

THE ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Anne Gilbert



Condition Determines

Toy Bank Prices

Mechanical and still toy banks have fascinated collectors ever since they were first manufactured in the 19th century. Originally when made in the late 19th century they sold from 75 cents to \$1.50 each. When serious collecting began in the 1930s, the same banks sold for up to \$50 dollars for the mechanicals and a few dollars for still banks.

At a recent Skinner auction of a wide variety of both types, even missing parts and replacements didn't keep bidders from spending several thousand dollars apiece. One bidder plunked down \$1,700 for an "artillery bank" by early maker Stevens, even though a part was missing. Another incomplete bank "Eagle and eaglets" with missing parts sold for \$1,000 over its estimate of \$300-500. These bidders probably knew where to find missing parts and restorers. Still banks, even those with novel shapes and designs sold for modest prices. A beginning collector could have bought a unique top hat still bank for \$75.

Historically, the first iron banks were still banks, made after the Civil War and resembling the square buildings of their day, topped with cupolas. Shortly afterward a spring action was inserted and the mechanical bank was born. So was a new collectible.

What child could resist putting a penny in the mouth of a figural dog and watch him drop it into the bank. A penny in the slot could make punch hit Judy, a mule kick his heels or William Tell shoot the apple off the bear's head.

Patriotism, bigotry, and humor of the day were popular subjects even in bank designs. One bank, known as the "reclining Chinaman" depicted a Chinese gambler lying on a log. This image referred to the hundreds of Chinese coolies who served as cheap labor for the railroad construction of the 1800s. At that time, higher-priced American workers resented the immigrant group.

Mirroring the times were the anti-German banks popular around the time of World War I. German submarines were referred to as "pig boats" by American sailors.

Animals and birds were favorite themes. Among them the American eagle feeding its young (like the one sold at the Skinner auction).

CLUES: The 1976 Bicentennial brought the banks to the attention of a new generation of collectors. The result was reproductions, fakes, and artificial aging.

Among the most popular reproductions were Jonah and the whale, William Tell, and a plastic Uncle Sam. A trick of the trade was (and still is) to bury the iron reproduction in manure to "age it." I still see many of these pieces at mall shows and coun-

try shops.

Although less than a dozen firms produced mechanical banks, more than 600 designs from manufacturers catalogs have been discovered, and millions were made between 1850 and 1910. When a bank can be attributed to one of the early makers, prices rise. One of the most famous early "fakes," the Carnival bank, was made in the 1930s. For a time it fooled collectors. Today, it is collected as a curiosity.

One way to recognize sand-cast reproductions, because of their recasting, they will have a rougher surface and shrinkage. Some of the mechanical parts won't work as well because of the shrinkage. The seller will probably explain it by saying, "What do you expect? It's old." Novelties were minted for special events such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 and the Pan-American Exposition in 1901. "Teddy and the Bear" depicted President Theodore Roosevelt on one of his hunting expeditions.

You can bank on prices going up and up.

PUBLIC AUCTION ANTIQUES SMALLS & COLLECTIBLES, FURNITURE, TRAINS, FRAKTUR, E-TOWN ITEMS MON., JAN. 7, 2002 2:00 P.M.

Located at the NEW Shaffner Auction Gallery, 977 West Main Street, (Route #230) Mount Joy, PA 3 Miles from either Rheems or Manheim/Mount Joy exits of Route #283 midway between Lancaster & Harrisburg PA

