AntiqueWeek

THE WEEKLY ANTIQUE AUCTION & COLLECTING NEWSPAPER

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Above: The top lot at a Cowan's auction held online on April 14 was this Southwestern silver charm bracelet with 23 Southwestern themed silver charms. It sold for $3,250 against a $200 to $400 estimate.

Businesses are learning new ways to sell during pandemic

BY SUSAN EMERSON NUTTER

Because the antiques and collectibles industry is not considered essential, antique mall owners, shop owners, show managers and auctioneers had to figure out new ways to do business during a pandemic. Some businesses just shut their doors or events and decided to wait until business could open as usual. Others, however have worked to learn new ways of doing business and how to master technology that would allow them to operate in a virtual world.

More than 30 years ago, antiquers bemoaned the internet and said online transactions would be the death of the antiques industry. Now businesses are looking at technology with new appreciation.

Let's start at the top. In April Sotheby's New York enjoyed the highest-ever sale total for an online auction featuring 20th century design. It was also a sale that saw nearly halces offered sell for more than their highest estimates — the final tally being $4 million, a new online record for the company.

Sotheby's London enjoyed a similar experience in April. According to www.news.artnet.com, "After going digital, Sotheby's 'Contemporary Curated' sale brought in $6.4 million — an online auction record for the company. It was also the biggest London edition of the sale ever; live or online."

In another innovative move, on April 28, Sotheby's debuted a new online sales platform for blue-chip contemporary art galleries. Called Sotheby's Gallery Network, the organization will take a flat commission from galleries based on sales.

As reported by www.artnetnews.com, "'The greatest innovations and best partnerships come out of challenging times,' said Sotheby's contemporary specialist Saara Pritchard, who spearheaded the initiative. While all aspects of the art market have been challenged in recent weeks, "this is crippling for the galleries," she says. 'Without organizing exhibitions and no art fairs, they have no way to drive new visitors. We already have the e-commerce platform and ability to do sales.'"

Regional auction houses have also continued with online only auctions to great results. "With people at home wishing they could instead be out shopping and collecting, being able to do so from home is a comfort," said Wes Cowan of Cowans of Cincinnati, Ohio (www.cowanauctions.com). Cowan's online only sales are also seeing strong final numbers.

Jeff Jeffers of Garth's Auctioneers & Appraiser of Columbus, Ohio, (www.garths.com) agrees adding, "We really miss seeing our clients, but we are encouraged by how well our online only auctions have done."

Antique shops and co-op owners and dealers are having to think outside of the box. The New Hampshire Antique Co-op (www.nhantiquecoop.com/shop-online.html) has taken on the shut down in earnest by helping their dealers set-up web presences via Ruby Lane, Instagram, Facebook Marketplace, and Craigslist among others. Getting this all in place has kept the group busy these past four weeks. Navigating contact-free transactions, video shopping, curbside pickup, shipping, delivery, and storage until pick-up in person is available are all part of the process as well.

Owner Susan Mocker along with business partner Devon Cretella of Extending Grace in Hubbard, Ohio, (www.extendinggrace.net) has really stepped out of her comfort zone in order to stay connected to customers. "We love the one-on-one aspect of selling; seeing people in our store, talking to them about their interests and pointing them to pieces we have. That's our fun and what we really miss," Mocker said. The shop specialize in antiques, collectibles, and also rents space to other dealers and artisans.

"With the stay at home order, we had to think of something and looked to other smaller shops to see what they were doing to continue to stay viable," Mocker said. "Another shop in Mentor,

SEE PANDEMIC ON PAGE 12

Above: Within a few hours after Susan Mocker of Extending Grace in Hubbard, Ohio, posted this image on the shop's Facebook page, both the vintage garden chair and bird pillow had sold and there were several inquiries about the metal pie safe.

www.americanstonewarecollectors.com

Auctions Running
24/7/52

Love of engines lead to serious 50-year collection

By Eric C. Rodenberg

MANKATO, Minn. – In the fall of 1956, Donald "Red" Goodburn, with a song in his heart and a brand new $29.95 Sears toolbox, began his first day of work as for a local trucking company.

It was the first job for the 18-year-old farm boy from nearby Madelia. Goodburn had no working knowledge of combustible engines. His only credentials were a good work ethic and some mechanical aptitude.

Generally, he would arrive to work at noon on Monday and work until all his tasks were done for the day. "I was just a flunky," Goodburn now recalls, but there was much to keep him busy. Many weeks, Goodburn went home on Wednesday evenings after having already accumulated 40 hours of work.

"The winter of '56, I took apart an old Cummins, they called it a 165," Goodburn recalls. "I put new sleeves, pistons, new rod bearings and checked the mains. We put it altogether in the spring of "57, set it in a truck and it ran like a million bucks. I was a farm boy, but (following his mechanical success), I was hooked on Cummins.

By the following year, the owner of the trucking company saw potential in Goodburn and got him accepted into a special program at the Cummins Columbus, Ind., headquarters. "It was a great opportunity," he says. "There were only six in the class, we had a good teacher and we learned how to completely tear an engine down and put it back together."

