February 11, 2025 Vol. 48 No.10 www.eauctionexchange.com

ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

Black Forest bear bench sits down an \$855 bid

MILLIMAN

 Leonards Auction Company recently held its 20th annual two-ses-OTTAWA LAKE, Mich. sion antique and collect-

A unique bench selling for \$855 was a 6-foot-long black forest-style bench heavily carved with bears. It was an interesting piece with a bear on each end holding the bench up. Bears were playfully carved among some vines across the back of the bench, and the seat part was one large piece of wood stained a lighter color than the bears.

A complete black bear taxidermy mount stood tall at 6 feet. This lifesize bear didn't look particularly friendly, with his teeth showing and his front paws curled into a position ready to

Left: This Lotton art glass organic double-mouth sculpture signed by David Lotton sold for \$415.



Above: This black forest-style black bear bench was 6 feet long and sold for

strike. He had one a new home. redeeming quality: a small white patch on his upper stomach. Despite his threatening nature, black fur and gave him a "cute" look. This piece of \$680 before he found

A black bear hide pelt fur rug was auctioned off to accompany the black bear mount. It had it stood out against the reddish material on the bottom side and was spread out with all four brought a high bid price legs splayed. The bear's mouth was open. He

sold for the final price of \$450.

largemouth Seven bass were on a stringer and mounted on a walnut wood mount for display. These would look great in any man cave,

See Bear Bench Page 4

FEATURE

Collectors love Lefton's little Valentine Girl

By Larry LEMASTERS

A lot of collectors love

to sing, "I love, I love, I tion is one of Lefton's love my little Valentine Girl," especially when the "Valentine Girl" in ques-



Valentine Girls figurines.

George Zoltan Lefton founded Lefton China in Chicago in 1941. Lefton China became famous for importing porcelain decorative objects such as cookie jars, kitchenware, and figurines, including Valentine Girls figurines. Most of the items came from Japan.

Lefton became one of he first American importers to trade with Occupied Japan, and the first ceramic pieces that Lefton imported to America were stamped "Made in Occupied Japan," making these pieces highly collectible today.

At one time, Lefton Left: A Lefton "February Birthday" Valentine Girls figurine, circa 1957, that is valued at \$225.



Above: Theses three Lefton Valentine Girls, circa 1950s, were offered on eBay for \$375.

ceramic figurines were figurines, sold in more than 10,000 shops in the United States. Today, it is virtually impossible to walk China, especially Lefton

including Lefton's beloved Valentine Girls.

Five & Dive stores, such as JJ Kresges and Lefton Valentine Girls on into any antique mall Woolworth, helped make and not find Lefton Lefton a household name as nearly every home in

America displayed Valentine Girls each February. Many homes kept their grouping of display year around,

See Valentine Page 8



SINCE 1978 THE WEEKLY AUCTION & COLLECTORS **GUIDE FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION**



Since 1979

CHICAGOLAND 2025 COIN-OP SHOW

Antique Advertising, Slot-Machine & Jukebox at Lake County Fairgrounds

Friday, May 30th Shop from 7am - 4pm \$50 Admission - Good for both days Saturday, May 31st Shop from 9am - 3pm \$10 Admission

Don't miss this rare shopping opportunity!

Brought to you by Granger Wolf Promotions

Collectors from across the country will be bringing items from their collections to sell to the public at this sale.















For Vendor Information, Please call or email Granger Wolf Promotions
419-508-3645 | DWolfCoinOp@gmail.com

ESTATE AUCTION

Truck, Car, Camper, Firearms, Ammo, Coins, Trains SAT., FEBRUARY 22, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

PREVIEW: Week of auction from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM.

NEAPOLIS, OH 43522 (gps Grand Rapids) 2018 12

See whalenauction.com for photos & updates





TRUCK, CAR & TRAVEL TRAILER: 2020 1 Owner Chevrolet Silverado crew High Country 4WD, only 68,714 mi., All the bells & whistles, 6.2 gas, 10 spd., auto transmission, leather, sunroof, bed cover, power tailgate, cameras, Built in Feb 2020, Pre Covid!; 24' 2015 Dutchman Kodiak M-200QB; 2009 Kia Rio w/76,000 miles; selling 12 noon!

