

Lowder Collection assembled with passion and ‘wonderful contacts’

Americana collection from Ohio Antique Review founders sold by Garth’s

BY ERIC BRADLEY – ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Even before they were publishers of the groundbreaking *Ohio Antique Review*, Pete and Ann Lowder haunted country auctions feeding their collecting passion.

They founded the popular enthusiast newspaper in 1975 as a response to similar New England journals. *The Ohio Antique Review* is now *The Antique Review* and is published by F+W Publications, which also publishes *Antique Trader*.

The opportunity to own an antiques publication opened doors for the two and helped define and narrow their collecting interests. Although they were often the guests of major antiques organizations, museums, and collectors, it was the Lowders who appreciated the experience.

The knowledge and exposure resulted in a nationally respected Americana collection that was sold Nov. 25-26 by Garth’s Arts and Antiques in Delaware, Ohio. The auction featured the Lowders’ collection as well as other folk art and Americana collections from Ohio and Kentucky and the Dayton (Ohio) Art Institute.

A walnut Chippendale two-piece secretary with poplar secondary and maple interior drawer fronts sold for \$27,500, including a 15 percent buyer’s premium. The piece is from Ocorara, Pa., and had been refinished.

A fine Chippendale blanket chest, attributed to Virginia or Pennsylvania, sporting its original dry finish, brought \$46,000, including premium. The front of the chest has three arched panels with fluted columns over two dovetailed drawers with batwing braces above ogee feet. A high-back Windsor armchair, with nine spindles and its original black paint and gold pinstriping, sold for \$14,375, including premium.

The auction featured several pieces of porcelain, ranging from red ware to ironstone and stoneware to pottery. A large Hussey southern pottery grotesque jug, with the face of a bearded devil, sold for \$575, includ-



\$5,750

This Windsor barrelback armchair was repainted in red and decorated with yellow stripes in 1900.

ing premium. Two pieces of yellow ware — a pitcher and a mug with blue and green mocha seaweed designs — sold for \$1,006.25, including premium.

A small collection of rare and unusual sewer tile folk art fetched more than \$10,000. A Statue of Liberty tile bust brought \$3,737.50. The piece was featured on the cover of the 1973 *Illustrated Handbook of Ohio Sewer Pipe Folk Art*, by Jack Adamson. Two different sewer tile lions sold for \$345 and \$517.50, respectively. A fine tile bust of a Native American Indian, decorated with a bear claw necklace, sold for \$3,220. The bust also was featured in Adamson’s book and is said to have been made in Barberton, Ohio.

Several Lowder pieces quickly reached five figures during the sale. A portrait of a woman, painted in a somewhat naive style, sold for \$4,140. A hanging corner cupboard in original red paint from Ohio brought \$2,102.50. A folk art figure of Uncle Sam sold for \$2,990 and rare pottery cat, made in Mogadore, Ohio, brought \$6,900.

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\$4,715

From Indiana’s Union County, this unusual folk art folding camp stool is decorated with various verses, including a hunter and deer and a woman sitting under a tree. The 26 1/2-inch high stool is signed and dated “Hosea Hayden Sunday June 19th 1892.”



The country Hepplewhite drop-leaf table, attributed to Ohio, sold for \$9,315; the Historical Blue Staffordshire platter, featuring the North Carolina state arms, sold for \$1,955; the small redware pie plate with the name Ann in a yellow slip in the center brought \$977.50, and the painted oval splint basket in original forest green paint sold for \$920.



\$3,737.50

This Statue of Liberty bust is considered sewer pipe folk art and was shaped and painted by hand. The bust features a gold star on the shoulder, and the front is stamped “1918.” It was exhibited at the Ohio Decorative Arts Center in 2001.