Antiques & Collectibles: 1845 pen & ink drawing of spread wing eagle inscribed "James Polk and a sound and uncorrupted Union" signed Abraham Eckman, Fraktur w/2 birds & flowers, early Benjamin Franklin air rifle #700, Hubley race car w/animated pistons, 50+ Marx tin litho train cars & engines, Lionel train cars, train buildings, models, & accessories, butter churn, 2 slag glass hanging lamps, Aladdin lamp, other fluid lamps, 2 Mail Pouch broadsides, unusual clown lawn sprinkler, early sleds, coffee grinder, iron cat & frog doorstops, egg baskets, milk cans, prints & frames, copy of 1858 Mt. Joy map, quilts, scales, ice tongs, Mt. Joy saw board, drying rack, pitcher pump, Marx doll house & furniture, Phillis Yearbooks 1970-1984, E-TOWN ITEMS: LG. band concert poster (Middletown Band) w/great E-town advertising 1909 HS grad. Program, Moose building dedication program, Spickler's Dairy wooden crate w/12 milk bottles, early photos E-town Schnitzel Band, E-town Boys Band, E-town Coronet Band, school photos, adv. items, etc. 1922 photo of Mt. Joy band & Lititz Fire Co., 1900 photo Penryn Park Locomotive with Salunga & Landisville bands, adv. playing cards, Occ. Japan figurines, washbowl & pitcher, Royal Doulton mugs, McCoy, Shawnee creamer, peanut butter glasses, Bristol vase, feather-edge platter, Fostoria, Margaret Rose set of china, Stangl sculptured fruit set, jardiniere, Roseville hanging planter, photo album, knife rests, Wallace Nutting print, 20+ 10K rings & other jewelry, glassware & china, FURNITURE: Ornate walnut pump organ, oak bed, dresser, & washstand, Duncan Phyfe table & chairs, organ stool, walnut dresser, marble top 3 drawer dresser, grained blanket chest "JSW 1905", marbled slate fireplace mantle, rockers, oak treadle sewing machine, bookcase, iron floor lamps, kitchen cabinet

Can we work for you? At our location or yours? Receiving hours at the Gallery are Wed 2PM - 7 PM & Sat 9AM - Noon or call for a free confidential appointment to discuss how to get the most for your collection.

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PUBLIC AUCTION HOUSEHOLD GOODS ANTIQUES & TOOLS SAT., JAN. 12, 2002 8:00 A.M.

To be held at the Lincoln Fire Hall, in rear of 1438 West Main Street, Ephrata, Lancaster Co., Pa. (One block off Rt 322 West) Watch for sale arrows

EARLY WIND UP CRADLE

Walnut Victorian Love Seat and 4 Chairs, Repro Open Pewter Cupboard with Rattail Hinges, Wood Chest, Oak Dropleaf Ext Table, Early Dough Tray, Mahogany Corner Cupboard & Breakfront, Hitchcock Table and 4 Chairs, Mahogany Pie Crust & Drum Tables, Depression Bedroom Suite, Early Night Stand, Victorian Table, Brass & Marble Stand, Martha Washington Sewing Stand, Bucket Shelf, Old Ice Cream Table and 4 Chairs, 6 Arrowback Plank Seat Chairs, Boston Rocker, Oak Rocker, Ladderback Chairs, Claw Foot Piano Stool with Back, Mahogany Bench, Old Doll Cradle, Heeled Bench, Oak School Chair, Attwater Kent Radio in Desk, Wicker Fernery, Quilting Frame, Truetone Floor Model Radio & Record Player, Monkey Stove, Oak File, Walnut Folding Hat Rack, Goldleaf Mirrors, Oak Picture Frames, Iron Pitcher Pump Lamp, Iron Floor Lights

ICE BLUE CARNIVAL DISH (MARKED "N")

Noritake "Tree in the Meadow" Vase, Large Austrian Vase, Hull Vase, Cranberry Enameled Bottle, Moon and Star Compotes, Fiesta, Limoges China Dinner Set, Chocolate Set, Colored Ironstone Plates, Fostoria, Pressed Glass Table Set, Wine Set, Colored Glass Compotes, Nest of Fire King Bowls, Coal Oil Lights, Gone With The Wind Light, Stoneware Ice Tea Crock, Gilchrist Banana Split Ice Cream Dipper, Coca-Cola Clock, Cherry Seeders, Large Tin Advertising Thermometers, Stick Phone, Ship Lantern, Old Farm Toys, Brass Fireplace Tools, Mickey Mouse Toy Chest, Quilt, Alligator Pocketbooks, Minolta Cameras, Aluminum Christmas Trees, Stainless Steel Kettles, Wooden and Metal Planes, Auger, Gas Chain Saw, Gas Weed Eater, Hand and Garden Tools, loads of other items. Not Responsible for Accidents. Refreshments will be sold

TERMS BY:

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AND OTHERS**
DALE L. PUTT, AUCTIONEER
AU-000733-L
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"Horst Auction Center" PUBLIC SALE ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, COLLECTIBLES, TOYS, MODERN & ANTIQUE TOOLS WED., JAN. 9, 2002 AT 2:00 P.M.

Sale to be held at the Horst Auction Center, located at the corner of Rt. 322 & Durlach Rd. (approx. 2 1/2 miles west of Ephrata), Ephrata, Lancaster Co., PA.

