

# Auction Spotlight

Jan Fiore

All prices include Buyer's Premium

## Previews, highlights and happenings

**Ahlers & Ogletree Auctions:**  
Hand-carved ship's figurehead  
[www.aandoauctions.com](http://www.aandoauctions.com)

ATLANTA, GA – Almost 1,500 lots came up for bid in Ahlers & Ogletree's New Year's Signature Estates Auction held Jan. 14 to 16. Items for sale included an eclectic mix of high-end jewelry, art, silverware, first edition books and nineteenth-century and mid-century modern furniture. One of the highlights was a hand-carved wood and polychrome articulating figural masthead (or ship's figurehead) that sold for \$8,850. In the form of a young man or boy of near-human size, the 35" high figurehead held a white dove, possibly a reference to the biblical story of Noah and the ark, when the Old Testament prophet released a dove to find land.



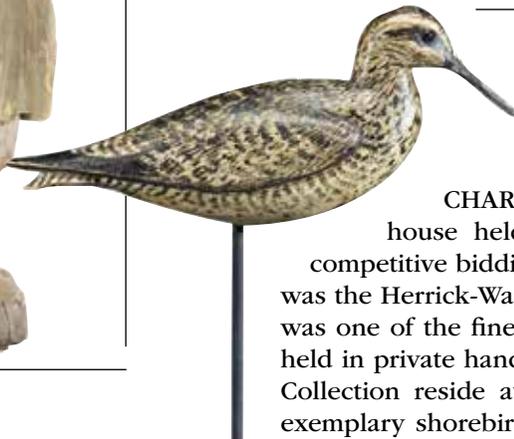
**Rago Arts and Auction Center: Chinese cloisonné elephants**  
[www.ragoarts.com](http://www.ragoarts.com)

LAMBERTVILLE, NJ – Rago's Great Estates Auction held Mar. 17 to 18 featured Chinese decorative art and furniture on day one, and Mintons, Tiffany and Silver on the second day, attracting online bidders from 43 countries worldwide. In the Chinese category, a pair of cloisonné elephants sold for \$11,250. The removable vases were mounted as howdah/castles, and stood on lotus-form gilt bronze plinths with pierced galleries, featuring intricate enamel and beadwork; China. Each, including plinths: 26" x 16" x 12."



**Copley Fine Art Auctions:**  
Herrick-Ward Yellowlegs decoy  
[www.copleyart.com](http://www.copleyart.com)

CHARLESTON, SC – The nation's premier sporting art auction house held its Winter Sale Feb. 17, seeing some of the most competitive bidding in seven years. The top lot and top decoy of the sale was the Herrick-Ward Yellowlegs that sold for \$90,000. Crafted c. 1900, this was one of the finest decoys from renowned carvers Bunn/Bowman to be held in private hands, as the majority of the birds from the famous Herrick Collection reside at the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook, N.Y. The exemplary shorebird was notable for its superb form, impeccably painted surface, and original bill and wing tips.



**James D. Julia Inc.: Bronze Okimono of standing archer**  
[www.jamesdjulia.com](http://www.jamesdjulia.com)

FAIRFIELD, ME – Julia's annual February Winter Fine Art, Asian & Antiques Auction held Feb. 28 tempted bidders with nearly 1,200 lots of paintings, sculptures, furniture, historic artifacts and other surprise rarities. Asian art was a strong category in the sale; highlights include a Yoshimitsu bronze Okimono of a standing archer that sold for \$24,200. The Japanese Meiji Period (1868-1912) masterpiece depicted a Samurai with his extended arm holding a bow and ready to fire. The sculpture had gilt highlights throughout the piece, a signature plate on the front leg and carried six arrows.



