



Lancaster Farming *Antiques Center*



THE ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Anne Gilbert



Portrait Miniatures Are Tiny Masterpieces
 Art history can come in small sizes, but with big price tags. Such is the case with portrait miniatures where the wide range of subjects includes royalty, merchants, and eventually well-to-do tradesmen, military heroes, and statesmen. Prices are just as varied from \$800 to well over \$100,000. None the less compared to other paintings they are almost a bargain.

Some of the finest were done by well-known artists of the day and on enamel. When the subject is royalty and the artist a docu-

mented and well-known miniaturist the price goes up. However, portraits of royalty are relatively common and when the artist isn't recognized they can be under a thousand dollars. Portrait miniatures were especially popular as love tokens when the portraits were of beautiful women.

What makes them so fascinating to collectors are the historical details from hair style to clothing and jewelry, and knowing who the subject was.

Portrait miniatures are first documented in the early 16th century.

Prior to this, during the Renaissance, artists moved on from religious subjects and illuminated manuscripts.

Credit German artist Hans Holbein with the development of the portrait miniature. He began using water colors on vellum from 1532 to his death in 1543. These miniature portraits were called "limmings," which translates into "paintings on little."

British artist Nicholas Hilliard (1547-1619) is best known for his portraits of Queen Elizabeth 1 and as miniaturist to her court. However Christian Friedrich Zincke, born in Germany in 1683, came to England in 1706, and revived the art of enameling in England.

He is considered by many to be the ultimate in this field.

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Portrait miniature attributed to Christian Friedrich Zincke of William Gooch (1716-1742). Enamel on copper. Photo credit: Colonial Williamsburg Collection.

TRADE CARD AND TOY AUCTIONS!

10 A.M. WED., APRIL 10th

at the Ridge Fire Co. Along Route 23 Between Rt. 100 And
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This Sale Will Start At 10 A.M. In The Blue Room. Preview From 8 A.M.

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This Sale Starts At 10 A.M. In The Pavilion. Preview At 8 A.M.

Directions: From PA Turnpike Exit 23 (Downingtown) Go North On Rt. 100 To Rt. 23 East. Go Three Miles To Fire Hall On Right.

Questions? Call After 2:00 PM Or Tuesday, April 9th At 610-495-5504

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SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2002

Ridge Fire Company Pavilion

Along Rt. 23, Between Phoenixville, PA & Rt. 100
 Exhibition: Friday 7-9 PM and Saturday 8-10 AM

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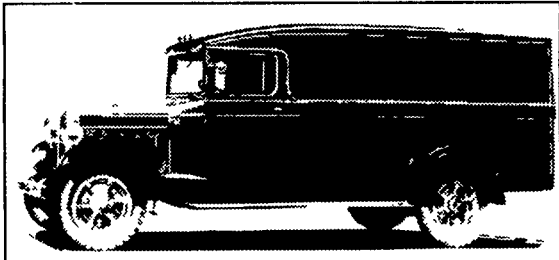
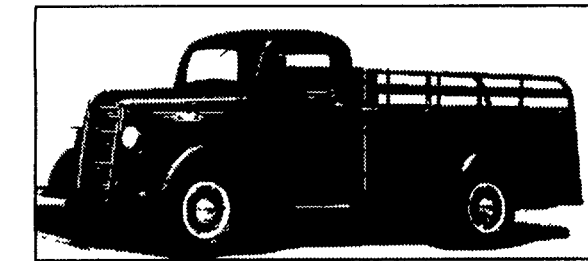
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