


THE ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Anne Gilbert



**Theorem Paintings Unique
American Folk Art**

Chances are you've seen theorem paintings at antique shows and wondered what they were. These highly stylized still life paintings, usually of baskets of fruit and flowers, at first glance are reminiscent of the decorative motifs found on the backs of early Hitchcock chairs. And well they might be.

The Hitchcock chair designs from 1820 to 1830 used the same stenciling techniques. During the time the stencils, were cut from many pieces and put together in different arrangements. Later a single stencil was used on Hitchcock chairs.

The most common theorem paintings are of baskets of fruit and flowers, but some very intricate theorems depicted landscapes and portraits. The landscapes show a separation of the different parts, put together to form a single subject such as a house or tree. Sometimes a free-hand painting completed the painting.

The word "theorem" means stencil. Stencils have been used to decorate everything from 19th century hatboxes to floors, linens and walls. However, it is the still life theorem paintings that were hung on walls, instead of conventional paintings that collectors of

Americana look for. When they come to auction, prices can range from \$800 to more than \$8,000. Recently, several velvet painted theorems were sold at auction for more than \$800 each. Most were unsigned.

The earliest known types of theorems were painted on furniture in the 17th century by Dutch settlers in the Hudson Valley. They used a technique known as Grisaille — a gray wash. Grisaille still life paintings were done on paper in shades of gray. Because of their fragility they are scarce and costly. In part because they were difficult to make. Unlike the later colorful theorems, Grisaille have a very primitive quality

In America, theorem paintings seem to have originated in New England. Many of the paintings were cut from heavy paper and done by housewives and young women in academies. For the velvet theorems a firm, white cotton velvet was stretched and prepared like a canvas.

Theorems on velvet were popular from 1800 to the 1860s. Until recently, they were unpopular with collectors who associated them with the tacky velvet paintings sold to tourists in the 1960s-1970s. They still sell for half of the price for watercolor theorems. The more complex and unusual the design the higher the price.

The stencil designs were carefully arranged then filled in with watercolors or oils. Other times, depending on the talent of the artist, the stencils were done free-hand from instruction books.

Clues: Collectors prize velvet
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PUBLIC AUCTION

JOHN M. HESS AUCTION SERVICE INC.

HOUSEHOLDS & COLLECTIBLES

APRIL 23, 2001

2:00 P.M.

Location: Wolgemuth Auction Center
109 N. Maple Ave., Leola, PA 17540

FURNITURE: (7:30 P.M.): Secretary's Desk, Grandfather's clock, Waterfall bedroom suite, modern sofa and loveseat combination, Everett piano (very nice), Maytag washer - 2 years old, Kenmore dryer, Art Deco glider sofa & chair, china closet, ornate brass floor lamp and other lamps, pine entertainment center, double box spring & mattress (2), dining room suite with hutch & 6 chairs - nice.

HOUSEHOLD/COLLECTIBLES: Early stemware, tools, limoges "Bridal Bouquet" dish set with serving pieces, Homer Laughlin china, Smith & Mosier glass, copper bottom pots & pans, toys - Super Return Space Skyway (in box), Remco Tuff Boy 6 (in box), Structo car carrier, FP walking toy. **MANY household items and collectibles still to be unpacked!**

Approx. 200 box lots to be sold at 2:00 p.m.

Terms: Cash or PA Check with ID.

Check out our web page for more pictures:
www.hess-auction.com.

John M. Hess
(AU-003484-L) Auctioneer

Phone: (717) 733-8192 or
(717) 656-2947
Dennis & Bob
Wolgemuth



TWO DAY!!

PUBLIC AUCTION

HISTORIC !!

BEAVER CREEK MANSION

MAY 18 - 19th

John C. Gamaldi, Jr. Estate
6890 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg, PA
(Old Route 22)

**Friday 5 PM Household
Goods/Furniture**
Saturday 9 AM Antiques!!!
Saturday Noon Real Estate!

SAVE THIS DATE!

*Too many antiques for one
days auction!*

**Doll Collection • Gun Collection
Coin Collection, Art Collection
Fabulous Furniture (Including
Hepplewhite) • 2000 Nissan Maxima
(John only drove it 30,000 miles)**

Great location for a "Bed & Breakfast"!

Real Estate consists of beautiful 20 room limestone mansion on approx. 3 acres +/- featuring 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 3 fireplaces, formal living/music room, 2.5 story great-room with fireplace, balcony and stain glass windows throughout, stone gazebo, wrap around limestone front porch, brick rear patio.

Real Estate Terms: 10% down certified funds day of sale balance due on or before 45 days.