Above: Another highlight from the Goodburn Collection is an engine from the Edwards Motor Company, fully restored, which runs on one or two cylinders. The engine is mounted on a steel wheel cart.

Above: Dating back to 1894-1896, a fully restored English-produced Marshall 25 horsepower engine on a steel wheel cart is one of the many top lots in Part 2 of the Goodburn Collection on May 16.

Returning to Mankato, Goodburn put his new skills to work. He ultimately became the foreman of another trucking company's shop where, often working from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. to build the shop's customer base. When he began, he supervised five mechanics. Within two years, the shop had enough work for 30 mechanics and had expanded the business.

By the early 1970s, Goodburn found the "seed" of what ultimately turned into a collection of rare and, perhaps, one-of-a-kind antique engines. "I traveled to Waterloo, Iowa, to attend a consignment auction," he says, and there I purchased a 1 ½ horsepower John Deere engine on an original tin cart for $37.50. As a child this is the type of engine my parents owned to run the grain elevator on the family farm."

The fuse was lit. From there, Goodburn bought, traded, sold and refurbished several gas engines and became an early life member of the Le Sueur County Pioneer Power, which currently boasts about 500 members.

The unique combination of Goodburn's technical knowledge, experience and nearly 50 years of collecting has made his name well-known throughout the antique gas and diesel engine collecting community.

Today, the Goodburn collection is comprised of 40 diesel and 200 gas engines, including late 19th century English engines, a rare diesel boat motor with a low serial number and an ultra-rare Cummins engine which many collectors believed at one point to have never been manufactured.

The latter – a 4-horsepower engine – was contested by the late Lotus Alexander, whose father worked at the Columbus plant. Checking the company archives, Alexander concluded the engine was never made.

Nonetheless curious, he drove up to Minnesota from southern Indiana to look at the engine, concluding that – despite no paperwork on the production – at least one 4-horsepower engine was made by Cummins. And, to anyone's knowledge, the only such engine made was owned by Red Goodburn.

See Engines on page 8

Below: Another early English model selling from the Goodburn Collection is a Widdop 10-horsepower engine, with a brass tag (although not on the engine).

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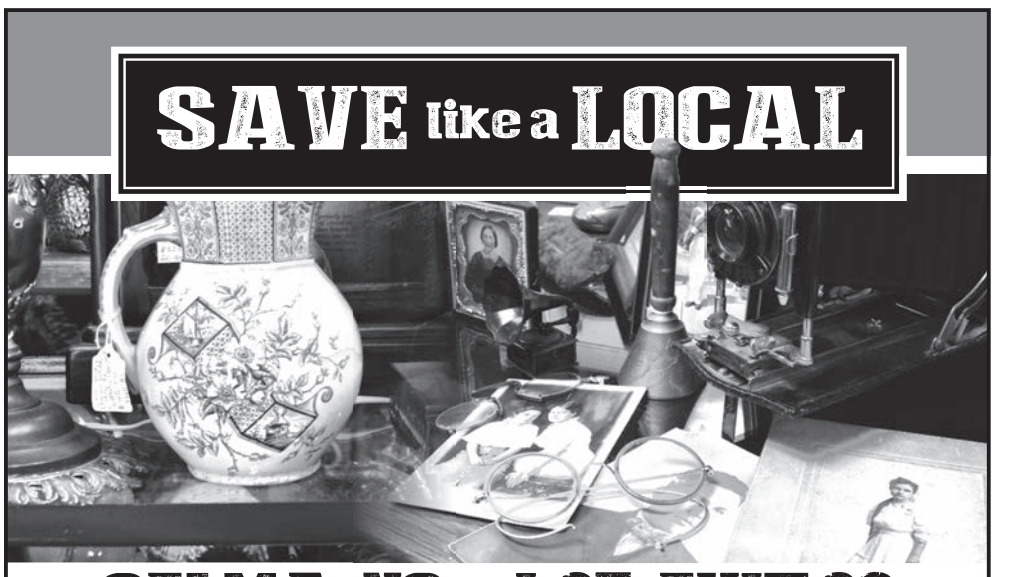

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ONLINE ONLY
4-DAY ANTIQUE AUCTION

SEVERAL ESTATES AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 20, 21, 22 & 23, 2020

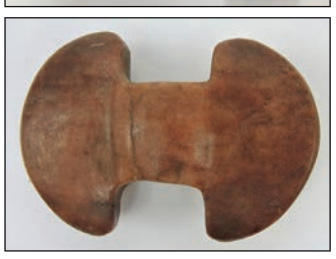
WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY STARTING AT 3:00 PM • SATURDAY STARTING AT 9:00 AM

