painting created by former NFL player turned artist Ernie Barnes and brought to the show by a guest who grew up with the piece hanging above the family fireplace.

In Urbandale, Iowa, an untouched 1968-1970 Mattel Hot Wheels store displays from the toys' early years, saved treasures from a long-ago family variety store, contain some of the rarest Camaro and Mustang models, which help drive the value to an incredible \$30,000-\$50,000!

In Littleton, Colo., an Andy Warhol mixed-media Golden Shoe artwork, circa 1956, given by the eclectic artist as a birthday gift to the guest's uncle who moved to New York City in the early 1950s for a job as a window designer, was valued at \$125,000-\$150,000! In Baltimore a modest Waltham Watch Company gold trench watch, circa 1918, stored in a shoebox and all but forgotten, was revealed to have been gifted to General George S. Patton by his wife early in his military career, and valued at a stunning \$100,000-\$135,000. This 25-episode season also includes a new slate of fan-favorite Vintage episodes, where Roadshow looks back at memorable objects from 15 years ago to discover what they are worth today and how the market and their value has changed, the annual "Junk in the Trunk" episode and three new themed specials to be announced early next year.

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first thought to attach the lenses to each

to allow viewers to focus both eyes on the

same point. Like lorgnettes, binoculars

were soon attached to long handles, and

these handled contraptions evolved into

An interesting type of opera glass was

the jealousy lorgnette . It allowed the

viewer to see what was behind as well

as in front. It was not good manners for

a lady to turn around in her theater box

and stare at those entering; the jealousy

lorgnette enabled her to see what was go-

ing on behind her without ever turning

materials including tortoiseshell, horn, bone, ivory, metal, enamel, mother-ofpears, silver, gold and jewel encrusted. From the mid-19th century to the end of

the 1800s, lorgnettes typically had longer

handles, measuring as much as 20 to 30

centimeters in length. The handles were

either straight or curved and they were

often heavily embellished. The handles

were made of real and imitation tortoise-

shell, mother-of-pears and silver.

Lorgnettes were made of a variety of

the ornate opera glasses we know today.

Right: Many opother and then to a long handle on one era glasses were monoculars, like side. These became what we now think of as lorgnettes. Lorgnettes with their long this pair from handles were often ornately decorated. London (circa At the end of the 19th century, binoc-1850). This ular technology finally improved enough

monocular had a 1.5-inch objective lens and two draws with knurled eyepiece. The leather case stands 2.75 inches tall. The makers of this item (Francis Watkins and William Hill) were working in London from 1822 to 1856. (photo submiited)

DECEMBER 17, 2024



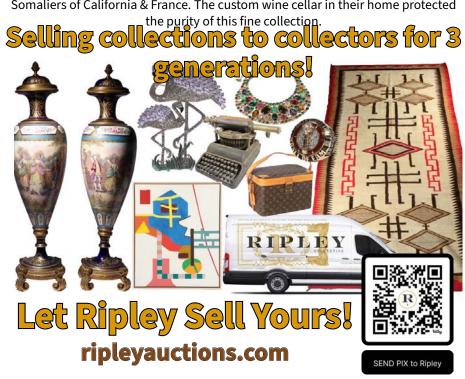
French opera glasses from the 1920s, marked Zingraff Paris. (photo credit Antiques from France)



This exciting auction includes the pinnacle collection of Charlie & Ellen Hughes (Indianapolis), who dedicated their lives to wine collecting. As members of Chaine de Rottiseurs, their passions were collected from the premier wineries &

In Bentonville the discovery of a 1960 Elvis Presley-signed ice cream cone display, valued at \$3,000-\$5,000, uncovered the charming story of the guest's father's unusual encounter with the superstar and how the scoop on celebrity sightings spread before social media!

In Las Vegas the Roadshow hit the jackpot with the \$650,000 season-topping discovery of a 1971 "Fourth and





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PAGE 16 Michelsen's Christmas spoons serve up merry holidays

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

It has been said that Anton Michelsen's Christmas spoons are "works of art in silver." Many people must believe this statement since Michelsen's spoons are some of the most highly collected spoons in history.

Anton Michelsen founded A. Michelsen (his Danish jewelry company) in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1841. He and his company became one of the most successful silversmiths of his day. A. Michelsen continued in operation until 1985 when Georg Jensen absorbed it, adding A. Michelsen to his Royal Copenhagen firm.

Anton Michelsen was born in Copenhagen in 1809 to a fourth or fifth generation metalsmith family. Michelsen attended jewelry school, completing a goldsmith apprenticeship in 1839. In that year, he returned to Copenhagen, working for goldsmith J.B. Dalhoff. Michelsen also attended the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts under the tutelage of Gustav Friedrich Hetsch, a famous Danish architect.

