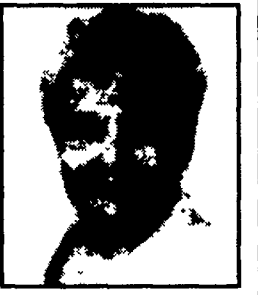




THE ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Anne Gilbert



Decorated Old Boxes Served Many Purposes

Whether they are fancifully painted or inlaid with contrasting woods and other materials, small 19th century, utilitarian boxes are appreciated for their artistry.

When they show up at an Americana auction they classify as folk art. For the most part, when compared to other antiques, they are still affordable. Often they are overlooked and underpriced at estate and garage sales. This is especially true of those with painted scenes.

Years ago I found one charming, small painted box in the waste basket at a garage sale. "You want that?" was the seller's retort. For \$5, I went home with a Rufus Porter type box. Porter (1792-1884) is one of the few known folk artists, who painted not only boxes but portraits, murals, landscapes and silhouettes. His boxes have sold for



Optical illusion inlaid box by folk artist Joe Bonefont. Photo credit: James Julia Auctions, Fairfield, Maine.

more than \$20,000. Even painted boxes without a known maker, but a popular subject such as an American eagle or charming design could sell for more than \$6,000.

The boxes, painted freehand or with stencils, were made mostly around Pennsylvania and New England. Those from Pennsylvania can be recognized usually by stylized German designs such as birds and tulips. New England boxes used softer colors.

Decorating techniques can help date a box. Around 1825 sponging, smoking and grain-painted techniques were popular.

Wood wasn't the only material painted. Tinware boxes, when painted, are known as toleware. The earliest examples were painted freehand, beginning in the first quarter of the 19th century. By mid-century they were done with stenciled designs.

Carved boxes, made in the 18th century can still turn up. For the most part they show the motifs of Dutch and English craftsmen. Chip carving and relief carving were also done.

Motifs included geometrics, foliage, doves and sometimes animals or flowers. Oak and pine were common materials.

Until recently tramp-art, notch-carved boxes, made from the the 1860s through the 1920s were inexpensive...depending where you found them. These days the most de-

tailed examples can cost from the high hundreds and up. While most pieces were made of cigar boxes, others were made of pine.

A box doesn't have to be 19th century to be collectible if it is unique. One example came to auction recently and it was truly unique. An optical illusion inlaid box featured a repeating square motif that gave the illusion of stacked blocks. The center panel of birds, made up of tiny 1/16-inch square pieces of literally thousands of pieces.

The box was made by deceased 20th century folk artist Joe Bonefont.

CLUES: It's "buyer beware" when it comes to painted boxes. Fakes abound. Some of the fakes are artificially aged. Others are repainted. Check for signs of early tool marks.

Be especially wary of painted tinware. It has never stopped being made. If it supposedly used oil paint, an old box should have an overall network of cracks and signs of wear on the back-ground.

The least expensive are carved, figural boxes or those decorated by wood-burning (pyrography). This was a popular hobby and craft from the 1890s to around 1910. A popular subject was the "Gibson Girl" with her pompadour hair-do.

A platinum-pointed burner was used to burn designs into soft wood. Oil paints and water colors filled in the designs. Designs came ready-stamped.

The figural boxes are a form of 20th century folk art and usually show up at mall shows or in rural antique shops.

