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February 3, 2026

Vol. 49 No.09

### ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

## Jefferson table lamp shines to \$950 at Epic Auctions

BY NANCY KELLY

LESLIE, Mich. — On a snowy day with sub-zero temperatures Brad Stoecker of Epic Auctions told his audience that he would "plow through" 555 auction lots. The Winter Art, Antiques & Eclectic Discoveries Auction presented beautiful and colorful selections to help warm the crowd. The prices listed do not include the buyer's premium.

The brightest light of the sale was the Arts and Crafts Jefferson Glass Company reverse painted glass table lamp. The beautifully decorated domed shade depicted a landscape with trees on a background of water and mountains in orange, brown, and green. It stood on a metal hexagonal painted base and was equipped with two pull-

chain sockets. This early 20th century item was signed "1896 Jefferson Co", inside the shade and stood 25 inches tall. After a lively bidding volley, it closed with a high bid of \$950.

Another lamp also proved popular. The Victorian uranium glass oil "Gone with the Wind" style parlor lamp was in excellent condition with both green uranium globes intact on a brass base. It had not been electrified and appeared to still have the original font and burner. This late 19th/early 20th century item stood 21 inches tall to the top of the chimney



and was claimed with a high bid of \$650. There were 31 lamps in all, ranging from table to hanging to floor lamps.

Badge collectors had a nice selection of 55 badges from various locations and occupations to choose from. The Ohio Division of Conservation captain badge was marked Metal

See *Epic* Page 4



Above: Victorian uranium glass oil "Gone with the Wind" style parlor lamp had not been electrified and appeared to still have the original font. It was claimed for \$650.



Above: A beautifully decorated Arts and Crafts Jefferson Glass Company reverse painted glass table lamp drew an active bidding competition before it closed with a high bid of \$950.

### FEATURE

## Postcards are never a bridge too far

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

David Guise, a civil engineer, collected a small, but visually appealing collection of postcards depicting bridges. In 2017, he donated his collection to Lehigh University. The postcards

depict "various bridges in the United States, Scotland, Canada, and China." Guise loved bridges because they are structures that "connect land and people."

As it turns out, lots of people love bridges, and these people are called pontists. Pont is a Welsh

word meaning "bridge," so a pontist is a person or collector who loves bridges. Since it is basically impossible to collect bridges, most pontists collect photographs or postcards of famous bridges.

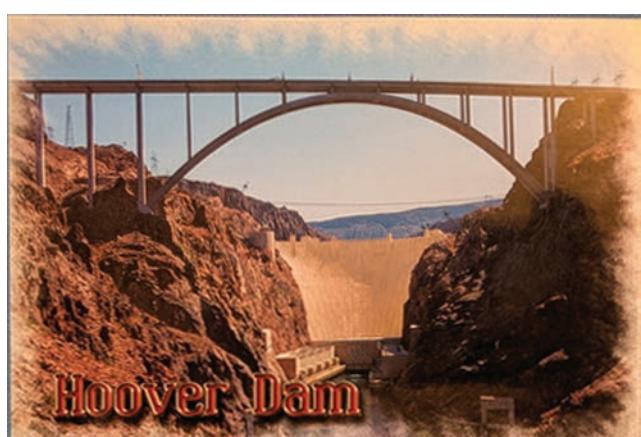
Postcards and bridges fit together perfectly since both are designed to take people places. Bridges and postcards may also symbolize a connection between people. In fact, "a bridge acts as a unifying force, transcending physical boundaries and bridging the gaps between individuals, nations, and cultures."

Bridge building has been traced back to the ancient city of Babylon in 4,000 BC where a bridge was built over the Euphrates River; however, many historians

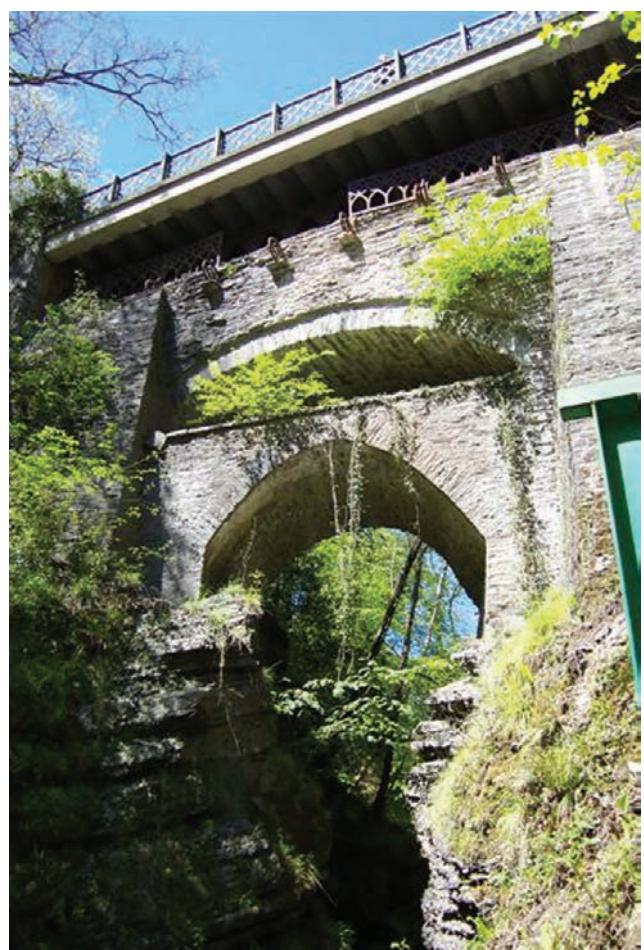
believe Assyria or Egypt may have been the first civilizations to build bridges. Some historians believe the critical elements of bridge construction were used in Switzerland around 4,000 BC to support houses built over water and from these elements, bridges were born.

