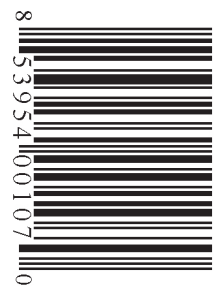


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# Antique Week

THE WEEKLY ANTIQUE AUCTION & COLLECTING NEWSPAPER

VOL. 56 ISSUE No. 2949

WWW.ANTIQUEWEEK.COM

MAY 19, 2026

## Match holders and pocket safes helped brighten the darkest night

BY RICHARD JUNGER

Flip a light switch and the gloomiest night is brighter. Wooden matches were the “go-to” source for quick lighting in the days before electricity.

“Strike anywhere” matches did just that, even when they weren’t supposed to ignite. That included near stoves or fireplaces, in their own boxes, or even in pockets. A newspaper reported 293 people were burned by clothing match fires in Ohio in 1914 alone, and an additional 25 fires were caused by rats and mice chewing match boxes.

They were also dangerous in the hands of children. Another newspaper reported that 62 percent of all Indiana match fires in 1913 were caused by children playing with strike-anywhere matches.

One of the most common solutions to the match fires was the metal match holder and pocket safe. Introduced around 1840, wall-mounted tin or other metal holders offered a convenient place to store strike-anywhere matches safely.

Today match holders are a relatively inexpensive collectible that don’t take up a lot of room and offer colorful wall or table displays.

Before the early 19th century, people had to rely on flint and steel stored in what were called “tinder boxes” to start fires. Wood splints or spills were used to carry existing fire from one place to another, like from a fireplace to a candle or lamp. Such tools were essential and carefully stored. The need to start a fire quickly could be a life and death matter.

English chemist John Walker



**Above:** A sterling silver vesta or match safe with the date 1840 was worth 30 pounds. While many early vestas were German, this hallmark indicated this piece was made in Great Britain. [Courtesy Darwen Auctions]

developed the first practical chemical matches in 1826. Initially called “friction lights” or “lucifers”, they produced unpleasant odors and had an extreme risk of premature ignition. Though dangerous, they were still the first workable friction matches.

Match technology evolved quickly as 19th century demand grew. More stable chemical compositions were developed using phosphorus additives, stronger sticks were made using better woods, and improved striking surfaces made it easier to light the matches.

Expensive sterling silver vestas or match safes became available beginning in the early 1840s. Some of the earliest models featured cheroot or cigar cutters, attesting to the connection between matches and tobacco. Sold primarily in upper class retail stores, they quickly became part of a gentleman’s pocket accessories with wallets, snuff boxes,

**Left:** In nearly perfect condition, this circa 1930 one-color Dr. Pepper tin holder was worth \$400.

[Courtesy Rich Penn Auctions]



**Above:** Some match holders displayed photographs of loved ones. This steel holder had side slots so red phosphorus matches could be struck. It sold for \$25 in a lot of two. [Courtesy Karen Olson Galleries]



**Above:** An early 20th century Cartier sterling silver desktop match holder priced at \$2,400. The tray was meant to collect extinguished matches. [Courtesy Chairish]

and flasks.

Less expensive metals were eventually used for early holders, including bronze, brass, and copper. All had some form of a striker plate for lighting the matches, most embossed into their metal. Striking matches anywhere else was generally considered boorish in proper society, except in saloons.

By the mid-19th century, matches had become cheap enough for most households to buy and use. They were carried initially in wrapped paper or cloth bundles and stored in homes and businesses in wooden boxes, jars, and open containers near stoves or hearths.

A circa 1860 American-made brass match safe was excavated near the



**Above:** A circa 1899 Art Nouveau tin holder featuring kittens sold for \$350. German made, the kittens were playing with swallows, all carefully lithographed and embossed in tin. [Courtesy Liveauctioneers]

Gettysburg Civil War battlefield and another was found at the Kennesaw

SEE MATCH HOLDERS & POCKET SAFES PAGE 23

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# NEWS

## The Fishersville Antiques Expo celebrates its 40th year

BY WILLIAM FLOOD

FISHERSVILLE, Va. — May 8–9 marked the latest edition of the Fishersville Antiques Expo, now celebrating four decades as one of the Mid-Atlantic’s premier antiques events. Held twice yearly in Virginia’s scenic Shenandoah Valley, the sprawling indoor/outdoor show has grown from a modest gathering of dealers in 1986 into a destination event drawing hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of shoppers from across the East Coast.

Founded in 1986 by Ray and Martha Stokes with roughly 75 dealers, the Fishersville Antiques Expo earned an early reputation for its welcoming atmosphere and strong dealer relationships, shaped in part by the couple’s hands-on approach to helping exhibitors with setup and daily operations.

Over the decades, the event has grown into one of the country’s longest-running antiques shows and a familiar name throughout the Mid-Atlantic antiques community. Today, the expo is operated by the founders’ daughter, Leslie Stokes, who assumed ownership in 2019 through Heritage Promotions. The twice-yearly event now hosts more than 300 dealers and draws thousands of attendees to the Augusta Expo Event Center each spring and fall.

Along the way, it has developed a loyal dealer base known for the quality merchandise they bring, with many returning for decades. While many come from Virginia and neighboring states, others travel from as far away as Michigan and Illinois. One of them, Trudy Hinton of Pioneer Antiques in Dry Fork, Virginia, said the show



**Above:** Mid-century enthusiasts found plenty of interest, including this rare teak room divider for \$2,200.

helped launch her antiques career. “I got my beginning here. In my 20s,” she said. Another longtime exhibitor, Brad Robertson of Michigan, who has been selling at Fishersville nearly as long, praised the event’s reputation, saying, “It’s one of the best antiques shows in the country in my eyes.”

As the expo has grown, it has also attracted new dealers. Brenda and Roger Street, owners of the Mason-

town School Antique Mall near Morgantown, W.Va., have been exhibiting at Fishersville for about three years. Both praised the friendliness of fellow dealers and customers alike. A third member of their group, Paul Fortney, noted the brisk pace of sales throughout Friday and into Saturday morning.

The show’s wide range and quali-

SEE FISHERSVILLE ANTIQUES PAGE 4



**Above:** At just \$1,900, this 1820 Federal corner cabinet represented exceptional value.

**Below:** Collectors of antique toys found options like these tin and pressed steel vehicles priced from \$150-\$1,350.



## Biggest stamp party in the world comes to Boston

BY BARBARA MILLER BEEM

BOSTON – No points, no scores, and no team wins. Even so, the up-coming Boston World Expo 2026 has been likened to the Olympics, the Super Bowl, and the World Series. And for good reason. For one week and a day, some 30,000 visitors are expected to flock to “Boston 2026” for what has been billed as the “biggest stamp party in the world.”

Beginning on Saturday, May 23, and lasting through Saturday, May 30, lifelong philatelists, as well as those new to the world of stamp collecting, will gather for this, the 12th such exposition. Speaking for Expo 2026, Tom Fortunato noted that this event enjoys a long history, as the first international philatelic exhibition hosted by the United States was in 1913 in New York City. As to the enduring and universal appeal of this collecting category, the answer is simple. In the words of Fortunato, “There’s a stamp for everything.”