RING 1- FIREARMS, AMMO, TAXIDERMY, PRINTS & MISC. FIREARMS: 90+ Firearms incl. Rare Swedish Carl Gustaf Ljungman AG-42B, semi auto, Excellent condition, 6.5x55 Cal, 10+1 mags, SN# 12942B; Colt 1911 US A.R.M.Y, 45 Cal., Built in 1918, has old magazine, great condition, SN# 239624; Remington Model 1911 UMC 45 Cal. Semi Auto, SN# 331645, Great Patina finish, replacement magazine, grips; Ammo _ 16,000+ rounds of 9mm; 50+ Taxidermy: Bear, moose, elk, caribou, bobcat, bucks, ram, turkey, antelope, ducks, goose, turkey, fox, fish, 2 bear rugs & more; see whalenauction.com for full listing! 40+ BB guns incl. Daisy, Red Ryder, Benjamin, Sheridan, Crossman; 20+ Prints incl. David Maass; 15+ decoys incl. Tom Kozilko, White T. Linder, R Ogden, Orvis, Pat Kozman; 2 Remington bronzes; plus more!

Ring 2 - Coins & Train Collection

Coins: 400+ Silver Dollars, 2019 Apollo \$5.00 gold coin, proof sets; see whalenauction.com for listing; Trains: Mostly "G" gauge! 30+ Aristo train cars, "G" scale; RS-3 diesel locomotive; REA train set w/box; Bachmann big haulers "G" scale; Lionel-6-24574, 6-24575, 6-24576 Union Pacific E& AA diesel locomotive set, powered + non powered, in original boxes, 6-24578, 6-24577 Union Pacific E7 B Unit diesel locomotive powered + no powered cars in original boxes; Lionel multi control train master "Type ZW" transformer; 14 Lionel elec. train cars -"O" gauge; track; accessories & more!

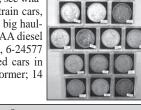
Estate of Thomas Vellequette Wood Co. PE 20241392,
Dean Vellequette Executor.

Estate of Ethel Branham, Henry County Probate 2024-1026. Terie Gauvey Exec. and others.

Terms: Cash or check w/ID. 3% processing on cards. Lunch by Sandy's. Order of sale: Selling in 2 rings all day! Truck, Car & Camper @ 12 noon. Firearms on display day of auction only and require FFL transfer if bought out of the State of Ohio. See whalenauction.com for more information.









RANGERBID MUNICIPALITY AND CONSIGNMENT AUCTION ONLINE AUCTION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 | MICHIGAN web

- 2023 Hummer EV Pickup Edition
- 1995 Hitachi EX550LCE Hydraulic Excavator
- 1990 John Deere 210C Loader Backhoe
- 1978 John Deere 750D Crawler Dozer
- 1967 Chris-Craft 57 Constellation Open Bow
- Municipal Vehicles
- Racking
- Shop Tools
- Shop Equipment
- Lifting EquipmentPlus Much More















VIEW ALL ITEMS IN DETAIL AND/OR BID AT <u>RANGERBID.COM</u> OR CALL OUR OFFICE AT 616-261-4987.

SPORTSMAN'S AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025 @ 9:00 AM

262 S. Sprague St., COLDWATER, MI 5

RING 1: Firearms begin at 10:00 AM EST IN-PERSON and on PROXIBID.COM

RING 2: Small items begin at 9:00 AM EST IN-PERSON ONLY

Open House Friday, February 14, 2025 from Noon to 5:00 PM





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PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 15 – 10:00 A.M. 5075 RUSSCHER ROAD, HOLLAND, MI



HOUSEWARES: 6 beautiful area oriental rugs; large gold frame wall mirror46"x84"; Ceiling Chandelier; Wales Cymru Brass miner lamp; DeMott Brass signed sail boat Sculpture; candlesticks; Fifth Avenue Crystal Art Glass Mustard & Amber Vase; Godinger Silver Art Co Silverplate 12 place setting Roses; Oneida silverware; Bar Set; Noritake "Queen's Gold" 12 place setting; vintage punch bowl set; Kenwood Receiver & KLH speaker; Sanyo speakers; Howard Miller 4" clock; Sligh mantel clock; MANY stemware sets; LOTS of house ware items & Tools = NIB; PRO Ceramic utility heater; (3) ATARI 5200 games; board games; 60# Everlast punching bag; RCA Small Wonder Color Video Camera; Pentax camera w/lens; VOLKI 380 skis/ binder/poles/bag; Woods 25' cord reel; set of Stanley drivers; many tools; New log chain; 14" Portland chain saw; spotlights; NEW 4' vise; come along; MANY totes; Pelonis vertical electric heaters; Adlake 4 way railroad lantern; Metal rotating display rack; Torchiere floor lamps; large trunks; Anderson Archery Big Game Hunter recurve bow; Red Ryder BB gun; Large cast iron fire place insert with mantel; fire place screen; regulation table tennis table=NIB. PICTURES: Claude Monet-The Boats Regatta at Argenteuil; Jesus the Good Sheperd; Summer; The Trapper James Bama; Salvador Dali, Spanish 1904-1989 Battle of Tetuan Signed; Robert Bateman "Cougar in the Snow; Sandra Kuck Lily Pond;