Philosophers have argued over why people love bridges for at least the last two hundred years. Bridges are seen as connectors, connecting

See *Bridges* Page 6



Above: The O'Callaghan-Tillman Memorial Bridge over Hoover Dam. This 2011 postcard is valued at \$18.



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## LARGE TRIPLE AUCTION

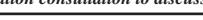
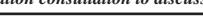
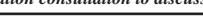
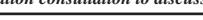
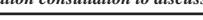
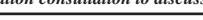
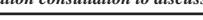
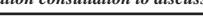
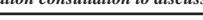
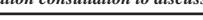
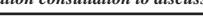
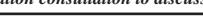
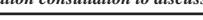
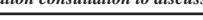
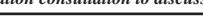
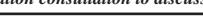
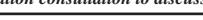
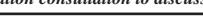
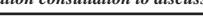
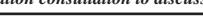
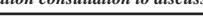
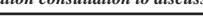
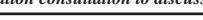
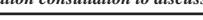
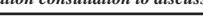
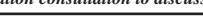
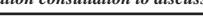
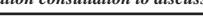
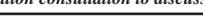
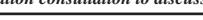
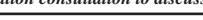
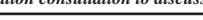
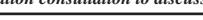
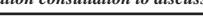
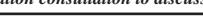
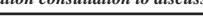
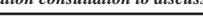
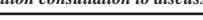
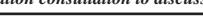
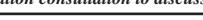
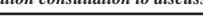
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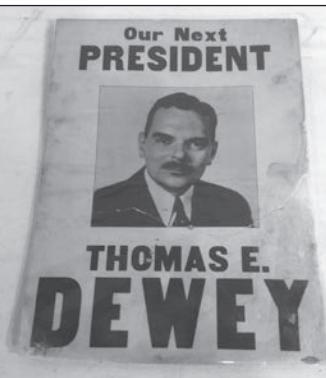
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Container

**Epic**

FROM PAGE 1

Artsco (Rochester, New York) and measured 3 by 3 inches. It had an eagle perched on top and an emblem that included trees, sun, arrows, and other symbols. It was rehomed with a final bid of \$700. Other examples included the gold, six-pointed star shaped Moro County, Oregon, sheriff badge that finished at \$350, a silver colored shield shaped Crow Wing County, Minnesota, deputy sheriff badge that closed at \$250, and a 1930s Wayne County deputy sheriff badge with the State of Michigan seal and Sheriff Henry Behrendt's name on it that left with a \$190 final bid.

Some fierce-looking weapon remnants were preserved and mounted for consideration. The hand-forged Viking bearded iron battle axe head was dated to the eighth-tenth century CE. The axe head itself measured 8 by 4 inches and was mounted on a custom made oak stand. Its provenance had been verified, and it was taken with a final bid of



**Above:** The hand-forged Viking bearded iron battle axe head was dated to the eighth to tenth century. Its provenance had been verified, and it was taken with a final bid of \$550.

\$550. An ancient ball-shaped Luristan bronze mace head, circa 1500-1000 BCE, measured 2 inches in diameter and was also mounted on a custom made oak stand. It closed at \$180. The Ancient Western Asiatic bronze tubular socketed axe head, circa thirteenth to sixth century BCE measured 6 inches long and appeared to come from the same collection. It also finished at \$180.

A delightful selection of flat art ran the spectrum from scenic to modern. Leading this category, the peaceful view of sheep



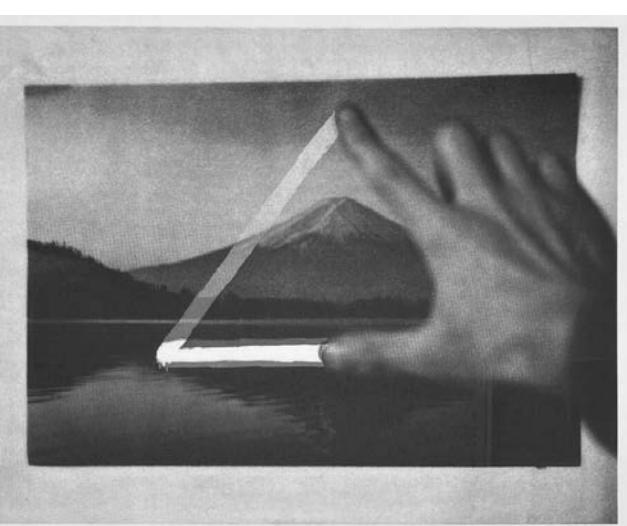
**Above:** Eight handsome L. Hitchcock Christmas edition fancy side chairs each displayed a hand-painted nostalgic holiday scene. This is a close view of one of them. They sold in lots of four for \$400 and \$375.