In 1836, Anton Michelsen founded his own goldsmith workshop in Gothersgade in Copenhagen. He won the attention of the royal family, and Christian VIII chose Michelsen to create all Danish medals, giving Michelsen the title of the royal court jeweler — Insignia Jewelers.

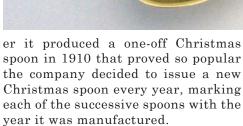
Anton's son, Carl Michelsen continued A. Michelsen upon Anton's death in 1877, and Carl's son Poul Ulrich Michelsen joined the company in 1914 and was appointed to Commander of the Order of the Dannebrog in connection with A. Michelsen's one hundred years' anniversary in 1941.

Of all of A. Michelsen's work, perhaps the best remembered and most certainly the most collected was its line of Christmas spoons. The concept of collecting Christmas plates and spoons was born in Denmark when Bing & Grondahl offered its first Christmas plate in 1895 followed by Royal Copenhagen's first Christmas plate in 1908. Finally, in 1910 A. Michelsen offered the world its first Christmas spoon and fork.

By 1910, Michelsen had a fine history of making commemorative spoons, so when it released its first Christmas spoon, it did not mark the spoon with the year "1910" on it. In fact, A. Michelsen did not intend to produce a line of Christmas spoons, but rath-

Below: Michelsen's first Christmas spoon and fork from 1910. This undated gilded star spoon set is valued at \$510.





From 1910 until 1967, A. Michelsen continued producing and offering for sale Christmas spoons for all the years the spoons had been designed; however, in 1968, this stopped. 1968 marked the year that all of the past year's Christmas spoon dies were destroyed, and a decision was made to cast only that year's, 1968, Christmas spoon. This decision to limit the production of its Christmas spoons truly marked Michelsen Christmas spoons as collector items since they were now offered in limited edition only.

Michelsen Christmas spoons and forks are sterling silver with gold plate on them. Many of the spoons have inlaid enamel on them, making them quite colorful. These spoons are considered dessert size, measuring about 6 inches long.

Beautiful 1911 Michelsen Christmas spoon and fork set depicting the Christ Child. This extraordinary set is valued at \$445.

The concept of a spoon being a work of art is clearly seen in the spoon's production. A. Michelsen has documented that it takes 38 different hand operations to create a single spoon. Each spoon must be cut with special cutting tools, sawed and drilled by hand, then filed and polished before enameling. Each spoon is enameled and baked three separate times before being gilded and buffed to a high polish.

The beauty of these spoons truly belongs to the free hand the company gave its Christmas spoon designers. Povl Nissen, a former president of A. Michelsen, said, "Michelsen has a responsibility to the coming generations and the art work must reflect the trend of the period during which it was created." He also explained why Christmas spoons are not all covered in Christmas themes and motifs. "It could be tempting to commercialize the spoons decorating them with motifs, which would appeal to a broader spectrum of the population, but that

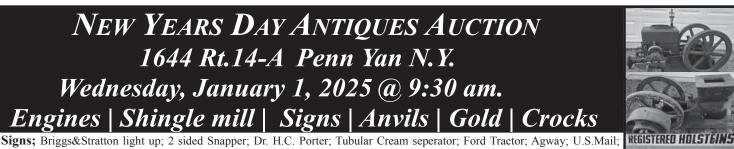


Above: Michelsen's first use of enamel appeared on this 1913 spoon and fork set, depicting a wintry Christmas scene. This set is valued at \$510.

would cheapen our product and harm the reputation of our company."

If you wish to collect A. Michelsen Christmas spoons, you should know two things. First, many collectors prefer the earliest spoons, roughly 1910 – 1932, when there were Christmas motifs on the spoons. For instance, the 1912 spoon had two Christmas bells on it (perhaps the most beautiful spoon ever made), the 1915 spoon depicted three magi, the 1916 spoon had a Madonna on it, and the 1929 spoon sported a Christmas rose theme.

Second, to collect these spoons, bring a deep wallet to the auction. While there is no set price for the spoons, in good condition the spoons cost a few hundred dollars each, and in fine condition, a single Michelsen Christmas spoon may sell for well over \$500 dollars.



