



Pioneer Folk Antiques, Ellsworth, Maine



Class Menagerie, Bolton Landing, N.Y.

## Rhinebeck Draws Record Crowd At Spring Edition

RHINEBECK, N.Y. — When Frank Gaglio's Barn Star Productions took over management of the storied Rhinebeck Antiques Show four years ago, he took it as his mission to rebuild the brand of the destination event that takes place twice each year — Memorial Day Weekend and Columbus Day Weekend. This spring, on May 25–26, his firm's endeavor continued its march towards that goal as Antiques at Rhinebeck filled all four exhibition buildings at Dutchess County Fairgrounds with 153 dealer booths and a vast array of antiques, fine art and decorative arts. "It's a work in progress," said Gaglio afterwards. Still, he was able to fill the detached Building E with nearly 30 exhibitors and drew a record spring crowd that he estimated was 25 percent larger than previous years under his management. "It was an unbelievable crowd," he said of Saturday's gate, "and the consistency of the crowd was great. There were a lot of younger people, couples pushing baby carriages. Even with fabulous weather, they came to shop."

"Rhinebeck was good," said Anne Wilbanks of Find Weatherly, a Stamford, Conn., dealer specializing in marine and folk art and Eighteenth–Nineteenth Century American furniture. "I sold my most expensive painting — an enormous Robart's Hereford bull farm sign — to a lovely retail couple with a home near Rhinebeck who were crazy about him. They hung him in their great room on a two-story stone fireplace wall over the mantel — perfect home!"

"Funny thing was that the Robart's granddaughter called

me about the sign when she saw it in the paper," Wilbanks continued. "She remembered the sign clearly from spending summers with her grandparents on their cattle farm, which was outside Hartford, Conn. She wanted to buy it, but offered me less than I paid for it. If she had been close to my purchase price, I would have been thrilled to reunite it with a Robart family member."

Find Weatherly also sold a few smalls. "I would have loved to sell more pieces, but was very glad that one of the sold pieces was that great trade sign. I also

bought several wonderful pieces of unusual metal from a few dealers who we only see at Rhinebeck. There was a huge crowd on Saturday; Sunday seemed lighter and more of a 'family outing' crowd. My observation was that many dealers sold their best pieces."

Wilbanks' observation was borne out by Plymouth, Mass., dealer Bruce Emond of The Village Braider. "I usually sell my less expensive pieces at this show," said the dealer. "This time it was my most expensive ones that sold." That included three large clown lithos by Ford



A Nineteenth Century English Prattware dessert plate, center, at Antiques From the Home, Bethesda, Md.

### Barn Star Fills Four Buildings With 153 Booths At Dutchess County Fairgrounds



Marlborough, N.H., dealer Tom Longacre displayed a two-story dollhouse whose roof lifted off to reveal rooms ready to furnish inside.



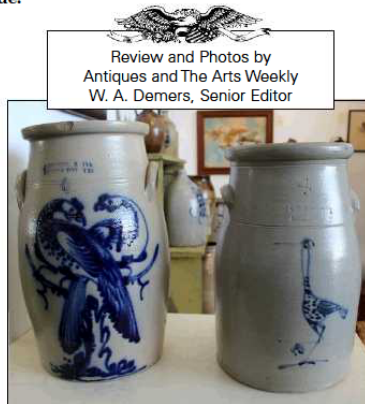
David Erskine of The Village Braider Antiques shows how this wonderful green-painted breeding cage provides birth control until the time is right. He said he believed it was too large a cage to be used for poultry, but perhaps for some other small animals such as rabbits.



Dana and Catherine Tillou stand proudly behind a diminutive Boston-North Shore, Mass., walnut Queen Anne lowboy, circa 1775. All original with carved shell in the center drawer, shell carved knees and original brass, it was, according to the Buffalo, N.Y., couple who have been in the business for 54 years, "As Albert Sack would say — 'Best.'"



South Road Antiques, Stanfordville, N.Y., dealer Susan Wechsler said she sold the big primitive game wheel in the center of this picture.



Choice pieces of stoneware shown by Mad River Antiques, North Granby, Conn., included the S.B. Bosworth, Hartford, Conn., 4-gallon churn with "gooney bird" decoration, right, and, left, a rare 5-gallon churn with two fat-tailed pheasants, made at the pottery of J. Norton & Co., between 1859 and 1861.

Review and Photos by  
Antiques and The Arts Weekly  
W. A. Demers, Senior Editor



Mario Pollo, Holliston, Mass.



Knollwood Antiques, Village of Thorndike, Mass.



American Primitive, New York City



Art & Antiques, Worcester, Mass.