**Above:** The upcoming Boston 2026 World Expo, free to the public, will be the 12th international philatelic exhibition hosted by the U.S.

Organized by Boston 2026 World Stamp Show, Inc., a non-profit enti-  
SEE STAMP PARTY IN BOSTON  
PAGE 5



**Above:** The Boston Convention & Expo Center is expected to welcome some 30,000 attendees to Boston 2026, “the biggest stamp party in the world.” Images courtesy of Boston 2026 World Expo

### Contacts

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

MANAGING EDITOR:  
**Connie Swaim**  
Telephone: 1 800 876 5133 ext 131  
Connie@antiqueweek.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS/DELIVERY:  
Telephone: 1 800 876 5133  
subscriptions@antiqueweek.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER:  
**Lorri Egan**  
Telephone: 1 800 876 5133, ext. 134  
legan@antiqueweek.com

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES:  
**Jessica Davis**  
1 800 876 5133 ext 133  
advertising@antiqueweek.com

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.  
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"Dragonfly" Table Lamp



Tiffany Studios  
"Peony" Table Lamp



American Renaissance  
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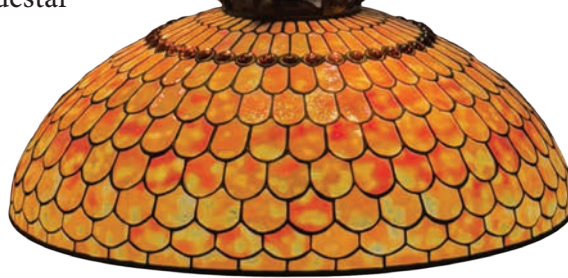
Handel "Poppy"  
Table Lamp



Japanese Sterling Silver  
"Iris" Bowl



18K Gold,  
Tanzanite & Diamond  
Ring/Pendant



Tiffany Studios  
"Fish Scale" Chandelier



Tiffany Studios, Set of Four  
"Turtle-Back" Sconces



Tiffany Studios Window  
"Woman with Irises & Lillies"



Tiffany Studios  
"Turtle-Back" Sconce



Tiffany Studios  
"Lotus" Table Lamp



Tiffany Studios  
"Turtle-Back" Lantern



Paul Evans (1931-1987), Deep Relief Cabinet



Tiffany Studios  
Landscape Window

# Fishersville Antiques

FROM PAGE 2

ty of merchandise remain one of its biggest draws, appealing to interior designers, pickers, collectors, and casual shoppers alike. Being in Virginia, traditional antiques form a noticeable core, with offerings ranging from 18th- and 19th-century American and English furniture to primitives and early Americana. Alongside that, shoppers can also expect to find art glass, silver, estate jewelry, vintage clothing, and mid-century décor.

The array also means pieces are available at nearly every price point. Examples of higher-end offerings spotted this edition included an 1830s tiger maple sugar chest priced at \$6,500 and an early Navajo saddle blanket marked at \$7,850. At the same time, more approachable finds were seen throughout the grounds, including a circa 1930 optometrist's lens cabinet for just \$195 by The Humble Store from Kinsale, Virginia, or the polished antique barograph offered by Robert Burger of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, at \$250.

Bargain hunters had plenty to explore as well. Tracy and Sandra Via of nearby Greenwood, Va., reported strong sales of decorative Christmas items priced between \$6 and \$20, while another dealer offered a whimsical folk-art fishing village for just \$30.

Many visitors are themselves antiques dealers searching for inventory to stock their own stores. Bob Zordani, co-owner of Z&K Antiques, acknowledged that dynamic, saying, "It's a great place to sell, but also a great place to buy as a dealer or picker." Whether dealers or private buyers, many guests make Fishersville an annual tradition. One Virginia attendee echoed that sentiment, saying, "I go



Above: A stained-glass window (\$400) was one of the eye-catching pieces found indoors, in nicely curated spaces.

every May, but this year exceeded my expectations as a buyer (I am not a dealer). I found everything I was looking for...and at incredible prices. I felt like I'd hit the jackpot."

The event's layout contributes to its appeal. Spread across a walkable portion of the Augusta Expo fairgrounds, the show combines outdoor booths with dealers housed inside multiple buildings, plus a covered pavilion, allowing the event to operate rain or shine. Plus, the show is compact enough for a one-day visit, but offers plenty to keep serious shoppers busy for an entire weekend.

The outdoor booths resemble those at many large antique shows, albeit with a strong emphasis on traditional antiques and Americana. Inside, the atmosphere becomes more curated. Some buildings focus on formal period furniture and high-end traditional antiques, while others feature farmhouse décor, country-store advertising, prim-



Above: Antique firearms spanned generations - dating back to before the Civil War. Prices were generally in the mid-hundreds.



Above: This hand-carved circa 1920s folk art farm yard was offered for \$495. Truly a one-of-a-kind find.

Below: An 11-inch green-wing teal drake decoy by Michigan's Vincent Dennan was available for \$165.



Above: This good condition Morena Coffee (Youngstown, Ohio) box was priced at \$400.

itives, and vintage merchandise. Many booths are carefully staged with walls, lighting, and decorative displays that give sections of the show the feel of small antique shops.

The Fishersville Antiques Expo returns October 9-10. Information for the next show is available at: [www.heritagepromotions.net](http://www.heritagepromotions.net)



Above: An unusual optometrist's cabinet (\$195) was one of many pieces of interesting furniture offered by the Humble Store on Virginia's Northern Neck.



Above: This circa 1830 tiger maple sugar chest (\$6,500) was among the fine antiques available.

## Antique Week DEADLINES

### Issue Dates

May 26th

June 2nd

June 9th

### Deadline

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Tuesday, May 26th  
4:30 P.M. EST

Tuesday, June 2nd  
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# Stamp Party in Boston

FROM PAGE 2

ty, this show has a \$3 million budget, funded through dealer booth fees, memberships, and donations. Sponsors of the show include the United States Postal Service, and the U.S. Postmaster General will be in attendance. Admission is free.

As for the atmosphere of the event, due to multiple overlapping activities from which to choose, it could rightfully be likened to a “three-ring circus,” Fortunato noted, with a chuckle. Activities will be spread over two expansive halls of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, located in the city’s Seaport District. A major goal of this ambitious undertaking, he continued, is “to open the world of philately to a new audience.”

Timed in conjunction with America’s celebration of its Semiquincentennial, the event promises to weave together philatelic excellence with historic American pride. Highlights include the issuance by the U.S. Postal Service of commemorative stamps, as well as exclusive cancellations, during the show.

Specific themes have been designated for each day of the show, beginning with the opening day, themed the “250th Anniversary of the U.S. Day.” Subsequent daily themes range from “Favorite Stamp Day” (Sunday), “Stamp Collectors Day” (Monday), and

**Below:** The USPS issued these Boston 2026 promotional stamps at the recent Great American Stamp Show. They picture the “Old North Church in Boston” and “Paul Revere on his Midnight Ride.”



**Above:** In addition to free admission to Boston 2026, stamps will be offered for free to beginning collectors.

“Letter Writing Day” (Tuesday), to “International Peace Day” (Wednesday), “Sports Day” (Thursday), and “Honoring Heroes Day” (Friday). The

last and final day is “Youth and Family Day.”