FURNITURE - A Lg Variety of Antique & Modern Including Bedroom, Dining Room, Living Room, Kitchen & Patio Sets & Individual PCS In Various Styles, Woods & Upholstery

"HIGHLIGHTS" - Grained Wood Chest, Walnut Dropleaf Table, Nice Selection in Mahogany (Duncan Phyfe Dining Set, High Boy, Low Boy, Dropleaf Table, Stands, Etc.), Maple Dry Sink, Dinette Sets, Hide-A-Beds & Much More!

APPLIANCES - TV's, Microwave, Sewing Machine, Kitchenware, Silver & Assorted Metal Ware

CHINA & GLASSWARE - Lg Variety of Antique, Collectible & Modern Including Watts Bowls, Ironstone, Pottery, Redware, Stoneware, Bone China, Goebel Figurines, Collector Plates, Stangl, Northwood, Lots of Depression, Carnival, Pressed & Pattern, Lg Collection of Bottles

LINENS - Blanket, Spreads, Table Linens, Oriental & Hooked Throw Rugs, Books, Records, Original Artwork, Local Prints

TOYS - Buddy L Type Dump Truck, Farm Toys, Oliver Pedal Tractor, Games

TOOLS - (Modern & Antique). Good Selection of Woodworking Equipment & Hand Tools, Lawn & Garden Equipment, Antique Tool Chest & Hand Tools, Cherry R S Lumber & Much More!

*A More Detailed Listing is Available on our Web Site at www.horstauction.com Most Complete Listing w/Photos on Evening of 1/8 & 1/9 All Day

* No Out of State Checks Without Prior Approval

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VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

PUBLIC AUCTION JOHN M. HESS AUCTION SERVICE INC. ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, FURNITURE SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2002 9:00 AM

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

Furniture: Empire chest of drawers w/Lionshead carvings, 2 paint grained blanket chests, 1 miniature blanket chest, oak dresser with unusual carving, 6 matching paint decorated plank bottom chairs (excellent condition), matching paint decorated high chair, large early blanket chest, early painted sewing box, PA House hutch, 3 marble top end tables, 4 pc. bedroom suite, 5 pc solid cherry bedroom suite, mahogany dining room suite w/6 chairs, china closet, buffet, table, mahogany drop-leaf table, mahogany end table, mahogany coffee table, modern solid cherry corner cupboard and drysink, empire chest of drawers, mortised bench, miniature rolltop desk, ball & clawfoot piano stool, pump organ, 2 cedar chests, painted wood box, breakfast set, miscellaneous rocking chairs, curio cabinet, unusual carved coffee table, 2 matching Victorian upholstered chairs, overstuffed sofa and matching chairs, hardwood wardrobe, 2 small school desks, 2 modern sofas, numerous upholstered chairs, washer & dryer (nice), modern electric range, drum tables & numerous other end tables, many more furniture items not mentioned.

Antiques & Collectibles: 4 pc cobalt blue mixing bowl set, early provincial Roses & Roosters, spongeware water pitcher, unusual yellowware bowl, 4 pc. Jadeite Fireking nesting bowls & other Jadeite, numerous pcs. of early paste transfer ware, 2 Roseville flower vases, large Weller vase, numerous Goebel figurines, Lefton teapot, redware crock, Perescope viewer & cards, patchwork quilt, green depression, early textiles, No 12 Griswold frying pans & other cast iron pans, hobnail, 2 Howdy Doody marionettes, early dolls, sm. wooden airplane propeller, paper weights, early balance scale & weights, large German dish set, wooden wheelbarrow (excellent condition), 5 cast iron butcher kettles, numerous early wooden boxes, McCoy flower vase, 2 fire engine pedal cars, clocks, washboards, oil lamps, large cast iron trough, small chicken waterer, 2 early egg crates (Manheim & Boyertown), Kasco egg basket, large cleaver, broad ax, 2 copper wash boilers, numerous crocks & jugs, Marx train, Precious Moments figurines & dolls, Mattel Easter tin toys, and many more items too numerous to mention.

Auctioneer's Note:

For more information & pictures, check our website at www.hess-auction.com.

Auction for 3 local estates.
For more information call John
Auction House - 717-733-8192 Home - 717-664-5238

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AU-003484-L

**John M.
Hess**
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