

THE AUCTION EXCHANGE[®] And COLLECTORS NEWS[®]

\$150

ANTIQUES • COLLECTIBLES • ESTATES • FARM • REAL ESTATE • COMMERCIAL

www.eauctionexchange.com

December 15, 2020

Vol. 44, No. 02

ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

Trains were full-steam ahead at online auction

BY KARIN
MILLIMAN

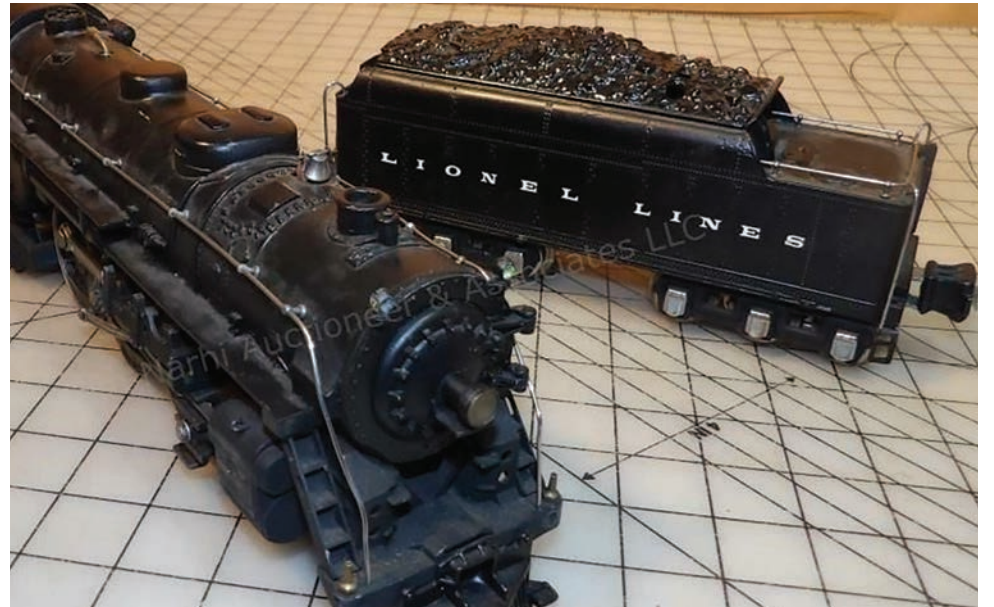
BRYAN, Mich. — Tim Narhi Auctioneer & Associates have not let Covid stop them from holding some great auctions. From the comfort of your home you can still attend some amazing and fun auctions online. The internet has allowed auction companies to keep serving their clientele and Narhi has done a fantastic job of keeping the

auctions going. Narhi recently held an online only auction to sell a collection of toy trains.

Narhi Auctions used a “soft close” auction format for this particular auction. If you are not familiar with this term, it means every item has an extendable ending time. If a new bid is entered within the last few minutes of the item’s scheduled ending time, some extra time is added to the bidding time. This is

intended to give other bidders a chance to get back into the bidding action if they want to. But if a new bid hasn’t been placed in a while, the item will simply disappear when the bidding time is up.

Sharing a bid price of \$375 was a dual set consisting of a locomotive and tender. The first set was comprised of the Lionel Virginian 2-8-8-2 which was part of the Odyssey system. This particular engine featured the Trainmaster command control, which had realistic rail sounds combined with crew-talk communications. It also had the tower communication announcement. It was complete with the Odyssey speed control system and a high-torque



Above: This Lionel Hudson train took top price at the Narhi online auction selling for \$450.

Pittman motor.

The second set of a locomotive and tender was a Lionel right-of-way engine and tender. This

right-of-way engine and tender was a Great Northern articulated N-3 2-8-8-0 in the O gauge.

Selling for a respect-

able \$325 was a Lionel Lines 4-6-4 Hudson engine and tender in O

See Narhi page 3



Above: You could be immersed in the real world of trains with this set as the sounds were brought to life with the Trainmaster Command Control system.

FEATURE

They may be cardboard; but Dresden ornaments shine

BY LARRY
LEMASTERS

If you are looking for the perfect Christmas tree decoration this year, consider using Dresden ornaments. Dresden is the capital city of the German state of Saxony, and, historically, the town served as a cultural, educational, and political center of Germany for many years. Dresden has always been

famous for its cultural and artistic splendor. Out of this historic setting came several artistic cottage industries, some of which captivated the entire world. The most prominent cottage industry to come out of Dresden and its surrounding areas are the beautiful Christmas decorations that were manufactured during the late-Victorian Era.

