

Around the Block

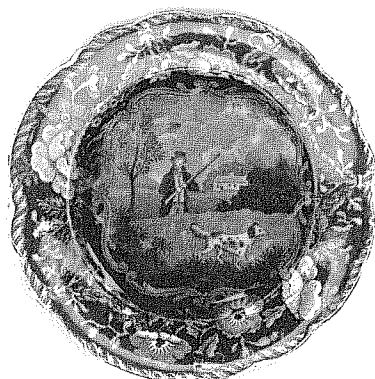
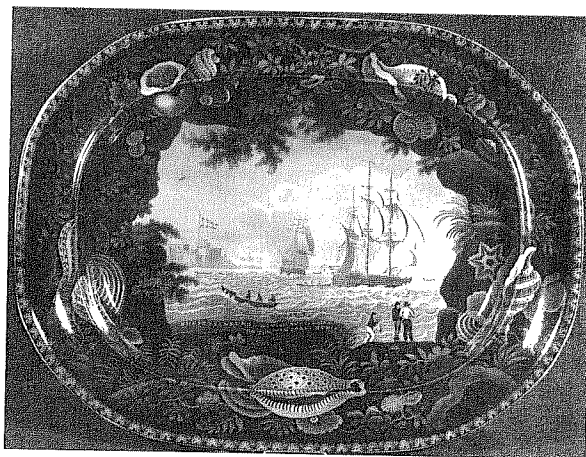
Reports from the Auction Rooms

The six week-ends starting with May 17th through June 21st, was either a bonanza or a nightmare, depending on your outlook, for ceramics collectors and to a lesser extent, American glass collectors. To say there was a plethora of riches, is to understate the situation. We'll briefly touch each of the sales, which included over three-hundred pieces of blue and white and one of the most expensive pieces of American glass on record.

It started on May 17th at the Boonesboro, Maryland auction compound of Johnny Cochran and Associates, who offered 150 pieces from the collection of Carl Wishard, a Pennsylvania collector. We had heard of this sale, while attending the Philadelphia antiques show in early April and were told that the collection consisted of a great deal of American views and would be sold in large lots. A dealers dream, that quickly turned into a nightmare, when we arrived for the inspection. The damage was horrendous and the majority of pieces were being offered individually. A terrible mixture. Here is a brief sampling of lots, condition and prices (including buyer's premium of 10%). A MacDonnough's coffee pot with the base off and reglued, spout and cover chips brought \$605.00; a Batalha openwork basket and tray with handles off and reglued at \$715.00; a 6" h Lafayette at Franklin's Tomb pitcher with a long body crack realized \$357.50; a Mendenhall Ferry platter from the Eagle border series with a hairline crack brought \$990.00 and a 10" d Pittsfield Elm plate with a piece out and reglued brought \$121.00. One thing I have to mention is that I do not understand why some "country" auctioneers feel it necessary to call an auction using the stuttering chant similar to that used by tobacco auctioneers. Much of the time, it was apparent that Mr. Cochran's bidding increments were so jumbled that there were several disputed bids by the so-called successful bidder. I've been in this business as an auctioneer or a bidder for quite some time and I found myself lost several times, as to the level the item was at. However, it could be that at fifty-six, I'm just getting old, deaf and cranky.

The following weekend, William Smith and Company of Plainfield, New Hampshire offered over 75 pieces of Histori-