As for the numbers, tens of millions of dollars’ worth of philatelic items will be on display and for sale, with more than 120 vendors from around the world selling stamp-related wares. Special displays include those by the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History. New stamps, both domestic and foreign, will be issued during the Expo.

Because stamp collecting cuts across generational lines, several activities are especially designed to appeal to younger enthusiasts. Two workshops will provide Scouts the opportunity to earn merit badges. And two areas for beginners will be in place, one for adults and another for youth. In addition to hands-on displays and free stamps, there will be plenty of veteran stamp enthusiasts on hand, ready to answer the questions of new collectors.

Some unexpected exhibits include one by the New England LEGO Users Group (NELUG). A giant microscope will help make it possible to appreciate stamps as works of art on a small piece of paper. And the Rolls Royce used by Queen Elizabeth during the early years of her reign will be a

highlight of the “Empire to Commonwealth” exhibit, one that honors the centenary year of her birth. Calligraphy and quilt displays are also scheduled.

In keeping with the show’s international nature, overseas postal administrations, many staffed by members of their respective countries, will sell their stamps at face value. Representatives from Ukraine are expected to be on hand to offer insight into the challenges of mail delivery during wartime. The Expo will also provide an opportunity for more than 125 national and international philatelic societies to conduct over 300 conferences, meetings, and seminars. Auctions, as well as world class competitions with more than 4,000 frames, are also on the schedule. First day covers, postcards, coin collections: Boston 2026 is a comprehensive event with seemingly endless possibilities.

As for Expo 2026, attendees can spend one day, or plan to stay for all eight. Dates for this event include Memorial Day weekend. Badges required for admission to the show can be secured online or at the door. Fortunato concluded by reminding that an opportunity like this only comes along once in a decade. Learn more at [boston2026.org](http://boston2026.org)



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# Gorham sterling flatware set sparkled at \$6,500

BY NANCY KELLY

LESLIE, Mich. — Brad Stoecker/Epic Auctions offered an exceptional variety of quality items in their recent virtual online auction. The outstanding photos that accompanied the listings enhanced the experience for the online bidders. Prices here do not include the buyer's premium.

The star item of the day was the 127-piece set of Gorham Manufacturing Company sterling flatware in the "King Albert" pattern, introduced in 1919. Presenting service for 12 plus numerous carving and serving utensils all housed in a felt-line wood box, this attractive set drew a final bid of \$6,500. A smaller set of 59 pieces of Gorham Manufacturing Company sterling flatware in the "Greenbrier" pattern, introduced in 1938, also proved popular, earning a final bid of \$3,000.

A Kern's Cream of Michigan round lithographed tin serving tray from C. Kern Brewing Company (Port Huron, Michigan) featured the image of a bottle of their golden beverage along with an assurance of purity signified by a trademark flying dove. The tray itself was produced by The H.D. Beach Company (Coshocton, Ohio), circa 1905-1909. Measuring 12 inches in diameter, this keepsake from the past drew a final bid of \$1,000.

Two Art Nouveau lithographed Vienna Art plates proved popular. The 10-inch diameter Anheuser-Busch beer advertising image featured a "Viennese Maiden" or "European Beauty" with long flowing chestnut colored hair. It was produced circa 1905-1915 and the stamp on the back read "Anheuser-Busch's Malt-Nutrine St. Louis". The circular plate was enclosed in an elaborate gold and navy blue period gilt gesso and wood frame measuring 14 inches square. A final bid of \$325 was required to claim it. A similar art plate also with decorative framing had



Above: Artist Armand Francois Joseph Henrion portrayed himself dressed as a Pierrot or sad clown in this oil on wood painting. It earned a final bid of \$750.

Below: Advertising trays or plates for Anheuser-Busch and Coca-Cola were offered in elaborate antique gilt frames and featured similar female subjects. This one closed at \$325 and the Coca-Cola plate finished at \$300.



Above: A 127-piece Gorham Manufacturing Company sterling flatware set in the "King Albert" pattern drew a final bid of \$6,500.

the wording "Western Coca-Cola Bottling Co" on the back. This one closed with a high bid of \$300.

Finishing ahead of many of the art lots, a saxophone took high honors. The Charles Gerard Conn (Elkhart, Indiana), straight soprano saxophone was stamped with a patent date of Dec. 8, 1914. This style of saxophone is different from the usual, curved models and has an appearance more like a clarinet. Complete with a hardshell case, several Rico reeds, mouthpiece, and other accessories, it was claimed with a final bid of \$800.

The art offerings provided a variety of styles, materials, and subjects. A fascinating selection done by artist Armand Francois Joseph Henrion (Belgian/French, 1875-1958) portrayed himself dressed as a Pierrot or sad clown. The very close up view of his face was expressive and emotional. This oil painting on a wood panel was displayed in a painted and gilt wood frame measuring 9 by 8 inches. It earned a final bid of \$750. An antique portrait painting in a gilt frame of a fashionable woman in early Victorian attire was done by artist Peder Christian Damborg (Danish, 1801-1865). This 13 by 14 inch oil on stretched canvas piece finished with a high bid of \$650.

A few lots offered double-sided, carved wood block selections by artist Flora Itwin Schofield (American, 1871-1960). Her Provincetown style carved white line woodblocks were painted in color inks and featured female figures in various poses and activities, as well as some floral still life images. Her work is on permanent display at several art museums, including the Detroit Institute of Art. The highest selling example measured 8 by 12 inches, featured nude subjects, and closed at \$475. Other sets left with high bids of \$400-450.

Then there were items that defied categorization and contributed to the enjoyment of this sale. A 1939 University of Michigan signed football displayed the names of several sports icons including Fielding H. Yost (also known as F. H. Yost), Fritz Crisler, Clarence L. Munn (also known as Biggie Munn) plus many more. This souvenir sized leather football scored

a final bid of \$400. A 1954 and 1956 commemorative Michigan State University Rose Bowl Champions football interestingly was also signed by "Biggie" Munn while he was MSU Head Football Coach (1947-1953) and MSU Athletic Director (1954-1971). It closed at \$140.

An elegant Tiffany Studios "Modeled" or "Greek Key" pattern desk letter rack measured 6 inches tall by 9 inches wide. This gilt bronze item was marked on the underside and dated circa 1920s. This simple but appealing accessory proved popular, earning a final bid of \$500. Three lots of late 19th/early 20th century presentation gold-topped canes were intricately engraved with floral and scroll work. Some were also inscribed or monogrammed for the owners. The gold on each was unmarked and untested but reported to be gold filled or rolled gold. Their overall appearance was dazzling. The highest selling duo included an L-shaped handle example. That pair left for \$375. The other two sets drew final bids of \$350 and \$260.

For something completely different, a Black Forest Germany hand painted and carved wood automaton depicting an inebriated man hanging onto a lamppost was an unusual sight. This



Above: This Kern's Cream of Michigan round lithographed tin serving tray featuring their golden beverage along with an assurance of purity illustrated with a trademark flying dove drew a final bid of \$1,000.