Beginning around

1870, artists in the Dresden area made simple but charming Christmas tree ornaments, using cardboard as the primary material. Cardboard is nearly the perfect material since it is inexpensive, is durable, and it possesses numerous possibilities for shaping. Dresden artists stretched cardboard’s artistic possibilities to the max, creating every shape of Christmas transportation, animal, or angel ornaments one could think of, including zeppelins, boats, engines, sailboats, trucks, sleighs, balloons, fish, bears, eagles, peacocks, alligators, and lovely angels.

Each Dresden ornament was manufactured by dampening the cardboard to make it flexible. Stamping dies were then used to stamp the cardboard. Some orna-

ments were made from several pieces of stamped cardboard, which required cottage workers to dry and glue the pieces together.

As plain as these ornaments may sound to 21st century Christmas tree lovers, Dresden artists used glue, laminate work, and paint to make every cardboard ornament a delight. Each ornament was two to three inches in size and finished with a loop of string by which the ornament was hung on a Christmas tree branch.

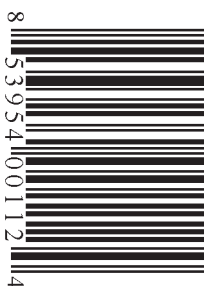
Today, collectors eagerly search for and buy authentic Dresden cardboard Christmas ornaments. Because these ornaments are more than 100 years old and some are lost

See LeMasters page 4



Antique Dresden “peacock” Christmas tree ornament that is sold at auction in 2013 for \$650.

Antique, authentic Dresden “dove” Christmas tree ornament that is valued at \$800.



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JANUARY 29TH & 30TH, 2021



John Stobart oil on canvas of the packet ship Margaret Evans



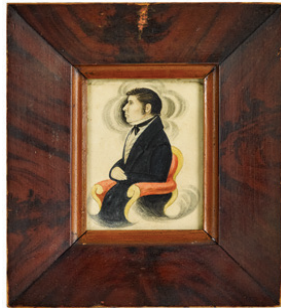
Swell bodied copper pig weathervane, 19th c.



Isabel Cartwright still life with flowers



Delaware Chippendale tall case clock



James Ellsworth watercolor portraits



George II giltwood mirror, ca. 1760



English delft bowls, ca. 1806, with portraits of Admiral Horatio Nelson (1758-1805)



Painted counter top tobacconist figure



Large Collection of redware and stoneware.



Baltimore Federal bracket clock



Pennsylvania watercolor folk portrait, dated 1824



South Carolina Southern landscape



English canvaswork panel, late 18th c., depicting Jesus and the Samaritan woman



John C. Traynor (American b. 1961), oil on canvas landscape of Waterville Golf Links, Ireland



A half dozen lots of Liverpool Herculaneum



Group of Wilhelm Schimmel carvings



Large Pennsylvania collection of mocha



Russian silver enamel pieces



Heriz carpet, ca. 1930, 19'6" x 11'



Burlington County, New Jersey sampler



American oil on canvas folk art still life, 19th c.



Color engraved Map of Virginia and Maryland



Dresden “Zeppelin” Christmas tree ornament, circa 1900, that was offered on eBay for \$550.



Dresden “bear” Christmas tree ornament, circa 1900, that is valued at \$1,490.

LeMasters

FROM FRONT PAGE

and damaged each year, Dresden cardboard ornaments sell for very high prices. Auction houses love to see a selection of Dresden ornaments go under the gavel because they are sure to bring pugilistic bidding, and when the gavel final drops, collectors believe Dresden cardboard ornaments must be worth their weight in gold.

The high price of these ornaments reflects their diminishing number. Despite the tens of thousands of these ornaments that must have been manufactured during their golden years, very few have survived, making a Dresden cardboard ornament, in good shape, a rare commodity. Collectors are able and willing to pay huge amounts for rare commodities, so expect to pay \$500 to \$1,000 or more for authentic Dresden cardboard Christmas ornaments.