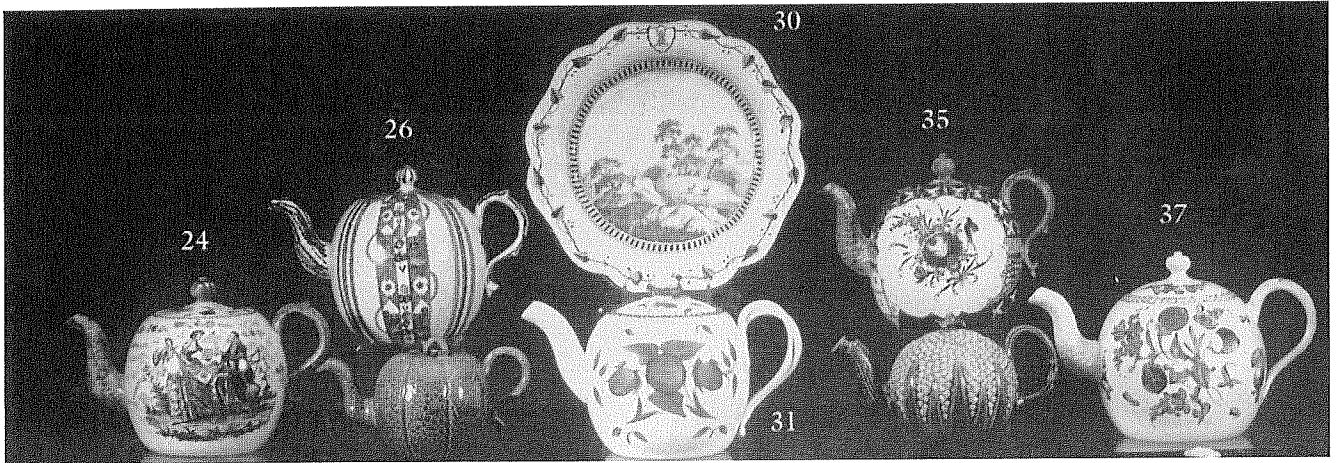
cal Staffordshire that was in excellent condition. The first item offered was a 19" well/tree Christianburg platter illus-



4" d cup plate impressed CLEWS brought \$605.00 in a two piece lot that included a Castle Garden cup plate

trated here, that brought \$2310.00, followed by a 10" d Baltimore and Ohio Railroad plate at \$770.00. The MacDonnough's coffee pot with a spider crack and a hairline realized \$1870.00, while a brilliant proof Upper Ferry Bridge platter brought \$990.00. A beautiful 10" plate with the Arms of New York took \$1100.00, while an extremely rare 5 1/4" d plate with Boston Court House from the Oak Leaves border realized \$1045.00 to a phone bidder. Prices were strong for both American and the few English views that were offered.

It really got difficult the following week, when Skinners offered a great sale of English ceramics at their Boston Gallery. Timed to coincide with the meeting of the Wedgwood Collectors, the sale contained fabulous rarities from two major collections, with selected additions. Condition was quite mixed, as is normal with this ware, but the prices were strong, strong, strong! Lot 24 was a Wedgwood creamware teapot dated 1772 with polychromed decoration with considerable restoration that brought \$2530.00; lot 26 was a Wedgwood Queensware teapot in a Chintz pattern attributed to decorator David Rhodes with a star-crack that brought \$3795.00; Lot 27 was a circa 1760 green glazed melon-shaped teapot in excellent condition that brought \$6325.00; lot 31 was another Wedgwood Queensware teapot with polychromed decoration and restoration that realized \$1610.00. Lots 34, a Pineapple molded green glaze teapot brought \$3105.00, lot 35 was a Wedgwood Calico pattern polychromed teapot that brought \$3737.00 and lot 37 was another Wedgwood polychromed Strawberry decorated teapot that brought \$1725.00. The plate illustrated as lot 30 is very special, as it is one of the 944 pieces from the so-call "Frog"

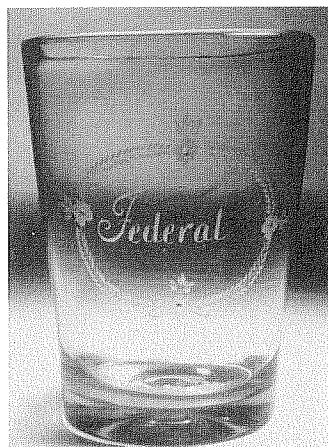


Photograph courtesy of Skinner, Auctioneers and Appraisers of Antiques and Fine Art, Boston and Bolton, Massachusetts

service that Wedgwood created for Russian Empress, Catherine the Great. This was the first time I had ever seen a piece from this service. Estimated at \$7,000.00 - \$9,000.00, with a 3 1/2" long hairline, it brought a resounding \$19,550.00.

The next weekend also belonged to Skinners, who held their Americana Sale at their Bolton Gallery. Over 100 pieces of Spatter were offered and all, even those with severe damage, brought terrifically high prices. The sale also contained a small collection of American glass, formed by Frank Inness of New Jersey. The choice piece was the 6 1/8" h tumbler with the word "Federal" surrounding by a wreath. Definitely an Amelung product, which Mr. Inness reportedly found for very little cost at a yard sale, this realized \$83,900.00, including the 15% buyers premium. This has to be a record of some sort.