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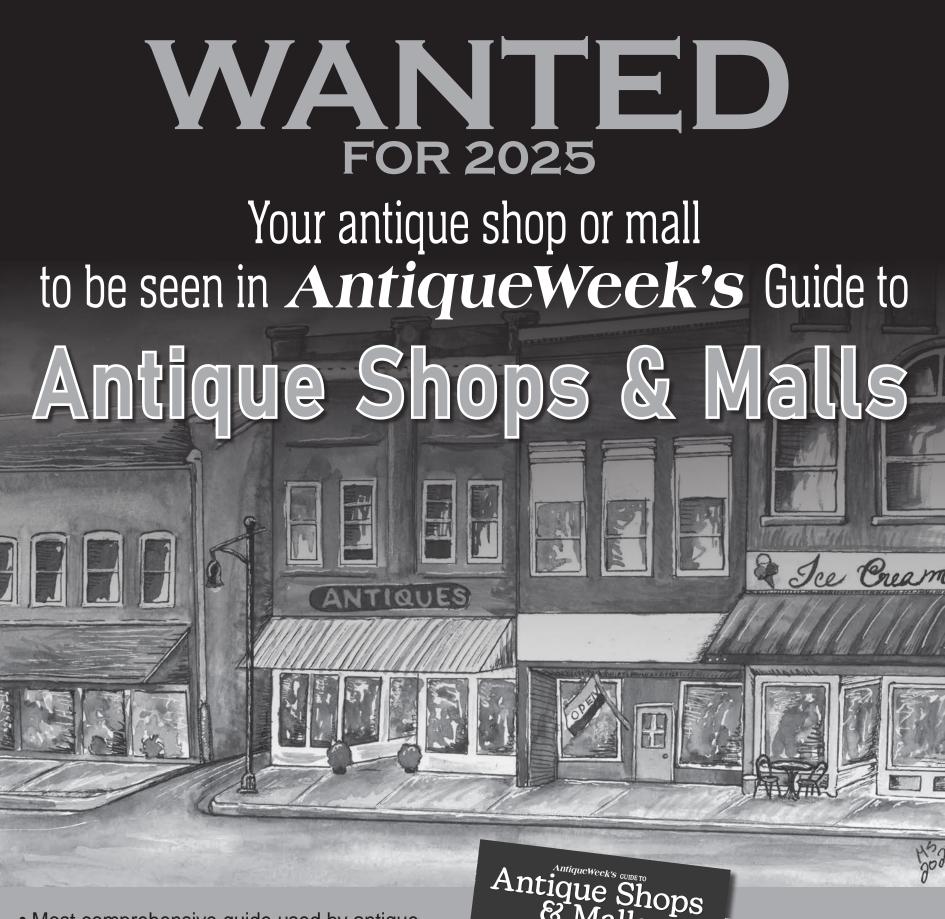
Engines; 3 hp. John Deere; 6hp Fairbanks-Morse.; 5hp Bull Dog; Novo; Cushman; 7hp Fairbanks-Morse; 3 hp. McCormick Deering; 13/4 hp Little Jumbo; 3 hp Witte; Edwards on cart; Americ-Jenbach diesel; 1 hp. Early Stover skeleton base; 1 hp Ideal; 3 hp IH M ; 1 1/2 hp. Waterloo Boy ; 2- 2hp. Waterloo Boy engines; 3hp WaterlooBoy engine; 4hp Waterloo built engine with pulley, believed to be Eaten or John Smyth; 1 3/4 hp Associated air cooled engine; 2 wheel sets for engine carts; Engine flywheels; 1 1/2 hp Hercules on Keystone cement mixer; 1 1/2 hp Sattley; 3 hp. Sun; Cushman Cub; 1 3/4 hp Economy; 1 1/2 Fairbanks-Morse type 2; 1912 3hp Barber canoe moter; 3 hp Watkins marine motor, Cincinnati Ohio; Scale model 5 hp Galloway Coins; 1851 Liberty Head gold dollar; 1911 Indian Head 21/2 dollar gold coin; 1881 Liberty head 5 dollar gold coin; 1878 Liberty head 21/2 dollar gold coin; 1858 Indian princess head gold dollar; 1908 Indian head 5 dollar gold coin; 2019 5 dollar gold coin; 1998 10 dollar gold coin; 1880 Liberty head 5 dollar gold coin; 1893 Liberty head 20 dollar gold coin; 1962 & 1963 Britian 1/4 ounce gold coin; 20 pieces Morgan dollars; 20 pieces 1 ounce .999 fine silver rounds