COLLECTIBLES: Bubble Gum machines; Large Collection of FIESTA dishes; pitcher; ashtrays; dish towels; placemats; set of 3 mixing bowls;1933 World's Fair Collectibles; Excelsior Accordion; (8) Kit KAT clocks; Delft ware—kitchen clocks & music box, Chalkware; RCA Diner music center; kerosene lamps; Stoney Brook wall clock; horse anchor; Atlas table; Doll ice cream table & chairs; misc jewelry; quartz pocket watches; wind up pocket watches; silver dollar; walking Liberty; proof coin sets; bag of wheat pennies; state quarter set; Victor record player; V-Tech ABC Learning Classroom; Singer sewing machine; O'Doul's mirror; 1977 Coca Cola calendar; alabaster sculptures; LARGE collection of banks; Delft items; Royal Doulton figurine; Royal Worcester Elizabeth Figurine;

CARS & PARTS: GREAT RESTORATION PROJECT!! (2) 1957 Chevy bodies and frame. Many additional parts on skids and trailers.

AUCTION NOTE: Another great auction with MANY fine items. The cars and parts will be sold at 12:00. Take your trailers, loader available. Payment cash, check, CC (5% fee). See web for MANY pics. Viewing Friday Feb 14, 3:00-5:00.

Dales Auctioneering will be having their Annual Chili Cook Off



at their February 15 Public Auction.

There are a few opening for entries,
BUT you must register prior to that date.
Names will be added on a 1st come basis.
Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place.
Winners will be determined by

Auction Attendees votes.

Text (616) 218-7391 to register









DALES AUCTIONEERING SERVICE LLC Dale Flokstra, Auctioneer (616) 836-3132 OR (616) 218-7391 www.dalesauctioneering.com

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Bear Bench

FROM PAGE 1

garage, or porch, giving the owner bragging rights even if he didn't catch them. They sold for \$340.

A Norinco MAK-90 Sporter semi-automatic rifle was sold for \$610. This piece was a 7.62 by 39-millimeter caliber with two magazine clips. With this rifle, you wouldn't have to worry about running out of bullets while hunting. A Winchester Model 190 twenty-two semiautomatic rifle with a 20-inch barrel and a soft case was also sold. It found a new home for was sold at a high bid of \$275.

A Mossberg Model 500 twenty-gauge shotgun with slide action, a 25e-inch barrel, and a hard case for storage sold for \$235. A Smith and Wesson .38 special CTG revolver was



Above: Vintage advertising pieces always sell well, and this Gulf dealer porcelain sign, complete with the arm bracket, had the bidding at \$375 before it was pronounced sold.

offered, and the final bid price was \$305.

A Gulf dealer sign \$375. This porcelain advertising piece was double-sided and came with the original arm bracket. This circular sign still had nice coloring with an orange background and neat black lettering, leaving no question about what it

was advertising.

Moving to decorative pieces for the household, a Lladro figurine was offered. This Lovers Paradise porcelain piece of grace was scooped up for \$565. This sculpture, #5770, also came with a display stand and showed a young couple in a boat with the oar beside them, just enjoying each other's compa-



Above: Miller signed this four-panel room divider, which shows an English fox hunt. It sold for \$495.

ny. The young lady leaned back into the young boy, and they had flower necklaces and hair pieces. A second Lladro piece was #753, the Garden of Dreams. This porcelain figurine also came with a display stand. It showed a beautiful young lady reclining on a garden bench with her book, enjoying the day. It brought a high bid of \$230.

A Lotton art glass organic double mouth sculpture was artist-signed. It stood just over 13 inches tall and was dated 2006 by David Lotton. This vase was very unusual. It almost looked like two birds touching beaks. The bottom portion was primarily black and gray, with some pinkish color in the center. It had two openings at the top and appeared very graceful. It sold for an impressive bid of \$415.

A Thomas Kinkade artist proof on canvas generated much interest. This 30 by 38-inch piece was signed and numbered. It was "All Aboard for Christmas" and depicted a beautiful winter scene with a train pulling into a small village while the townspeople came to meet it. This particular one was #18 out of 690. It had a beautiful mahogany frame and a display light to make it a center point for the

Christmas holiday. It brought the hammer down at \$425.

An unusual piece was an almost 9 foot tall room divider. This four-panel room divider, signed by Miller, depicted the scene of an English fox hunt. The detail was exquisite and in near-mint condition. with only one foot having some minor chips. It sold for \$495.