The final sale in this marathon, took place at Pook and Pook Auctions, in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, Friday, June 20th,



Photograph courtesy of Skinner, Auctioneers and Appraisers of Antiques and Fine Art, Boston and Bolton, Massachusetts



where the Historical Staffordshire collection of Dr. George Bayer of Pennsburg, Pennsylvania was offered. Also, on Saturday a small group of pattern molded glass crossed the block. The condition was once again excellent and the prices reflected it as a 14 1/2" States platter brought \$1760.00, a 15" Niagara From the Niagara Side brought \$1760.00 and a rare little 12" Military Academy at West Point platter took \$2200.00. A fine Syntax soup tureen and undertray brought \$3740.00 and an Arms of Virginia covered vegetable dish brought \$3575.00, both purchased and quickly resold by dealer Bill Kurau.

Due to severe space limitations for this issue, we have not been able to delve into these auctions as thoroughly as we wished, so if space limitations cooperate, we will investigate and list more results from these sales in the Fall issue.

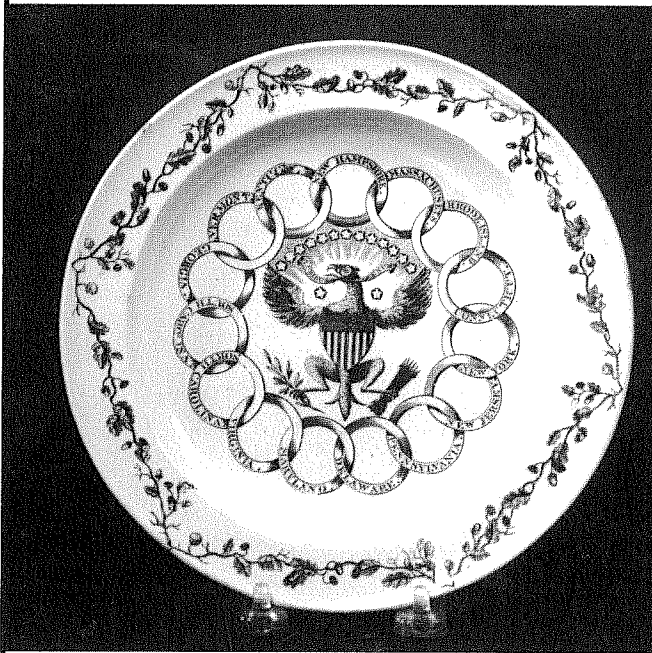
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Species of Eagles



Meet the Collectors

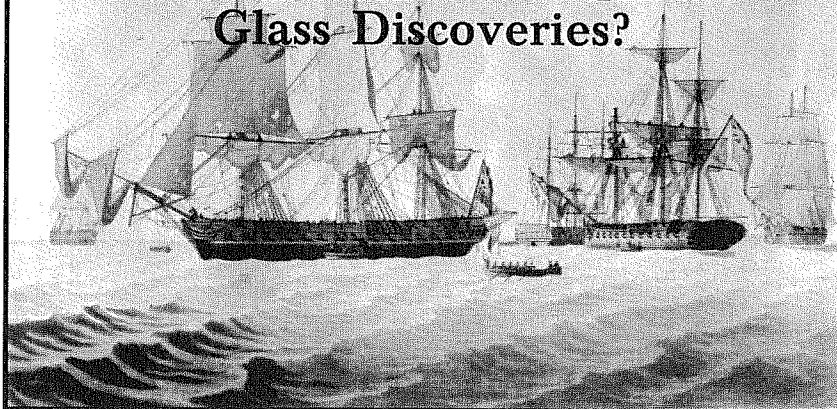
R. & J. Clews



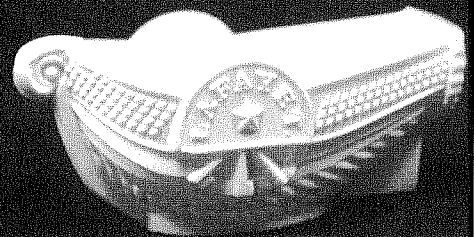
Potters Extraordinaire

What's Inside

What Does the Capture of the Frigate U.S.S. President in the War of 1812 Have to Do with Unpublished Glass Discoveries?



Meet the Collectors



A small choice collection of only 28 colored salts, but seventeen are "unique", "extremely rare" or totally unrecorded.

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