**Thomaston Place Auction Galleries: Fire engine weathervane**  
[www.thomastonauction.com](http://www.thomastonauction.com)

THOMASTON, ME – An impending blizzard did not diminish bidder enthusiasm at Thomaston's winter feature sale Feb. 11 to 12. Over 2,500 participants in house, online and on the telephone contended for extraordinary pieces from the Leo Wilensky collection, plus a diverse array of fine art and antiques. One of the highpoints from the Wilensky collection was a nineteenth-century weathervane in the form of an American fire engine steam pumper. Drawn by two horses and featuring two cast firemen in bronze copper and zinc, the seven-foot wide weathervane sold for \$55,575.



## Clars Auction Gallery: Jacobean oak games table

www.clars.com

OAKLAND, CA – On Feb. 18 to 19, Clars Auction Gallery offered important fine arts and prints and the first installment of select decorative art and furnishings de-accessed from the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC). This collection, which is being sold to benefit the museum's acquisition fund, is comprised both decorative art pieces and furniture. The museum's furniture collection was very well received, with competitive bidding seen throughout the sale. Among the Jacobean highlights was a Jacobean/Charles II oak games table with a high estimate of \$1,200 that sold for an impressive \$16,940. Made in England, 1600-1700, the table had a fold out top above a paneled door decorated with Gothic style busts, and rising on turned legs with early twentieth-century hardware.



## Milestone Auctions: Automaton bowling game

www.milestoneauctions.com

WILLOUGHBY, OH – Milestone Auctions in suburban Cleveland hosted their first auction of the year Jan. 14 with an array of intriguing antiques, collectibles and curiosities. A rare 1907 Swiss-patented automaton with intricate movements replicating a bowling game created quite a stir on both sides of the Atlantic, before selling to a museum in Denmark for \$23,400. The machine depicted two bisque men – one of them poised to roll one of several steel bowling balls down a lane toward skittle pins, while the other sits on a barrel “smoking” his pipe. During the action, a third bisque figure emerges to reset the pins and return balls to the bowler.



## Heritage Auctions: Hermes 3000 typewriters used to write *Lonesome Dove*

www.ha.com

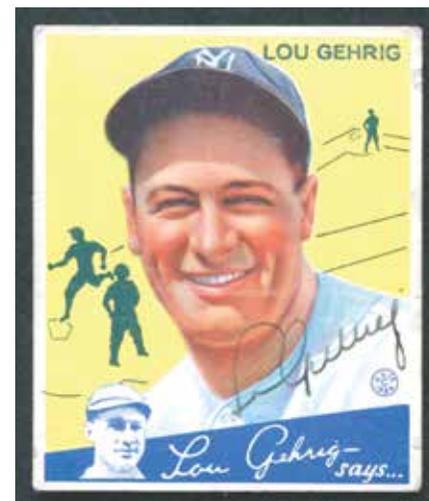
NEW YORK, NY – Heritage Auctions' Mar. 8 public auction of rare books included a pair of pale green Swiss-made Hermes 3000 typewriters that sold for \$37,500. Dated between 1963 and 1970, the typewriters, each in its own case, were used by author Larry McMurtry when writing his legendary novel, *Lonesome Dove*. The novel follows a pair of Texas Rangers in a 1,500-mile cattle drive in the Old West. The 843-page epic was an instant success, earning McMurtry the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and reinvigorating the western literature scene. CBS adapted the story into a television miniseries starring Robert Duval three years later, which won seven Emmys.



## Weiss Auctions: Lou Gehrig signed baseball card

www.weissauctions.com

LYNBROOK, NY – Weiss Auctions' Mar. 4 sale featured a great selection of sports and non-sports cards, including graded tobacco cards, autographed diamond stars, Goudey baseball cards and autographed baseballs. Highlights included a pair of Goudey baseball cards signed by Yankees' slugger Lou Gehrig, one from 1933 and the other from 1934 (illustrated) that sold for \$37,950 and \$49,450 respectively. Both were record prices for Lou Gehrig Goudey cards for those years, and both had JSA certificates (James Spence Authentication; a trusted source of autograph authentication).



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