standing in front of a barn created by artist H. Flambeau was most appealing. This oil on stretched canvas piece measured 20 by 24 inches and was mounted in a larger wood frame. The painting was signed "H. Flambeau" and had some damage but still drew a final bid of \$375. A modern silkscreen in shades of blue and orange depicting a hand completing a triangle with a mountain in the background had been created by Japanese artist Shigeru Taniguchi. This 1983 dated and signed piece was titled "Mt. Fuji" and was #30 of 35 in the limited edition.

It was rehomed with a final bid of \$275. Appropriate for the weather of the day, a small watercolor painting titled "Tinker Creek" by artist Diane Fraser Patton depicted a creek with snowy banks and leafless trees. It was taken with a final bid of \$275.

A few uncommon lots also were presented. First, a handsome 19th century antique Swiss cylinder music box was displayed in a wood case with an inlaid marquetry lid. The box played eight different songs, including "Old Folks at Home" and "Blue Danube Waltz" and was reported to be working at time of cataloging. This tabletop model measured 22 inches long and except for the missing key to the

lid was in very desirable condition. The bidders agreed, requiring a final bid of \$450 to take it home.



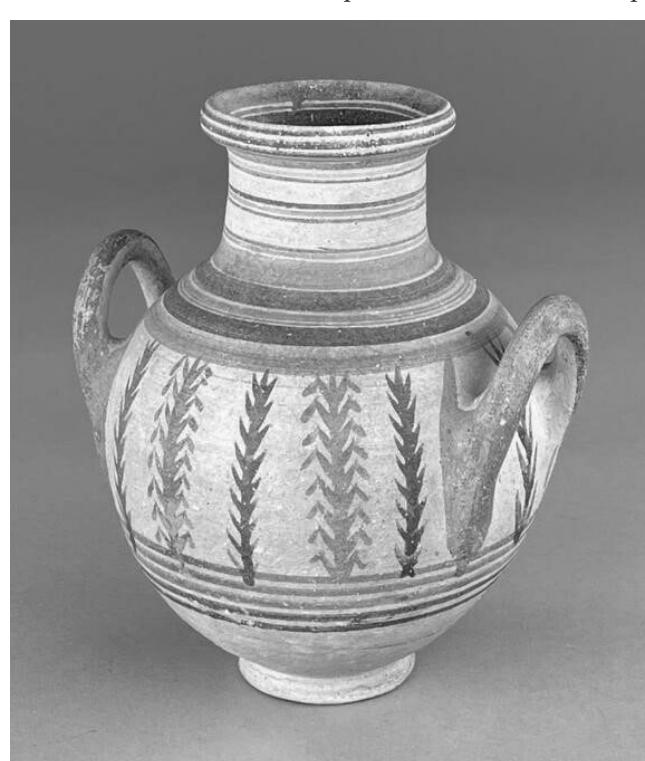
**Above:** A modern silkscreen titled "Mt. Fuji" by Japanese artist Shigeru Taniguchi was rehomed with a final bid of \$275.



**Above:** This unique Victorian hair wreath consisted of hair woven with ribbons and jewels and beautifully displayed in a walnut frame. It closed with a high bid of \$375.



**Above:** A handsome 19th century antique Swiss cylinder music box played eight different songs and was reported to be working at time of cataloging. It required a final bid of \$450 to take it home.



**Above:** This incredible Iron Age Cypriot Bichrome Amphora dated 600-475 BCE measuring 9 inches tall was claimed with a final bid of \$375.



**Above:** Despite having some damage, this peaceful scene of sheep standing in front of a barn created by artist H. Flambeau still drew a final bid of \$375.

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Auction Exchange and Collectors News  
Published weekly except one week in December  
(51 issues) and mailed every Thursday  
ISSN: 0279-0950

Published by MidCountry Media, Inc.  
27 N. Jefferson St., PO Box 90  
Knightstown, IN 46148

Periodicals postage paid at Knightstown, Indiana  
and additional mailing offices.

Subscription price: \$42.00 for one year  
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The Auction Exchange & Collectors News strives to provide customers with the best delivery possible. Recently, many of our delivery areas have been experiencing late delivery of the paper. The Auction Exchange & Collectors News' late delivery staff has been working closely with USPS to ensure you receive your paper on time, every time. If your paper is not delivered by the issue date, please let us know. Call 800-876-5133 and hit 0 for an operator.

Multiple areas have reported late deliveries for the week of 12/23/25.

