

Miller Collection Yields Folk Art Large And Small At Pook



Previous Page: These Nineteenth Century New England boxes are painted on a yellow ground with pastoral views and measure 5¼ inches tall. Together they brought \$19,200 (\$4/8,000). The interior of one box is inscribed "Asahel W. Wheelock presented by his mother." Wheelock (1827–1856) lived in Watertown, Mass. Miller Collection. (Click image to see full size)

By James D. Balestrieri

DOWNINGTOWN, PENN. — Like many of the people who previewed Pook & Pook's April 25 sale, Alice and David Joseph of Chevy Chase, Md., had only the best things to say about J. Jefferson and Anne Weiler,



Known for their taste, erudition and generosity, Jeff and Anne Miller devoted a lifetime to collecting American folk art. Photo courtesy Pook & Pook.

folk art collectors whose lively assortment of painted furniture and boxes, game boards and fraktur, pottery and much else filled Pook's

salesroom.

“They were lovely people with a remarkable eye,” said David Joseph, surveying a wall of whimsical fish

David and Alice Joseph came from Chevy Chase, Md., to attend the sale of property assembled by Jeff and Anne Miller, who they knew and admired. Left, from top, a late Nineteenth Century salmon plaque, \$1,800; a dated 1911 Herbert Cash painting of a salmon, \$1,440; a Lawrence C. Irvine salmon plaque with faux birch bark backboard, \$1,320; and an oval, South Paris, Maine, plaque, \$1,230. Above right, a New England carved and painted codfish trade sign with traces of its original gilt surface, \$9,000, and, below, a carved and painted wood trout with metal fins, Maine, \$738. (Click image to see full size)





◀ *New Hope Impressionist Edward Willis Redfield presented his oil on canvas painting "Across the Canal" to Charles F. Bochmann, the grandfather of the consignee, which grossed \$132,000 at the various owners sale on April 24.*

From a Connecticut collection and a highlight of ► the various owners sale on April 24, this imaginatively decorated painted poplar chest of drawers from Pennsylvania garnered \$33,600 (\$3/5,000).





carvings, a reference to the many summers that the Millers traipsed from Maryland to their cottage on the shores of Lake Michigan, where Jeff indulged his love of fly fishing.

“Their collection was not built for show but was lovingly assembled over the years,” their children wrote in the forward to Pook’s handsome

With 25 floral and bird appliqué panels and a swag border, this mid-Nineteenth Century Baltimore album quilt elicited spirited bidding from multiple parties before closing at \$20,400 (\$2/4,000). Miller Collection.

hardbound catalog, illustrated with views of the couple’s house.

The collection began with a Chinese Export platter received by the Millers as a wedding gift in 1949, and grew for more than half a century. An attorney by training, Jeff Miller abandoned the law and, encouraged by

his friend Dick Wood, a Baltimore dealer and collector, enrolled in Winterthur's program in early American culture. The training prepared him for professional positions at the Smithsonian Institution and Maryland Historical Society. As members of the American

Ceramics Circle and the American Folk Art Society, the Millers were well known to their peers. In 2001, they gave a trove of iron and other metal objects to Winterthur.

[\(Continued on page 46 inside the E-edition\)](#)

[Read Full Article](#)

[Read Full Article
on Mobile](#)

Browse More

Rockport Artists
Bring Out The Crowds
And Bidders



Dream Cars:
Innovative Design,
Visionary Ideas At The
Indianapolis Museum
Of Art Through
August 23



The Greater York
Antiques Show:
Dealers Fill Memorial
Hall East At York
Fairgrounds

