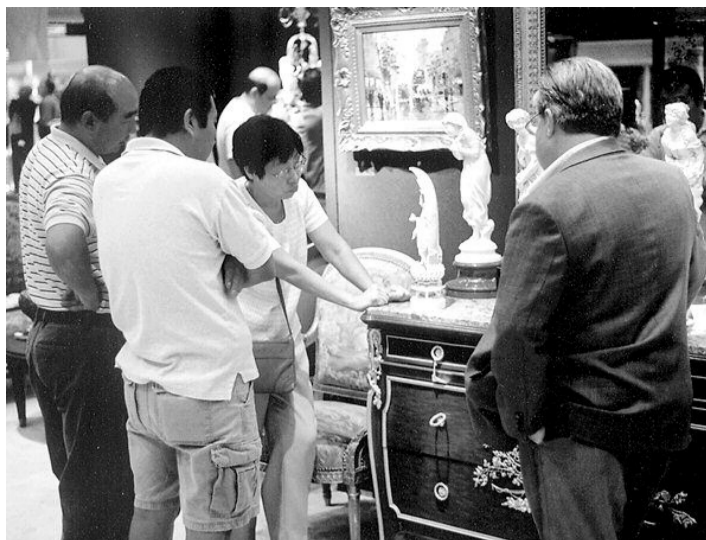




Kris Charamonde, one-third of the Palm Beach Show Group, was interviewed by Charla Bear from National Public Radio. The Palm Beach promoters have now completed three Baltimore Summer Antiques Shows since buying it from Sha-Dor. The new promoters have set their sights on Washington, D.C., with a new show set for March 6-9, 2009, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. About 400 dealers are expected.



Prospective buyers examined carved ivory figures in the booth of T.K. Asian Antiquities, Williamsburg, Virginia.



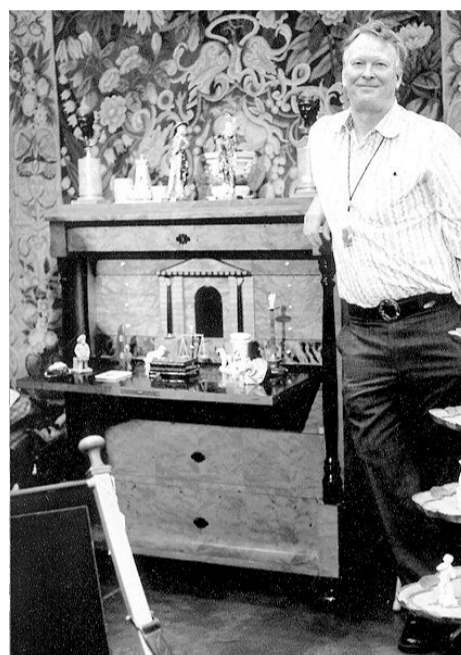
T.K. Asian Antiquities had a price of \$900,000 for this rare Silla gold crown from Korea, and it sold. The crown dates to the 5th-6th century and was among several found in the region during excavations in 1978. The Williamsburg, Virginia, dealer sold numerous high-end items and had a very successful show.



These antique bronze doors, standing 11' high, were priced at \$1.2 million. They were transported to the show from the West Coast by dealers John Cavili (left) and Saied Hosseini of Antique Legacy, Upland, California. The doors were discovered in California. Their purpose and original owners are unknown. Believed to have been made circa 1850, they depict an allegorical scene of the creation of man, his fall from grace, salvation, redemption, etc. The dealers speculate that the doors may have been purchased for Hearst Castle but never installed, as they show no sign of ever having been attached to walls. The dealers haven't found a signature but are still looking.



At 50 million years old, these fish fossils get the Oldest Antique in the Show award. Whitley Collection, Doral, Florida, priced the top one, approximately 35" x 48", at \$12,500. The bottom one, with five fish instead of two, approximately 30" x 48", was priced higher at \$14,000. The dealer also had one made into a coffee table for \$12,500.



Rick Griffin of Newport News, Virginia, brought a variety of items, as he has for the past eight years. He's done well until this time. "I sold bits and pieces," he said. "The show is not as strong as it should have been. Last year I had a good, strong show, and in previous years here. This year was very slow." The Biedermeier piece next to him was \$14,500. Among the items on top is a pair of French Empire bronzes marked \$9500. "The gate has been good," he said, but the cautious buying "is more psychologically induced than anything else."



It's hard to see the little critter, but a blackbird with a red leash is perched on the right hand of this young girl. Y & D Mayer Antiques, New York City, offered the mid-18th-century unsigned portrait for \$7500.



makes no difference in terms of our volume... There is no reason to do a four-day show."