PREVIEW: SATURDAY, MAY 9 FROM 9 AM TO NOON OR BY APPOINTMENT

LOCATION: AT THE STRAWSER AUCTIONS/DRY DOCK STORAGE FACILITY, 106 E. DUTCH STREET

WOLCOTTVILLE, INDIANA zone 8

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 AT 3:00 PM

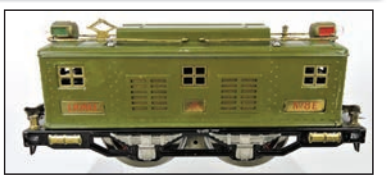


150+ ANTIQUE FURNITURE – FIREARMS – INDIAN ARTIFACTS INKWELLS - LIGHTING – COVERLETS - ANTIQUES

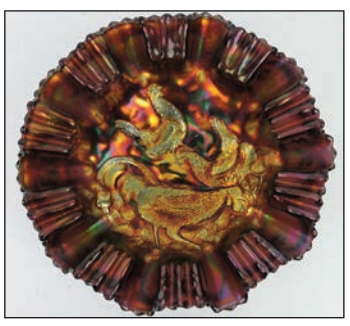
150+ pieces of antique furniture – **MISSION OAK** 2 Stickley bookcases, lamp tables, desks and rocker; cupboards, desks; secretaries; love seats; chairs; tables; dressers; sewing cabinets; general store display case; **INDIAN ARTIFACTS:** bird stones; ¾ axes; celts; banner stones; arrowheads; bird points; beaded work; rugs; pipe tomahawk and more; **LIGHTING:** 12 leaded and panel glass lamps – Moe Bridges, Pittsburgh; lanterns; MCM lighting; **INKWELLS:** 300+ inkwells including Tiffany and accessories; Roycroft, art glass, porcelain, glass, figurals and more; fountain pens; sterling silver; figural napkin rings (Pairpoint baseball player); jewelry – Bakelite, turquoise Indian jewelry, 14kt & 18kt; pocket and wristwatches; NY police and fire badges; advertising; Mills slot machine; juke box; clocks; **COVERLETS:** 45 fine woven coverlets – blue/white, red/white, multi colored, most signed and dated, a fine collection; samplers; oriental rugs; US 37 & 48 star flags; oil paintings; water colors; train sets – Marx & Lionel; Edison phonograph; Grapette pop bottle cooler; primitives; stained glass windows.

FIREARMS

PREVIEW FOR FIREARMS ONLY ON SATURDAY, MAY 9 FROM 9AM TO NOON. ABSENTEE BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ALL FIREARMS ARE STORED OFFSITE. STRYKER ACTION WILL TRANSFER ALL FIREARMS: 2-1911 Colt 45 auto – 1 US Army and 1 USMC; S&W Model 29 .44 revolver; Colt 1903 .32 auto; Remington Elliot 5 barrel pepperbox; 4 early Colt black powder Civil War revolvers; Colt Woodsman; S&W Model 10 .38 revolver; Ruger .357 Blackhawk; DPMS Panther AR15; Ruger Mini 14 .223 rifle; Browning Light 20 s/a shotgun; 2 Winchester M1897; Ithica M37 12 gauge; 2 M-1 Garands; several black powder rifles; bayonets; swords and more.



DAY 2 THURSDAY, MAY 21 AT 3:00 PM



CUT GLASS – CARNIVAL GLASS – ART GLASS – FENTON GLASS

250+ pieces of American Brilliant Cut Glass including many signed pieces – punch bowls, tankard pitchers some sterling silver mounted, bowls, plates, nappies, vases, compotes, baskets and more; **CARNIVAL GLASS:** 160 pieces – rare Dugan electric purple Farmyard bowl, Elk plate and bowls, Jockey Club, Trout & Fly bowls and many other carnival glass bowls, plates, vases, water sets, nappies, compotes and more; Baccarat; Lalique; Tiffany; Steuben; Moser; Cartier ice bucket; pickle castors; 600+ pieces of Candlewick; **FENTON:** 600+ Fenton including 18 lamps and more; paperweights; GWTW lamps; banquet lamps; oil lamps; **GREENTOWN:** teal blue fighting cocks covered dish and cat in hamper; several pieces of Greentown glass; perfume bottles and much more.

DAY 3 & 4 NEXT PAGE

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: **Items** from many estates and private collections. All items are fresh to the market. Don't miss this auction.

TERMS: Cash, check, MC & VISA (3% credit card fee), 10% buyer's premium.

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Auction Conducted By:

STRAWSER AUCTIONS by Michael G. Strawser

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SEVERAL ESTATES AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

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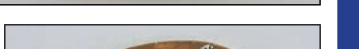
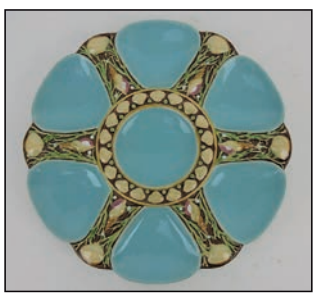
DAY 3 — FRIDAY, MAY 22 AT 3:00 PM

ART POTTERY – 300+ OYSTER PLATES – STAFFORDSHIRE PORCELAIN AND CHINA

George Ohr – 11 pieces; Weller Hudson; Weller Flemish; Roseville; Moorcroft; Brush McCoy; Grueby; Mosaic Tile; Rhead; Muncie; Fulper; Wheatley; VanBriggle; Roodwood; Hampshire Pottery and many more makers, a fine selection; **300+ OYSTER PLATES:** Minton majolica 4 tier revolving server; Minton and George Jones majolica oyster plates; Fielding majolica; Wedgwood majolica, porcelain – Haviland, Limoges, UPW, Minton and more; **250+ STAFFORDSHIRE FIGURES:** dogs, animals, cow creamers, people and other figurals; Flow Blue; Famille Rose Medallion; Picasso plate and vase; Chintz; Limoges; R.S. Prussia; Royal Worcester; Nippon; Royal Vienna portrait plates; Pink Pig collection; 500+ Quimper; Lladro; Herend animals and more.