Some movie posters were sold. The top-selling one in this grouping was "I Was a Teenage Frankenstein," from 1957. "Body of a boy, mind of a monster, soul of an unearthly thing" was written across the top. The creature depicted was horrifying, making the quotes believable. This one was in decent shape and sold for \$325 to hang on someone's wall with the conversations it would create.

A small showcase contained 67 vintage political campaign buttons. The showcase was sold as a unit with all its contents included. This fine political collection of buttons was sold for \$300.

Leonard's Auction may be reached at 734-856-6530.



Above: Dating from 1957, this Frankenstein movie poster was in demand for \$325.



Above: A Lladro Lovers Paradise porcelain figurine that came with a display stand and sold for \$565.



Above: A Norinco brand semi-automatic rifle came with two magazine clips.



Above: "All Aboard for Christmas" was the title of this Thomas Kinkade artist proof on canvas. It was tucked away for a bid of \$425.



Above: A black bear hide pelt was sold to accompany the bear taxidermy mount. The rug brought an impressive bid of \$450

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Multiple areas have reported late deliveries for the week of 1/7/2025.

Our staff members will continue to address the late delivery reports we receive. We are constantly striving to rectify the late delivery problem. Please call our customer care center at (800) 876-5133, Ext. 0 or email Kphipps@midcountrymedia.com or Skopp@midcountrymedia.com to report late delivery in your area. Please, also contact USPS at 1-800-ASK-USPS or 1-800-275-8777.

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While we agree that the physical copy of the paper is the top priority, we do want to remind everyone that in the event your paper does not arrive by the issue date, the current issue is available to view on the website www.EAuctionExchange.com. The online issue is free to subscribers and totally keyword searchable. Thank you for your continued patience & support as we work through the issues with USPS.

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----- Unless otherwise noted -----

ADVERTISING SIZES AND RATES

1/8 page (5"Wx4"H) - \$83.80 1/4 page (5"Wx8"H) - \$157.77

1/2 page (101/4"Wx8"H) - \$315.56 Full page (101/4"Wx16"H) - \$546.15

Call for additional sizes and rates 888-339-3795

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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: Back cover ads are booked in advance by reservation - call for availability.

Deadlines/Sending Copy: Our deadline is 12 noon on the Tuesday before the issue date, (Tuesday). All material must be received by this time, including photographs. (Call for holiday schedules.) A 10% surcharge will be added to display advertising received Tuesday 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.

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

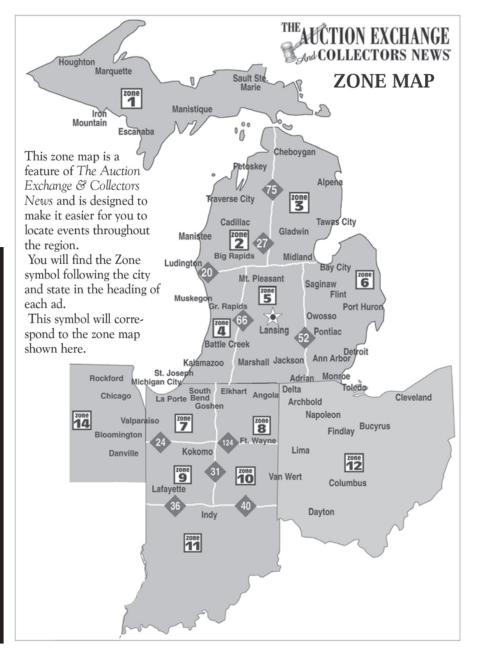
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Accuracy: Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of your finished ad. Sending it to us well in advance is essential in allowing adequate time for proofing and faxing layouts to you for approval. We assume no guarantee or liability concerning the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

ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE (NOON)
FEB. 18	TUES., FEB. 11
FEB. 25	TUES., FEB. 18
MARCH 4	TUES., FEB. 25
MARCH 11 1	TUES., MARCH 4
MARCH 18 TU	JES., MARCH 11
MARCH 25 TU	JES., MARCH 18
APRIL 1TU	JES., MARCH 25
APRIL 8	TUES., APRIL 1
APRIL 15	TUES., APRIL 8



UPCOMING AUCTION CALE

ANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL 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 4

Sat., Feb. 15, Dales **Auctioneering Service LLC**, Coll., Cars, Parts, Holland, MI Sat., Feb. 15, Dales Auctioneering Service LLC, HH, Coll., Misc., Holland, MI Sat., Feb. 15, JP Auction Sales Service, Oriental, Estate, Drenthe Grove, MI Thu., Feb. 20, Miedema Auctioneering, Equipment, Wayland, MI

