

Lancaster Farming *Antiques Center*

Collectors Wacky For Wicker

ANNE GILBERT
Antique Detective

Once upon a time, before interior decorators gussied up wicker, painted it white and moved it indoors, prices were low. In fact, they were sometimes non-existent, since garbage dumps and city alleys offered fine displays of wicker. Now, wicker of every vintage from circa 1850 to the circa 1927 Sears catalog, continues to be popular and prices continue rising. Since the 1970s, there have been dealers who are wicker specialists. While the gingerbread Victorian wicker pieces have always enjoyed a degree of popularity, this was not so with 1920s examples. These

days anything wicker goes fast at shows and in shops. The word "wicker" itself describes the qualities of the material. It derives from the Scandinavian "vika" meaning "to bend." It can also describe a variety of materials that bend that includes rattan, cane, reed, willow, Oriental sea grass and machine-twisted paper. This very characteristic has allowed wicker to be fashioned into many diverse items. Furniture is the most familiar. Examples have also been found of a wicker phonograph and a wicker grandfather clock. Doll buggies from the 1920s and baby carriages from the turn of the

century always find buyers who use them to display dolls and plants. Recently, when a turn-of-the-century photograph's settee came to auctions at Skinner Gallery, it had an estimated value of \$500-700. Wicker always had a status image from the time it was first used in country houses of the wealthy. The fancy "posing chair" used by turn-of-the-century photographer had a single arm that allowed the subject to assume an elegant pose. It was a time when wicker fainting couches and daybeds were popular on front porches for the ultimate relaxation. Learn to recognize the earliest wicker,

made in the 1850s in America. And, know that reproductions of Victorian pieces have been around for two decades. Wicker was popular in Europe and when it first appeared, the finish was either stained dark brown or coated with a natural varnish. The first pieces were simple in lines, but like the woods of the Victorian period, designs gradually became fanciful combinations of curlicues and small wood balls. The most popular (and reproduced) rattan styles featuring heart designs were responded in Hong Kong in the 1950s and 60s. Sometimes, 19th century wicker has re-

tained the original labels. Two of the best known makers were Topf of New York City and Wakefield Rattan Company of Boston and New York. From 1900 through the 1920s wicker furniture, did a big mail-order catalog business. The bird cage and fernery that sold then for \$13.95 would be considered a novelty today and priced for more than \$400. Reed, wicker furniture came in sets that might include a settee and rocker. They were in a natural brown color. The emphasis was on comfort, since they had come indoors, and seats were padded and backs were partially upholstered. Everything from smoking stands to swings found a ready market. The Larkin Company pictured plant baskets as well as a tea wagon in their catalog. Woven reed baby and doll carriages offered the sublime and the ridiculous. For instance, "Pullman Sleeper Coaches" came with upholstered interiors and parasols. A reclining "go-cart

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with parasol" recently sold at an estate sale for several hundred dollars. In the 1920s, Heywood-Wakefield Company began making handcraft stick wicker furniture. It fit in perfectly with the new Art Deco designs.

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PUBLIC AUCTION
THURS., DEC. 14, 2000
@ 9:00 AM

Auction to be held at AL STARR FIREMEN'S BUILDING, Village of Willow Street, Lancaster Co., PA (South of Lancaster (Northbound) Rte 272, behind Firehall)

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: 25 Santa Claus figs WOOD, Boxes, sm bench, early 1900 Milk Wagon w/pr paper horse, TIN, Bit capper, Crm Top ladle, bit opnrs, Manor View milk box, Velvet tobacco, CAST IRON, Hubley cat Book of Know mech banks, #10 Grisw Block & other skillets, match hldrs, foot scraper Book ends, candy molds, bank, lighters, Walt Disney knodders, set 7 'Days of Week' Sun Bonnet Baby plates, sm German wagon

TOYS: FARM: Collectors, Special Ed & Shelf Farmall F-20, JD 630, Case L, Ford 8N Nice German Fordson 3 pc Tractor set Marx, Wyandotte, Hubley, Tootsie Toy, Fireman Matchbox rocket hauler, Models, 28 Hess trucks, 20 Winross trucks, Battery Opr, Cast Iron, Adv. Frnt Toys, Buddy-L, Fisher Price, etc

POST CARDS, ADV pencils, pens, calcs, BOOKS, POSTERS, ALBUMS, FEW STAMPS, COINS, 9 Steiff Teddy Bears, German animal figs, wood carvings, bear & fox prints, Audobon 'Mallard Ducks', Norman Rockwell, GLASS & CHINA, STONEWARE CROCKS, etc

FISH REELS & TOOLS: Ocean City & Penn, Darwa, Eagle Claw, Fintek Sinkers, some tackle, Saltwater Books, gun clean kits 3/8" drill, sander, sabre saw, 2T hyd jack, arvil, bolt ctrs, jack plane, draw knife, solder gun, C-clamps, chisels, files, punches, screw drivers, fold rules, wedges, squares, socket sets, met tool boxes, parts bins, lot door & other hdw

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ROTOTILLER - TOOLS
TUES., DEC. 12, 2000
AT 9:00 A.M.

Sale to be held at Al Starr Firemen's Building, Village of Willow Street, Lancaster Co., PA (South of Lancaster, along Rt. 272, behind firehall)

Coins To Be Sold at 1:00 P.M.
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Friday, Dec. 15, 2000
at 3:00 p.m. &
Saturday, Dec. 16, 2000
at 8:30 a.m.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 - 8:00 AM
100+ Hartland & Breyer Horses, Etc. Some w/Riders-many in Box, 125+ Collector Bears (Stieff, Boyds, Etc.), 31 New Barbie Dolls - 4 Lim. Ed., Marie Osmond Porcelain Dolls, Baseball Related, Other Dolls, The American Carousel Music Boxes by Wayne Higgins, (200+ Hallmark Ornaments 1980's thru 1990's), 20 Fish Aquariums, 200+ Beanie Babies, 150 Beanie Buddys, Music Boxes, Fine Assort. of New Stuffed Animals, All Kinds New Collectible, Etc. NOTE: This is only a Partial Ad.

AUCTIONEERS COMMENT: (This is absolutely incredible) Doors open Friday, Dec. 15 at 10:00 A.M. for Preview. **NOTE: A lot of merchandise in both sales have certificates of authenticity. Many Pcs. are signed by Makers.** This is a PERFECT SALE to accomplish CHRISTMAS SHOPPING. We are currently working on catalog inventory list for both days. **TERMS:** Cash or Approved Check. OUT OF STATE CHECKS must be accompanied by current bank statement or letter of credit from bank unless prior customer.

AUCTIONEER: Randy L. Hilker
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