DAY 4 MAJOLICA — SATURDAY, MAY 23 AT 9:00 AM

550 LOTS including **Minton**: Blackamoor garden seat; heron stick stand; monkey and Chinaman teapots; cat's head Queens vase; pigeon game tureen; pigeon bowls; rare butterfly plate; jardinieres; **GEORGE JONES:** pineapple teaset; Punch punch bowl; rooster teapot; game dishes; garden seats; sardine boxes; blue tit butter dish and marmalade; strawberry servers cheese keeper and more; newly discovered T.C. Brown Westhead Moore & Co dolphin pedestal; Royal Worcester; Holdcroft; Wedgwood 13 piece seafood service; Massier; Palissy Ware including many wall plaques; Menton; large selection of Etruscan including Shell and Seaweed; figural bottles; figural pitchers; teapots; baskets; plates; platters; pitchers; match strikers; humidors; and many other fine pieces of majolica.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Items from many estates and private collections. All items are fresh to the market. Don't miss this auction.

TERMS: Cash, check, MC & VISA (3% credit card fee), 10% buyer's premium.

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Patron saint medals have protected faithful for centuries

By Robert Kyle

"Saints preserve us!" This old Irish expression comes from the tradition of asking saints for help. It's called intercessory prayer. To get the attention of the saints, many of the faithful wore patron saint medals.

They are small, light, portable, and often worn as bracelets and necklaces. Some are kept in wallets and pockets. Interest in these objects has been steady for about 200 years when skilled medalists in France and Italy produced millions. Today both collectors and users have a wide choice between those which are antiques, early 20th century, and recent manufacture.

The Catholic Church estimates there are at least 10,000 saints, many nominated prior to 1000 A.D. before the pope canonized candidates and made them official. "The precise number of Catholic saints will always be debatable," explains www.uscatholic.org. "Early Christian communities venerated hundreds of saints, but historical research by 17th and 18th century scholars determined that very few of these saints' stories were backed by solid historical evidence."

Pandemics in the 19th century drew people closer to saints and their medals. When cholera spread throughout Europe beginning in 1829 the population felt helpless until a special medal appeared in France in 1832. Designed by a young nun in Paris who had three encounters with the Virgin Mary, the medal was cited as offering protection from the disease as well as cures. Called the Miraculous Medal, it is still made and sold today. Original 19th century examples are occasionally found.

The bubonic plague in Europe came in three waves: mid-14th century, early 17th century and late 19th century. Saint Sebastian (256 A.D. – 288 A.D.) was chosen as the martyr who offered protection against this disease. He is also the patron saint of athletes.

Saints are recognized in three religions: Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox. Episcopals, Lutherans and Anglicans have saints but don't pray to them

The first saint with papal approval was Ulrich, or Udalric, from Germany, who was canonized in 993 A.D. The first American female saint was Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton, 1775-1821. She achieved saint-hood in 1975. The only Native American saint is Keteri Tekakwitha (1656-1680) of the Mohawk tribe, canonized in 2012. She helped small pox victims.

The earliest medals originated in the 16th century when Pope Pius V began blessing devotional medals at the Vatican in 1566. This sparked an interest in

See Medals on page 12

Above: This trio of 19th century French medals depicts Saint Roch inscribed with the French equivalent of "Save us from cholera." The 14th century Italian became the patron of dogs, diseases, cholera, epidemics, sick cows, second-hand dealers and others.

Below: Among the most unusual ways to ask a saint for assistance is found in a Saint Joseph home seller's kit. Made by a variety of manufactures, its purpose follows a belief that the husband of the Virgin Mary and foster father of Jesus possesses the ability to sell a person's house by following the instructions on the box. Another saint, Anthony of Padua, has a home-finder's kit.

Left: One of the most popular saints is Christopher, patron of travelers. It's both worn, carried and displayed in vehicles to instill safe travel. In 2009 astronaut Michael Good wore one while aboard the space shuttle Atlantis. In 1969 the Catholic Church gave Christopher fans some bad news: he may have been more myth than fact. No one seems to care. He consistently ranks in the top ten of favorite saints.