Below: This unique key-operated Black Forest Germany hand painted carved wood whistling automaton figure sold for \$190.



bedraggled fellow was driven by a key wound spring that powered the bellows to allow him to move and whistle, and the lamp to light. Dated circa mid-20th century, it stood 19 inches tall and was fully functional. It was taken home with a final bid of \$190.

Epic Auctions is looking at a very busy season. Their schedule is posted at <https://www.epicauctionsandestate-sales.com/>

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 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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<p><b>SATURDAY, MAY 23</b>          ILLINOIS, Strasburg, Flea Market at the Farm          7am Patsy Lenz tel: (217) 644-2667</p> <p>PENNSYLVANIA, Gettysburg, Antique &amp; Vintage Outdoor Market          No Time Given tel: (717) 479-5524</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, MAY 29</b>          ILLINOIS, Schaumburg, Chicagoland Coin-Op Show          Fri. 8am-3pm; Sat. 9am-3pm Granger Wolf Promotions tel: (419) 508-3645          Day 1 of 2</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, MAY 30</b>          ILLINOIS, Schaumburg, Chicagoland Coin-Op Show          Day 2 of 2</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, MAY 31</b>          NEW YORK, Ballston Spa, Saratoga Antique Bottle Show          9am-2pm</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, JUNE 07</b>          INDIANA, Lawrenceburg, Tri State Antique Market          7am-3pm LawrenceburgAntiqueShow.com</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY, JUNE 11</b>          GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets          No Time Given Scottantiquemarkets.com          Day 1 of 4</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 12</b>          GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets          Day 2 of 4</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, JUNE 13</b>          GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets          Day 3 of 4</p> <p>INDIANA, Columbus, A Country Gathering          9am-3pm Judy tel: (812) 371-4173</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, JUNE 14</b>          CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market          9am-3pm RGCshows.com</p> <p>GEORGIA, Atlanta, Scott Antique Markets          Day 4 of 4</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 26</b>          KENTUCKY, Madisonville, West KY Antique &amp; Vintage Market          Fri. 8am-5pm; Sat. 8am-3pm          VisitMadisonvilleKY.com          Day 1 of 2</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JUNE 27</b>          KENTUCKY, Madisonville, West KY Antique &amp; Vintage Market          Day 2 of 2</p> <p>PENNSYLVANIA, Gettysburg, Antique &amp; Vintage Outdoor Market          No Time Given tel: (717) 479-5524</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, JULY 12</b>          CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market          9am-3pm RGCshows.com</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, JULY 22</b>          PENNSYLVANIA, Morgantown, AAAA Annual Convention          No Time Given PastTimes.org          Day 1 of 4</p> <p><b>THURSDAY, JULY 23</b>          PENNSYLVANIA, Morgantown, AAAA Annual Convention          Day 2 of 4</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, JULY 24</b>          PENNSYLVANIA, Morgantown, AAAA Annual Convention          Day 3 of 4</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JULY 25</b>          PENNSYLVANIA, Gettysburg, Antique &amp; Vintage Outdoor Market          No Time Given tel: (717) 479-5524</p> <p>PENNSYLVANIA, Morgantown, AAAA Annual Convention          Day 4 of 4</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 09</b>          CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market          9am-3pm RGCshows.com</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 14</b>          MINNESOTA, Rochester, Gold Rush          Fri. &amp; Sat. 8am-6pm; Sun. 8am-2pm          Townsendshows.com          Day 1 of 3</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 15</b>          MINNESOTA, Rochester, Gold Rush          Day 2 of 3</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 16</b>          MINNESOTA, Rochester, Gold Rush          Day 3 of 3</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 22</b>          OHIO, Lakeside, Lakeside Chautauqua Antique Show          9am-5pm John Wanat tel: (248) 425-2868</p> <p>PENNSYLVANIA, Gettysburg, Antique &amp; Vintage Outdoor Market          No Time Given tel: (717) 479-5524</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 05</b>          ILLINOIS, Strasburg, Flea Market at the Farm          7am Patsy Lenz tel: (217) 644-2667</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13</b>          CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market          9am-3pm RGCshows.com</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26</b>          PENNSYLVANIA, Gettysburg, Antique &amp; Vintage Outdoor Market          No Time Given tel: (717) 479-5524</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11</b>          CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market          9am-3pm RGCshows.com</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23</b>          RHODE ISLAND, Providence, Antique And Vintage Jewelry Convention          No Time Given KimLovesVintage.com          Day 1 of 3</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24</b>          PENNSYLVANIA, Gettysburg, Antique &amp; Vintage Outdoor Market          No Time Given tel: (717) 479-5524</p> <p>RHODE ISLAND, Providence, Antique And Vintage Jewelry Convention          Day 2 of 3</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25</b>          RHODE ISLAND, Providence, Antique And Vintage Jewelry Convention          Day 3 of 3</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 08</b>          CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market          9am-3pm RGCshows.com</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13</b>          CALIFORNIA, Pasadena, Rose Bowl Flea Market          9am-3pm RGCshows.com</p>
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# AUCTION CALENDAR