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 [Khipps@midcountrymedia.com](mailto:Khipps@midcountrymedia.com) or [Skopp@midcountrymedia.com](mailto:Skopp@midcountrymedia.com) to report late delivery in your area. Please, also contact USPS at 1-800-ASK-USPS or 1-800-275-8777.

If you are experiencing consistent late delivery of all mail, we are encouraging you to reach out to your State Representatives to report the ongoing problems with late mail delivery in your area.

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](http://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.

## GENERAL ADVERTISING INFORMATION

→ DEADLINE IS TUESDAY AT 12 NOON

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

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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.

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**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.

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**E-Mail:** Please send "Text Only" format, we cannot use files that have been saved in their native software. Email address:

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**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

<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>DEADLINE (NOON)</b>
FEB. 10.....	TUES., FEB. 3
FEB. 17.....	TUES., FEB 10
FEB. 24.....	TUES., FEB 17
MAR. 3.....	TUES., FEB 24
MAR. 10.....	TUES., MAR. 3
MAR. 17.....	TUES., MAR. 10
MAR. 24.....	TUES., MAR. 17
MAR. 31.....	TUES., MAR. 24
APR. 7.....	TUES., MAR. 31



# UPCOMING AUCTION CALENDAR

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL

MAY JUNE JULY

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

**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. 14, Dales Auctioneering Service LLC, Glass, Star Wars, *Holland, MI*  
Fri., Mar. 20, Stantons Auctioneers, Firearm, *Hastings, MI*

## ZONE 5

Sat., Feb. 14, Durocher Auctions, *Misellaneous, Okemos, MI*

Sat., Feb. 28, Bob's Coins Auction, *Coin, Athens, MI*

## ZONE 8

Thu., Feb. 12, Polk Auction Co., Ag, Construction, *New Paris, IN*  
Thu., Apr. 9, Polk Auction Co., 2 Day Tractor, Equip, *New Paris, IN*

**Be Sure To Say,  
"I Saw It In The  
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## LIST YOUR UPCOMING AUCTIONS FREE!

Day	Date	Auction Company	Type of Auction	Town	State
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**Mail to: The Auction Exchange & Collectors News**

PO Box 90, Knightstown, IN 46148-0090

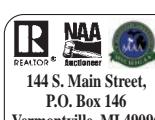


## ANTIQUE & MODERN FIREARMS

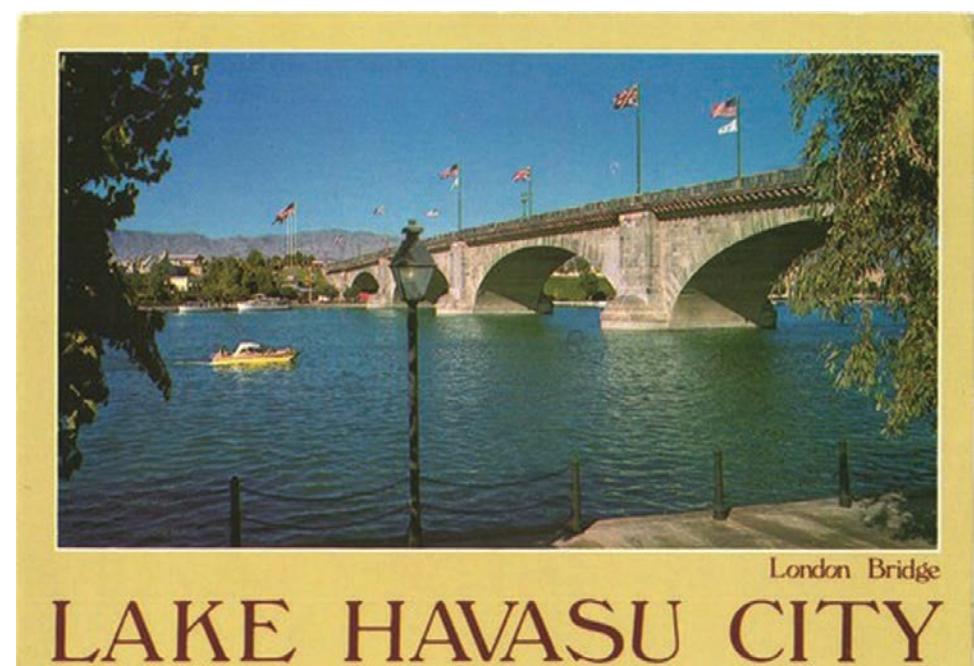
At the Barry County Fairgrounds, 1350 N. M-37 Hwy., Hastings, Michigan on:  
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## LAKE HAVASU CITY

Above: London Bridge on display in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. This bridge was moved to Arizona over 50 years ago, and the postcard is valued at \$30.