Sat., Feb. 22, Stantons Auctioneers, Antique, Hastings, MI Fri., Feb. 28, Stantons Auctioneers. Firearm. Hastings, MI Sat., Apr. 26, Dales

Auctioneering Service LLC,

ZONE 5

Tractor, Tool, HH,

Holland, MI

Thu., Feb. 13, Braun & **Helmer Auction Service**, Toy & Die Cast, Tipton, MI

Sun., Feb. 16, Brian Hasty, Doll, Glass, Coll., Coldwater, MI

Sat., Mar. 1, Michael Auction & Realty Service, Real Estate, Allen, MI

Sat., Mar. 8, Mel White Auctioneer, Truck, Trailer, Charlotte, MI

Valparaiso, IN

ZONE 7 Sat., Mar. 1, Kraft Auction PHONE NUMBER: Service, Fine & Deco Art, 888-339-3795

ZONE 12

Fri., Feb. 14, Whalen Realty & Auction, Glass, Coll., Misc., Neapolis, OH Sat., Feb. 22, Whalen Realty & Auction, Gun, Ammo,

Coin, Neapolis, OH

Sun., Mar. 2, Kraft Auction

Service, Coin, Currency, Jwlr,

Valparaiso, IN

ST YOUR CTIONS

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

Mail to: The Auction Exchange & Collectors News

PO Box 90, Knightstown, IN 46148-0090

PUBLIC AUC will be held to sell the following items

LOCATION: DRENTHE GROVE, 615 68TH AVE **DIRECTIONS:** In Holland take US-31 to 16th St, then east 6.5 miles to 68th Ave., Then south to building.

ZEELAND, MICHIGAN 4

ORIENTAL, COLLECTIBLES & JEWELRY: 2- 4ft Stone Statue of Chinese Warriors; Bronze Japanese Samurai on Horse Statue; 50 Drawer Asian Apothecary Cabinet; Beautiful Reverse Painted Lamp-Ship Theme; Outstanding Chinese Green Jade Hand Carved 14 in Tall; 7ft tall Asian Armoire Style Cabinet; 4 Dyan Nelson Vintage Ark Mask from Broadway Musical Cats; Large Carved Oriental Camphor Wood Chest; 3 ft Stone Frank Lloyd Wright 'Sprite" Statue; Artisan Carved Half Moon Console Table; Samurai Sword Set on Stand; 2 Tibetan Ganesha Elephants; 24" Lord Krishna Statue; 2 Indonesian Statues; Bali Carved Pyramid Chest of Drawers; Faux Craved Elephant Tusk; Many Real Fur Coats-Some Full Length(Coyote, Fox, Mink, Silver Fox); Many Oriental & Persian Area Rugs; Large Amount of Jewelry-Some Sterling Silver -Some Gold & Diamond Rings; Oriental Black Lacquer Room Divider; Solid Wood Hand Carved Chair; Black Lacquer Storage Box; 3 ft Tall Oriental Floor Vase on Wood Stand;

Scrimshaw Tusk; Many Hand Carved Figural Canes/Walking Stick; Vintage Rockabilly 80's Pepsi Denim Jacket; Vintage Disney Bomber Jacket; Bone Elephant Sculpture; Pair of Chinese Foo Dogs; Asian Style Umbrella Vase; Chinese Blue & White Umbrella Vase; 3 Chinese Warriors Glazed Pottery Roof Tile Figurines; Turkish Brass Electric Samovar; Optical Cube; Korean Pagoda Lamp; Koi Fish Bowl/Planter; Red Fortune Money Coin Frog; 3 Stack Turtle Stature; Chinese Blue & White Porcelain Teapots & Flower Pots; Brass Candle Sticks; Other Oriental Statues; Colored Glass Vases; Much

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This is a very unique auction. There are many interesting items with an oriental theme. The green jade hand carved sculpture is a must see. You won't want to miss the first JP auction of this year. Lunch available. Viewing on Friday from 12:00 to 5:00PM.

TERMS: Cash or Check w/ID Announcements on day of sale takes precedence over printed material.



































