

Lancaster Farming Antiques Center

Highlights From Unusual Two-Day Auction

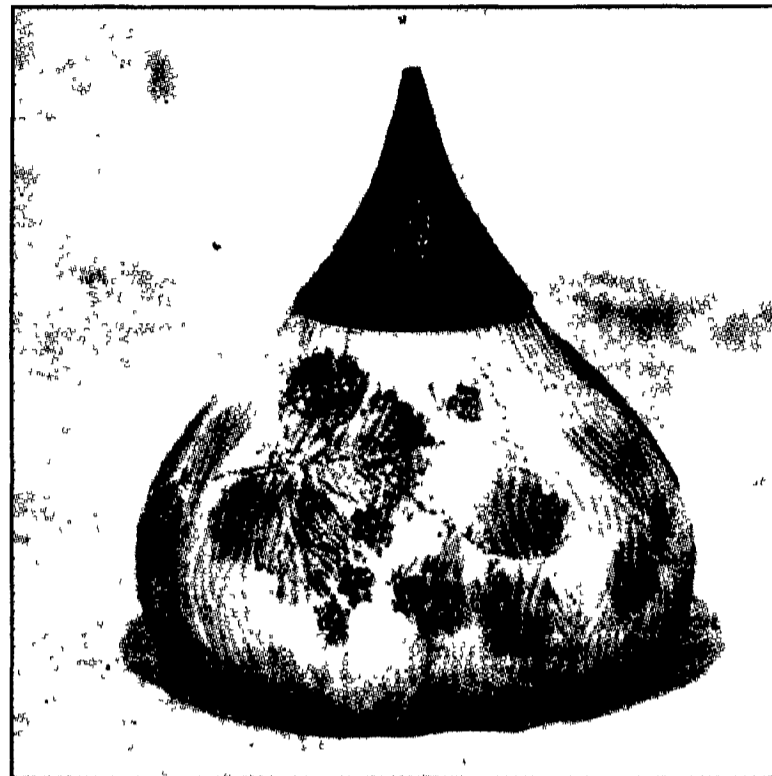
HATFIELD (Bucks Co.) — The Alderfer Auction Company offered its bidders more than 1,000 lots of fine merchandise over the course of their two-day auction recently. The auction house hosted more than 800 bidders over the two days as well as more than 1000 registered bidders on www.ebayliveauctions.com.

Comprised of many lots covering almost every collecting category, the diverse auction garnered an auction total just shy of \$1 million. Session One held on March 5 included a coin collection, estate jewelry and fine art. Session Two offered decorative accessories, textiles, ephemera, furniture, oriental rugs, a paperweight collection and a stein collection.

Session One of the auction featured coins from the ships *Atocha* and *Santa Margarita* that sank off the coast of Florida in 1622. The fleet of ships was leaving Havana, bound for Spain and encountered a hurricane as it entered the straights of Florida. Eight out of twenty eight ships sank in this storm just off the coast of the Florida Keys. The *Atocha* and *Santa Margarita* were two of these eight. The *Atocha* was loaded with 24 tons of silver ingots, 180,000 silver coins, 582 copper ingots and 125 gold bars. In 1969, the quest to salvage

it sold for \$7,500. The other silver bar weighed 71 pounds and it sold for \$5,000. The remainder of the items from the ships were silver coins. These sold for a wide range of prices from \$60 to \$800 depending on weight and condition; most fell in the \$200-300 price range.

Following the coins was the estate jewelry. Highlighting this grouping was a collection of Art Deco diamond and sapphire jewelry. These pieces came to Alderfer's from an estate in the Allentown, PA area. The magnificent platinum bracelet was laden with nearly 8 carats of diamonds and about 2 carats of sapphires. This wonderful piece sold to a collector at the auction center for \$5,750. A similar bar pin of diamonds, sapphires and platinum sold for \$1,200. A jewel encrusted platinum wristwatch sold for \$1,600. Two of the diamond engagement rings in the auction sold for \$3,500 and \$3,000; both featured round brilliant cut stones set in platinum. A man's Rolex watch in 18K yellow gold with a mother-of-pearl face with sapphire number markers sold for \$7,500. A rare collection of Dudley Masonic Pocket Watches and Masonic watch fobs was also on hand at Alderfer's. Five of the Lancaster-made pieces crossed the auction block, the top lot being a model one having a 14K



Mount Washington Glass Sugar Shaker is fig shaped with metal top and hand-painted floral decoration is of Burmese glass. Sold for \$1,800.

32x40-inches. It sold to a phone bidder for \$14,000. The John E. Berninger painting that was sold also set a new auction record for his work. The painting measured 30x36-inches and depicted a winter landscape with village houses and figures sledding. The oil on canvas painting sold to a bidder on the phone for \$22,500. Bucks County artist Arthur Meltzer painted the top Pennsylvania scene in the auction. This piece was featured on the front cover of the catalog and it depicted a stone house and bridge in a wooded landscape. It was dated 1925 and it measured 20x24-inches. This wonderful piece sold for \$40,000 to a collector of Pennsylvania art who was bidding on the auction floor. Another small painting by Meltzer titled "Pennsylvania Farm" sold for \$8,000.