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<p><b>MONDAY, MAY 18</b>          OHIO, Middlefield, Antique &amp; Collectible Auction          4:30pm Aaron Mast Auctioneer          tel: (440) 321-8812</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 20</b>          INDIANA, Shipshewana, Antique &amp; Miscellaneous Auction          9am Shipshewana Auction          tel: (260) 768-4129</p> <p>INDIANA, Wolcottville, 6 Day Antique Auction          3pm StrawserAuctions.com</p> <p><b>THURSDAY, MAY 21</b>          OHIO, Cedarville, Large Antique Auction          10am SheridanTeam.com</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, MAY 23</b>          MICHIGAN, Tipton, The Super Auction          10am Braun &amp; Helmer Auction Service</p> <p>OHIO, Dundee, Spring Country Store Auction          9am AtleeRaberAuctions.com</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, MAY 24</b>          INDIANA, Ft. Wayne, Online Auction          No Time Given SteffenGrp.com          Day 1 of 8</p> <p><b>MONDAY, MAY 25</b>          INDIANA, Ft. Wayne, Online Auction          Day 2 of 8</p>	<p>PENNSYLVANIA, Chambersburg, Public Auction          9am GatewayAuction.com</p> <p>TENNESSEE, Johnson City, Big Memorial Day Auction          10:30am Kimball Sterling</p> <p>TEXAS, Houston, Texas Treasure Auction          10am GalleryAuctions.com</p> <p><b>TUESDAY, MAY 26</b>          INDIANA, Ft. Wayne, Online Auction          Day 3 of 8</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 27</b>          INDIANA, Ft. Wayne, Online Auction          Day 4 of 8</p>	<p>INDIANA, Shipshewana, Antique &amp; Miscellaneous Auction          9am ShipshewanaTradingPlace.com</p> <p><b>THURSDAY, MAY 28</b>          INDIANA, Ft. Wayne, Online Auction          Day 5 of 8</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, MAY 29</b>          INDIANA, Ft. Wayne, Online Auction          Day 6 of 8</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, MAY 30</b>          ILLINOIS, Aurora, Very Large Estate Auction          9am DeboltAuctionService.com</p> <p>INDIANA, Ft. Wayne, Online Auction          Day 7 of 8</p>	<p>MICHIGAN, Goodells, Public Auction          10am JRTThumbAuctioneers.com</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, MAY 31</b>          INDIANA, Ft. Wayne, Online Auction          Day 8 of 8</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 05</b>          OHIO, Neapolis, Large 2 Day Auction          10am Whalen Auction tel: (419) 875-6317          Day 1 of 2</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, JUNE 06</b>          MICHIGAN, Utica, Live &amp; Online Auction          10am RowleyAuctions.com</p> <p>OHIO, Neapolis, Large 2 Day Auction          Day 2 of 2</p>	<p>WEST VIRGINIA, Shepherdstown, Living Estate Auction          8am Chauctions.com</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10</b>          PENNSYLVANIA, Denver, Fine &amp; Decorative Art Auction          No Time Given MorphyAuctions.com          Day 1 of 2</p> <p><b>THURSDAY, JUNE 11</b>          PENNSYLVANIA, Denver, Fine &amp; Decorative Art Auction          Day 2 of 2</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, JUNE 27</b>          OHIO, Cedarville, Large Primitive Auction          10am SheridanTeam.com</p>
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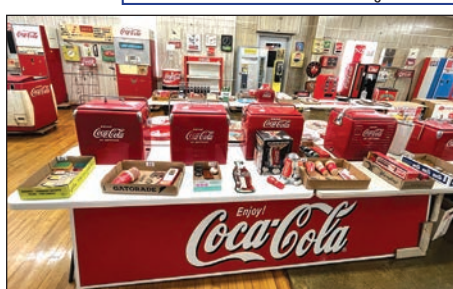
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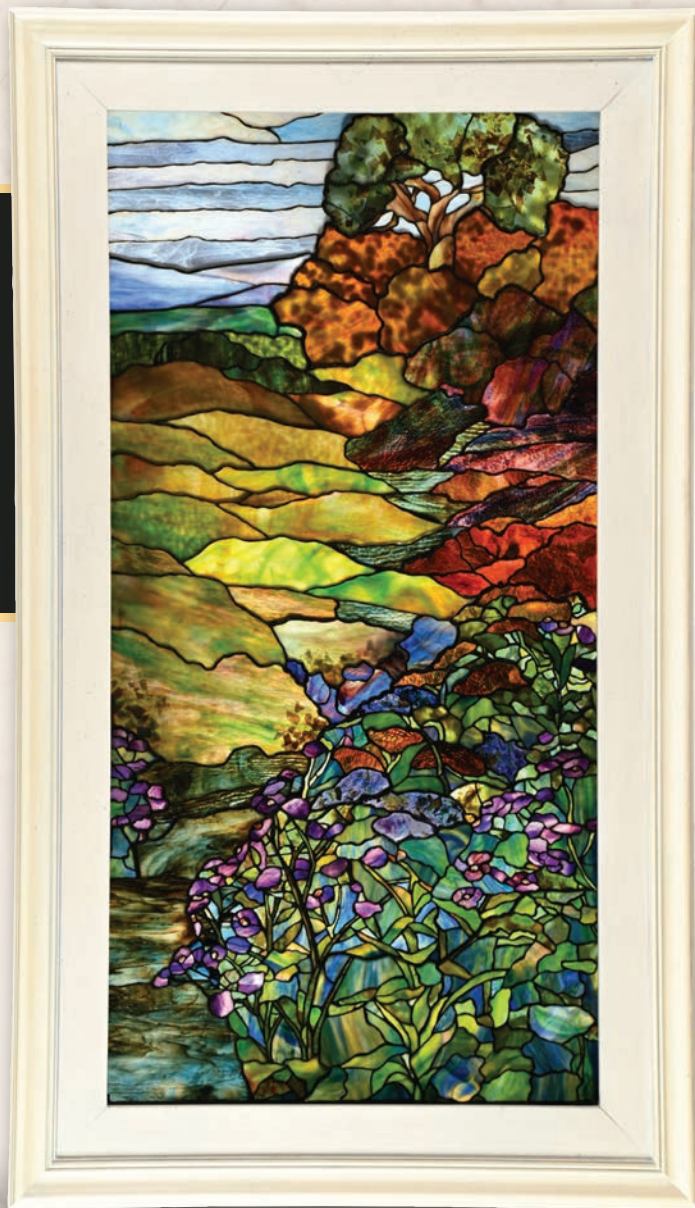


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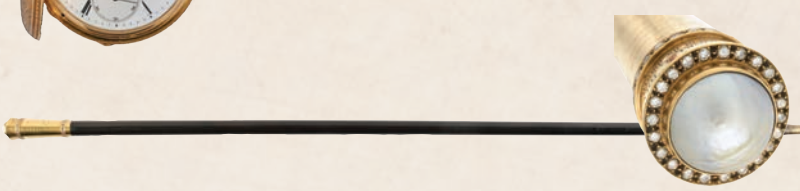
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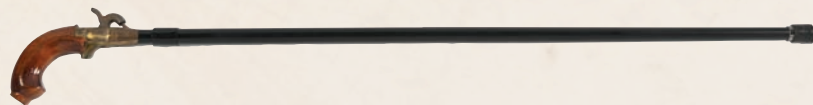
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# More than 50 National Cash registers will ring in sales at Gallery Auctions

HOUSTON — Gallery Auctions in Houston will host a live Memorial Day auction event on Monday, May 25 at 10 a.m., featuring more than 300 lots of antique Americana, country store advertising, vintage collectibles, estate finds, and over 50 antique National cash registers from the lifelong collection of Texas collector William “Bill” Noack.

Titled “Memorial Day: Americana & Country Store Finds,” the auction will take place live in person at the Gallery Auctions showroom, with live online bidding available nationwide through LiveAuctioneers for collectors unable to attend in person.

Raised in the Field Store and Waller communities northwest of Houston, Noack developed an appreciation for Americana and country store history at an early age while working in his family’s grocery store and accompanying his mother to antique shops throughout Texas.

“He loved finding history in unexpected places,” family members said. “The junkier the place looked, the more excited he became about what might be hidden there.”

That passion eventually evolved into a decades-long pursuit of antique National cash registers and early American mercantile antiques. According to family stories, Noack purchased his first register after



Above: Metal sign reading “The National Cash Register Co.” It measures 29 inches tall.

spotting one in an antique store in Spring, Texas — a moment described as “love at first sight.”

Soon after, while landscaping a customer’s property, he noticed three antique National cash registers sitting in a garage. All three eventually went home with him, launching what became one of the region’s most distinctive private cash register collections.

Over the years, Noack searched estate sales, barns, roadside antique shops, and small-town stores across

Texas and beyond in pursuit of unusual pieces. One particularly rare register with a side drawer was discovered hidden beneath a blanket in the back of a Galveston closet during an estate sale visit. Other pieces were found in places ranging from College Station to Iola, Texas, while additional registers were acquired during buying trips to Ohio — long considered the heart of National Cash Register history.

Unlike many online-only auctions, Gallery Auctions emphasizes the ex-

citement and atmosphere of traditional live auction events while also offering real-time online bidding for remote collectors.

“We wanted this auction to feel personal,” Gallery Auctions said. “This collection reflects a lifetime of stories, discoveries, friendships, and hard work. These aren’t just objects — they’re pieces of American history collected by someone who genuinely loved preserving them.”