Open House Dates: **Mon., April 16th** 5:00 to 7:00 pm and **Sat., April 28th** 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. **Sun., May 6th** 1:00 to 3:00 or by appointment. Call.

Check our web page for more pictures:
www.hess-auction.com or watch for full listing May 5.

John M. Hess
(AU-003484-L) Auctioneer
Phone (717) 733-8192 or (717) 664-5238
Dennis & Bob Wolgemuth



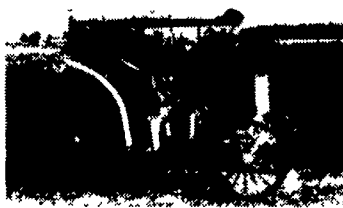
MARTIN AUCTIONEERS, INC. - CELEBRATING 30 YEARS * 1971-2001

Martin's 30th Annual Spring Auction of

Carriages, Sleighs & Antiques

Friday, May 4 & Saturday, May 5, 2001

Back at Lebanon Fairgrounds, Lebanon, PA



Friday, May 4 - 9:00 AM - Approx. 200 coaches, carriages, 2-wheel carts, sleighs (all catalogued) & approx. 800 lots of catalogued horse related books, periodicals & so on, framed pictures and prints, fine appointments including harness, carriage lamps, driving & coaching whips, and many other good quality items

Saturday Field Sessions start at 9:00 AM with four to five auctioneers selling at the same time in various sections of the field

Over 200 horse drawn vehicles expected to include farm and commercial wagons; 2 & 4-wheel carts and pleasure carriages, marathon and competition carriages; sleighs in varying styles and types, running gears, and so on

Horse drawn farm machinery, carriage & wagon parts, poles, shafts; primitive & blacksmith tools, new & used tack, English & western saddles & western memorabilia; harness & harness parts, rosettes, horse & pony blankets & many, many items too numerous to mention.

Saturday in one of the tent sessions. Trailer load from tack shop liquidation including English made, new merchandise of bits, blankets, English clothing; Jeffers English bridles; hunt whip lashes, old black hardware in wooden cigar boxes & so on. Also Buckaroo type western bridles, reins, scabbards, breast collars; shoeing chaps & much more.

SPECIAL CONSIGNMENT (Selling on Sat.): Approx. 22 NEW SADDLES including makers, such as Thornhill, Eisers, Pro Trainer and so on. Close contact; dressage; combination A/P jumping; Thornhill event, sev. western saddles; & other jumping saddles; Thornhill leadline w/stirrups & leathers

Saturday - 12:30 PM - Trucks & Trailers - 1996 Ford Dually Pick-up truck, diesel, crew cab; Goose-neck horse trailer, and other carriage & flat-bed trailers. HORSES - Spotted draft horse mare, 15.3 h; pair of driving horses.

Friday's catalogued sessions are closed HOWEVER, good clean consignments for Saturday accepted until start of the auction at 9:00 AM

Horse drawn vehicles and wagons in all price ranges from \$100 and up. Approx. 500 will be sold in the two days, pony, horse and draft sizes, in varying conditions from new, restored, museum quality, original and some in rough condition. Something for everyone!

TERMS & CONDITIONS: CASH, TRAVELERS CHECK, CERTIFIED CHECK, MONEY ORDERS, U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Personal or business checks accepted only with a current bank letter of guaranteed payment made payable to Martin Auctioneers, Inc. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** This currently dated letter must be presented at time of registering for a buyers number. Sorry, No Credit Cards!!

BUYERS PREMIUM:

- 6% ON ALL ITEMS SELLING FOR \$1,000 & OVER (PER ITEM)
- 10% ON ALL ITEMS SELLING UNDER \$1,000 (PER ITEM).

BUYERS: All merchandise must be paid by end of sale day and removed from the fairgrounds by Noon on Sunday, May 6, 2001.

RECEIVING TIMES - WEEK OF AUCTION

Tuesday, May 1 - 12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE: Field gate will not open until 12:00 Noon.

Wednesday, May 2 - 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Thursday, May 3 - 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Friday, May 4 & Saturday May 5 - 8:00 am until start of auction

AUCTION SITE TELEPHONE

Starting Tuesday, May 1st

717-228-2828

Martin Auctioneers, Inc.

12 North Railroad Avenue • P.O. Box 99 • New Holland, PA 17557

Phone: (717) 354-6671 • Fax: (717) 354-8248

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Auction Site Phone: 717-228-2828 Week of sale only!

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For more information regarding this auction or an auction of your own
contact Paul Z. Martin, Jr. or Shirley Morgan at (717) 354-6671

Absolutely No Private Sales On Auction Grounds!