MAY EXCEPTIONAL ESTATES AUCTION
SATURDAY, MAY 9th, 2020
12PM EDT -- no in-house bidding due to state guidelines

We will be open for in-house preview 10-4, May 7 & May 8, following CDC recommended social distancing guidelines

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- U.S. coins, including 90% silver, as well as graded ancient Roman coins
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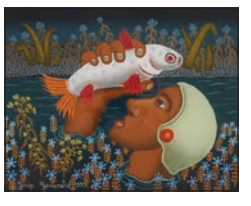

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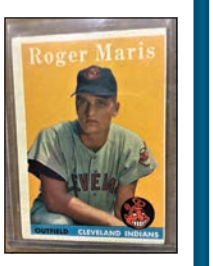

(2) Brooks Robinson Gold Gloves (1969 & 50th Anniversary, purchased from Brooks Robinson Collection Auction 2015), 100 HOF autographed baseball & team balls, 1950's & up baseball cards, Baseball-Football-Basketball autographed jerseys & helmets, autographed basketballs, autographed HOF Plaque cards, University of Md. related, 5 Baltimore Orioles bronze statues, Starting Lineup, Misc. Memorabilia, Brooks Robinson painting, other sports related. Most JSA certified

Note: All lots from the Mark Butler Estate, Former CEO of Ollies Bargain Outlets, majority owner of the Harrisburg Senators baseball team and avid sports enthusiast & collector.

Terms: Credit Card payment only for this auction w/3% surcharge, Gold Gloves will accept approved check, 10% Buyer's Premium added to all purchases, 6% sales tax unless tax exempt.

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For additional photographs and information, please email conditions@pookandpook.com.

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AY000004L

Engines

From Page 2

Last fall, the Goodburn family displayed 12 of their best engines at the Le Sueur County Pioneer Power show celebrating the 40 years that Goodburn and his wife, Marcy, have been members of the organization. Many of the most seasoned collectors were impressed with the family display.

Today, Goodburn's once fiery red hair has turned a fluffy snow-colored white ("It's thinned some," he quips, "but I've still got about 80 percent of my hair). Now, at 82 years old, the cold Minnesota winters in which he used "to play with my engines" in the frigid barns and sheds on the Goodburn farm has lost much of its charm.

"I told my three sons that after I kicked the bucket, take all this stuff to auction and sell it," Goodburn said. But after seeing a large estate auction conducted last fall in the neighborhood by Maring Auctions and Henslin Auction, the family decided it was time to sell.

Henslin and Maring auction companies, both founded in the 1980s, have routinely worked together on large auctions, both in Minnesota and throughout other parts of the country.

"Matt (Maring) and I have worked back and forth for years," Allen Henslin, owner of Henslin Auction, says. "We're really good family friends and work well together."

Maring Auction is in Kenyon, Minn.; and Henslin Auction Auctions is headquartered in Bird Island, Minn. About 900 lots will be sold during the two-day auction.

Part 1 of the Goodburn Collection is comprised of more than 500 lots of unique engine parts and supplies, toys, pulleys, magnetos, tools and other related engine items. It will be a timed online auction only, beginning on May 6 at noon and ending May 14 at 5 p.m.

The second day of auction will be May 16, beginning at 9 a.m. This will be a live online only auction, featuring more than 300 antique gas and diesel hit and miss engines. Not only will Cummins engines be represented at the auction, but also a myriad of other brands, including around 35 John Deere engines.

Previews for both auctions will be at 50803 421st Avenue in North Mankato. The second auction was originally scheduled as a live auction; however, the Covid-19 cancelled out any live participation.

Above: After nearly 50 years of collecting gasoline- and diesel-powered engines, Red and Marcy Goodburn from Mankato, Minn., will be selling about 250 engines, the vast majority in good running condition, and more than 500-engine related items in mid-May. The auction will be conducted by Henslin Auctions and Maring Auction, two Minnesota auction companies specializing in such sales.

Right: Among the oddities of the May 16 live, virtual sale of the Goodburn Collection is a diesel-powered boat motor by Selva.

Henslin said he and Maring have received calls from all over the United States and overseas from collectors interested in the auction. "Both auction companies have contacts throughout Europe, New Zealand, Australia, in addition to throughout the United States, and the Goodburns thought we would be a good fit for both buyers and sellers."

Meanwhile, Red Goodburn has mixed feelings about disseminating his collection. He is keeping a few pieces for sentimental reasons. "It's been a terrific ride," he says. "We made a lot of great friends and it's been a great hobby. I'm just grateful that these items will find a good home, and the history of these early modern-day miracles are being preserved."

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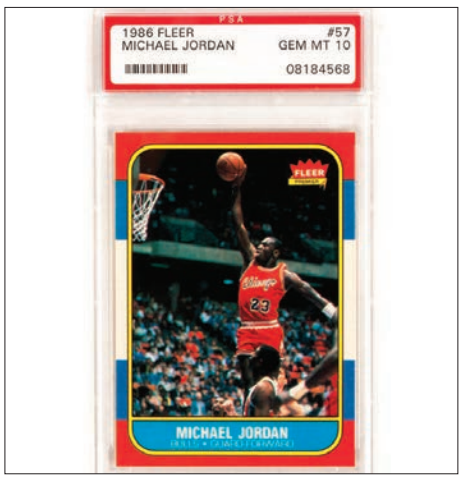