## Rhinebeck Antiques Show



Seaver & McLellan, Jaffrey, N.H.



Old As Adam, Portsmouth, N.H.



Modernism was represented by Hamel20, Red Hook, N.Y., which presented acrylic sculpture by Yugoslavian American artist Vasa Velizar Mihich (b 1933). The triangular piece sold during the show, according to Bill Hamel. "There was considerable and sustained interest in those Vasa works throughout the show," he said.



This colorful piece of folk art farm machinery came out of a Connecticut collection, according to Josh Steenburgh, Pike, N.H.



J&R Ferris Antiques, Boonville, N.Y., showed "Rollo," a Nineteenth Century comic character ventriloquist dummy. Behind Rollo are two panels made by Tiffany New York, as one banner and presented to the Albany Regiment of Washington Riflemen, circa 1846, an eagle on the left and Washington on the right. The panels are going into a Cape Cod collection, according to dealer Scott Ferris.



Once doing duty in a general store, this turn-of-the-century spice cabinet — spices were loaded from the top — was turning heads in the booth of Don and Betty Jo Heim, Jersey Shore, Penn.

Beckman (1952–2014), an artist who rose to prominence in the New York art scene of the late 1980s and died at 62 of a heart attack. Also on offer in The Village Braider's booth was a Tramp Art-style dining set, a soaring continental birdhouse and curious green-painted wooden cage on legs that Emond's partner David Erskine described as a breeding cage for small animals. It featured a wooden barrier that could be slid in position to separate the animals until that "romantic" moment arrived.

For folk sign specialist Victor Weinblatt, South Hadley, Mass., his signs were of the times. "In these horrific political times, bringing a sign addressed to 'Politicians' risks rubbing salt in the wound. All the renowned collectors and dealers studied and admired it. As fate would have it, the most renowned collector of Americana, a former colleague and dear friend for some 40 was the buyer. In the meantime, more than a dozen potential buyers returned too late," said Weinblatt.

Two signs from the legendary Durgin Park Restaurant sold early on, "Strawberry Shortcake" and "Live Music," as did a Waterville Maine bottling Company sign in exquisite green with two rare folk art painted renderings of Coca-Cola Bottles. A diminutive "Frankfurts" sign went back to Ohio. Two round ice cream parlor "Hand-Dipped" signs went to Cape Cod. A diminutive wood and iron flag stand with flags went to New Jersey," said Weinblatt.

There were more. A Maine sign from a late dealer's collection, "Shop," which could be dubbed "America's Mantra" — at least prior to the tariff wars — also sold at opening. Several pieces from the Cherry Tennis folk art collection sold — a sign, two pairs of bookends and a chocolate mold. A pair of early rag carpets in vegetable dyes were headed for California. A pair of



A shot across the top of a micromosaic table, probably Italian, to a sculpture by Louisiana mid-Twentieth Century artist Lois Mahier titled "The Breadline," 1930. It was shown by Sam Herrup, Sheffield, Mass., who was doing the show for the first time.



Douglas, Mass., fine art dealer Donna Kmetz said she did not know much about the artist who signed these portraits of women "Glass," but found the likenesses compelling.



Marvin Wies was a bit shy when asked to pose with a penguin whirligig from the Cape that he had found in Duxbury, Mass. It was from the 1920s-30s and had been out in the weather. Behind the Baltimore, Md., folk art dealer is an interesting nine-panel memorial quilt from Fawcett Gap, Va. (no longer exists) with sentiments and signatures by friends and relatives of William H. Edwards and his wife Ella.

Seaside Heights, N.J., carnival knock-down figures also sold. "One of the joys of a Barn Star show," Weinblatt added, "in addition to working with the incomparable Frank and Lynn [Webb] duo, is all the reunions with dear friends."

Modern art specialist Bill Hamel took advantage of the strong traffic and buying mood of Saturday's crowd and made all of his sales on that day. Colorful Vasa Mihich acrylic sculptures were a highlight in his booth, and he sold a triangle Vasa piece. "There was considerable and sustained interest in those Vasa works throughout the show," he said. I also sold candlesticks, bookends and other objects. Frank announced that attendance broke a record for the show since he has taken it over and I felt it on Saturday. Sunday was much slower other than a brief post-brunch rush."