❷ INDICATES THE AD APPEARS IN SECTION 2 OF THE PAPER						
DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV.	CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC) .
ZONE Z	MICI	HIGAN				
Sat., Feb. 15	10am	Dales Auctioneering	Holland, MI	HH, Coll.,	Misc.	3
Sat., Feb. 15	10am	JP Auction Sales Svc.	Drenthe Grove, MI	Oriental, E	Estate	6
Thu., Feb. 20	10am	Miedema Auctioneering	Wayland, MI	Equipment	t	7
Sat., Feb. 22	9:30am	Stantons Auctioneers	Hastings, MI	Antique		8
Fri., Feb. 28	8am	Stantons Auctioneers	Hastings, MI	Firearm		8

Two Alpha Auctions

 Computer
 Consignment
 Doll
 Equipment
 Estate
 Farm • Firearm
• Food
• Furniture
• Glass
• Government
• Household Office Equip.
Personal Prop.
Pottery
Primitive
Quilt CATEGORIES
Antique
Business/Commercial IndustrialJewelryLampLivestock Coin Collectible Real Estate

DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV	CITY	TYPE PAGE/SE	C.
ZONE I	2 OHIO	0			
Sat., Feb. 15	10am	Amanda Auction	Amanda, OH	Advt., Country Store	9
Sat., Feb. 22	10am	Whalen Realty & Auct.	Neapolis, OH	Gun, Ammo, Coin	3
ZONE W	EB				
•	•	American Eagle	Online	Meat Market	7
•	•	Maxbid.com	Online	Equip., Tool, Misc.	7
•	•	Pioneer	Online	Estate	8
Tue., Feb. 18	•	Rangerbid	Online	Tool, Equip., Auto	3
ZONE C	ALEN	IDAR			
Every Wed.	9am	Shipshewana	Shipshewana, IN	Antique., Misc.	8

Need to Contact Us? Call: 1.888.339.3795 ext. 134 E-mail: info@eauctionexchange.com

3



ZONE 5 MICHIGAN

Sat., Feb. 15 9am

FENTON web MEAT MARKET **EQUIPMENT** ONLINE AUCTION!

Coldwater, MI Sportsman

Most of the equipment is less than five years old—clean and wellmaintained.



Visit www.MichiganAuctionCompany.com and get registered now as the auction closes soon!



INE AUCTION

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QUALITY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

695 AMELIA ST., PLYMOUTH, MI 48170 INSPECT: FEBRUARY 17TH, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

PICK-UP TRUCK, LIFT TRUCK, INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY, NEW POWER TOOLS, RESTAURANT EQUIP, SOUND & LIGHTING EQUIP, FLOOR MACHINES, SHOP EQUIP., SCAFFOLDING, INTERIOR LIGHTING, SLOT MACHINE & MUCH MORE! DEALER #D001248





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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, AT 10:00 AM 3450 12TH STREET, WAYLAND, MI









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- 2008 John Deere 9330 Tractor, 4WD, 5,433 hours • 2002 John Deere 8420 Tractor, MFWD, 13,100 hours
- 200 hours on rebuild Kubota M6060 Tractor, MFWD, 3,002 hours

PLANTING EQUIPMENT

- 2023 John Deere N530C Air Seeder, 24R, 15/30", 30" 2017 J&M LC390 SpeedTender Seed Tender
- 2001 Transcraft Liquid Tender Trailer, 6,000 Gal.
- Clark Nurse Tank
- Tote Seed Vac System

HARVEST & GRAIN HANDLING

- 2022 TrailStar International Super Train Dump
- 2022 J&M X1112-20 Grain Cart
- 2014 Stoughton AHV-401T-AR-A Hopper Bottom

- 2005 Timpte Hopper Bottom Trailer
- 2005 John Deere 625F Grain Head
- J&M Header Cart. 25
- Killbros 350 Seed Tender Gravity Wagon
- Sweet Mfg. Bucket Elevator, 80' & 95' Grain Cannon

HAY EQUIPMENT

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Valentine

FROM PAGE 1

starting the first Valentine Girls collections.

Lefton used four different types of foil or paper labels. From 1946-1953, Lefton used a large crimson label with gold or silver trim, "Lefton's Exclusive Japan."

1953-1971, From Lefton used a red label with gold or silver trim, "Lefton's Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. Exclu. Japan." From 1960-1983, Lefton scarcity of the figurine. labels read "Lefton Finally, condition—any Trademark Exclusive Lefton figurine in mint Japan." And from 1986 and on, Lefton labels read "Lefton Trademark Exclusive Taiwan."

Prices can range from \$65 to \$150 for some of the Lefton Valentine Girls figurines. Factors that may determine the value of a Lefton Valentine Girls figurine include age, rarity, and condition. Generally, the older the Valentine Girls figurine, the more valuable it is. Rare or



Above: From the 1950s, this Lefton Valentine Girls "Blonde Girl Planter" is valued at \$145.



Above: Three Valentine Girls by Lefton that are bells. This trio was offered on eBay for \$300.

production limited runs, although there were few, are often worth more due to the condition, without scratches, chips, or missing parts, will command a higher price.