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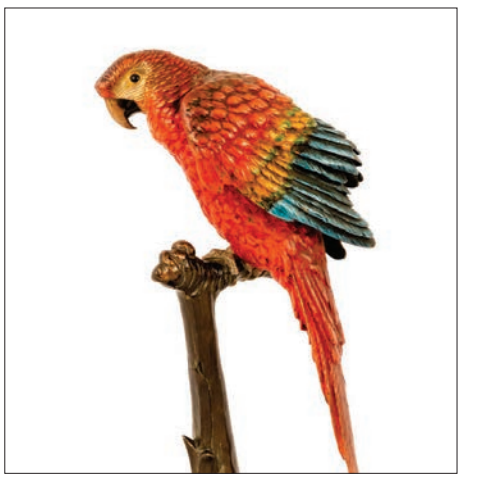

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Ancient coins found in Salvation Army kettle sizzle at Heritage

by Susan Emerson Nutter

TAMPA, Fla. — On Dec. 9, 2019, volunteers of the Tampa/Hillsborough County Salvation Army received a nice surprise. Buried in one of the bell ringer's kettles was an odd, very ancient-looking gold-colored coin.

Six days later, the take from the same location revealed yet another old coin, but this time wrapped in a note stating..."My hope is to continue drawing attention and publicity to such a wonderful organization. The whole country should know about the amazing things the Salvation Army does for their community." It was signed, "Doing the most good."

Since those coins' discovery, the donor's wish has come true.

Hearing through news reports about the gold coins, Heritage Auctions of Dallas, Texas, offered to examine the two pieces, discovering they were ancient Greek coins dating back to 42-40 B.C. Then Heritage went one step further and offered to auction-off the coins for the Tampa/Hillsborough County Salvation Army at no charge; taking no commission.

Heritage Auction's Central States World Coins & Ancient Coins Signature Auction took place April 24-27 with the two Salvation Army Donation coins being lots 31 and 32. Both found new owners to the tune of $3,000 and $1,800 respectively. Prices include a buyer's premium.

"Isn't it amazing?" said Andy Miller, Salvation Army area commander for Hillsborough County. "Whoever made that donation isn't even getting a receipt for it. It is completely anonymous."

The Heritage catalog listing for Lot 31 which sold for $3,000 read, "SCYTHIA. Geto-Dacians. Coson (ca. after 54 BC). AV stater (21mm, 8.43 gm, 12h). NGC Choice MS 5/5 - 5/5. Ca. 44-42 BC. Roman consul walking left, accompanied by two lictors fore and aft; BA monogram before, KOΣΩN in exergue / Eagle with spread wings standing left on scepter, clutching laurel wreath in right talon. HGC 3.2, 2049. RPC I 1701A. Nicely centered on ample flan, providing for full beaded border to be visible on both sides."

Lot 32 which made $1,800 was listed as, "SCYTHIA. Geto-Dacians. Coson (ca. after 54 BC). AV stater (19mm, 8.39 gm, 12h). NGC MS 4/5 - 4/5. Ca. 44-42 BC. Roman consul walking left, accompanied by two lictors fore and aft; KOΣΩN in exergue / Eagle with spread wings standing left on scepter, clutching laurel wreath in right talon. HGC 3.2, 2049. RPC I 1701."

"Each has a gold value of around $450, said Heritage Auctions' vice president Todd Imhof in an interview to Paul Guzzo for the *Tampa Bay Times*. But "the collector value is bit more," he said. "We think if the Salvation Army had sold them to a coin dealer, they would have gotten $1,000 each."

Imhof hoped Heritage's selling of the coins would do better, and he was correct. "Maybe a thousand are known to exist," Imhof explained. "A hoard of these were discovered in the mid-1500s in the area that is now Turkey, Iran and the Black Sea."

Undoubtedly, the revenue from the sale of these ancient Greek coins could not have come at a better time for the Salvation Army of Tampa/Hillsborough County. Like most organizations providing care to those in need, the COVID-19 emergency has been an added strain on the organization.

The anonymous donor hopefully knows those two small coins given in thanks are; as he or she hoped, "Doing the most good."

Right and Below: Though both of the ancient Greek coins anonymously donated to the Salvation Army of Tampa/Hillsborough County last December were similar, Lot 31 was in "Choice Mint State" according to Heritage Auctions, as reflected in its $3,000 selling price. Each coin had one side featuring a Roman consul accompanied by two lictors; civil servants acting as attendants or bodyguards. Verso displays an eagle with spread wings standing on a scepter, clutching a laurel wreath in its right talon. Images by Heritage Auctions

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Pandemic

From Page 1

Ohio, called Schoolhouse Salvage (www.schoolhousesalvage.com), its owner, Amy Cseh, began using the selling platform Comment/Sold during live Facebook sales about a year ago when she noticed traffic to her shop was slow on certain weekday afternoons," Mocker said. "Amy began hosting live sales every Wednesday and then with the shutdown, added sales during the week and weekend as it caught on. Amy helped us navigate using this platform for our own weekly in-store, live sale, and though it was a huge learning curve for us, we are getting better every week, our customers love it, and we will continue doing this even after Ohio opens back up."

And how about antique shows? Some show managers are skipping doing shows for May and June. Others are still waiting to see what happens when things begin opening up, and then there are promoters who are trying new things.

