

Regional Depth Joins Broad Appeal At Chester County Antiques Show





Previous Page: Harris and Company weathervane, Boston, fourth quarter of the Nineteenth Century at A Bird In Hand Antiques, Florham Park, N.J. (Click image to see full size)

By Laura Beach

MALVERN, PENN. — In its 33 years, the Chester County Antiques Show has had many homes in many locations. It is hard to imagine that any were lovelier than the fair's current quarters at the Phelps School on Sugartown Road. Coinciding with one of the year's first beautiful spring weekends — a mixed blessing for any show — the event opened with a lively preview party on Friday, April 24,

R.M. Worth Antiques, Chadds Ford, Penn.

continuing through the weekend. Hors d'oeuvres and an abundant buffet in the adjacent café added to the success of the well-attended opening.

The show has been managed from its inception by Wesley Sessa, an antiques dealer and show exhibitor whose other business is 18th Century Restorations, Inc, a Pottstown, Penn.-based renovator of antique buildings. In these endeavors, Sessa is joined by his son, Wesley Noonan-Sessa, who set up the family's booth and backstopped his father in other ways.

Mode Moderne, Philadelphia



Sessa Sr is to be credited for creating a balanced show of style and character, one that impresses with its depth of fine and decorative arts from Chester County and southeastern

Pennsylvania while also offering the variety necessary to attract dealers and collectors from outside the region. Consultants to the show, exhibitors H.L. Chalfant American Fine Art &

Portland, Maine, dealer Don Heller offered two painted Canada geese, thought to be from Nova Scotia. Above left, "A Poor White" by Thomas Waterman Wood, 1874, and, center, "Old Barn Near Kingston" by Frank Henry Shapleigh.





The circa 1820 double portrait depicts Mary and Sarah Haldeman of Lancaster County, Penn. Left, a Nottingham clock by Chandlee. Kelly Kinzle Antiques, New Oxford, Penn.

Antiques and Van Tassel Baumann American Antiques maintain shops less than four miles from the Phelps School and are well-known purveyors of Chester County material, also prominently displayed by Philip H. Bradley, Kelly Kinzle, Christopher T. Rebollo, Joseph J. Lodge, M. Finkel & Daughter and Dixon-Hall Fine Art, among many others.

Skip Chalfant sold his booth's centerpiece, a circa 1770 Philadelphia Chippendale mahogany high chest of drawers with carving attributed to James Reynolds, plus a gate leg table, a pair of chairs and a candlestand.

“I brought my best stuff,” the West Chester, Penn., dealer admitted.

“I’ve done this show from the beginning and always do well. You

have to know what to bring,” said Greenville, Del., dealer James Kilvington, who wrote up two chairs and a table.

Walnut with lightwood inlay and dating to 1780–1800, the classic Chester County tall chest of drawers is initialed M.P. At right, portraits depicting members of the Moulton family, Hampton Falls, N.H., attributed to William Jennys. Left, the Washington Memorial looking glass is labeled James Stokes, Philadelphia, circa 1800–1804. Christopher T. Rebollo Antiques, North Wales, Penn. (click image to see full size)



The cancellation of the 2015 Philadelphia Antiques Show gave the fair a bit of a bump, with some Philadelphia Show exhibitors joining

— or rejoining — Chester County. These noted specialists brought clients with them. ([Continued on page 16 inside the E-edition](#))

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