Many dealers were gushing later. Matthew Baer of Ivory Tower Antiques, Ridgewood, New Jersey, told Amy Larimore of Profiles that he sold "over forty pieces of Imari porcelain plus other Japanese pottery, including an eighteen-inch charger by Seiji Kaisha with koi and turtles from the later nineteenth century." Baer said it was "the best Baltimore show we've had in ten years."

Whitley Collection, Doral, Florida, sold one of their large framed slabs of stone containing the bony remains of a *Diplomystus dentatus*, a *Priscacara liops*, and three *Knightsia eocaena*. The dealer priced many of these stones in the \$12,000 to \$16,000 range.

Another success story was Arlie Sulka of Lillian Nassau LLC, New York City, who sold a "significant" dogwood-border Tiffany lamp made circa 1905. It was the dealer's first time at this show.

First-timer William Cook of the U.K. sold a chandelier priced at \$20,000. It was similar in design to one Marie Antoinette used to light up the Petit Trianon, her private sanctuary on the grounds of the Palace of Versailles.

M.S. Rau Antiques sold a pair of Russian chandeliers at the show that had remained at their shop in New Orleans.

Hurricane Gustav was passing near that city the same weekend as this show, but the dealers said they felt their merchandise was secure, especially under the care of a pair of armed guards who were minding the store. They also sold a library table, a chair, and a cut glass bowl.

Douglas Morse of Pasadena, California, sold a circa 1790 Hepplewhite dressing table priced at \$32,500, a Roman marble figure, and "modest items."

This show has many silver dealers, and their presence attracts serious buyers, some within the trade. Robert Lloyd Inc., New York City, sold an American silver tankard by Liberty Browne valued at \$75,000. A circa 1616 Charles III wine cup priced at \$36,000 sold, as did a circa 1569 Elizabethan chalice, for which he was asking \$29,000.

A pair of Worcester majolica dolphin candlesticks tagged \$12,675 was sold by Charles Washburne of Solebury, Pennsylvania. Also leaving his booth was a pair of Minton cream bowls priced at \$8950, a Wedgwood hare stirrup cup priced at \$5650, and an \$11,875 George Jones cobalt majolica monkey teapot.

Karl Johnson of S & H Rugs, Danbury, Connecticut, was jubilant afterward. "The show was very successful for me. Because of the nature of my display, I sold many runners, a couple of nineteenth-century Caucasian rugs, the beau-

tiful Bidjar rug on the floor in the middle of the display, several scatters, and nineteenth-century bagfaces." Prices ranged from \$365 to \$8500.

Johnson continued, "This was just as successful as the show was for me last year. At first you might think that is no improvement, but in this current economy it is fantastic. I have to applaud the Palm Beach Show Group for their professionalism. They really promote and bring the people out. They are extremely organized and coordinated in every phase of this operation. The scale of this show is amazing to consider, and they pull it off like it was a sixty-dealer show. Very, very professional. I will gladly exhibit for them again and again."

Book dealer John Kuenzig of Topsfield, Massachusetts, had this reaction. "We're pleased. We had no idea how the flow of the layout would work, but it's been great," he said, referring to the book section situated amid the general antiques.

"We like to be on the end between the antiques and the books because we do scientific instruments and that helps." He said sales ranged from items costing \$7 to \$3500. He wrote tickets for a microscope, a galvanometer, balances, early travel books, "cradle period technology," and "a medical quack electricity device." He said mixing other merchandise with books is successful for him.

Other dealers had moderate sales. Paul Vandekar of Earle D. Vandekar of Knightsbridge, Inc., New York City, had hoped for better. His framed woolwork of six ships, priced at \$28,000, failed to sell. "The show was slow for us," he said. "We had some good retail customers on opening day, and we were selling good collector items, such as Chelsea porcelain, a fine Black Forest item, a good English stirrup cup, and a good set of China trade watercolors, but then business stopped for the rest of the show."

First-timer Tom Marone, who deals in Art Deco pieces, was interviewed on Sunday. Looking back on the four days, he said, "I sold nothing on Thursday, one piece Friday, and yesterday and today about six pieces. I'm used to selling thirty to forty pieces. So it's way down from what I expected." But he likes the show and plans to return.

The Palm Beach Show Group hopes to expand its Baltimore success with a new D.C. Spring Antiques Show, a Friday through Monday affair with about 400 dealers, scheduled for March 6-9, 2009, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. It's the same weekend as the Antiques in Alexandria show at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia.

For information about the Palm Beach Show Group's shows, go to the Web site (www.dcspringshow.com).