

# SHOW & TELL

A Quarterly Newsletter from Hanes & Ruskin

Joy Ruskin Hanes & Lee Hanes



## shows

Summertime isn't too bad for a couple of hard-working dealers. This summer we got to go to Marion, Massachusetts, which is a small town near Cape Cod on the water. We thought our booth looked interesting, with our usual array of furniture, samplers, paintings, silhouettes, metal-ware and ceramics.



Sales over the summer were brisk, considering most people were thinking only of sun and surf, and we also managed to find some interesting new (old) items as well. Among them, this nice applewood tea caddy from England, made in the late 18th century.



## Going Home

Most of our customers are collectors and others in the trade. On occasion, however, some of our antiques have found homes in museums around the country.

This past summer, a scarce Rhode Island Windsor high-back chair went from our living room to the Newport Restora-



tion Foundation. This is one of only three known surviving examples. The chairs were originally made for the Redwood Library in Newport, and they have several examples of the low-back version.

We feel fortunate that we were able to enjoy this chair for several years before sending it home.

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# Bombs away

Several years ago (and long before 9/11), we were exhibiting at a show in Hinsdale, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. The show took place in a community center, and had perhaps fifty dealers altogether..

During the elegant preview, we were told that we would

have to leave our booth and everyone had to get out of the building immediately. Apparently, someone had phoned in with a bomb threat. Lee was in the process of selling a Toby jug to a collector, and he wasn't about to interrupt a sale because of a bomb scare. He

asked the collector if he wanted to leave, or stay and complete the transaction. Being a die-hard collector, the gentleman of course chose to remain and purchase his treasure.

He wasn't about to interrupt a sale because of a bomb scare.

## pointers

*How do you remove old lacquer from brass?*

*A.P. St. Petersburg, Florida*

We do not recommend having your brass and copper antiques lacquered. Eventually the metal will tarnish under the lacquer, and in order to polish the piece, you will need to get the lacquer off.

Most lovers of antiques don't mind getting the polish out once in a while. We remember

old-timer Vinny Morris, one of our mentors (but that's another story) saying that the best way to learn about your metalware is to polish it. That way, you are feeling every inch of its surface.

If your piece is lacquered, you can remove it yourself. Boiling smaller items in water mixed with baking soda is an old method



Early brass with an undisturbed patina should not be polished.

that works, but makes a dreadful mess. Instead, (and with heavy rubber gloves), apply semi-paste paint remover, wait ten minutes, and remove with very fine steel wool.

The tiny scratches will disappear after hand polishing. We are often asked what kind of polish to use, and all dealers have a favorite. We recommend any good commercial polish, from Noxon to Simichrome, to Cape Cod Polish (which we sell).



## HELP!

We recently found a charming oil on canvas, not signed on the painting, but with a brass plate that reads "C.F. Christensen" and "1847" on the stretcher in pencil. Could this be a Scandinavian artist? .

# New old acquisitions



We recently found this crisply cast iron plaque of an American eagle (18" diameter), with the date 1857 be-

neath. Research yielded no information, but another dealer spotted it and told us that many years ago he had sold a similar one, and it was from a bank building in Pennsylvania. Beyond that, we don't know its history, but it is indeed a superb casting and wonderful example of the many different ways the American Eagle was put to use in the Decorative Arts.

Also found was this puzzling cream-ware mug with a black transfer. Collectors of British pottery have no doubt figured out how to read this, but for



others, it seems you have to be somewhat "in your cups" to decipher it. Try reading it from the bottom right, go up, then begin in the next column on the

bottom, reading up, etc. We love British pottery for its sense of humor!

## You get what you pay for ?

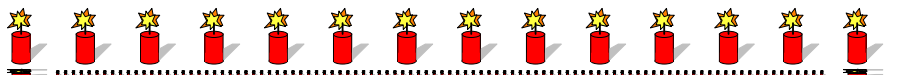


There are people who believe if something doesn't cost a lot, it can't be any good. But serious antiques collectors (like you, dear reader) will pounce on a good deal when they see one.