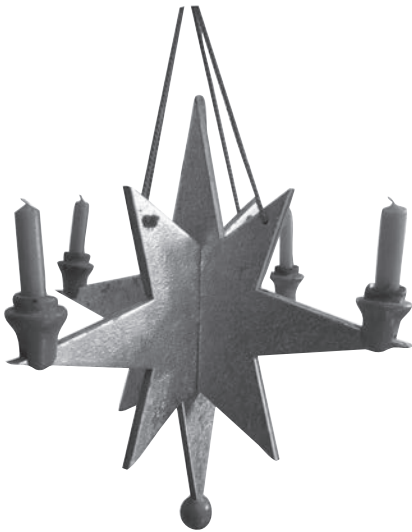
Not all Dresden Christmas ornaments display easily since there are basically three types of Dresden ornaments—flat, double, and 3-dimensional. Flat ornaments are only embossed on the front side. Double ornaments have embossed detail on both sides. And 3-dimensional Dresden ornaments have a maximum depth of about half an inch, giving the ornament a spatial impression that appears fully three-dimensional.

New Dresden-appearing ornaments are



3-dimensional Dresden Christmas ornament—“violin in case” that was offered on eBay for \$300.

offered all the time since making a cardboard ornament is not difficult. Some of the “New Dresden” ornaments are reportedly stamped from original Dresden plates. New Dresden ornaments are thinner and the foil process is not the same as on original ornaments. Most serious collectors believe the New Dresden ornaments may be called “Dresden,” but they are not authentic.



Above: Offered on etsy.com, this Dresden cardboard star chandelier, circa 1925, was priced at \$180.

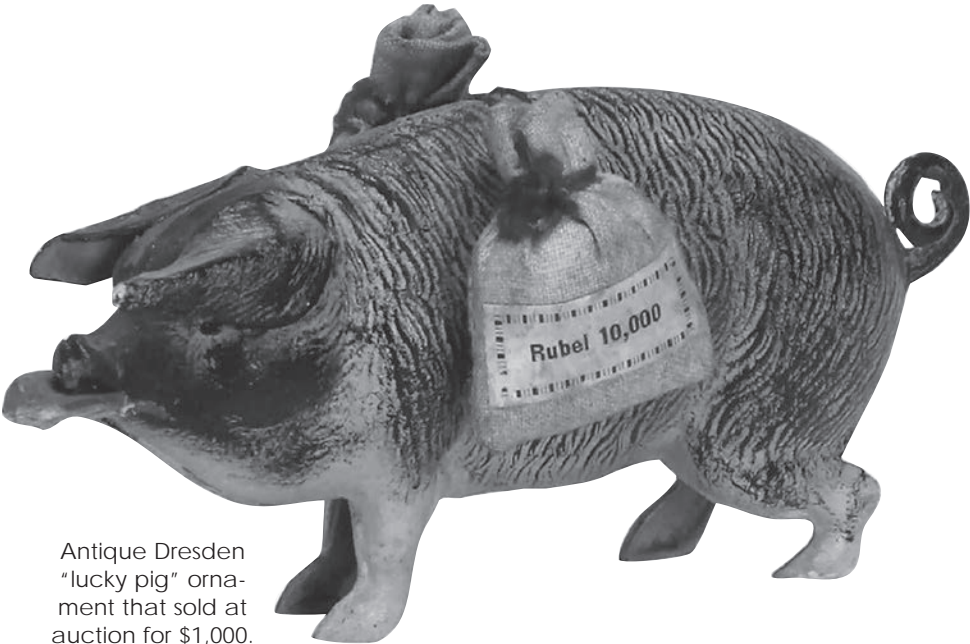
Novice collectors should purchase high priced Dresden ornaments from reputable dealers only.



Antique Dresden “fish” tree ornament, circa 1895, that is valued, in “as is condition,” at \$1,200.



Antique, circa 1910, Dresden “sailboat” Christmas tree ornament that is valued at \$500.



Antique Dresden “lucky pig” ornament that sold at auction for \$1,000.

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POSTAL REPORT

Without fail for 42 years, The Auction Exchange & Collectors News has been delivered to the USPS by 5 pm every Friday.

