

New Haven Auctions, Branford, Connecticut

Two-Day Auction Featuring Maine and Ohio Collections

by Frances McQueeney-Jones Mascolo
Photos courtesy New Haven Auctions

The first day of the April 2 and 3 sale held by Fred Giampietro's New Haven Auctions showcased the collection of Stephen and Patricia Center of Scarborough, Maine, who operated Centervale Farm Antiques in that town. The auction also included select additions from local collections. The Centers and auctioneer Giampietro are scrupulous about condition of the objects they handle. Most objects in the two-day sale were described as "in excellent original condition." Any repairs were also carefully noted. New Haven Auctions will offer part two of the collection of Stephen and Patricia Center in the fall.

Day two featured the collections of Bill Kelly of Limington, Maine, and Ohio dealer David L. Good. (New Haven had sold part of Good's collection January 8 and 9.) Day two also offered select additions from area collections. Shaker lots also crossed the block, several of which were bid on successfully by the United Society of Shakers in Maine.

The top lots included a silkscreen by Andy Warhol that sold for \$46,500 (with buyer's premium), a carved peacock by Joseph Romuald Bernier that brought \$17,370, and a spice chest that went for \$16,120.

For more information, check the website (www.newhavenauctions.com) or call (475) 234-5120.



This good-looking spice chest, 22 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", was made in Maine with forged nails around 1850. It has appealing allover paint decoration in good condition. It was estimated at \$1000/2000, but bidders thought better of that and drove it to \$16,120.



Golden Mushroom, this 35" x 23" silkscreen by Andy Warhol (1928-1987), signed on the reverse, is number 206 from the original edition of 250. Estimated at \$20,000/30,000, it brought \$46,500. It was accompanied by a 1984 appraisal by Burt Chernow.



Made with care and flair, this 19th-century New England apple tray with its original blue exterior paint, original red interior, and remnants of chrome yellow on the edges, with square-nail construction, sold for \$2480 (est. \$250/350).



This 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long carving of a peacock perched on a book, in original paint, is attributed to the "mystery carver" of Biddeford, Maine, long known as "Bernier the Lumberman." As discussed in the Summer 2010 issue of *The Magazine Antiques* in an article by Leslie Rounds and Jessica Skwire Routhier, Bernier (1873-1952) was Joseph Romuald Bernier, a French-Canadian lumberjack who arrived in the 1890s in Biddeford, where he worked until he was injured in an accident sometime before 1922, and then he took up carving. The peacock sold for \$17,370 (est. \$8000/12,000).

This Maine triple-tier wall box in original red paint with black decoration dates to around 1825. In excellent original condition and made with square-nail construction, it sold for \$3224 (est. \$500/1000).



Desirable in blue and white paint and in fine original condition, the Shaker bucket sold for \$2898 (est. \$400/800).



This early New England turned bowl retains the original gray paint and whitewashed interior and is in fine original condition. Estimated at \$250/500, it sold for \$12,400.



This late 19th-century southern painting by an unknown skilled artist depicts an age-old situation. A prospective tenant is reassured by the owner that the neighborhood is quiet, with no children, while at least 17 children are seen hiding in the background. The oil on artist's panel, 8 7/8" x 9", hangs in a contemporary frame. Estimated at \$250/500, the painting brought \$2604.



This 14 1/2" x 21 1/2" (sight size) oil on canvas of a hooked fish breaking the water is signed illegibly and dated 1907. In excellent original condition, it brought \$4340 (est. \$300/600).



This small paint-decorated box, 2 3/8" x 3 7/8" x 2 1/4", by Jonas Weber (1810-1876) of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, sold for \$6820 (est. \$3000/5000). Weber was a farmer who crafted painted boxes and other articles. His father and brother were involved in their distribution. The box is inscribed indistinctly on the bottom.



Of molded copper with a cast zinc head, this large prancing horse weathervane, circa 1875, by A.L. Jewell, Waltham, Massachusetts, retains an old gold-leaf and painted surface. It has had no restoration, and it sold for \$4030 (est. \$1500/3000).

This bright graphic polychromed 20" diameter gaming wheel in original paint on wood panel, circa 1900, sold for \$4650 (est. \$400/800).



This mid-19th-century carved and painted patriotic shield in original paint was estimated at \$1000/2000 and brought \$5270. It measures 23 1/4" x 18" and is in fine condition, although some small scratches have been touched up.



From the last quarter of the 18th century, this New England shoe-foot hutch table in early red paint with a single-board top sold for \$4960 (est. \$1000/1500).

Bolection molding conceals a secret drawer in this 66" high New England Queen Anne highboy, circa 1770, with a dovetailed case. It sold for \$4960 (est. \$1000/2000).