For over 80 years, Lefton Japanese-made figurines have evoked whimsical childhood

memories. Every Lefton Valentine Girls figurine oozes a sense of nostalgia, color, grace, and happiness, especially for women who were young girls in the 1950s.

Lefton pieces were produced in Japan until the 1970s when production of all Lefton work shifted to Taiwan and Malaysia, effectively ending Lefton's first

"era" for collectors. George Lefton died in 1996, and the Lefton Company was sold to OMT Enterprises in 2005, forever ending the great allure of this mid-century giant.

Today, Lefton Valentine Girls are still kitschy, but they beautifully reflect the elegant romance ofmid-century America.



Above: Lefton Valentine Girls planter from 1963 that is valued at \$135



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Above: Cute Valentine Girls figurine of girl in pink dress sitting on red bench being serenaded by a boy with guitar. This fabulous figurine is valued at

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Where would Valentine's Day be without the chocolate?

BY JULIE ROBARDS

In 1868, an English chocolatier named Richard Cadbury came up with the idea of packaging chocolates in fancy, heart shaped gift boxes for Valentine's Day. Being well-aware of the Victorian penchant for all things beautiful, he handcrafted and decorated the boxes using watercolor paintings of romantic things he knew would appeal to women. Cadbury set up a display in the window of his Birmingham storefront, and before long customers realized that such a pretty gift would thrill their loved ones. The fancy heart-shaped boxes were a big hit that year and Cadbury's sales increased, saving the company from ruin.

The chocolate we know and love today is relatively new in comparison to its primitive beginnings in the sweltering jungles of Mesoamerica. For thousands of years, it was used as an aphrodisiac by the Olmecs, Mayan and Aztecs civilizations. These ancient peoples discovered a way to process the beans from the pod of the cacao tree by fermenting, roasting, grinding, and flavoring them. They mixed their concoction with water and created a frothy, bitter drink they called Xocolatl - (sho-ko-LAHtl), which literally means "bitter water."

Xocolatl seemed to have unusual magical properties that gave those who drank it a heightened sense of well-being, alertness, energy, and stamina. Because of its invigorating effects it was also used as a medicine and a powerful aphrodisiac. They considered the cacao bean to be sacred. and it was reserved only for nobility, priests, warriors, sacrificial rituals, and celebrations. We understand now that the reason for the uplifting feelings was the fact that chocolate contains two stimulants; caffeine-Below: The two boxes shown here are more masculine in theme. The card-



Above: The first heart shaped chocolate box was introduced by English Chocolatier Richard Cadbury in 1868. After the chocolate was eaten, the boxes were often used to store sentimental keepsakes like the paper carnation shown here. Photo courtesy Nancy Nugent

ness, and theobromine – a powerful mood-enhancer that also increases energy and endurance.

In 1519, the Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortez arrived in Mexico and was introduced to the bitter, frothy drink by the Aztec Emperor Montezuma. Cortez was not impressed and refused to partake of the drink, nevertheless, he could not dismiss its enhancing effect. He brought cacao beans back to Spain, and touted the extraordinary medicinal and aphrodisiacal virtues. Again, reserved for royalty and the wealthy, Spanish men drank it mixed with beer or wine hoping to increase their virility. Ladies detested the rancorous taste, so they began to drink it hot, flavored with vanilla, cinnamon, and

Soon "hot cacao" made its way through Europe, and by the late 1650s, it was an established commodity in England. The names Xocolatl and cacao were anglicized to become Chocolate and Cocoa. When British colonists began settling in America, they brought with them their fondness for chocolate. Wealthy mer-

board box with the elk imagery dates to the late 1800s and the lithographed tin

box with a ship on the sea probably dates to the 1940s or 50s. Courtesy Nancy

cocoa beans from the West Indies into the main ports of the 13 colonies and sold them to apothecaries, grocers, chocolatiers, and anyone who could afford them.

In 1764, an Irishman named John Hannon immigrated to Boston, and although unemployed, he was a skilled chocolatier. Hannon went into partnership with a wealthy businessman named Dr. James Baker of Dorchester, Mass. The good doctor was intrigued by Hannon's occupation, and agreed to financially back a chocolate venture. They set up a factory in an old sawmill on the banks of the Neponset River and "Hanon's Best Chocolate" became a lucrative business since it did all the work of processing cocoa beans for the customer. Unfortunately, in 1779, while on a cocoa buying trip to the West Indies, Hannon disappeared and was never heard from again. Presumed to be lost at sea, his widow sold her share of the business back to Baker and the name was changed to Baker's Chocolate Company.