Currently we are delivering the newspaper to the USPS by midnight Thursday. Despite this early entry into the postal stream and our vociferous lobbying at all levels of the USPS, we are experiencing delivery problems in the following areas:

Bay City MI, Birch Run MI, Byron MI, Clarkston MI, Clio MI, Croswell MI, Davisburg MI, Davison MI, Detroit MI, Durand MI, Gladwin MI, Harbor Beach MI, Kawakawlin MI, Kingston MI, Linden MI, Milford MI, New Baltimore MI, North Branch MI, Roanoke IN

If you don't receive a paper by Tuesday's mail, you may call us to have a paper sent first class.

If it is after normal business hours, please call 888-339-3795 ext. 177.

Please also call your Post Office to report your late delivery.

GENERAL ADVERTISING INFORMATION

DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY AT 12 NOON

Unless otherwise noted

ADVERTISING SIZES AND RATES

1/8 page (5"Wx4"H) - \$83.80

1/2 page (10¼"Wx8"H) - \$315.56

1/4 page (5"Wx8"H) - \$157.77

Full page (10¼"Wx16"H) - \$546.15

Call for additional sizes and rates 888-339-3795

Open Rate

Our open rate is calculated at \$7.33 per column inch. Call for more information about our Low Cost Standard Open Rate (\$6.98/col.") which is based on a minimum of 10 point type in the body copy.

Display Advertising

Each page is six columns wide (10-1/4 inches) by 15-1/2 inches high. Each column is 1-5/8 inches wide. We use a minimum of 10 pt. type (for body copy) for purposes of readability, and specific point sizes for heading (24 pt.), date (18 pt.), city/state (16 pt.) so please keep this in mind as you plan your ad. We typeset your ad to fit our specifications while keeping in mind your requirements and the need to minimize the cost of your ad.

Back Cover Ads:

(Non-auction ads only.) Back cover ads are booked in advance by reservation - call for availability.

Deadlines/Sending Copy:

Our deadline is 12 noon on the Wednesday before the issue date, (Monday). All material must be received by this time, including photographs. (Call for holiday schedules.) A 10% surcharge will be added to display advertising received Wednesday between 12 Noon and 3:00 p.m. We cannot always guarantee insertion of late ads. In all cases, it's a good idea to call and notify us that an ad is being sent, and to confirm that your ad has been received.

Mail Your Copy:

27 N. Jefferson St., Knightstown, IN 46148. First class mail may or may not be delivered by deadline if you mail on Monday or later. If you mail on Tuesday, send by U.S. Express Mail, UPS Next Day or other "next day" services.

Fax Your Copy:

You may fax your ad to us at: 877-223-3778.

E-Mail:

Please send "Text Only" format, we cannot use files that have been saved in their native software. Email address: info@eauctionexchange.com

Photos:

should be sent in JPG format, as attachments to E-mail. We accept color, or black and white.

Accuracy:

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of your finished ad. Sending it to us well in advance is essential in allowing adequate time for proofing and faxing layouts to you for approval. We assume no guarantee or liability concerning the accuracy of published advertisements.

ISSUE DATE

DEADLINE (NOON)

DECEMBER 22...WED., DEC. 16

DECEMBER 29..... NO PAPER

JANUARY 5.... TUES., DEC. 22

JANUARY 12.....WED., JAN. 6

JANUARY 19.... WED., JAN. 13

JANUARY 26.... WED., JAN. 20

FEBRUARY 2.... WED., JAN. 27

FEBRUARY 9.....WED., FEB. 3

THE AUCTION EXCHANGE

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ZONE MAP

This zone map is a feature of *The Auction Exchange & Collectors News* and is designed to make it easier for you to locate events throughout the region.

You will find the Zone symbol following the city and state in the heading of each ad.

This symbol will correspond to the zone map shown here.

UPCOMING AUCTION CALENDAR

JANUARYFEBRUARYMARCHAPRILMAYJUNEJULYAUGUSTSEPTEMBEROCTOBERNOVEMBERDECEMBER

The Upcoming Auction Calendar is a listing of future Auctions beyond the current week.
Auctioneers: This service is provided at no charge. As with everything - we do our utmost to make

sure that your Auction is listed in a timely and accurate fashion.
For our Readership: For more thorough listings contact the Auctioneer personally and tell them where you saw their ad!

ZONE 5

Tue., Dec. 22, Spieth & Satow, Heating, cooling, Hillsdale, MI
Fri., Jan. 29, Stantons Auctioneers, Firearm, Vermontville, MI


Since 1978 the Weekly Auction & Collectors Guide for Michigan, N. Indiana and N.W. Ohio

LIST YOUR UPCOMING AUCTIONS FREE!