Antiques & Collectibles Mon., Sept. 22, 2003 @ 9:00 AM

Murry Auction Emporium
23 N Water Street / Lititz, PA 17543

Furniture: mahogany settle (very nice), jelly cupboard, witness bench, church pew, 4 pc. Waterfall bedroom suite (extra nice), 3 pc. 1930's bedroom suite, chifferobe, oak sideboard, oak extension table, oak dressers, single spool bed, curio cabinet, chimney cabinet, book shelf, dress maker's mirror, cradle, tea cart, desks, dining room suite, dough tray, porch rockers, various stands and tables, spool turned night stand, bent back chair, ladder back chair, cane seat chair, plank bottom chairs, needlepoint stools (Wanamaker), 2 floor model radios, children's chairs, wrought iron plant stand, single brass bed, benches, iron crib, trunks, decorative horse heads fireplace accessory. **Primitive:** Redwing stoneware (used by AC Fleckenstein of Lititz springs Beverage Co.), other crocks (12 gallon), jugs, slaw cutter, cast Graf Zeppelin, variety of Delft tile, cookie cutters, Coca Cola eagle glasses, cast iron banks, decoys, stove top dryer, oil lamps, butter churn (glass), Sperry of New Holland items (70's & 80's), bust of Elvis lamp, GE bakelite radio. **Collectible:** wood carved eagle, row boat w/fisherman, Popeye mug, monkey stein, mini pin ball machine, mini piano, rotary phone, wood Xmas yard fence, electric potters wheel, guitar, numerous baking and other scales, soda store display, iron shoe shine foot props, rifle bayonet, Mr. Peanuts dish set. **Textiles:** quilts, linens, wall hanging, braided chair rugs, children's clothing. **Military:** Army medals, coat, machine gun, accessories. **Glass, China, Pottery, Silver:** Blue transfer, pink depression, pattern glass, Vaseline goblets, collection of perfume bottles, footed Carnival dish, Roseville center piece set, Stangl, Majolica, stoneware pitcher and bowls, china by Johnson Bros. and Sebring Pottery Co., Reed/Barton coffee service, other plated pieces, sterling flatware. **Art:** tole painted milk can (artist Redcay AKA Kummer), bird picture by Glynda Turley, prints by Jay McVey, original by Paul W. Brubaker, variety of prints, Lititz map prints. **Jewelry & clocks:** nice variety of costume jewelry. **Music:** guitar, trumpet, violin, melody flute, violin uke. **Toys:** Singer sewing machine (hand turn - in wood box), 1950's pedal car, matchbox cars, 3 wheel antique tricycle, Coaster wood rim bike, balloon wide tire bikes, games, dolls (one w/cradle), trains and track. **Outside:** double tree, tools including broad head axes, wood boxes, old doors, zinc lid green jars, cast pans and grinders, box lots.

Pictures are available on our website -
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PUBLIC AUCTION

REAL ESTATE
OUTSTANDING GLASS &
CHINA COLLECTION
WEBER TYPE BOX
ANTIQUES - GUNS - COINS
PERSONAL PROPERTY
TOOLS

SAT., OCTOBER 4, 2003

8 A.M. (Sale in tent, beginning w/tools)

Real Estate 1 P.M.

Noon: Weber type box, coins, guns

Located at 205 S. Conestoga View Dr., Akron, PA. From intersection of Rts. 772 & 272 near Brownstown, take Rt. 272 N to Glick's Auto Body & turn left on S. Conestoga View. Auction on right.

Real Estate consists of 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath all brick ranch home on lot 100'x150'x105'x150' m/l in the Township of West Earl, Conestoga Valley Schools, Zoned R-1. C/A, Oil Heat & Oversized 2 Car Garage.

Antiques: Weber Type Box; Grained Dove-tailed Blanket Chest w/till; needlepoint rocker; Waterfall chest drawers & dresser; flat trunk; Depression era chest on chest; double bed & dresser; Approx. 100 Pcs. Fostoria incl: American & Colony pcs; 50 + pcs. Candlewick incl basket; 80+ pcs. Heisey incl. some colored, cake stands & tumblers; Bav, Germ. & Aust. china incl choc. set; many bone china cups/saucers; Satin Glass rose bowls; dec. wine sets; 107 pcs. Limoges china service; lots Ruby Souvenir Glass; vaseline glass butter dish; set ruby wines; num salt & peppers incl Aunt Jemima; Noritake incl choc. set; Depression glass; num. Button & Daisy glass hats; lots Pressed-& Pattern Glass; hens on nests; hobnail opal. incl basket & shakers; Pickard china; Fire King bowls & shaker; Peanut Butter glasses incl. Christmas; dec. ironstone creamer - Aionthus; Ger. & Nippon hat pin holders; Mr. Peanut pencil; Rohrer's A shot glass; glass bank from 1st Natl. Bank of Landisville; Cast Iron incl Griswold #0 skillet & sm. Marietta kettles; Brass Pea & Beam; Num. Oil Lamps; White's choc. mold; W.T. Co. RR lantern; agateware; tin spice set; Lanc; Salt nuts tin; coin silver spoons; NH Machine incl; level, stockings, bell, 75 & 85 yr. tumblers & skillet; Toys incl: Hubley cap gun, incline walkers - Popeye & Donald Duck; mini Queen & Rescen cookstoves; fancywork & much more.

Guns: L.C. Smith 12 ga. double barrel shot gun; .243 Winchester model 70 XTR Featherweight w/var. scope; Eastern Arms 20 ga. single barrel; Winchester Model 69A bolt action .22; Savage Model 8A bolt action .22; Remington Model 721 30-06 bolt action w/scope; Sears 20 ga. single barrel; Marlin Model 336 30-30 lever action w/scope; Daisy BB gun; ammo; reloading equipment; Gemini tripod-new.

Coins: 20 Peace & 5 Morgan silver \$.