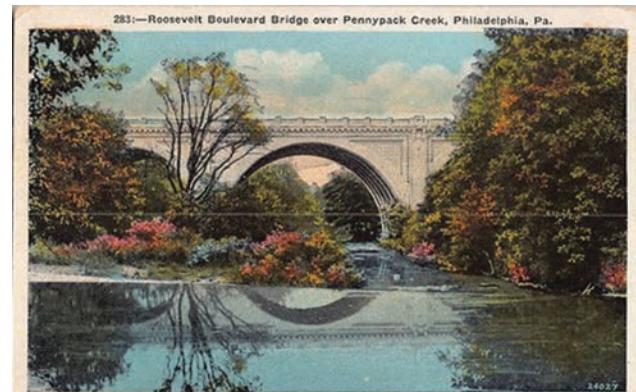
## Bridges

FROM PAGE 1

and people. Bridges also host markets, festivals, and other social programs. The Tower Bridge of London once hosted shanty markets, and, since 2006, the Vault 1894 has served food and beverages beneath the iconic bridge.

Bridges also have spiritual meanings. Bridges symbolize connections—a known world connecting to an unknown world. Bridges often connect two banks of the same river, yet they symbolically are a combination of the two worlds that are connected. Great, iconic bridges stand as lasting symbols of "human ingenuity, cultural identity, and the aspiration for progress."

Many bridges have legendary histories, such as the Mynach River Bridge in Ceredigion, Wales. Here, the Mynach



Above: The Pennypack Creek Bridge in Philadelphia. This postcard depicts the oldest surviving roadway bridge in the United States, and the postcard is valued at \$20.

River has been bridged since at least the 12th century. According to legend, the Mynach River Bridge "was built after an old woman lost her cow and saw it grazing on the other side of the river. Satan appeared and agreed to build a bridge for her in return for the soul of the first living thing to cross the bridge, thinking the old woman would cross first. When the bridge was finished, the old woman threw a crust

of bread over the river, which her dog crossed the bridge to retrieve, thus becoming the first living thing to cross it. The devil was left with only the soul of the dog," which still angers Satan to this day.

The Mynach Bridge is famous for another reason — it has three levels of ancient and modern bridge building on it. The first bridge, still present, was built in the Middle Ages, the second bridge was built

in 1753 above the first bridge, and the third, modern steel bridge, was built in 1901, above the other two. All three bridges still stand.

Perhaps the most gruesome bridge legend is that of Crybaby Bridge, a bridge on

Sleepy Hollow Road between Jefferson and Oldham Counties in Kentucky. The bridge is called Crybaby Bridge because mothers would, supposedly, drop their unwanted, sick, or deformed babies off the bridge to drown in the swirling waters below. Finally, there are many bridges named the "Bridge of Sighs," but one that has a good claim to such a name is Ponte dei Sospiri, Bridge of Sighs, in Venice, Italy. This

See Bridges Page 7

# 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.
<b>ZONE 4 MICHIGAN</b>				

Sat., Feb. 7	9:30am	Stantons Auctioneers	Hastings, MI	Coin, Glass	2
Sat., Feb. 14	10am	Dales Auctioneering	Holland, MI	Glass, Star Wars	2
Fri., Mar. 20	8am	Stantons Auctioneers	Hastings, MI	Firearm	6

ZONE 5 MICHIGAN	DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC.
Sat., Feb. 14	10am	Durocher Auctions	Okemos, MI	Miscellaneous	3

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

DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC.
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## ZONE WEB

•	•	Orbitbid	Online	Miscellaneous	7
•	•	Reodcast	Online	Semi	3

## ZONE CALENDAR

Every Wed.	9am	Shipshewana	Shipshewana, IN	Antique, Miscellaneous	2
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**E-mail: [info@eauctionexchange.com](mailto:info@eauctionexchange.com)**

## HOWARD MILLER ONLINE AUCTION

BIDDING ENDS: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
ZEELAND, MI

zone  
web



### MAJOR MACHINES:

- 2022 Homag Centateq N-500 CNC Gantry Processing Machining Center
- 2018 Homag TLF211/26/12/Edition Materials Handling Technologies CNC Lift and Load Cell
- 2016 Wemhoner KT-MB28/15-240 Membrane Press
- Biesse Rover A 1332 UTS CNC Machining Center
- Biesse Rover 346 ATC CNC Router
- Holzma OPT HPP 82/38 Optimat CNC Panel Saw
- Holzher Sprint 1317 Edgebander
- Weeke Optimat BHX 055 Machining Cetner
- Accu-Systems VX CNC
- (2) Bell 424-B Double End Trim & Bore Machine
- (2) Pillar Machine Accu-Systems VX Vertical Boring CNC Machining Center
- Dodds BD 9015-2 Dovetailer
- Challoner 527 TS Double End Tenoner
- Celaschi Double End Tenoner
- Stemas Double End Tenoner
- Rosenquist EG-5080-A Edge Gluer
- L&L Machinery Edge Gluer
- Doucet RT-100-12.5-32 Clamp Carrier Operator
- (2) Weinig Powermat 1000 CNC Moulder
- Weinig Unimat 23 E CNC Moulder
- Celaschi 246 Double End Tenoner
- (3) Heian ZR-442P CNC Routers
- Heian NC-2429 CNC Router
- Heian HR-442P CNC Router
- Heian ZR-242P CNC Router
- Costa & Grissom Machinery Company 80 TRCTT 1350 Wide Belt Sander
- (2) Costa & Grissom Machinery Company 800 CCCT 1350 Wide Belt Sander
- Costa & Grissom Machinery Company 85 CCC 1350 Wide Belt Sander
- Timesavers Speedbelt 225-2 Belt Sander
- (2) Sealed Air Instapak iMold Automated Foam Packaging System

