

## Sizzling Winter Show Warms Up New York

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Americana At Auction

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# In New York, A Banner Week For Americana At Auction

By Laura Beach

**N**EW YORK CITY — As is tradition, Christie's and Sotheby's conducted their most important Americana sales of the year during New York's Antiques Week. The series began at Christie's January 22, with American silver from various owners and was set to finish in the same venue with Chinese export art January 26. The tally from the first four days of sales reached \$15,663,981, including buyer's premium.



This handsome two-handled cup and cover by Charles Le Roux of New York dates to circa 1720 and is decorated with applied strapwork, the block initials A/J\*M, and a coat of arms in a baroque cartouche. Made for New York merchant...

and attorney general James Alexander and his wife Mary, the cup sold to a collector seated in the room for \$389,000 (\$300/500,000). A similar two-handled cup by Le Roux is in the Garvan collection at Yale. *Roy and Ruth Nutt Silver Collection, Sotheby's, January 24.*



American Furniture And Folk Art At Christie's Furniture, Outsider art and folk art followed at Christie's January 23. Dealers and collectors bid aggressively on the 181 lots that collectively generated \$3,429,125. The session was 90 percent sold by lot. Works of exceptional quality and provenance, noted department head Andrew Holder, showed strength. The top lot of the week was a small, cherrywood bonnet top desk and bookcase with a robustly expressive bonnet made in Lancaster, Penn., around 1785. Retailed by Israel Sack, Inc. and from the collection of Bryn Mawr, Penn., collectors Mr and Mrs Bertram D. Coleman, it sold to the New York collector Peter Wunsch for \$665,000.

Eight figures from the estate of the dealer Allan Stone achieved \$295,000. Leading the group was this cigar store Indian, 79 inches tall and attributed to John L. Cromwell of New York, 1850–1870. Acquired by Stone from the dealer Harris Diamant in 1977, the sculpture went to a dealer bidding by phone for \$93,750 (\$30/50,000). *Christie's Americana, January 23.*





Important Americana At Sotheby's: Sotheby's staged its various owners' sale of Important Americana over two sessions on January 23 and 25. Total receipts reached \$2,265,504. The quirky, inventive furniture of the central Massachusetts furniture maker Nathan Lombard enjoys a cult following. The rarity of his work ensured interest in a Lombard pole screen with an inlaid, urn-shaped screen and well-articulated base that sold for \$118,750.

Last year's exhibition on Nathan Lombard at Old Sturbridge Village and ongoing research by OSV curator Christie Jackson, Brock Jobe and Clark Pearce is stimulating interest in the Sutton, Mass., furniture maker. Estimated at \$60/90,000, this Lombard pole screen fetched \$118,750. *Sotheby's Americana. January 25.*



Sotheby's Nutt Americana Collection Sotheby's reserved most of its firepower for the single-owner sale of property of the late Ruth and Roy Nutt. Americana and decorative arts assembled by the couple realized \$1,873,120. Leading the January 23 session was a circa 1785 Boston mahogany slant front desk that descended in the Capen family of Massachusetts. It went to Connecticut dealer Roberto Freitas for \$635,000.

**This circa 1785 Boston mahogany bombe slant front desk descended in the Capen family of Massachusetts and sold to Connecticut dealer Roberto Freitas for \$635,000 (\$500/700,000). It is one of 14 known examples of the form. *Roy and Ruth Nutt Americana Collection, Sotheby's, January 23.***



Sotheby's Nutt Silver Collection The showpiece of New York's Americana Week auctions was Sotheby's cataloged, single-owner session of important silver from the Nutt collection. The 724-lot session generated \$4,738,789. Some of the biggest prices were for Eighteenth Century New York pieces. A pair of reticulated Myer Myers bottle stands garnered \$389,000. The series of sales was set to conclude on Monday, January 26, at Christie's with Mandarin & Menagerie: The Sowell Collection and Chinese Export Art from Various Owners. Antiques and The Arts Weekly will bring you a detailed analysis of New York's Antiques Week auctions in a later issue.



**Delaware dealer James Kilvington claimed this silver coffee pot by Bancroft Woodcock of Wilmington, Del., for \$62,500 (\$50/80,000). It dates to about 1784. *Roy and Ruth Nutt Silver Collection, Sotheby's, January 24.***

# Sizzling Winter Show Warms Up New York

Review By Laura Beach, Photos By R. Scudder Smith

**N**EW YORK CITY — As New York braced for a storm of potentially crippling proportions, the metropolis's premier antiques show cruised smoothly to the conclusion of a successful opening weekend. The 61st Winter Antiques Show debuted at the Park Avenue Armory January 22, with a gala preview party. By the following morning, many of the fair's 73 exhibitors were reporting healthy sales and vigorous interest in a diverse array of art, from Greek antiquities to Scandinavian Modern design.

David Schorsch / Eileen Smiles, Woodbury, Conn.







Setting the tone for the eclectic display was the loan exhibition from the Newark Museum, known for its progressive approach to objects and audiences over the past century. Allan Katz, a Connecticut dealer in American folk art, sold the centerpiece of his display, a bone-inlaid secretary desk commemorating the Civil War soldier John Bingham, killed in action at Antietam in 1862.

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Jerry Lauren, a noted collector of American folk art, confirmed that he was the buyer of the Bill Traylor painting on paper marked sold in Katz's booth on opening night. Two complete Noah's Arktoys also sold — one at Katz and the other in London dealer Robert Young's stand.

Allan Katz Americana, Woodbridge, CT



Collectors snapped up rare examples of American furniture. Nathan Liverant and Son of Colchester, Conn., arrayed several distinctive pieces by

Preston, Conn., cabinetmaker John Wheeler Gore, writing up a Chippendale bonnet top chest on chest by the maker. Peter Eaton was well on the way to selling out; his stand

was festooned with bright, red tags. The Newbury, Mass., dealer wrote up his rare, early Eighteenth Century Rhode Island butterfly table; a Queen Anne country tea table; a Queen Anne candlestand; a pair of Connecticut heart and crown armchairs; a one-drawer blanket chest in blue paint, probably from Maine, among other items.



Peter H. Eaton / Joan R. Brownstein,  
Newbury, Mass.

"We have the highest number of exhibitors from outside of the United States this year," said the show's executive director Catherine Sweeney Singer. Among them were two of the world's leading dealers in English furniture, Apter-Fredericks and Ronald Phillips. A mainstay, London's venerable Fine Art Society sold gleaming Pugin brass andirons and candlesticks. All thoughts turned to spring at Barbara Israel Antiques, where a burbling fountain and an abundance of garden ornament and furniture heralded better days to come. The vetted show benefits East Side House Settlement in the Bronx. The show continues at the Park Avenue Armory through February 1. For ticket or show information, [www.winterantiquesshow.com](http://www.winterantiquesshow.com), 718-292-7392 or 718-665-5250.

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Aronson of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands



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Bacchus shaped with  
Delft circa 1750