For example, Brimfield will not be taking place this spring, but collectors can still shop the show via Instagram by following the hashtag #thebrimfieldshow or @thebrimfieldshow during the same time period as Brimfield would have taken place. You can also find the show on Facebook.

The Antique Dealers' Association of America (www.adadealers.com) held an online show April 24-27 with participating dealers posting pictures of items for sale with descriptions, dimensions, prices, and contact information. The show was open to anyone, and the response was impressive. This was not the first time the ADA did an online show, so the organization was prepared when dealer/members asked if it could be held again due to COVID-19.

The show ran around the clock from start to finish, so no matter the time; shoppers could shop. The ADA touted the event had, "No crowds, no lines, no traffic, no bad weather, no tickets" with the show being available from any location be it one's computer or smartphone. And since it was an ADA event, each item sold with a guarantee of authenticity.

As the nation begins to slowly and carefully open up and the antiques and collectibles industry follows suit, if nothing else, this quiet time brought out the innovative nature synonymous with those in business for themselves. Those who make their living "hawking wares" just might have discovered several new ways to make their businesses even more productive; a positive during a not-so positive moment in history.

Right: A fine Directoire style oval folding metal double tray table, each removable tray with a classical scene and foliate border tole painted in black on a coral background, supported with cast legs to resemble turned wooden legs is available from New Hampshire Antique Co-op. The shop managers said they were working around the clock for their dealers featuring pieces on many different sites. The table is priced $575. www.nhantiquecoop.com

Medals

From Page 6

small medals depicting holy figures which were eventually made throughout Europe. France was a hotbed for medal makers. More than 100 were active in the 19th century.

If a medal found today is marked "France" or "Italy" it is later than 1930 when country-of-origin was required. Nineteenth century medals are often inscribed in French, Italian, Latin, Polish and even Chinese.

Earlier medals were made of silver and bronze. Later, silver plate was used, and even aluminum. Earlier medals are very thin with signs of wear. Most medals are small, about half the size of a penny.

How a saint appears on a medal is based on early artwork. And that art is a rendition derived from stories, myths and traditional beliefs. The Renaissance period (15th and 16th centuries) found saints becoming popular subjects for painters, who used their own judgment regarding a saint's appearance. Later these images were made into affordable lithographs and small holy cards which themselves are collectible.

Wearing saint medals was not unlike an amulet and talisman worn for centuries by civilizations around the globe for protection and good fortune. Clarifying, the church's Catechism states: "Never should we look upon the wearing of a religious medal as a 'charm,' but always as a sacred symbol of the supernatural protection offered directly by our Lord, Blessed Mother, or saint."

Honoring a saint is known as veneration. Today's modern methods of paying homage to saints might startle the medieval mind. Saint faces are now found on socks, neckties, T-shirts, hats, tattoos, underwear, and playing cards. Joan of Arc has her own brand of kidney beans. Statues of Joseph, husband of Mary, are hawked by hardware stores for his power to sell houses.

With more than 1,800 modern saints available, choosing one is often guided by their specialty or name. Catholic confirmation requires selecting a saint. Also, some people like saints who share their same name. Saints named John number 51. There are 20 named Mary.

Pandemic saints exist as well. It's because they suffered from one and helped others. Edmund the Martyr, the first saint of England, is also called the pandemic saint. Quirinus of Neuss is a plague and smallpox saint. In the 14th century the Catholic Church designated a group of saints who dealt with diseases and called them The Fourteen Holy Helpers following the Black Death plague. If another epidemic came along, these specialists were ready to help. Their membership includes Saints George, Barbara, Vitus, Christopher, Giles and Denis.

Saint Roch (also spelled Rocco), who is invoked against the plague, also helps dogs and bachelors. Some of his 19th century medals are inscribed in French: "dieu de bonte preservez nous du cholera." (God of Goodness Save Us From Cholera.") This refers to cholera outbreaks in France in 1832 and 1849.

The only saint you can buy in a box at your local hardware store is Joseph. Usually described with something like "The Saint Joseph Home Seller Kit," it involves burying a small statute of Joseph near the For Sale yard sign. He should be 12 inches deep, upside down, and facing the house. A prayer is said to him each day. When the house sells, dig him up. Several companies offer these kits on Amazon. Joseph was selected for this job because he was described in the Bible as a tekton, the ancient Greek term for artisan, carpenter and builder.

Addressing the question of having medals blessed, John Monroe of Rosa Mystica Medals in Georgia, said: "That is up to the individual. If a blessing gives someone comfort or peace then yes, get it blessed. For some people, just wearing a metal gives them comfort. That is the case with me."