Scott Ferris, a Boonville, N.Y., dealer who specializes in Americana and works by Rockwell Kent, said he was glad to be back at this show that his father regularly exhibited at more than 20 years ago. In his booth were two panels made by Tiffany New York, as one banner and presented to the Albany Regiment of Washington Riflemen, circa 1846. On the left was an eagle and a portrait of George Washington was on the right. "The 'Albany Washington Riflemen' now have a home within a splendid folk art collection out on Cape Cod. The other large object sale was the 1948 Surrealist landscape 'Rapport' by Adriana Celli: That went to a Hudson Valley, now Connecticut collector. And another piece that I especially liked was a half-plate ambrotype of a village-whereabouts unknown: though a sign on one building informed us that there was a community blacksmith. Other photography, and other smalls sold, so it was a good J&R Ferris Antiques-returns-to-Rhinebeck, since the days when my father regularly did the show."

As always, choice pieces of stoneware were on offer by Mad River Antiques, North Granby, Conn., including an S.B. Bosworth, Hartford, Conn., 4-gallon churn with "gooney bird" decoration and a rare 5-gallon churn with two fat-tailed pheasants, made at the pottery of J. Norton & Co., between 1859 and 1861. The information



The three-masted schooner pond model was rare, according to Dave White, White's Nautical Antiques, Yarmouth, Mass. From the late 1880s to early 1900s and out of a Vermont collection, it had some restoration and measured 63 inches long, 45 inches tall and a 10-inch beam.



As Good as Old, Lower Gwynedd, Penn.



Kimmerlings Antiques, Ridgefield, Conn.



Country Seat Antiques, Litchfield, Conn.



A miniature tantalus with silver plate mounts, circa 1890, at Golden Chances, Houston, Texas.

## Rhinebeck Antiques Show



Bachelors of Art, Red Hook, N.Y.



Axtell Antiques, Deposit, N.Y.

### Rhinebeck Antiques Show



David Smernoff, New Haven, Conn.



Ken Arthur of Spotted Horse, Brownsville, Vt., had made a great find in this French late Eighteenth Century double-sided wedding quilt decorated with cherubs, tulips and hearts. The whimsical Olive Oyl figure from the 1930s to his right seems excited too.



Illness kept Bev Weir Longacre at home, but her Christmas collection was represented on a shelf.



An outside wall at Black Swan Antiques, Washington, Conn., gave Hubert ("Bear") and Susan van Asch van Wyck an opportunity to display their creative side, with an American mid-Twentieth Century tall case clock in two parts decorated with shells, shell sculptures on marble bases, resting atop a console table that Bear covered in white rope and a charcoal and pastel work, "Friends," by Susan.



Malcolm Magruder, Millwood, Va., brought this English folding screen in quartersawn oak and decorated with lively sporting scenes by William Wheelwright, circa 1880s.



Dennis & Valerie Bakoledis, Rhinebeck, N.Y.



Jane Langol of Medina, Ohio, likes to create homey vignettes with her collection of American art pottery and decorative arts. Here she grouped a wicker set with a Weller umbrella stand and two other pottery pieces in front of an 82-by-82-inch Feather Star blue and white quilt. She said when she found the quilt it had a small hole in it, which she was able to repair with a patch she found later, incredibly with the same pattern.



Find Weatherly, Westport, Conn.

tag accompanying the latter churn read: "This same churn can be found on page 90 of *The Birds of Bennington* by Steve Leder and Fred Cesana." Also on offer were a grain painted and stenciled child's chair, 1830-40, which had been fitted with later rockers, a pair of Sheraton fancy chairs, circa 1830s and a War of 1812 Massachusetts roster. "Saturday was a very good day," said dealers Lorraine and Greg German. "We sold a variety of things, including stoneware, vintage Christmas, folk art and even some furniture. We were very pleased. Sunday was much slower, but we were okay."

A lime green late Eighteenth Century Hudson Valley four-door cupboard with original hardware and interior commanded space at Jenkinstown Antiques. New Paltz, N.Y. dealer Sanford Levy reported that the large crowd on Saturday had "lots of interest in many things." Among sold items over the course of the weekend were a blanket box, a mahogany Pembroke table, one-drawer stand, a carved swan, stoneware, a number of paintings and other smalls.

Fans of English oak and period furniture always know to head for the booth of Jan and John Maggs, Conway, Mass., dealers who make annual shopping trips to England to bolster their inventory. Available here was a Jacobean two-drawer chest on stand from England, circa 1680 or later. It probably once was the upper half of a four-drawer chest, the couple opined, but now sat with well executed barley twist legs. An exceptionally long English oak bench, circa 1900s, with four turned legs and medial stretcher would make a striking and functional addition to a dining room or at the foot of a bed. And with all the recent auction post-sale fervor over Monet's "Haystacks," who wouldn't want an unsigned oil painting on canvas, probably Belgian, circa 1880, of the same subject for considerably less money? "We had a very good show," said the Maggses afterwards. "We had sales in all categories — furniture, paintings, jewelry and smalls. The crowd seemed very strong to us, and Rhinebeck appears to have reestablished itself as one of the finest shows in the Northeast."



