

Bidding Hotter than the Temperature at Garth's July 21st & 22nd Auction

Delaware, OH - Excitement over the variety and quality of items at Garth's July 21st & 22nd auction was evident in not only the pre-sale buzz and the capacity crowd, but also in the bidding. Many lots not only exceeded their estimates but doubled and even tripled them, resulting in an auction that came \$5,000 shy of \$1 million for 870 lots.

Highlights among the furniture included a New England maple scrub-top tavern table which sold for \$20,700 and a two-piece wall cupboard in cherry, pine and poplar with dry surface over red on the exterior, grey-green paint on the interior and original turned feet brought \$19,550. A New York card table in mahogany and mahogany veneer with acanthus leaf carving on the column and base and an applied plaque on the apron easily met its \$5,000-\$8,000 pre-sale estimate, selling for \$8,912.50. An early New Hampshire tall chest in cherry with birch and pine secondary woods and original red paint put away a high bid of \$8,625, a painted candle stand attributed to Connecticut with old red and black graining lit up the room when it easily beat its \$500-\$1000 estimate and sold for \$6,670 and an unusual block-form Federal chest of drawers in cherry and cherry veneer realized \$6,325.

As expected, Ohio items figured prominently in the auction. A miniature painted hanging cupboard, possibly Zoar, realized \$2,415, a Steubenville sampler brought \$2,185, and a very folksy cherry and maple one-drawer stand more than quadrupled its low estimate, landing at \$2,415. Ohio clocks garnered high prices as well; a rare tall case clock in cherry and poplar signed "C.E. Strieby, Wooster, Ohio #48" on the face struck a high bid of \$16,100, and a tall case clock by Read and Watson of Cincinnati in cherry brought \$10,350. Other clocks also fared well, including a Pennsylvania tall case in walnut signed "Benj. Morris/Reading", which sold for \$7,475.

A wide selection of fine artwork, including several portraits, were one of the major draws for many bidders. One of the top lots of the auction was a portrait on canvas of a girl in a mustard yellow dress holding pink flowers by William Matthew Prior which brought \$21,850. Three other paintings attributed to the Prior/Hamblen school also did well: a portrait of a girl with brown hair and eyes in a blue striped dress holding flowers sold for \$7,475, a portrait of a girl, reputedly Sarah Trotten Keen from New Hampshire, wearing a blue dress and holding a book fetched \$6,325 and a full-length portrait on cardboard of a woman seated at a table realized \$2,875.

Other portraits of note included a three-quarter length naïve scene of a gentleman seated in a highback Windsor beside an open window that blew away its \$1,000-\$2,000 estimate, selling for \$12,650. A profile of an officer on wooden board identified as "Portrait of William Henry Harrison, Painted by William -- about 1812" brought \$5,750, an oil on canvas of a grandmotherly woman at tea signed "J.G. Brown N.A. 1877" sold for \$8,625 and a watercolor on paper of a girl seated under a tree with her cat purred to a comfortable \$6,325.

Not to be outdone, a colorful oil on canvas landscape of Storm King Mountain in the Hudson River Valley with cattle signed "W.D. Haines 1859" sold for \$10,350 and a fine Middlesex County, MA and a fraktur attributed to Reverend Henry Young depicting two women standing under an arch topped by urns each brought \$6,037.50.

Among the smalls the star of the show was an impressive burl bowl with original dark red exterior that sold for \$14,950. A decorated candle box found in Lebanon, County, Pennsylvania with bright red paint, yellow striping and tulips on the side signed "ANW 1834" brought \$8,912.50 and a Pennsylvania red tole coffee pot with original yellow fruit and leaves decoration realized \$8,337.50.

On Saturday some of the top lots of the auction were found among an assortment of extraordinary oriental rugs. A room size Serape with ivory ground, salmon spandrels and red border rolled out a high bid of \$24,150 and a close second was a room size antique Tabriz with blue designs on shades of pale gold which brought \$23,000. A pictorial antique Dagestan with multiple borders and figures including roosters, people and horses sold for \$7,187.50 and an antique Gorovan in a rare size with blue and ivory borders, sky blue spandrels and salmon ground fetched \$3,565.

A wonderful group of American Indian items were also among the offerings on Saturday. A Northern California ceremonial dance apron with fringe and beads consisting of black, white, yellow, blue, aqua and veined russet went to a winning bidder for \$6,612.50, a Navajo chief's style weaving in third phase pattern with finely carded yarn sold for \$2,760, a Navajo western reservation rug in a beautiful outlined serrate diamond pattern brought \$2,415 and a 19th century plains knife sheath with a fully beaded front in dark and medium blue, white-heart red and yellow on a blue ground realized \$2,530.

Garth's next Early American Antiques and Decorative Arts auction will be September 1st & 2nd and will feature the Medical and Scientific Instrument Collection of Dr. Sherman Katz, the folk art and furniture collection of Richard E. Guggenheim of Cincinnati, Ohio, antiques from the personal collection of Cook Cleland of Pensacola, Florida and items from Lois and Gerald Ballantyne of Hartfield, Virginia, plus additions. For more information please call (740) 383-9030 or visit our website, www.garths.com.