Day	Date	Auction Company	Type of Auction	Town	State
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Deadline Changes


Our Last Issue Of The Year Will Be Dated
Tuesday, December 22nd

All New Year's Auctions Will Need To Be In This Issue



The Deadline Will Be
Wednesday, December 16th At Noon

The Following Issue Will Be Dated Tuesday, January 5th
(with an Early Deadline of Tues., Dec. 22nd)

Please Note: We will not be printing a Tuesday, Dec. 29th issue and our offices will be closed Dec. 23-Dec. 29 in order to spend time with our family during the Holiday.



Happy Holidays!



WEEKLY Auction Calendar

The Weekly Auction Calendar is provided as a service for our Advertisers and Readers. We make every effort to ensure accuracy of the calendar but always refer to the complete Ad to verify the Calendar information. Unless specified by the Auctioneer in writing we reserve the right to designate the 'Type' of Auction listing.

Ⓢ INDICATES THE AD APPEARS IN SECTION 2 OF THE PAPER

DATE TIME AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY TYPE PAGE/SEC.

ZONE 4 MICHIGAN

Sat., Dec. 19 10am Art Smith Auctions Newaygo, MI Farm 3

ZONE 5 MICHIGAN

Thu., Dec. 17 10am Mel White Auctioneer Lansing, MI Estate 3

CATEGORIES	Computer	Firearm	Industrial	Office Equip.	Sports
• Antique	• Consignment	• Food	• Jewelry	• Personal Prop.	• Tag Sale
• Business/Commercial	• Doll	• Furniture	• Lamp	• Pottery	• Tool
• Clock	• Equipment	• Glass	• Livestock	• Primitive	• Toy
• Coin	• Estate	• Government	• Musical	• Quilt	• Vehicle
• Collectible	• Farm	• Household	• New Merchandise	• Real Estate	

DATE TIME AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY TYPE PAGE/SEC.

Sat., Dec. 19 10am Two Alpha Auctions Coldwater, MI Sportsman 7

Sun., Dec. 20 1pm D S Auction Service Manitou Beach, MI RE, Misc. 7

Tue., Dec. 22 10:30am Spieth & Satow Hillsdale, MI Heating, Cooling 3

Fri., Jan. 29 8am Stantons Auctioneers Vermontville, MI Firearm 7

ZONE PENNSYLVANIA

Fri., Jan. 29 • Pook & Pook, Inc. Downingtown, PA Americana, Internat. 2

ZONE CALENDAR

Every Wed. 5pm Trading Place Shippshewana, IN Miscellaneous 12

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www.eauctionexchange.com

Auburn museum gets donation of rare 1927 Model X Duesenberg

AUBURN, Ind. —A rare 1927 Duesenberg Model X Dual-Cowl Phaeton was donated recently to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum. The vehicle was donated by Perry and Margie Pintzow of Albuquerque, N.M. This is the second Duesenberg the Pintzow family has donated to the museum, the other being a Model A Running Chassis donated in 2019.

The Model X was a transition model for Duesenberg and represented an improvement upon the sporty Straight-Eight engine in their passenger car.

Different valve angle, moving the exhaust and intake together, and modified timing resulted in a modest increase in horsepower from 88 to 100. However, E. L. Cord wanted something grander. In total, it is believed that 13 Duesenberg Model X's were constructed with only five of them receiving bodies. Of those five, only four remain, including the only

Duesenberg Model X speedster owned by the museum, making the museum the stewards of half of the extant bodied model X's in the world.

This Duesenberg features impeccably proportioned dual-cowl phaeton coachwork by Locke of New York and sports an elegant ivory and green color scheme. This Model X is the only surviving example of the two dual-cowl phaetons built and virtually every component is unique. It debuted at the Chicago Auto Salon

in January 1928, wearing the identical color scheme seen today, where it was sold from the showroom floor. It was owned by famed collector Bill Harrah and was restored while in his care in 1964.

"The Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum is both humbled and honored by the generosity and support of the Pintzow family," said Brandon J. Anderson, Executive Director & CEO of the museum. "This remarkable gift enriches the story of the Duesenberg brothers and showcases



Above: This Model X is the only surviving example of the dual cowl 1927 Duesenberg Phaeton. It was recently donated to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum.

their work to create the greatest American automobiles ever produced." visit the museum online at www.automobilemuseum.org.