### MATERIAL HANDLING:

- Raymond Standup Electric Forklifts
- (60) ERGO Lift-Rite Pallet Jacks
- Hyster Electric Walkie Pallet Stacker
- (3) BT Prime Mover Electric Walk Behind Pallet Stacker
- Skyjack SJIII Scissor Lift
- Skytrak 6036 Telehandler
- Paint Systems:** Paint, Lacquer and Spray Booths, Drying Ovens, Overhead Chain Conveyor System, Multiple Steel Paint Carts, Paint Sprayers and more
- Large Rough Mill System:** Mereen-Johnson 424 Gang Rip Saw, Transfer Conveyors
- Large amounts of Raw Materials**

### MISCELLANEOUS MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT:

- (2) CTD Double Miter Saws
- (3) Oakley H5 Double Sided Oscillating Edge Sanders
- Oakley D Stroke and Edge Sander
- Oakley H20 Vertical Sander
- Ekstrom-Carlson & Co. N0 112-A Double Sided Oscillating Edge Sander
- (5) Tannevitz GH Vertical Band Saw
- Grizzly Router Table
- Powermatic 72 Table Saw
- G & P Machinery PW-3 Sander/Polisher
- B.M. Root CXHS2 Multiple Spindle Hydraulic Dbl. Row Vertical Borer
- B.M. Root Horizontal Borer Machine
- Dodds BD 9015-2 Dovetailer
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## Bridges

FROM PAGE 6

bridge, built in 1600, made of white limestone and enclosed with windows and stone bars, passes over the Rio di Palazzo, and the bridge connects the new prison to the interrogation rooms of the old prison. Many bridge collectors believe this bridge is haunted because you can still hear the sighs of prisoners being led from torturous interrogation rooms across the bridge to their prison cells.

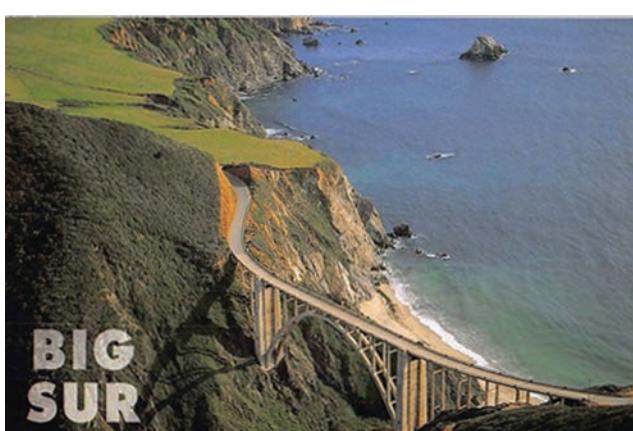
If you are a novice bridge postcard collector, you may want to concentrate on bridges in the United States only. There are 600,000 bridges, both existing and destroyed, in the United States, so the number of postcards depicting these bridges is staggering. Texans, simply because Texans always do things bigger,



Above: A Tower Bridge of London postcard, circa 1910s, that was offered on eBay for \$5.

has 53,000 bridges, which is almost twice the number of any other state. I live in Arkansas, and there are nearly 13,000 bridges in Arkansas, which means I will never have a postcard of all of them.

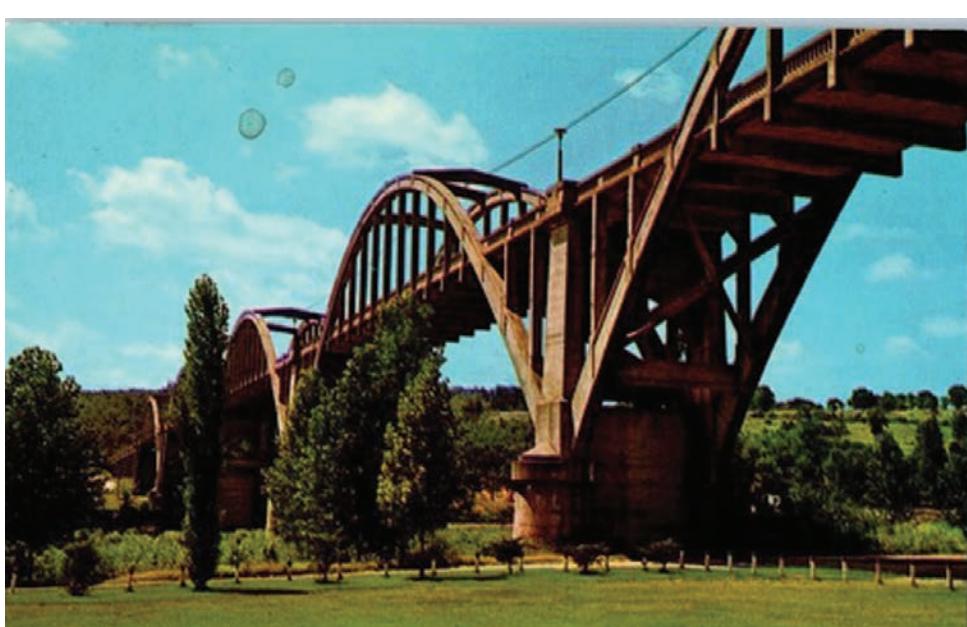
A good place to begin collecting bridge postcards is to locate postcards with the seven most beautiful bridges of the world on them. In no particular order, the seven most beautiful