For more information visit [www.galleryauctions.com](http://www.galleryauctions.com)



Above: Antique nickel-plate National Cash Register with “Amount Purchased” Plaque will be one of many registers at the event conducted by Gallery Auctions on May 25.

Below: Vintage Coca Cola diner drinks bar with bar stools. It measures 60 inches tall by 99 inches long.




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**AUTO/TRACTORS/YARD:** 1953 Mercury Monterey, 255-V8 Flathead Merco Matic 12 Speed, "Harry Ferguson" TO-33621 tractor, John Deere 40 Tractor, 3 pt implements, John Deere: 3pt. 127-5' Brush Hog, 3pt. 5' Brillion Grass Seeder, lawn mowers. **ANTIQUES/ COLLECTIBLES/VINTAGE:** "Pillsbury" Doughboy Figurines, Florigold Glassware, Mighty Wheels CAT Toys, Old Oliver Pedal Tractor, Campbell Soup Collection, "Porcelain" Coffeepots, Canners & Roasting Pans, Butter Churn- Electro Chef Stove, Apple Press, 1940's "Elite" Oven Gas Stove, Wooden Wall Telephone, Crank Type, Hand Grinder And Corn Cob Sheller, 1950's; Hull items, Balanced AIR Inflater, Old Gas Station Stand, Old Lionel Game, Race Track, Military Train Set. **FURNITURE:** 2) Curio Cabinets, Curved Oak Window China Cabinet w/Beveled Mirror, Ridgeway Grandfather Clock, Lg. Library

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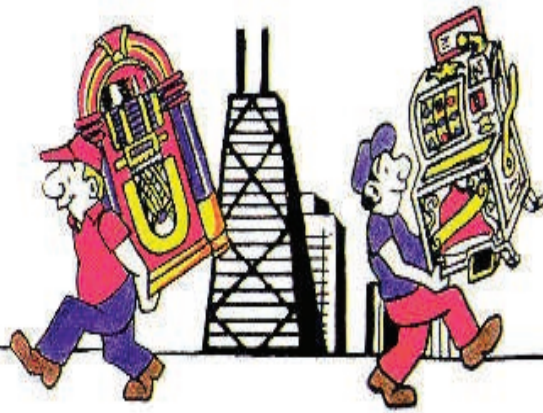
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# French toy maker helped promote famous autos

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

CIJ is the acronym for Compagnie Industrielle du Jouet, which translated means “Manufacturing Company of Toys”. Founded by Fernand Migault in Paris, France, in 1920, CIJ quickly became a classic French brand of diecast metal toy vehicles. The original name of the company was Migault S.A., but when Migault’s cousin, Marcel Gourdet, joined the toy company, the name was changed to CIJ.

Gourdet helped to greatly expand Migault’s company by bringing with him his metals workshop in Briare, France. Briare has always been a famous French manufacturing location because it sits on the Briare Canal, which unites with the Loire River and then with the Seine, which goes through Paris, allowing easy shipping of goods and merchandise. This shop remained the leading factory for CIJ until the shop burned down in 1929. When the factory burned, the Bapterosses family (a wealthy, industrialist and business family in France) offered the capital to rebuild the factory. CIJ moved its headquarters to Paris, but the major production of the company continued in Briare. At its greatest height, CIJ employed more than one hundred workers at this factory in Briare.

In 1919, André Citroën founded the “Automobiles Citroën” manufacturing company, and in March 1919, Citroën



**Above:** Built by CIJ entirely of painted wood, this French toy train station is considered O gauge and is valued at \$60.



**Above:** Produced by CIJ, circa 1962, this 1:43rd scale Renault Estafette police van is made of zamac and is valued at \$102.

produced its first automobile, a Citroën Type A, which filled his company’s dreams of producing a “lighter car of good quality, but made in sufficient quantities to be priced enticingly.” Citroën Type A not only launched one of France’s iconic automobile companies, it also became a stepping-stone to help launch CIJ into toy history.

Desiring to make his company name better known, Citroën, himself, contacted Fernand Migault at CIJ and entered into an exclusive contract whereby CIJ would make either metal ware or wooden Citroën model vehicles, and all of the distribution for these early scale model cars would be through authorized Citroën dealerships. Two of the Citroën models were the 1:20th scale la 5 CV Trèfle and the 1:20th scale la B14 Citroën. While CIJ designed and produced the Citroën models, all of the credit for these models remained with Citroën, which did not help CIJ expansion.

The exclusive fabrication of model cars for Citroën ended in 1934; however, several years later CIJ signed a less inclusive contract with Renault, one of France’s earliest and largest automobile manufacturing companies. Louis Renault founded Renault, naming the famous company after himself.

CIJ built numerous Renault scale model cars in several scales, from 1:10th to 1:43rd scales. These model cars were partly made of lithographed



**Above:** A Renault Camion Grue Crane truck with original box. Produced in the 1950s by CIJ, this crane is valued at \$82.

metal ware or in particular of zamak, which is a family of metal alloys with a zinc base and alloying elements of aluminum, magnesium, and copper. All distribution rights for these Renault scale models remained with CIJ.

In 1950, CIJ entered into a contract to produce miniature, model Shell filling stations. Included in this contract was CIJ’s scale model replica of the Shell Berre transporter truck. The transporter was made of ramec, an alloy that is blended aluminum, copper, zinc, and magnesium.

Along with service stations, CIJ made a line of O gauge model train buildings. These buildings were made of wood, painted, and highly detailed.

In December 1964, CIJ began expansion of its works in Briare, and the company bought all remaining stock of its former competitor JRD, which was another French toy manufacturer. Jean Rabier et Donnot (JRD) founded JRD in 1935 and began producing toy vehicles in 1937, after the Michelin brothers had purchased the French car manufacturing company Citroën. JRD became the sole manufacturer of Citroën scale model vehicles at this time. When CIJ purchased JRD in 1963, production of the CIJ brand of French toys continued until 1967 when CIJ disappeared from history.

In April 2007, Norev, a French man-



**Above:** This CIJ 1:30th scale Renault truck is made of tinplate and is in excellent condition. It was offered on eBay for \$333.

ufacturer of diecast scale model cars, purchased the CIJ brand, announcing the new production of 13 CIJ model cars from zamac and two lithographed models from iron sheeting—a 4CV Renault and a Juvaquatre.

Today, model car, truck, and military collectors enjoy searching for CIJ scale model vehicles. CIJ issued several scale model military vehicles, including Renault military cannon truck, a Savlem military rocket launcher, Renault military gun carrier, and a Renault Schooner radar truck. In all, CIJ produced about 15 military vehicles and a few construction models, including a nice Renault Camion Grue crane truck.

CIJ also produced some striking fire engines and trucks, including a 1:43rd scale Renault fire truck and a Renault Camion ladder truck.



**Above:** CIJ produced this Renault Camion Pompier ladder truck in 1939. Made in 1/40th scale, this fire truck is valued at \$307.



**Above:** Beautiful, 1:50th scale Shell tractor/trailer gasoline transport truck. Made by CIJ, this transport truck is valued at \$89.