There were 12 paintings in the auction by Walter E. Baum. The top painting by Baum in the sale was titled "The Brook- Zero." It sold for \$32,500. This piece measured 20x24-inches and was dated 1928. The Sellersville artist also had many small works in the auction including a winter landscape that measured 4x6-inches; it sold for \$2,500. A 6x8-inch painting titled "The River" brought \$3,250 and a 12x14-inch work of a mill and stream sold for \$15,000. Baum's "Berks Co. Brook" measured 8x10-inch and sold for \$4,750.

The back cover lot was a street cafe scene with figures and buildings by Francois Gailliard. The oil on canvas piece was dated 1884. The painting sold to a phone bidder in London for \$40,000. A small painting by Hudson River Valley artist Thomas Doughty was included in Alderfer's auction as well. This painting depicted a river valley landscape with a house, figures, and animals; it measured 13x18-inches. The painting sold to a Southern collector for

\$11,000. William Trego's painting of a weary soldier sold for \$9,500. The North Wales, PA artist's work measured 21x17-inches.

Session Two on March 6, started out with a diverse group of decorative accessories including a grouping of Mount Washington sugar shakers. One was of cranberry colored glass with enameled decoration. This fig shaped shaker in excellent condition sold for \$3,500. Another fig shaker was of white glass with blue floral decoration and enameled floral design. This shaker sold for \$1,800. A Handel lamp with an 18" reverse painted shade with a chipped ice finish came to Alderfer's from a Norristown estate. This lamp with much presale interest was knocked down to an Internet bidder for \$4,250. The shade was decorated with a landscape scene with ruins and palm trees.

A large Grueby pottery floor vase sold for \$12,000. This baluster form vase in a matte green glaze with applied and tooled leaves measured 23" tall. This large piece of art pottery came to Alderfer's from a local house. Another fascinating piece that re-

ceived much of the presale attention was a hand-painted KPM porcelain plaque. This large rectangular plaque depicted "Psyche". The nymph figure was seated at the water's edge. The plaque remained in a gilt gesso frame. Eight phone bidders vied with the floor bidders and Internet bidders. After much competition the top phone bidder won out and bought the piece for \$5,500.

Topping the furniture lots in the auction was a Sheraton banquet table. This beautiful mahogany table comprised of three sections all with reeded legs; it sold to a bidder in the audience for \$12,000. Other highlights of furniture in the auction included a New England barrel back corner cupboard that sold for \$4,250; a miniature Sheraton chest of drawers that brought \$1,600; a Hepplewhite chest of drawers that sold for \$2,500; and a centennial Chippendale corner cupboard that brought \$3,750. There were several rugs in the auction. The 8' 11" x 12' 6" Antique Heriz sold for \$4,000. A Karaja Heriz sold for \$3,500 as did a Karaja Serapi rug.

Ending out the day at Alderfer's was a stein collection followed by a paperweight collection. The two were highly sought after with bidding competition from the floor, phone bank, and Internet. The stein collection was mainly Mettlach pieces with some regimental steins. The Mettlach pieces ranged in price from \$100 to \$600, while the two highest priced regimental steins sold for \$375 & \$350. The paperweight collection was highlighted by a Kaziun weight that sold for \$850. It was amethyst in color and contained a silhouette portrait of a woman in a bonnet with flowers. The other Kaziun weight in the auction was the top lot. It was a pedestal form paperweight with a yellow rose having green leaves. This lot sold for \$1,200. A grouping of two weights sold for \$1,700. Included in this lot was an older French weight of swirled turquoise and white glass with a center floral design.

The Alderfer Auction Company is located at 501 Fairgrounds Road in Hatfield, PA 19440, and can be contacted by phone (215) 393-3000 and by fax: (215) 368-9055. Alderfer's website is www.alderferauction.com.



Winter landscape with village houses with figures sledding on street, oil on canvas, 30x36-inches by John E. Berninger, Pa., sold for \$22,500.

this treasure began. By 1980, Mel Fisher and his crew had found a significant portion of the *Santa Margarita*. On July 20, 1985, Fisher's son found the *Atocha*'s cargo. Alderfer's sold a two hundred-piece collection on March 5. This collection featured one of the rare gold bars that were noted in the *Atocha*'s inventory. This top priced lot sold to a live bidder on the Internet for \$18,000. (NOTE: Prices given do not reflect the buyer's premium.) The bar measured 5" long, 1" wide, and $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick.

Other noteworthy pieces sold were two very large silver bars. One bar weighed in at 74 pounds;

white gold case. It sold for \$3,000. Another Dudley Masonic watch, also model one, in a 14K yellow gold case sold for \$2,750. A fine Masonic 3-part fob that contained a .40-carat diamond sold for \$375. Other fobs brought, \$250, \$225, & \$200.

The auction gallery held over 200 paintings and works of art. The pieces spanned many time periods and styles. Several paintings set auction records.

One record setting work was the painting titled "South Seas" by New Hope artist Joseph Meierhans. The gilt frame also hand-crafted by the artist complemented this full-bodied piece. The painting measured



Diamond and sapphire bracelet from the 1930s sold for \$5,750.