

# Lancaster Farming *Antiques Center*

## Mojolica, Tile Auction A First For David Rago Auctions

LAMBERTVILLE, N.J. — David Rago Auctions launched two new auction series on Sunday, October 6, in their Lambertville, New Jersey galleries. Nick Dawes and Suzanne Perrault, both regular appraisers appearing on the popular PBS series, Antiques Road Show, each curated their own sale in Victorian Majolica and Art Tiles, respectively.

The in-room crowd was joined by telephone participants from across the nation, numerous absentee bidders, and a host of registered players on eBay's I-Collector. More than 250 people participated in the event.

Of the collection of more than 100 pieces of Majolica, among the most notable pieces include a particularly good Portuguese Palissy Ware cabbage-leaf coffeepot, circa 1880, which sold for \$3,737. Another piece of Portuguese Palissy Ware, an unusual Portuguese Palissy Ware coffee pot, circa 1900, modeled as a rustic tree stump with lizard handle and spout and a woodpecker finial, fetched \$2,070. Also of note is a richly decorated Delphin Massier Majolica Art Nouveau ewer, circa 1910, which sold for over \$1,300. In addition, a French Choisy-Le-Roi Majolica conservatory stool, circa 1880, sold for double its estimate at \$1,610.

Dawes, author of the standard work Majolica, and a former vice-president of Sotheby's, said of the sale: "I'm already looking forward to next year's auction which we hope to hold next spring. We are accepting consignments of Victorian Majolica in good condition." Mr. Dawes

can be contacted directly at 212-473-5111 or HYPERLINK "mailto:nmdawes@aol.com" nmdawes@aol.com.

The all-tile session started with a stunning group of majolica tiles, seven rare Art Nouveau panels hand-painted by Carl Lubber at the firm of Johann von Schwarz ca. 1900. All but one sold within the estimates. This was followed by a group of fine German and Belgian Art Nouveau tiles in multiple friezes, which also did very well. Two Villeroy & Boch tiles with fish brought \$860, and a single fish tile by Ernst Teichert sold for \$520. The majolica theme continued with American and European embossed panels in single-color glazes, several of which had been modeled by the sculptor Isaac Broome.

Several important hand-painted plaques were then offered, including a rare Rookwood Standard Glaze image by Grace Young (\$3,737), and two barbotine-painted by Charles Volkmar, the first of which brought \$8,625, a record for this artist, and the second \$4,600. A handful of hand-painted 6" Dutch tiles by Rozenburg and Distel followed, all of which did well, in particular two snow scenes after du Chattel (\$837) and Anton Mauve (\$862).

The Arts and Crafts selection overall brought excellent prices, with two rare Grueby oak tree tiles selling for over \$5,000 apiece. By the same token, an impressive architectural faience fountain by the same maker representing Bacchus, and covered in a spectacular matte green

glaze, bought-in at \$6000. Rookwood offerings met a mixed fate, with a variety of trivets and six-inch tiles selling in the \$300 range, while a couple of large cuenca scenics and several architectural pieces failed to attract buyers. Other architectural faience fared better, with a rare offering of tiles designed by George Elmslie in the 1930s for Indiana schools selling during (2) and after (1) the sale. A stark Saturday Evening Girls trivet brought a surprising \$575.

California tiles were very successful in general, with Claycraft, Batchelder, and Gladding McBean fetching high prices: a pair of Claycraft tall and narrow landscape panels brought over \$2,000, and a Gladding McBean four-tile panel sold for \$1500. Tile-top tables covered with California tiles from the 1920s and 1930s also proved popular, especially a six-tile table by the Taylor Tilery featuring Spanish dancers, which brought over \$860.

This period was also represented by a great variety of makers, both from here and abroad. A rare North Dakota School of Mines trivet with rabbits sold for over \$1200, and a pair of San Jose bookends went for almost \$750. The popular Dutch maker De Porceleyne Flees was thoroughly represented with small and large tiles of animals, local costumes, and ships, going from \$250 for a pair of 4 3/4" tiles, to \$630 for a panel with fish.

A second grouping of Art Nouveau tiles did not fare as well as the first,

with several lots of stencil- or squeezebag-decorated panels failing to sell.

Tile-collecting has grown steadily in this country during the last decade, from being a minor part of arts and crafts or art pottery collections, to a serious field in and of itself, with

more than a dozen books published during that time.

For more information, contact Suzanne Perrault at the Perrault-Rago Gallery of David Rago Auctions, 333 N. Main St., Lambertville, NJ 08530, or telephone at (609) 397-1802.

## Blanket Relegated To Attic Fetches \$35,200

OTEGO, N.Y. - An early 19th century Indian blanket found in an Oneonta, N.Y., attic brought \$35,200 at Hesse Galleries' November 2 auction.

The blanket was found among a group of ordinary quilts that had long ago been relegated to the attic. In worn condition, the blanket had been almost thrown away by the owners. Advertised by Hesse Galleries as an important American Indian item, it drew wide attention from collectors and dealers across the country. After spirited bidding from both audience and phone bidders, it sold to a prominent collector/dealer in Colorado.

Included in the auction was a Transitional child's wearing

blanket that sold for \$4,180.

A large offering of antique firearms were also sold. Leading this category was a presentation pistol dated 1861 and presented to Second Lt. Gen W. Wildrick, hammered down at \$6,050.

A Winchester 1866 Yellow Boy rifle brought \$6,710; a Revolutionary War Brown Bess musket sold for \$3,080; a bayonet that fit the Brown Bess was sold separately for \$247; and a 1766 Charlesville musket with original flint hammered out at \$2,640.

A variety of other related objects complemented the sale, including period trunks, edged weapons, cutlery, canteen, and powder horns.

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### PUBLIC AUCTION

### TRAINS FOR UNDER THE TREE

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EXHIBITION: 7-9 P.M. FRIDAY

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**70 — HOLSTEIN COWS SELL — 70**

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**AI Sired and AI Bred - Oct. SCC avg. 290**

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10 due within 40 days - DHIA sheets on each cow

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Terms: ID required for bidder's no. Cash or good check on sale day. Nothing moved until settled for. Need receipt upon loading. Sale in tent with heat - Lunch available. Not responsible for accidents.

**Auctioneer:**  
Chris Hill  
301-829-9451

**Owner: Mike and Kathy Hoffman & family**  
15005 Grimes Rd., Emmitsburg, MD.  
Ph: 301-447-6578