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This molded copper eagle on an arrow weathervane with a gold-leaf surface was likely made by J.W. Fiske of New York City around 1890. It is 21½" x 21" x 21" and sold for \$9920 (est. \$500/1000).



This 19th-century butter paddle, 10" long, is carved with a heart above an intricately trellised panel and has floral elements on the other side. It sold for \$1736 (est. \$150/250).



This carved New England eagle and shield in the original gold paint dates from the late 19th century and sold for \$6300 (est. \$500/1000). The feathering is particularly detailed.



The highlight of a group of miniature carved birds by master carver Anthony Elmer Crowell (1862-1952) of East Harwich, Massachusetts, was this 4" long wood duck that sold for \$2852 (est. \$500/1000). The bird bears the artist's rectangular stamp.



This pewter tankard by William Will (1742-1798) of Philadelphia, who was born in Neuwied-am-Rhein, Germany, has a repair to the lid and an obscure interior mark. The 8" high tankard brought \$6300 (est. \$3000/6000). Will was a pewterer and an officer in the Continental Army.



Well-carved hearts and pinwheels adorn this 1791 pine wall box made with forged nails that sold for \$8680 (est. \$1500/2500).



Cape Charles, Virginia, carver Frank Finney (b. 1947) was represented by a dozen bird carvings, the highlight of which was this 26" long sleek Canada goose that sold for \$9920 (est. \$400/800). The bird is in fine original condition. The carver engraved his initials on the weight.



This 19½" long wrought-iron spatula by E.P. Sebastian, from the David Good collection, brought \$8680 (est. \$1000/2000). A similar example sold at Conestoga Auctions in December 2016.



These folk-art oil on canvas portraits, each 17¼" x 13¾" (sight size), circa 1840, depict William Powers holding a top and Esther Powers with strawberries. The pair sold for \$14,800 (est. \$2500/5000). One is inscribed on the reverse "C. Hartt." The pair had sold October 14, 1999, at Christie's in New York City for \$9775. In that sale a catalog note stated that an artist by the name of C. O. Hart was listed in Buffalo, New York, in 1859.



This New England tap table, circa 1825, has a single drawer, splayed legs, and a single-board top. In early green paint and estimated at \$250/500, it sold for \$4410.



From an unknown engraver, the 10" long hallmarked silver-mounted scrimshaw tusk is engraved profusely with an eagle with an anchor, a whaling scene, floral elements, and various patriotic verses, one of which is dated 1862. It came from the David Good collection, with James Grieco provenance, and it sold for \$4960 (est. \$2500/5000).



This French porcelain-head doll, 15 1/2" tall, wears a hat by Hurey of Paris, sophisticated clothing, and delicately made red leather boots, and it sold for \$11,780 (est. \$150/250).



From the collection of David Good, this rare 19th-century Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, theorem depicts a village with figures and livestock and a gentleman seated beneath a tree, all within a sunburst surround. It retains the original 9 1/2" x 11 1/2" frame. Estimated at \$1500/3000, it sold for \$13,640.



This redware bowl with tricolor slip decorative elements, made between 1780 and 1830, was thought to have been made in the Maryland area. It sold for \$10,540 (est. \$400/800). It came from the David Good collection.



From the collection of Bill Kelly, this 86 1/2" high maple tall-case clock, circa 1800, retains a David Young (1746-1836) label and Levi and Abel Hutchins works. Young worked in Hopkinton, New Hampshire, and Levi and Abel Hutchins worked in Concord, New Hampshire. Estimated at \$1000/2000, the clock sold for \$5890.



This circa 1780 New England Windsor knuckle armchair, from the collection of David Good, has an old painted surface, and it sold for \$6200 (est. \$2000/4000).



This Art Deco sheet-iron and wrought-iron horse and sleigh weathervane, circa 1925, 16 1/2" x 33 3/4", estimated at \$250/500, sold for \$7440.



This pair of Rhode Island brace-back tenon-arm Windsor chairs, with pipestem-turned spindles and very early green paint, came from the 1809 Sullivan Dorr House in Providence, Rhode Island. They are older than the house, as they date from 1780, and they are documented in the Rhode Island Furniture Archive at the Yale University Art Gallery. In excellent original condition, they sold for \$8190 (est. \$2500/5000). They had previously sold at Casco Bay Auctions July 10, 2021, for \$2040.



The late Federal paint-decorated dressing table, circa 1830, was attributed to Suel Freeman Dodge (1810-1866), who possibly worked in the shop of Willard Harris in Newport, New Hampshire. Beautifully painted, it came from the collection of Bill Kelly through Bill Samaha, and it sold for \$2976 (est. \$1500/3000).