Above: Beautiful postcard depicting the Rainbow Bridge over Bixby Creek on Highway 1 in California. This postcard is valued at \$7.



Above: Golden Gate Bridge postcard, showing the sun setting over San Francisco. This vintage postcard is valued at \$14.



Above: Postcard, circa 1960, showing the Historic Cotter Bridge over the White River in Arkansas. This postcard is routinely offered on eBay in the range of \$4 to \$15.

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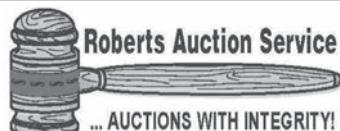


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# Heathkit is still sparking the imagination of collectors

BY WILLIAM FLOOD

For a generation of tinkerers, the name Heathkit stirs fond memories of evenings spent assembling radios, amplifiers, and oscilloscopes. Born in the 1940s, the company's kits offered genuine, hands-on electronics education. Today, collectors prize the company's pieces for their ingenuity, the skills they nurtured, and the era of DIY accomplishment they embody.

Heathkit manufactured electronic kits from 1947 to 1992, but the company's origins reach back to 1911, when aircraft engineer Edward Bayard Heath founded the Heath Airplane Company. By 1926, the firm was selling a small kit-built aircraft known as the Parasol. After Heath died in a 1931 test flight, the company reorganized and moved to Niles, Mich. In 1935, Howard Anthony acquired the company and shifted its focus toward aircraft accessories, setting the stage for its next incarnation in the electronics field.

Sensing the booming interest in electronics after World War II, Anthony acquired a large stock of surplus wartime electronic parts and set out to market via mail order do-it-yourself kits for hobbyists. In 1947, Heath introduced its first kit, a small oscilloscope priced at \$39.50, advertised through a small ad in Radio News Magazine. It quickly captured the interest of enthusiasts, and the company responded by offering additional test equipment and radios.

The company was built on a straightforward idea: by investing their time and effort, anyone could assemble equipment rivaling that found in a department store or radio/TV shop - but at a fraction of the cost. Projects of varying complexity were offered, catering to everyone from novice builders to advanced



**Above:** This Heathkit ET 3400-A Microcomputer Learning Center can still teach the concepts of digital circuitry (\$350)

hobbyists.

Particularly for beginners, assembling a kit taught essential electronics skills, from soldering to working with capacitors, resistors, and tubes. The company's motto, "We Won't Let You Fail," instilled confidence that hobbyists would have successful builds — but, when necessary, contact the company for troubleshooting. In the post-World War II years, many hobbyists parlayed those hands-on experiences into careers in the field.

The heart of the brand's success was its instruction manuals. Their step-by-step instructions, non-technical explanation, and detailed diagrams simplified even ambitious projects. Competing brands like Allied, Lafayette, and Radio Shack's Archer offered packages that could match the hardware, but Heathkit's meticulous instructions kept fans coming back.

By the mid-1950s, the company had become so popular that its catalog approached 50 offerings, ranging from test equipment to radios and high-fidelity audio components. The company was especially successful in the amateur-radio market, where operators were already technically savvy and comfortable assembling their own

gear. For that group, the all-in-one kits with their dependable assembly instructions offered a perfect blend of convenience and quality. For years, Heathkit boasted the most comprehensive amateur radio line from any manufacturer.

Howard Anthony died in 1954 — ironically, also in an airplane crash. His widow sold the firm to the Daystrom Company, which already owned several other electronics firms. Not long after, Daystrom was acquired by Schlumberger Limited, an oil exploration company known for its advanced electronic exploration tools. The Daystrom/Schlumberger years would become the most successful in Heathkit's history, with millions of kits sold.

Through the 1960s and early 1970s, Heathkit steadily expanded its product lines. Among them, the home stereo lineup grew to include amplifiers, tuners, receivers, and record players. The company also began embracing transistors and solid-state electronics. The catalog grew to nearly 200 offerings, ranging from color televisions and microwave ovens to specialty items like marine depth finders. Among the most ambitious projects were full-size floor-model organs.