For example, this pearlware undecorated bull-baiting group. Made in the late 18th century, and in excellent condition, we have it listed on our website at \$895 (already a good buy) and are offering it now for \$595!

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★ Our website always has ★  
★ multiple images of each ★  
★ object, and everything is ★  
★ priced. Check it out at ★  
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★ to our customers. ★

A s e c r e t  
s o u r c e ?



People often ask us where we buy antiques. The answer is "everywhere." dealers and collectors of American country furniture and accessories are well-advised to make Willington Antiques (in Willington, CT) a regular destination. It's a small group shop not far from Brimfield in an 18th century house and barn right off I-84, exit 69. Call Steve at 860-429-6562 for directions. He's open daily except Monday year round.

Real 19th century tallow candles are hard to find, and if you do find them, they're \$100 each or more. These hand-made beeswax copies look just like the old ones and smell like a pine forest.

We sell these for \$12 or 10 for \$100.



# Living with antiques

We are always somewhat surprised when we visit dealer's homes to discover virtually no antiques. We live with all kinds of old things..English and American furniture (especially Windsors), lightning, silhouettes samplers, and a collection of underglaze polychrome decorated pearlware with this Chinoiserie decoration.

The other day, we realized that we had enough to set up a little tea party, and here is the result.

The only pieces that don't exactly match are the teapot and the sugar bowl, so if you come across either of these, please let us know!.



Tip: if you do something like this in your home, and you have a cat anything like our little rascal Mickey Mouse, you will want to secure the objects with museum wax, which holds things in place without damaging any surfaces.

Several pieces of our collection are currently on display at Wilton Historical Society's current exhibition, Mocha and More through early November. The exhibit is a comprehensive look at a dig by Don Car-

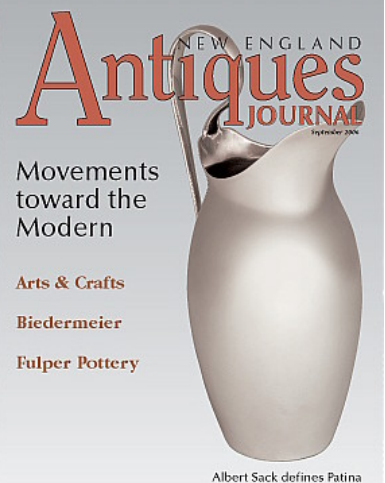
pentier in Stoke-on-Trent of what he believes to be the Wood and Caldwell site. The exhibition was put together by Don Carpentier and Jonathan Rickard.

## Ashes to Ashes

Last year a serious Massachusetts collector told us about a friend who lost all of her antiques in a fire. This prompted him to schedule a visit to revise an old appraisal. We recommend an update every seven years as the market changes. If you've never bothered to have your antiques appraised, we encourage you to contact us at 860-434-1800 to schedule an appointment.

If you don't read the New England Antiques Journal, you're missing a good bet. John Fiske's editorials alone are worth the price. His insights and observations about the state of

the antiques business are fascinating and prophetic. Contact them at [www.antiquesjournal.com](http://www.antiquesjournal.com).



## ABOUT US



Investment quality antique American furniture of the 18th and 19th centuries, and appropriate accessories with an emphasis on English ceramics, needlework, silhouettes, paintings, lighting and metalware. Our logo is a symbol of good faith and integrity dating to the 18th century or before. We stand behind everything we sell, backed by a money-back guarantee.

## The Roadrunners

See us year round at Willington Antiques and at these upcoming shows:

Weston, VT 9/28—10/01

Greenwich, CT 10/13—10/15

Hartford, CT 10/21—10/22

Alexandria, VA 11/17—11/19

Salem, MA 11/24—11/26

Wilton, CT 12/3

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