Personal Property: Maytag auto washer - 5 yrs. old; elec. dryer; GE side by side refrig.; GE upright freezer; Queen size bed, complete; nice sofa bed; La-Z-Boy recliner; Dressmaster console sewing machine; glass & china slippers incl Fenton; Pyrex nest bowls; 20+ pcs ruby glass; straps sleigh bells; Mt. Springs Hotel bank; music box carousels; glass & china hand bells; coin glass; num. paperweights; handptd. Westmoreland eggs; Pez dispensers; Longaberger baskets; Fenton basket; **Books** incl many local cookbooks, Normal Rockwell, Tiny Tales & Golden; Sebastian miniatures; Sunbeam gas grill-like new; lots metal & plastic shelving.

Tools: Shopmaster bandsaw & planer; Remline tool box on wheels; elec. Toro Super Blower/Vac; Lawn Boy rotary mower w/elec. start, self-prop-3 yrs. old; elec. Leaf Eater; new Irwin brace & bit; B/D belt sander; disc sander; elec. drills; planes; Craftsman circ. saw; Craftsman tool box; air comp w/tank; lots C clamps; tap & die set; brace & bit; organizers; Craftsman puller; pipe & corner clamps; hand tools; 7' & 8' work benches; lawn cart & seeder; lawn & garden tools & much more.

Note: Super collection of glass & china in mint condition.

REAL ESTATE INSPECTION: by appointment. Call 717-859-2364

TERMS OF REAL ESTATE: 10% down day of sale, balance on or before Nov. 17, 2003.

NOTE: Outstanding farmland view to Lancaster! Attorney: John R. Gibbel

Sale by **Jean M. Landis**

Auctioneers:
Jay M. Leary 717-354-0423 AU001214L
Randy Stoltzfus 717-656-8919 AU001906L
Food by Farmersville Fire Co.
No Out of State Checks

NORM'S AUCTION SERVICE

4430 HANOVER ROAD
HANOVER, PA 17331

Directions: From PA route 15 take route 116 East approx. 7.5 miles auction is on the left. From Hanover square follow route 116 approx. 7 miles auction is on the right. We are located between Hanover and historic Gettysburg.

Friday October 3 at 4:00 P.M.

Family Heirlooms of 5 Generations

From the home of Gerald & Margaret Duncan of Hanover, Pa. Family history states that the Duncan family primarily lived in the West Manheim and Hanover, PA., York Co. area and the antiques most likely originated in that area from approximately 1820-1900. Note the Duncan's will also have other modern personal property in this sale.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUCTION INCLUDE

- 1.) Outstanding Pa. cir. 1820-1840 stepback 2 pc. corner cupboard with original reddish orange flame paint exterior step molding at the top 11 pane arch door 3 unique applied 6 point star blocks reeded cornice interior of top piece is salmon color w/butterfly shelves and spoon slots base has 2 drawers and 2 doors w/bracket feet.
- 2.) VN reddish orange decorated 4 drawer chest of drawers w/ applied half post & white porcelain drawer pulls attributed to J. Rupp York Co., PA. (a real show piece)
- 3.) VN reddish orange decorated 4-drawer chest of drawers w/ applied half post, bracket feet & white porcelain drawer pulls attributed to J. Rupp York Co., PA.
- 4.) Decorated plank seat armed rocker w/pierced fiddle back signed John Rupp Hanover, PA.
- 5.) Pa. Sheraton 1 drawer stand w/turned legs w/ original red finish
- 6.) Pa. turned leg drop leaf table w/red finish attributed to J. Rupp York Co., Pa.
- 7.) Set of 6 decorated 1/2 spindle plank bottom chairs - nice turnings on spindles attributed to J. Rupp York Co., PA.
- 8.) Small mortised foot stool w/ green & red over paint
- 9.) Small size dovetailed dough tray w/finger holes on top edge
- 10.) Tramp art wall pocket
- 11.) VN semi high oak chest of drawers w/mirror with nice press decorated drawer fronts
- 12.) Oak Larkin's style slant lid desk

Sale will also include Small Antiques & Collectibles, Household, Tools and much more.

Please Note also of Special Interest rare antique Pa. rifle signed D.T. Hoff Hanover, Pa. dated 1800 has tiger maple stock octagon barrel VN brass owl patch box lock also signed D.T. Hoff silver inlaid fish, 2 silver inlaid 8 point stars, 1/4 moon brass butt & trigger guard. This piece was passed down through generations of another family.

Open for Inspection: Thurs. 2-7, Fri. 12 till sale is over.

Terms: CASH. Check approved prior to sale, MC, VS & Dis w/ 3% Admn. Fee

Delicious food available in our snack bar.

Phil & Randy Dickensheets, Auctioneers

License # AU-1379-L, AU-3539-L

Phil Dickensheets & Louise Kopp, Owners