The most significant development in chocolate chants imported raw came in 1828, when Coen-introduced a processed

and chocolatier, patented his father's invention of a hydraulic press that removed cocoa butter from chocolate. This method resulted in a fine cocoa powder that easily dissolved in hot water or milk. He called it Dutch Chocolate and it helped to popularize the hot drink. In 1847, an English chocolatier named Joseph Fry created the first "eating chocolate" when he added a little melted cocoa butter back into sweetened Dutch cocoa, and molded it. For the first time in history chocolate was viewed as a food product,

beverage.

raad

Johannes van

Houten, a Dutch chemist

Meanwhile in America a young Quaker named Stephen Whitman opened a confectionary shop in Philadelphia. By 1854, he was pre-packaging boxes of fruit sweets and soon thereafter began to make chocolate to compete with expensive European imports. The years that followed found his sons joining the company and by 1860, the first printed advertising for Whitman's Bon-Bons Chocolate appeared in the newspaper. In 1877, Whitman

rather than just a hot

Below: In 1847, Joseph Fry of England invented the first chocolate bar and chocolate was elevated to a food product. Ever since chocolate has been molded into a myriad of shapes ranging from holiday themes to animals, birds, flowers and inanimate objects. Photo Etsy





Above: A collection of chocolate boxes and memorabilia dating from 1880 through the 1960s. The Dow's Utopian Chocolate sign is hand painted on canvas and features the slogan The Taste Tells - The F.H.Dow & Company of Cambridge, Mass., was in operation from 1910 -1920. Courtesy Nancy Nugent.

hot cocoa powder for making sweet instant hot chocolate and it took the country by storm. With sales increasing, the company expanded and developed new recipes. In 1912, they launched the Whitman's Sampler box that is still being produced today.

The third oldest chocolate firm in America was started by an Italian named Domenico Ghirardelli -who was a chocolate merchant living in Lima, Peru. In 1847 he sent 600 pounds of Ghirardelli chocolate with a friend to San Francisco. Then, with the news of gold at Sutter's Mills, Ghirardelli immigrated to California to sell chocolate to the miners. In 1852, he founded the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company and to this day it continues to make some of the finest chocolate in the world.

There were two significant developments in Switzerland that changed the world of chocolate forever. In 1879, Milk Chocolate was invented by a Dutch chocolatier named Daniel Peter, and his neighbor Henri Nestle, who had developed powdered milk. The men combined their ingredients and created a sweet. lighter alternative to dark eating chocolate. The second development was accidentally discovered Swiss chocolatier bv Rudolf Lindt, who forgot to turn off the blending machine one evening. The next day he discovered the over-churned chocolate had changed for the better in appearance, consistency, aroma, and flavor. Lindt kept the technique to himself and proceeded to build and patent the Conching Machine, so named because the stirring chocolate resembled the shape of a conch shell. He closely guarded his production secrets until 1899, when he sold his factory, trade



Above: These two Whitman's Salmagundi tin chocolate boxes (1 lb. and 2 lb.) feature the Art Nouveau image of a painting called Zodiac by Alphonse Mucha. Released in 1924, the word Salmagundi is not the name of the woman but rather it means "an assortment or mixture." Courtesy Nancy Nugent

secrets and name for the sum of 1.5 million gold francs— the equivalent of 100 million dollars today.

Back in America, there was a caramel candy maker named Milton Hershey who lived in Lancaster, Pa. In 1893, he attended the World's Columbian Exposition and was inspired by German chocolate machinery on display. Upon returning to Pennsylvania, he sold his caramel company for a million dollars, moved to Derry Township, and founded the Hershey Chocolate Company. He constructed a milk processing plant, a chocolate factory, and houses for employees, then began production. In 1900, the first Hershey's Chocolate Bar went on sale and became the affordable and delicious great American chocolate bar. The next big thing came in 1907, when the first bite-sized piece of chocolate - the Hershey Kiss - made its debut. It was so named because the machine made a "kissing" sound during produc-

All through the 1900s, chocolate manufacturing increased and thousands of large and small privately held chocolate companies spread across the country. Because of this there is an endless supply of advertising and ephemera, cookbooks, boxes, tins, molds, porcelain chocolate pot sets, souvenirs, and premiums available in antique shops and online. Some collectors focus on a brand or category while others collect everything that relates to the subject, and none of this would have been possible without the pioneering work of Coenraad van Houten, James Baker, Rudolf Lindt, Peters & Nestle, Stephen Whitman, Domenico Ghirardelli, Richard Cadbury, and Milton Hershey.



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