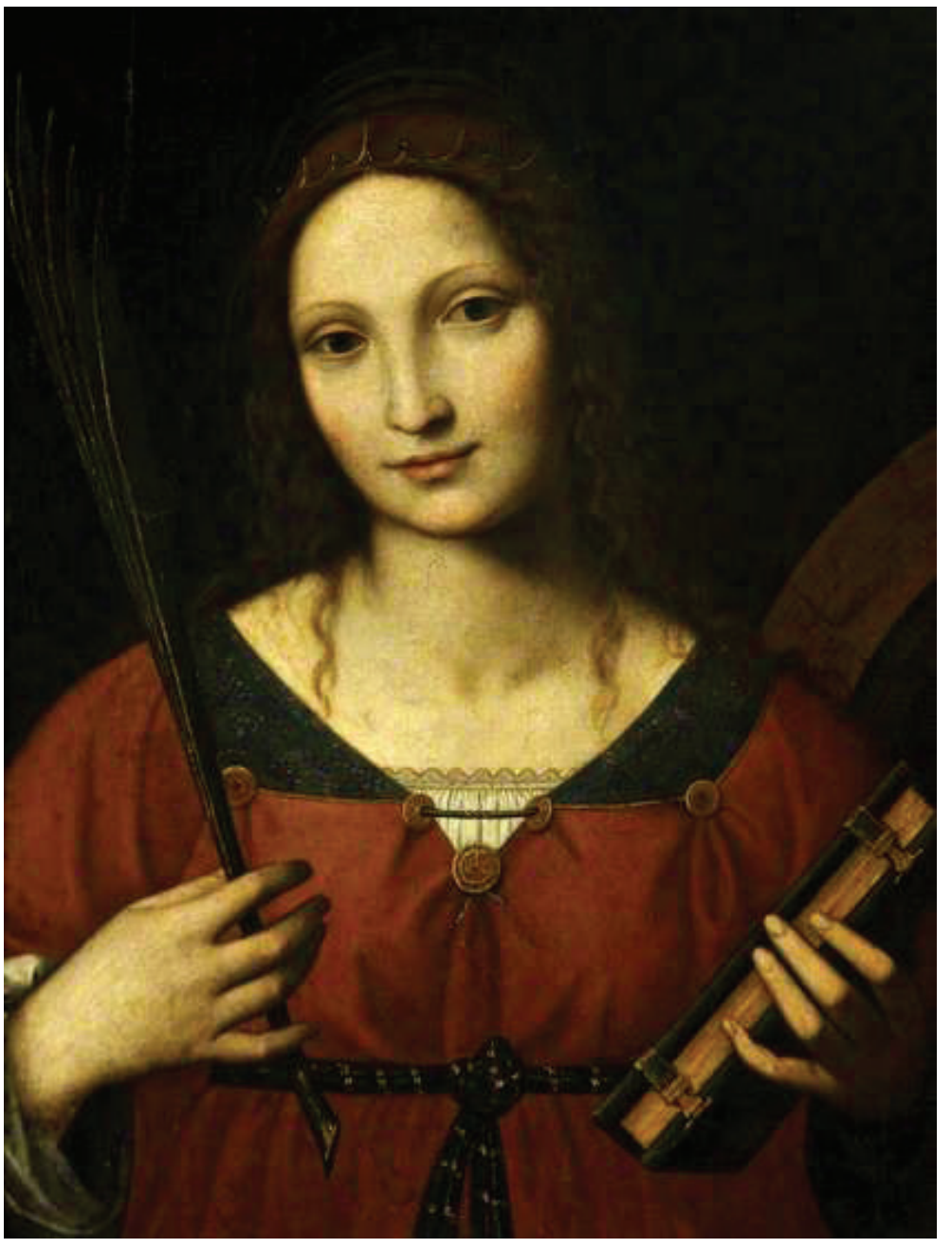
Regarding his sales during the pandemic, he said, "I have seen an uptick in Saint Roch, patron saint of epidemics, Saint Agatha, patron saint of nurses, and Saint Luke, patron saint of doctors. Our usual popular medals—Mary Magdalene, Joseph, the Virgin Mary Miraculous Medal, and Saint Joan—continue to sell well. People take comfort in their saint medals."

Some medical professionals collect saints who dealt with diseases. Dr. Elin Gursky, an infectious disease epidemiologist in Maryland, says these medals reflect difficult historical periods.

"Imagine living in a time when diseases and illnesses were ascribed to bad humors and demons. With only salves, poultices and potions available to help avert death, and remedies from recipes passed down across families and villages, faith played a vital role in the lives of populations decimated by plagues and epidemics," she said.

"Medals, usually blessed and specific to rampant diseases like rabies, tuberculosis and pox, were tangible representations of that truth. Now, in the second decade of the 21st century, the coronavirus pandemic finds humanity once again facing a disease without benefit of medicines, vaccines and diagnostics."

Her collection "combines my occupational interests with the love for these historic antique relics beautifully engraved with imagery and prayer."

Above: Some saints are depicted with animals with which they were associated in their lives. Anthony, from Egypt, was a 4th century hermit who became known as a man who healed pigs. As a saint now called Anthony the Abbott or Anthony the Great, he is the patron of pigs, pig herders, firefighters and pizza.

Below: Renaissance artists such as Bernardino Luini (1482-1537) painted many saints and Biblical figures such as this oil of Saint Catherine of Alexandria, born 287 A.D. in Egypt. With little to go on other than myth, stories and legends, the artists were free to depict their subjects as they wished.