**Below:** Produced by CIJ in the 1950s, this GMC CCKM Pompiers is a French fire workshop truck. Produced in 1/43rd scale, this truck is valued at \$50.



**Above:** Produced in 1957, this CIJ Renault Goelette milk truck with milk cans is 13 inches long and valued at \$500.

**Below:** Made in the 1950s, this CIJ Panhard BP petrol truck is similar to the one Dinky toys made. This truck is valued at \$46.



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**WEST ORANGE** - Valley Vintage 168 South Valley Rd., 2,100 sq. ft. multi-dealer shop. Antiques, vintage, & collectibles. Open 7 days a week. Mon-Sat. 11am-6pm & Sun. Noon-5pm. 973-323-1711

## NEW YORK

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**CLARENCE** - Antique World & Flea Market, 11111 Main Street, Clarence, NY 14031. Home to the largest indoor/outdoor weekend Flea Market in WNY, April-October. Shop hundreds of dealers offering antiques, collectibles & MUCH more! Antique Co-op Shops open year-round 6 days a week. (716)759-8483. www.antiqueworldmarket.com

**MOHAWK** - Mohawk Antiques Mall, 100 E. Main Street, Mohawk NY, 13407. (315) 219-5044. Just off Exit 30, NYS Thruway. Open: 10am-5pm Mon.-Sat., Closed Tues., 11:30am-5pm Sun.

**OWEGO** - Early Owego Antique Center, corner Lake and Main streets. 90+ dealers, 21,000sq. ft. Hours: Daily 10-5, closed Tuesdays. 607-223-4723 www.earlyowego.com

**RHINEBECK** - Rhinebeck Antique Emporium, 5229 Albany Post Rd., Staatsburgh (Between Rhinebeck & Hyde Park). 10,000 Sq. Ft. Multi-Dealer mall & separate Auction Gallery. High Quality Antiques & Eclectic Collectibles. Always looking for quality vendors. Flat Fee Rent. Open Wed-Mon 10-5. 845-876-8168. Auction Consignment Offices RI & FL www.RhinebeckAntiqueEmporium.com

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**SPRINGFIELD** - Heart of Ohio Antique Center, America's Biggest & Best! Exit 62 at I-70 & US 40. 4785 E. National Rd. Open Daily 9:30am-6pm (937) 324-2188 www.heartofohioantiques.com

**TIPP CITY** - Patriot Antique Shoppe, 15N 2nd St. 937-667-1243, www.patriotantiques.com, 17-18C. Decorative Arts

## OHIO SOUTH OF I-70

**CINCINNATI/FAIRFIELD** - Ohio Valley Antique Mall, Woodridge Plaza, 7285 Dixie Hwy/Rte 4. Our mall is 85,000 sq. ft. Over 550 dealers. In-store Cafe open daily with customer lounge. facebook.com/ohiovalleyantiques. Open 7 days, 9-9. 513-874-7855. www.ohiovalleyantiques.com

**CINCINNATI/READING** - Grand Antique Mall, 27,000 sq. ft. of quality merchandise. Mon.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-6. 9701 Reading Rd. 513-554-1919. www.grandantiquemall.com Facebook.com/GrandAntiqueMall NEWSSTAND

**CINCINNATI/ROSS** - Venice Pavilion Antiques, 4299 Hamilton Cleves Hwy, 45014. Open 10-6 everyday. Closed only on Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas. (513) 738-8180. Visit us on Facebook & Instagram! NEWSSTAND

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**DOYLESTOWN - Stone House Antiques**, 3292 Durham Road (Rt 413) Doylestown PA. 35 Dealers, Courtyard. Open Tue - Sun 10-5. 267-544-0574 www.stonehouse1814.com

**GREENCASTLE - the shop** Antiques, Collectibles & decorative accessories. 144 E. Baltimore St. (Rt. 16) 1/2 mile off Exit 5 I-81. Hours: Wed.-Sat. 10am-4pm. 717-593-9990. Visit our consignment shop next door.

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**SAN ANTONIO - Armadillo Antique Mall & More**, 7243 Blanco Rd. San Antonio, TX. 78216, Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm. armadillo.antiquessa@gmail.com, 210-236-5340.

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**ESSEX JUNCTION - Five Corners Antiques**, 156 Railroad St. Ste #3., I-89 X 12, 5 mi N on 2A, R on 117, 40 dealers, Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4, www.fivecornersantiques.com. 802-878-6167

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**STEPHENS CITY - Black Shutter West Antiques & Vintage**, 5395 Main St. 540-866-2117 blackshutterwest@gmail.com, www.blackshutterwest.com OPEN THURSDAY-MONDAY 11am-5pm See us on Instagram & Facebook!

**WEYERS CAVE - Rocky's Gold, Silver & Antiques**, 3287 Lee Highway. Exit 235 on I-81. Open Tue - Sat 9:30-5:00pm questions@rockysgoldandsilver.com 540-234-8676 www.rockysgoldandsilver.com

**WINCHESTER - Blue Peacock Antiques**, 116 N. Loudoun St. in Old Town Pedestrian Mall. Come browse our 9500+ sq.ft. shop filled with an amazing variety of Antiques & Vintage Items as early as late 1700's-1970's. Hours: Mon-Tues 10am-6pm, close Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10 am-6pm Sun noon-5pm www.bluepeacockantiquesva.com (540) 323-7641. Owned and operated by Scott and Tanya Singleton. We purchase by apt only.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**BRUCETON MILLS - Bruceton Antique Mall**, 15041 N. Preston Hwy. Multi-dealer shop. Furniture, toys, glass. Open 10-5 daily. 304-379-4040 bamall4040@prodigiwv.net

**BUCKHANNON - Buckhannon Antique Mall**, 2743 Clarksburg Rd., 3 mi. N. of Buckhannon on Rt. 20. Multi-dealer. Open Mon.-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5. 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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**SOUTH CHARLESTON - South Charleston Antique Mall**, 617 "D" Street., 18,000 sq. ft., I-64 exit 56, right on Montrose, left on Rt 60 W, left next red light to "D" St. Behind Indian Mound. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day only. For info call: 304-744-8975. www.SouthCharlestonAntiqueMall.com

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These areas experienced multiple reports of late deliveries during the week of 04/14/26: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania.

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If you are experiencing consistent late delivery of all mail, we are encouraging you to reach out to your State Representatives to report the ongoing problems with late mail delivery in your area.

While we agree that the physical copy of the paper is the top priority, we do want to remind everyone that in the event your paper does not arrive by the issue date, the current issue is available to view on the website www.AntiqueWeek.com. The online issue is free to subscribers and totally keyword searchable. Thank you for your continued patience & support as we work through the issues with USPS.