For more information,

ON-SITE AUCTION

SUNDAY, DEC. 20 at 1:00 PM
REAL ESTATE AT 2:00 PM

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OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST: 2016 Kubota B2601 with 172.7 hours, runs good and has front bucket... Toro zero turn mower, runs good... Ford Farmtrax with bucket and scoop, hydraulics all work good, moves slow- may need clutch?... Gun Safe, 10' utility trailer, large Dutchman Sport camper, French Provincial Bedroom set, Hoosier style kitchen cabinet, secretary 5 drawer dresser, porcelain top kitchen table, wrought-iron baker rack, chainsaw, variety of garage tools, working Hydroponics controller boxes - 55 gal barrels and more Grow supplies... Still finding more. We are Happy to accept your absentee bids if you cannot attend the Auction... AND you can schedule a private viewing... Contact us by phone at 517-424-7653 OR Text 517-442-9647 OR email us at dsauctions@live.com OR message us on Facebook.



TERMS OF REAL ESTATE: Bidding starts now and ends day of Auction... \$5000 Non-Refundable down day of Auction, preferably in form of cashier check, with balance due on or before closing... Property being sold 'As-Is Where-Is'... No warranties expressed or implied... Have your finances ready upon purchase... Possession on closing... All information derived to be correct, but not guaranteed... Good Clear Title

Thank you for your continued support and we appreciate you following CDC guidelines... wearing a mask - practicing 6' social distancing - if you are ill or quarantining, please stay home - refrain from handling items that you are not interested in purchasing - Please respect everyone's personal space - we will have plenty of room, as this Auction will be held outside, It will only take a couple hours, but dress accordingly.
THANK YOU!!!

DS

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The Auction Exchange & Collectors News

Through the centuries; Nativity sets have continued to inspire

BY DONALD-BRIAN JOHNSON
PHOTOS BY LESLIE PIÑA

In Germany, it's called a Weihnachtskrippe. Spaniards know it as a naciamento. Italians say presepio, and for the French, it's a crèche. Since that starry night in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, the celebration of Christmas has almost always included some scenic tribute to the Nativity. From simple representations of the three principal figures, Nativity sets have grown to include figurines of nearly everyone even remotely connected to the Christmas story.

Early pilgrimages to the Holy Land served as inspiration for the Nativity scene tradition, and artists began to offer their interpretations on canvas as early as the fourth century. The Roman basilica of Holy Mary of the Nativity, dedicated in the sixth century, featured the first three-dimensional figures of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, fashioned of wood. The basilica also housed relics reputed to be from the original Bethlehem manger.

It was, however, several centuries before the concept of a figural Nativity scene really took hold. In the meantime, there were the "living Nativities" or "Nativity dramas" of the Middle Ages, staged in churches by costumed performers as part of seasonal devotions. The earliest and most famous of these was created by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223.

St. Francis felt that, for many of his congregation, Christmas had lost its true meaning. During a personal visit to Christ's birthplace, Francis was inspired. A "living Nativity" would, he believed, bring his flock closer to the spirit of Christmas. Under his direction, the village of Greccio, near Assisi, was restyled as Bethlehem, with local shepherds (and their livestock) starring as the main characters. On Christmas Eve, torch-bearing villagers arrived in throngs, to experience, in person, the wonder of the crèche.

The idea spread quickly, and soon the theatricality and excitement of the annual Nativity dramas made them a much-anticipated annual social event for the entertainment-starved throughout medieval Europe. However, the large, boisterous crowds and ensuing revelry eventually proved an uncomfortable fit within the confines of somber cathedrals. By the late 16th Century, live Nativity enactments had moved to town squares. "Nativity Journeys" became popular, with people portraying Joseph and Mary, in search of lodging, visiting homes in the village and

being turned away. Their journey finally wound up at a "stable" constructed in the town square. There, a Nativity tableau was created, with Magi and shepherds parading down the streets to join in the celebration. Eventually however, even these live Nativity reenactments disappeared from view.

With live depictions falling out of favor during the Renaissance, the focus was once more on figural representations. These were first popularized in the 15th and 16th centuries by the Jesuits, in churches throughout Europe. Whether fashioned of wood, terra cotta, stone, fabric, or metal, each manger scene essentially presented a similar theatrical tableau. The principal Nativity participants were captured at a specific moment in time, paying homage to the Christ Child.

