

ELDRED'S SPRING AMERICANA AUCTION EXHIBITS 'ENCOURAGING SIGNS'



Previous Page: A fox hunting scene, "Green Spring Hounds," by Trafford Partridge Klots sold for \$10,800.

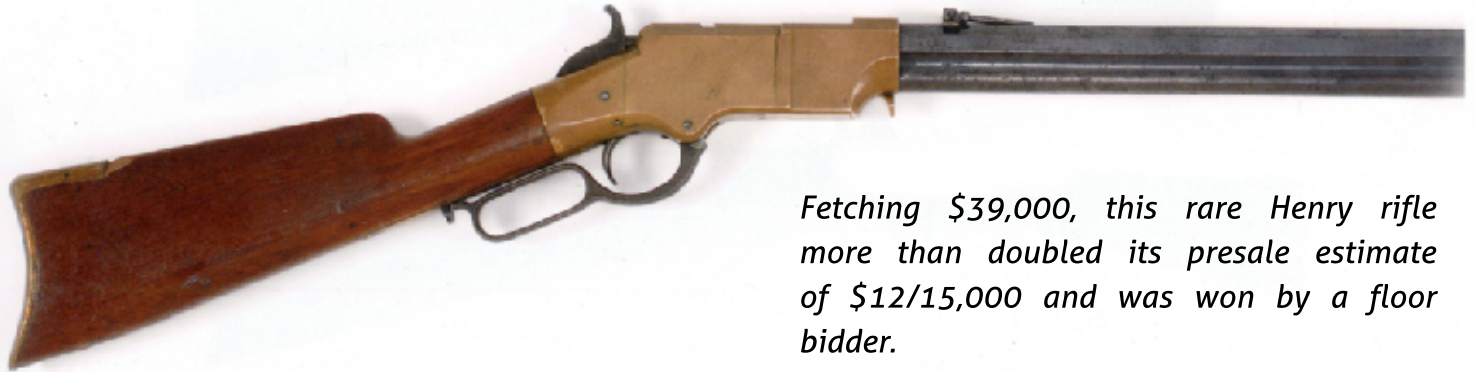
Review by W.A. Demers

Photos Courtesy Eldred's

EAST DENNIS, MASS. — Eldred's Americana, painting and sporting art sale conducted April 3–4 offered up a pleasing and diverse selection of items, featuring some 36 lots from a Brooklyn, N.Y., collection and from a great Cape Cod estate where many of the pieces consigned to the auction had been “lived with” by the family in the grand old Yankee tradition. “For example,” said Cheryl Stewart, the



An A.E. Crowell (1862–1952) early yellowlegs carving, descended in the family of the original owner, who hunted with Crowell on Cape Cod, realized \$21,600.



Fetching \$39,000, this rare Henry rifle more than doubled its presale estimate of \$12/15,000 and was won by a floor bidder.

firm's head of marketing, "a wonderful antique American sea chest from the mid-Nineteenth Century that sold pretty well at \$8,400 had been used by the family to store firewood next to the hearth."

"We were very pleased with the sale," added Stewart. "Both days we had a

packed auditorium of about 150 in the gallery." There were more than 550 total bidders registered for the sale and close to 200 successful online bidders, a record for the firm.

Another record was the \$276,000 achieved for Henry Merwin Shradys (American, 1871–1922) stately

bronze “Elk Buffalo” that had emerged from a South Shore home basement. The bronze had been acquired by the consignor’s family around 1955. “When we found it in the basement of a South Shore home, we knew it was good, but gave it a conservative [\$30/50,000] estimate,” said Josh Eldred, company vice president and fine art director.

The bronze is inscribed on base “H.M Shradly 1900” and “Copyright 1900 Theodore B. Starr,” with a foundry mark for Roman Bronze Works under the

A rarity that generated a spirited bidding war was this Andrew Clemens (1857–1894) sand art bottle, circa 1886, that went to a private collector on the phone for \$32,400 on a \$4/6,000 estimate.



A record \$276,000 was achieved for Henry Merwin Shrady's (American, 1871–1922) stately bronze "Elk Buffalo" bronze.

the base. Inscribed in chalk on the underside of the base is "R.B.W. No 9[?]." It measures 22½ inches high and 29 inches long.

"Elk Buffalo" is a fine example of Shrady's skills at creating highly realistic sculpture that conveys a vivid sense of animation. He in fact studied biology at the Museum of Natural History to better





*“Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution,”
a commissioned Ralph E. Cahoon Jr painting,
sold within estimate for \$51,000.*

understand anatomy as it would apply to his skills at modeling, according to catalog notes. With its highly textural shedding coat and expressive eyes, “Elk Buffalo” also portrays the animal’s inherent nobility as well as the artist’s respect for his subject.

“We had eight phones lined up for it, with three significant bidders involved in taking it to its final price,” said Eldred. “The underbidder opened it at \$50,000 and the other two stayed

involved into the high hundreds of thousands.” Eldred said that while the bronze went on the phone to trade, he was not certain whether it was for dealer stock or on behalf of a private client.

Regardless, the final price set a world

record for the artist and model, eclipsing a previous record set at Sotheby’s in 2004. “It’s a rare piece,” said Eldred, “you don’t see many of this particular model in the market very often. I’m aware of only 20 or so.”

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