James Grieco Antiques, Stockton, N.J.

Hubert "Bear" and Susan van Asch van Wyck of Black Swan Antiques, Washington, Conn., took advantage of an outward facing booth wall to display some of their own creations. They are mostly known for their collection of Delft tiles and continental furniture and decorative arts, but here was an American mid-Twentieth Century tall case clock in two parts that they had decorated with shells. Having been in their home for some years, they decided it was time to offer it to the public, along with some shell sculptures on marble bases and a console table that Bear had covered in white rope. A charcoal and pastel work, "Friends," by Susan was on view above the console table. "The show went well," the couple reported later. "We sold furniture and some smalls and hope to hear from some designers on other pieces. The shell clock had a lot of interest — including Leigh Keno — but as of this moment, it is still available. Frank Gaglio really does a great job promoting the show."

There were some compelling pieces of folk art at South Road Antiques, including a great primitive amusement park game wheel from 1930s Pennsylvania. Dealer Susan Wechsler said she recently ren-



Victor Weinblatt American Folk Signage, South Hadley, Mass.

ovated her barn in Stanfordsville, N.Y., since closing her shop in Hudson. "It's a great barn. The house was built in 1825, the barn is more recent but has two stories. I'm planning to open by appointment and have some special exhibitions and sales. Many local people who visited the booth expressed an interest in coming to my barn to shop. Shows are always a good way to meet new potential clients."

Wechsler added that she enjoyed the high energy and good crowd on Saturday. "I

think the show has once again become a premier event, with really good dealers and interesting booths," she said. "I sold the big primitive game wheel, some signs, a group of Korean box sculptures, painting, folk art cart, table and hunt board and various smalls. Looking forward to the fall show."

Antiques at Rhinebeck returns for its fall edition, Columbus Day Weekend, October 12-13, at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. For information, [www.barnstar.com](http://www.barnstar.com) or 845-876-0616.



Jenkinstown Antiques, New Paltz, N.Y., dealer Sanford Levy said he had lots of interest in many things and sold over the course of the weekend.



Jan and John Maggs, Conway, Mass.



Steele & Steele, Middletown, R.I.

## Grolier Club Celebrates Whitman's 200th Birthday With Exhibition

NEW YORK CITY — How did a carpenter's son, grammar school dropout and sometime hack writer become America's greatest poet? To commemorate Whitman's 200th birthday, which occurred on May 31, the Grolier Club launched an exhibition showcasing New York's role in the extraordinary transformation of Walter Whitman Jr to "Walt Whitman, a kosmos, of Manhattan the son." On public view at the Grolier Club to July 27, the exhibition, titled, "Poet of the Body: New York's Walt Whitman," brings together more than 200 books, manuscripts, photographs and other objects to show how this obscure young New Yorker transformed himself into one of America's great artists.

The exhibition presents the story of his coming of age as a poet through a unique assemblage of rare books and other artifacts, many rarely or never before on display, from both private and public archives. Featured are family collections of the descendants of Whitman's friends and associates, including one of the original printers of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*; the Feinberg Whitman Collection of the




Charles Hine, "Portrait of Walt Whitman," Brooklyn, circa 1860, oil on canvas. Collection of Brooklyn College Library. Alison Gootee photo.

Library of Congress and the New York Public Library's Berg Collection; and forgotten holdings from such repositories as Bryn Mawr College's Special Collections and the Brooklyn College Library. Of special interest are treasures from the library of Susan Jaffe Tane, a leading Whitman collector.

Other highlights of the exhibition include every American edition of *Leaves of Grass* published during Whitman's life-

time, including three copies of America's "declaration of cultural independence," the first edition of *Leaves of Grass* (1855); Whitman's annotated copies of *The Complete Works of Robert Burns* (1879), *Shelley's Works* (1847), *Homer's Iliad* (1857) and several other books from his personal library; a substantial collection of original images of the poet, including photographs by Mathew Brady and Thomas Eakins, a stereocard by Jeremiah Gurney, and an oil portrait of Whitman in his prime by fellow New Yorker Charles Hine; Whitman's pen, cane, bronzed cast of his hand, and locks of his hair encased in exquisite Victorian rings designed by New York jeweler John H. Johnston; and ephemera, including a lively array of advertisements both by and about Whitman, such as an oversized broadside advertising *Leaves of Grass* designed by the poet himself and examples of Whitman's commercial appearance on cigar boxes, food labels, album art and clothing catalogs.

The Grolier Club is at 47 East 60th Street. For information, [www.grolierclub.org](http://www.grolierclub.org) or 212-838-6690.



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