Nativity scenes could be nearly full-size, half-size, or miniature, depending on the available space. The figures were arranged around the manger, often backed by a realistic stable setting. In many churches, tradition held that the figure of the Baby Jesus was not to be placed in the manger until Christmas Eve.

By the early 17th century, the range of suitable locales for a Nativity set had broadened. Soon, the displays could be found not only in churches, but in home environments as well, a custom that had its roots in southern Italy. In some European countries, devout homes even kept a manger scene on display year-round, as an ongoing reminder of Christ's birth.

Early home crèches were hand-crafted, a time-consuming process which meant they initially were available only to the wealthy. The scenes became increasingly more elaborate, with the humble inhabitants of Bethlehem's stable decked out in fine linens and brocades, and the sumptuous robes and crowns of the Wise Men dotted with precious jewels. In the most over-the-top renditions, the Christ Child's manger was fashioned of silver, His head encircled with a halo of gleaming gold. While no doubt reverentially intended, a certain element of one-upsmanship entered into such displays. Members of the aristocracy, particularly in such locales as Naples, Genoa, and Sicily, hosted Yuletide gatherings with that season's dazzling Nativity scene on view for all to enjoy (and envy). Joining the Holy Family in the most



elaborate displays were a variety of interpolated figures, from members of the nobility (of course), to food vendors, card players, shoppers, assorted cats and dogs, and gypsy fortunetellers.

Those who could not afford such splendor, but still wished to celebrate the religious aspects of the holiday, often crafted their own manger scenes from whatever materials were at hand. The resulting creations boast a sincerity better suited to the season's theme, making the more expensive versions seem gaudy by comparison. As Christianity spread across the globe, this form of handmade self-expression grew and flourished. The influence of individual cultures can be seen to wonderful advantage in Nativity sets from around the world.

Included in this limitless array are carved Nativity gourds from South America; pine plaques from El Salvador; clay figurines from Mexico, Peru and South Africa; terra-cotta ones from Venezuela; Russian nesting dolls, and crèches made of birch bark.

; Italian blown glass; wood carvings from Ghana, Germany, and Cameroon; limestone and porcelain figures from Ireland; Israeli olive wood renditions; abaca fiber manger scenes from the Philippines; jute and hand-woven cloth representations from Bangladesh. and even an 11-piece Nativity set from Tanzania, constructed entirely of banana leaves.

Each interpretation not only incorporates indigenous materials in its fabrication, but also envisions the principal Nativity characters with a sensibility inherent to the locale. A Zulu rendition of the Holy Family, fashioned from fabric, beads, wood, and straw, may seem to have little correlation to European Renaissance paintings on the same theme.

In the United States, with the dawn of mass production in the early 20th century, home Nativity sets came within the range of every household budget. Despite a cookie-cutter sameness in styling, the intentions were good. Originally displayed beneath the Christmas tree, by the 1960s crèche-



Above: Terra-Cotta figures from South America. nine pieces, with the tallest figure 5-3/4". \$300-400.

Below: Raku pottery from South Africa, made by the Ndebele tribe, and marked "African Express, Inc., 1995". Tallest figure, 7". \$250-275.



Above: An exuberantly painted 12-piece wood set from Sri Lanka. Tallest figure, 4-1/2". \$25-35.

es had migrated to higher terrain. There they remained safe from the hazards of animated holiday displays, teetering stacks of wrapped presents, and marauding hordes of eager children on Christmas morning.

For many, the only "real" Nativity set is the one that has been handed

down in a family, from generation to generation. The plaster may be chipped on this piece, the paint a bit faded on that one. A donkey may be missing a foot, a shepherd the top of his crook, and there may be a Bethlehem Star that stubbornly refuses to light. But still, these visual reminders continue to inspire.

Donald-Brian Johnson (text) and Leslie Piña (photos) are the co-authors of numerous Schiffer books on design and collectibles. Dr. Piña is also the co-author of "Nativity Crèches of the World". Photo Associates for this article were Ramón Piña and Hank Kuhlmann. Please address inquiries to: donaldbrian@msn.com



Above: A Bangladesh rendition, of natural jute and hand-woven cloth. Six pieces, including angel and playful sheep. Tallest figure, 6-1/2". \$20-25

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