

AUCTION REPORT



Above: One of the items shown by The Olde Touch of Baltimore was a reclining wax figure. It rested in a paper box, which also housed the works of a music box. The Italian piece was dated circa 1920 and was priced at \$1,800.

Antiquarian book fair held in conjunction with summer show

CONTINUED FROM FACING PAGE

England, \$8,600.

A drop-front desk from 18th century France was striking because of its inlay detail. A scene depicting a pair of medieval knights was worked in rosewood on walnut, giving the piece a memorable appearance. Of heavy construction, the interior was functional in nature; when the desk door was dropped, it revealed an interior area that had obviously been well used over the years, judging from the wear and ink spots on the desk surface. It was priced at \$12,500.

Although majolica is the specialty at CARA Antiques, proprietor Constance Aranosian and her husband, Richard, also displayed an impressive selection of Moorcroft and Clarice Cliff, Boch Freres and Gouda ceramics in their booth. A Moorcroft vase, 8½in tall, dated 1922 and of the *Moonlit Blue* pattern, was priced at \$5,500. Constance noted that the "mysterious" look of the piece makes it popular among collectors; "It's a real treasure," she added.

The couple offered several pieces of Gouda pottery with a matt finish. One particularly nice example was a four-handled vase, 8in tall, *Classical Dutch*, \$795. A Boch Freres 9in vase, blue on cream with birds and gazelles, was marked \$2,300.

Wendy and Ian Stacey of Sleepy Hollow, Ill., manned their Redcoat Antiques booth, which, not surprisingly, specialized in British antiques, particularly scientific instruments and militaria. An 1830 travel apothecary chest was priced at \$3,950; and a brass and leather telescope inscribed "Sir John Gladstone" was \$2,495. But it was a forlorn teddy bear that was the real showstopper. Missing one arm and decorated with appropriate medals, he must have been

on medical leave as he convalesced in a vintage suitcase. Also in the suitcase was a collection of British collectibles from the first half of the 20th century, including a ration book and a small flag. Found near Brighton, the bear and his kit were priced at \$695. "I suppose we'll all shed a tear when he's sold," said Stacey.

Across the hall, another Ian (this one, Ian Kahn of Portland, Maine) was creating his own brand of local excitement. One of the 50 antiquarian book dealers, Kahn, trading as *Lux Mentis Booksellers*, offered *A Book of Portraits of the Faculty of the Medical Department of the Johns Hopkins University* by Doris Ulmann, dated 1922 and hand-signed by each doctor. It was priced at \$1,500. A 1936 scrapbook of 80 photographs and text by K.O. Townsend documenting historic places of Virginia was also priced at \$1,500.

But it was Kahn's self-described "Waters-a-Rama" which attracted the most attention. Included in this collection of items relating to Baltimorean John Waters and his movies was a poster from the gala world premiere of *Pink Flamingos*, black on pink cardstock, 16 by 20in, "incredibly rare," \$2,750; a copy of the *Midnight*, used as a movie prop and one of the last existing copies, \$2,750; and a set of five photographs taken during the filming of the same movie, \$2,500.

A combination of quality dealers and a highly promoted show left the Palm Beach Group upbeat and ready for next year, when the show will be expanded to include more dealers and occupy a larger section of the Convention Center. Commenting on the shoppers who attended the event, promoter Charamonde said, "This is a good-looking crowd." He noted the large number of young attendees, many of whom appeared to be buying.

Many dealers were pleased with the changes this year. According to Charamonde, they had told him that their set-up and first-day sales to respected dealers from around the country (and, indeed, from around the world) had topped the previous year's figures for the entire show. And all of this was accomplished without sacrificing quality, he said. Although the show is not juried, "This is a real antique show."

The Baltimore Summer Antiques Show is held annually on the first weekend of September.

Contact: (561) 533-7701,
www.baltimoresummerantiques.com.

Left: Tres chic. This French cocktail cabinet was as beautiful inside as it was outside. M.S. Rau of New Orleans priced it at \$34,500.



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