

Cannon Spatter Cups And Saucers Are Quite The Find At Witman's





Previous Page; The find of the day was this scarce set of four cannon spatterware cup and saucers that fetched \$23,100.

Left; This red satin Gone-with-the-Wind-style lamp brought \$495.

By Andrea Valluzzo

Photos Courtesy Witman Auctioneers

MOUNT JOY, PENN. — “We had a fun sale,” quipped Luke R. Witman, president of Manheim, Penn.,-based Witman Auctioneers, noting that the highlight of his February 28 auction at the Gathering Place was a lot of four blue spatterware cups and saucers with quite the back story. The lot was the top lot of the sale, by a landslide, when it achieved \$23,100.

This Bonanza apple peeler realized \$470.

The pieces are in the rare cannon pattern and turned up during a house call in the Mary McCommon estate in Lancaster, Penn., which was one of three featured estates in the sale. “We had gone through the house (with the family) and moved out to the garage. One of the things I’ve always told my staff is ‘You go through all the boxes,’” Witman says. The rain-splattered cardboard box didn’t look much from the outside, and one might be tempted to heave it, sight unseen, into the dumpster. Opening it



up, there was a bunch of nondescript material and miscellaneous stuff on top but the Witman staffer slogged his way through to the bottom, where he found the set.

“The guy found me in the house and says, ‘I think I’ve got something.’ You

couldn't have scripted it any better than that," Witman said. Presale interest was high but bordered on the skeptical from at least one dealer, thinking it was more likely a Mary Weaver reproduction, but when said dealer inspected the set in person, he

was convinced it was the real deal, Witman notes.

"You always hear about the find. Well, this was the find!" Witman says, noting he has been in the business for a few decades and likely won't see such a find again.



*A blacksmith anvil tool
\$410.*

A small sandstone splash block made \$550.



The set sold to the trade bidding from with the auction gallery, while the underbidder was a private collector on the phone. The sale saw active participation with more than 400 in attendance and 248 bidding numbers handed out.

“We’re extremely, pleasantly happy to report the sale results,” Witman says, but noted what made this sale so exciting was “the thrill of the find.”

The auction ran the gamut from woodworking equipment and blacksmith tools and china to



A pair of 1913 auto license plates fetched \$280.

furniture, glass and some country antiques.

Rounding out the sale were a sterling flatware set for \$825, an Edison phonograph with horn for \$660, a small sandstone splash block at \$550, a red satin Gone-With-the-Wind-style lamp for \$495, a Bonanza apple peeler for \$470 and a blacksmith anvil that realized \$410.

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