As digital technology emerged, the company introduced items like digital tuners, LED calculators, and digital clocks.

The consumer line expanded to include everything from CB radios to electronic weather stations — bringing the catalog to around 300 kits. To handle growing demand, the company relocated to a 200,000-square-foot facility in St. Joseph, Mich.

During those same years, the firm opened two new divisions. The first, Heathkit Educational Systems, supplied kits and manuals to career schools nationwide, along with instruments designed specifically for educational use.

The second was the opening of retail stores, which eventually grew to more than 50 locations, giving hobbyists the convenience of browsing and purchasing merchandise in person rather than through mail order.

In the late 1970s, Heathkit set its sights on the burgeoning personal computer market. Their 1977 catalogs highlighted the computer line, and by the early 1980s, computer sales accounted for nearly half of the company's revenue.

Around that time, Zenith Radio Company acquired the company, renaming the computer division "Zenith Data Systems," which quickly released an all-in-one unit with keyboard, monitor, and disk drive to compete with competitors like Apple and Tandy. By decade's end, they had even entered robotics with a programmable robotic manipulator arm available as a kit or fully assembled.

As Heathkit gravitated toward computers and related products, it increasingly offered items "fully assembled and tested," departing from its traditional kit-based approach. Advances in electronics, including integrated circuits and surface-mount tech-



**Above:** Many of Heathkit's products were specialty products, like this solid-state metronome that first appeared in 1969 (\$25).

nology, made home assembly more complex, costly, and often impractical. The first Heath-Zenith computers were not designed solely unassembled, and even their color TVs relied heavily on pre-assembled modules, leaving little hands-on construction. To many buyers, kits now seemed like unnecessary effort and expense compared with ready-made units.

Combined with an aging hobbyist base, these technological and market shifts eroded the company's core business.

Heathkit's run with hands-on project kits ended in 1992, after 45 years. The company lingered for a time through its Educational Systems division, selling self-instructional courses and training kits to schools and corporations, but that market eventually dried up. Heathkit filed for bankruptcy in 2012, closing a notable chapter in the history of the electronics hobby.

Remaining from this remarkable saga are plenty of Heathkit artifacts, including spare parts, those famed manuals, fully-built gear, semi-completed projects, and the crown jewels — unassembled projects in their original boxes. Prices vary by the type of item, rarity, and condition. Here is a quick rundown for collectors:

**Individual Parts:** From knobs and capacitors to circuit boards, these components are often available for as little as \$10. They're invaluable for completing gear or replacing missing or faulty pieces.

**Test Equipment:** Both assembled and unassembled, examples typically start around \$20 and can reach into the low hundreds of dollars.

**Electronics Labs:** Designed for home or classroom use, these taught electronics concepts and circuitry. Pric-

es typically range from \$40 to \$50.

**Audio and Radio Gear:** Tube and solid-state models generally begin around \$50 for entry-level items. Higher-quality, fully working units can reach into the hundreds of dollars.

**Complete, Boxed, Unbuilt Kits:** Often considered "holy grails," unassembled projects can cost from the low hundreds up to the low thousands of dollars, especially for high-end models that are complete and well-preserved.

**Early Heath/Zenith Computers and Peripherals:** Considered rare today, these often sell in the hundreds of dollars.

**Original Manuals:** Relatively easy to find online, guides usually sell from \$5 to \$30, and add significant value both to kits and assembled pieces.

Heathkit items often turn up where electronics enthusiasts gather. Amateur radio events known as "hamfests" and vintage electronics shows are prime hunting grounds. Auctions and estate sales of amateur radio operators and long-time hobbyists can yield unbuilt projects in original boxes or collections of components or manuals.

Judging the condition of a kit can be tricky, especially with unbuilt or partially completed gear. A seemingly pristine box or case can hide missing, damaged, or mismatched components. Even finished units that power on may not work properly or need tweaking. A careful eye and realistic expectations go a long way in determining value.

Ironically, after a 20-year hiatus, Heathkit announced its return in 2011. By 2022, the company's website featured new kits alongside old-stock vintage models, replacement parts, and reprints of the original manuals. With the rights to all the firm's designs, trademarks, and assembly materials, these classic projects could once again be built and enjoyed. The revival thrills longtime enthusiasts and introduces a new generation to the hands-on experience that made Heathkit iconic — a reminder of the era when building electronics at home was an adventure.

To browse an extensive archive of Heathkit and other electronics hobby catalogs, visit: [worldradiohistory.com/Electronics\\_Catalogs.htm](http://worldradiohistory.com/Electronics_Catalogs.htm)

For more information on Heathkit's new incarnation, visit: [shop.heathkit.com](http://shop.heathkit.com)

**Below:** Heath amateur radio equipment enjoyed a lot of popularity. Even untested, this fully-built SB-102 HF transceiver sold for \$219.



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