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# Match Holders & Pocket Safes

FROM FRONT PAGE

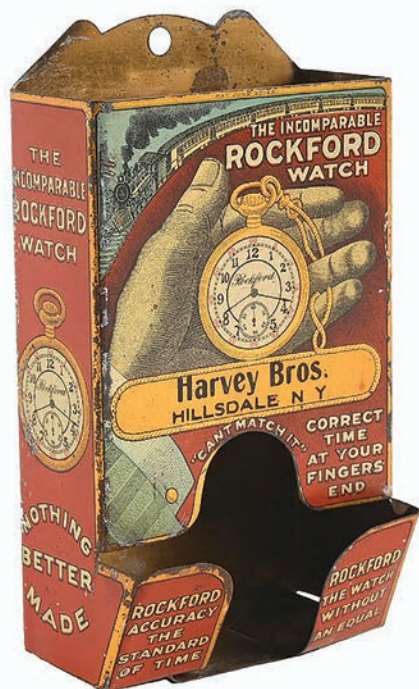
Mountain (Georgia) battlefield site, demonstrating that match safes were cheap and common enough that Civil War-era soldiers carried them into battle. Union generals Ulysses S. Grant and William Sherman's predilection for cigars made tobacco a wartime necessity, which needed a light even in battle.

Meanwhile, "tin" or tinfoil, thin sheet steel coated with tin to prevent rust, had become the plastic of the 19th century, the first mass-produced consumer material in the immediate years before the war. Matches became affordable just as tinfoil manufacturing matured in 1850s New England. Tin-made fire-resistant containers were sturdy, replaceable, and cheaper than other metals. They could be freestanding or wall mounted and featured better strikers.

Tin's flexibility allowed some 19th century match holders to be produced in interesting variants. Wall-mounted cone-shaped holders mimicked old-fashioned splint or spill holders. An interesting 1881 round tin holder claimed to be luminescent when exposed to sunlight, a handy feature when looking for a match in the dark. Other tin holders were made in the shapes of animals, boots, hearts, musical instruments, and even ladies' legs. Most had a hinged lid with striker on top to disguise their matches.

Some holders displayed tintype or albumen prints of loved ones. Others featured photos of architecture or scenery, such as the coal boats of the Monongahela River.

While most tin holders were utilitarian, a few represented true artistry. One circa 1900 Art Nouveau pocket safe featured embossed playful kittens and sold for \$350. A circa 1890 wall holder had an Aesthetic Movement fantasy motif of a dragon with Japonisme



**Above:** A Rockford Watch Co. holder sold for \$700 at auction. Its condition was rated at 8.9 out of 10, with only a few scratches, rare for a circa 1900 tin. [Courtesy Morphy Auctions]

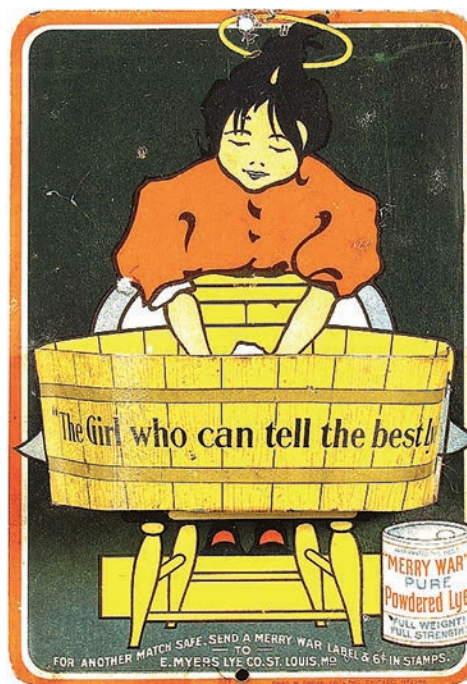
influence. An early 20th century wall holder featured a lithographed buck and doe in a woodland scene. Inside was a business card for a Detroit saloon keeper, self-described as a "dispenser of wet goods".

Cast iron entered the decorative mainstream after the Civil War as expanding American foundries repurposed an industrial material into domestic ornaments. Black-japanned cast iron match holders beside a kitchen stove became commonplace, an aesthetic both practical and decorative. Produced in a range of sculptural designs, cast iron dogs, lions, and owls competed for wall space with patriotic shields, classical busts, and foliate scrollwork.

Their inexpensive cost and omnipresence made tin wall holders an unparalleled platform for early advertising. Every reach for a match meant another exposure to an advertising message. Beginning in the 1880s, advances in lithography allowed colorful and detailed advertisements to be easily reproduced on tinfoil. All a manufacturer had to do was print and fold the tin into its proper shape.

Twenty-first century prices for lithographed advertising holders reflect condition and desirability of their content. A "Merry War" powdered lye match holder with an attached 3-D tin wash tub sold for \$3,750 in 2014. A Quaker Bread ("the bread with the baby label") holder sold in the same auction for \$3,500.

On the other price end, many antique tin match holders could be had for less than \$200. They advertised less glamorous products like wood burning stoves or agricultural implements. A green Dr. Pepper logo holder with original box cost \$400. A circa 1893 tin



**Above:** A Merry War powdered lye holder with a 3-D tin wash tub for matches auctioned for \$3,750. As printed at the bottom, another could be obtained for 6 cents in postage stamps and a label at the time. [Courtesy Showtime Auctions]

holder that was a very early advertisement for Wrigley's "Juicy Fruit" gum displayed a portrait that looked like but wasn't an exact image of inventor William Wrigley, Jr. It sold for \$166 in a lot of three.

When advertisers couldn't afford to give away expensive lithographic holders, simple one-color text boxes sufficed. Hundreds of tin one-color text holders advertised local general, grocery, drug, and hardware stores, coal yards, and small factories. A used Portland, Ore., Northwest Rug Co holder that advertised "there is no match to the new rugs made from your old carpets" was \$69 on Etsy. A similar holder advertising Wisconsin-based Ruehlman's "Royal Blue" grocery store sold for \$49 on eBay.

Not only were early matches a fire hazard, they were also a health hazard. Early matches were made of white phosphorus, which was extremely toxic and could cause a disease that rotted the jawbones of factory workers. In 1912 Congress taxed white phosphorus matches to the point that they were too expensive to produce and they were basically eliminated by 1913.

The government required all matches sold in the U.S. to be red phosphorus safety matches beginning in 1932. Those would light only with a strike on their box side, where red phosphorus was mixed into the striker strip. Post-1932 holders all had slots on their sides so a user could insert a match and strike on the box rather than the holder itself.

Electricity also contributed to the obsolescence of match holders and safes.

**Right:** Wall cones stored spills, tightly rolled paper tapers or very thin wood sticks used to transfer fires in the early 19th century. This brass cone retailed for \$23. [Courtesy Ontario Antiques]

**Below:** Many early 20th century local businesses gave away tin holders as a trade reminder. This rare Elk Mound, Wis., general store double box sold for \$190 in 2023. [Courtesy eBay]



**Above:** A tin match holder with a fantasy dragon motif and Japonisme influence sold for \$48. The holder used the same graphical vocabulary as stage fire-eaters and illusionists, making it a surprisingly theatrical object for a kitchen wall. [Courtesy Vinnies Good Works]

**Below:** A German-made 1920s bisque-porcelain made holder made in the shape of movie comedian Charlie Chaplin's head sold for \$949. [Courtesy Chairish]



**Above:** A circa 1893 holder that was one of the first advertisements for newly introduced Wrigley's "Juicy Fruit" gum. [Courtesy Caza Sikes Galleries]

**Below:** An 1860 American-made brass match safe excavated at the Civil War Kennesaw Mountain (Georgia) battlefield. It had an internal mechanism that dispensed matches individually. [Courtesy Battleground Relics]





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