Other collectibles; 7 single and triple chime steam whistles; Chase shingle mill; Nordyke & Marmon grist mill; Manzel force feed lubricator; John Deere model 20 pedal tractor, original; Steam governor for parts; Letz feed mill; Buddy L toy steam shovel; 58 inch Wiley & Russel cone anvil; Blacksmiths swege block; Forge; Hardis; Leg vises; Tonges; Peter wright, Hay Budden & other anvils; Salesmans sample step ladder and extension ladder; Salemans sample Economy International furnace; Humphery No.8 bath water heater; Ontario grain drill seed box ends; Steam whistles; Structo flat bed toy truck; Buffalo scales; Syracuse Chilled Plow Co. bag cart.; CT mfg. Shingle bundler. Stanadard oil co. barrel; Lehigh Valley marching band drums; Gamewell fire horn with valve; Lifesaver display; 10 decorated crocks; McCormick Deering cream seperator; 9- Cast iron seats icluding Buckeye, Deering, Adriance, Taylo ; Acme hand corn planter; Dobson Favorite wooden tumbling barrel butter churn; 1/2 scale model T with briggs engine; Model steam engine; Myers and Peerless hay trollies; Steam model minitures; Coke machines; Coke chest; Pedal fire truck; John Deere pto air pump; Engine oilers; Miniture Singer sewing machine with accessories; Railroad lantern; Borden Milk tin; Quaker State and Kendall gas cans; Hay forks; GLF lube can; Kids trike;

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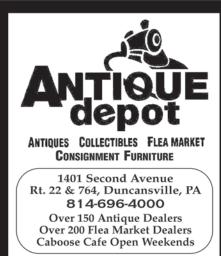
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Music Boxes

FROM FRONT PAGE

estimated, were priced from \$35 to \$75. For those who made the investment, he said, "every household could have music, because anybody could play a music box."

Of course, not all disc music boxes were designed to rest on a parlor table. In 1897, a music box with an automatic changer was introduced. Operating like a jukebox (and ahead of its time), the music box featured a vertical display of 12 discs positioned within a tall cabinet. By dialing a number, a specific disc was selected and played. Adding to the entertainment value of this complicated music box was the fact that the entire process could be viewed by the person who paid for the tune. Baker, who has bought and sold vintage music boxes for decades, characterized this music box model as "so elite" and "very expensive."

Another advancement was marked when an early coin-operated model was introduced to the market. Intended for use in bars, restaurants, and hotels, as well as other public spaces, these music boxes played songs selected by patrons willing to pay a penny or a nickel for the privilege. Not only did the proprietor of the business not have to pay and feed live entertainers, who were not always dependable, but patrons paid for their musical entertainment directly, resulting in a profit for the house. Business owners saw the investment as a good one, Baker explained.

Similarly, there were variations in music boxes intended for home use. Most of these examples were tabletop models,



As was the case when they were new,

he continued, so the price of a vintage

music box is often dependent upon the

intricacy of the case. "The cabinet

represents a lot of the cost of a music box,"

Baker said. Woodworking techniques such

as inlay and marquetry add value, he

stated, as do exotic woods and ebonized

finishes. "Some of them are absolutely

a vintage music box, Baker said there are

no hard and fast rules. "There's no telling

As for what to consider when purchasing

discs.

gorgeous."

Above: This music box by Thorens is the only modern example at the 23rd Street Antique Mall in Oklahoma City. Approximately 50 years old, the footed cabinet features a glass top with carvings.

might be the music available for a specific model.

Because vintage music boxes are tune more than 100 years old, Baker said that some "normal wear and tear" would be understandable. "For something that was played for hours everyday, you'd expect something to fail," he said. But he characterized music boxes in general to be "very dependable," adding that it was unusual for them to be abused. As for reproductions, Baker acknowledged that companies continue to make music boxes, along with discs featuring new songs. But he stressed that they are simply newer models and are not represented as vintage in nature.

Above: Encased in a rosewood cabinet, this

cylinder music box, made in Switzerland circa 1880, features a beautifully illustrated tune card listing the eight songs it plays.

Those fortunate enough to visit the 23rd Street Antique Mall this month will be able to enjoy Baker's inventory of 20 music boxes ("maybe more," according to the mall's co-owner, Denny McConnell), thereby setting the tone for "A Music Box Christmas." And because Baker noted that he has always been a dealer and not a collector, the sound of this music might well lead to the beginning of many new collections.

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why one will be selected over another," he said. "There's so much variety that it really depends on individual taste." He did suggest, though, that one deciding factor Bellow: A Swiss eight-tune music

 Deliver, A suisa elegitietuite intaice presente a suite s 32 inches long.

Below: A Swiss four-cylinder interchangeable music box. The oak cabinet has a locking top and drawer.

Above: This Swiss 12-tune cylinder music box is notable for its three butterfly striker bells and tune card.



GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE SIGNED FAREWELL ADDRESS GENERAL ORDER #9, DATED APRIL 10, 1865

Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia

10th April 1865

After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources. I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them; but, feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuation of the contest, I have determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen. By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain there until exchanged.

You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection. With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you all on affectionate farewell.

R. E. Lee, General

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