

Auction Action In Middleboro, Mass.

Whaling Items, Coins Impress At White's Auctions

MIDDLEBORO, MASS. — John White and Kathryn Black, owners of White's Auctions, conducted an antiques auction at their new company headquarters in Middleboro July 16. Along with the lots of whaling material were an impressive collection of coins and other antiques.

A log book for the whaling ship *Meteor* from Mystic, Conn., active from 1822 through 1855, dated to 1841–

44, and documented part of a voyage in 122 pages. The log book, which contained 67 whale stamps, drew lots of attention from customers at the auction and on the phones. Antiques dealer Paul DeCoste, Newbury, Mass., won the journal after an intense round of competitive bidding for \$5,700.

Another maritime standout was a Nineteenth Century folk art carved and painted panel depicting a whaling ship in an

open sea, with three small boats and three whales represented. The panel attained \$4,800. The top lot of the day was the striking, old mine-cut diamond solitaire engagement ring, which possessed about 3.75 carats and opened with a strong \$6,500 bid. A customer at the sale won the ring for \$13,800.

Whaling items offered included six vintage scrimshaw whalebone clothespins, which achieved \$720. A Nineteenth Century scrimshaw whip engraved with the name of the maker-owner, Ezekiel W Davis, who sailed on the *American*, 1838–49, and the *Canada*, 1843–1846, brought \$480.

Among the many American

coins presented was an eagle gold Liberty coin set that opened at \$925 and quickly achieved \$1,440. A group of 80 1989 silver eagle bullion coins, each one ounce, was in good condition, in the original case by the United States Mint and reached \$2,220. Six US Mint eagle \$50 one-ounce proof gold bullion brought \$8,400, and a 1976 Bicentennial gold medal, weighing approximately 40.49 grams, made \$2,040. Six sets of US 1986 \$50 gold coins, with original boxes, paper work and proof cameo, mint sealed with certification, opened with a powerful \$4,400 bid and finished at \$8,740.

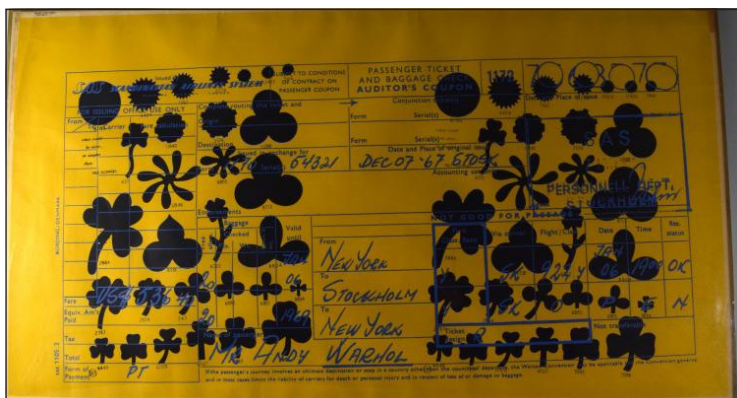
A scrimshaw eagle head cane dating from the Nineteenth

Century, which measured 35½ inches long, complete with mahogany shaft, brought \$450.

A Nineteenth Century J.W. Fiske cast iron lawn jockey from 1865, a figure of a slave boy standing on a bale of cotton, opened with a \$575 bid, and reached \$870. A painting by American listed artist William Frederick Paskell (1866–1951), signed lower left and possessing its original frame, went for a reasonable \$450. A stylish tall Victorian oak dental cabinet, which featured front compartments for drill and tool storage and swivel drawers that unlock with a “trick,” had lots of interest from the crowd and brought \$2,640.



Colorful and folk-art trade sign, painted on both sides with the word “Shine,” measured 18 by 44 inches. After an intense round of competitive bidding from the floor and the phones, the sign reached its selling price of \$6,000, quite a bit higher than its \$400/600 estimate.



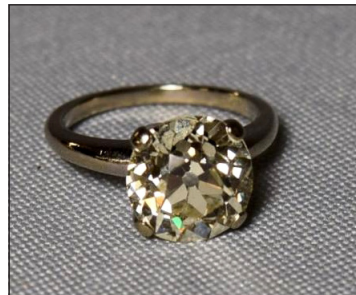
This vivid and colorful Andy Warhol (1928–1987) screen print, “SAS Passenger Ticket,” signed and dated 1968, reached \$2,880.



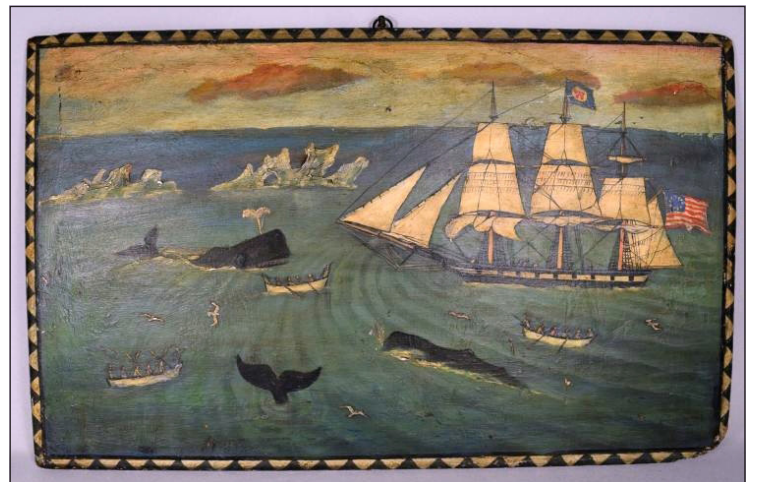
This striking whaling log book for the *Meteor*, Mystic, Conn., 1841–44, documented part of the ship's voyage in 122 pages. With 67 whale stamps, the ship's log drew the attention of phone bidders and customers at the auction. Antiques dealer Paul DeCoste, Newbury, Mass., was the successful bidder, winning the journal for \$5,700.



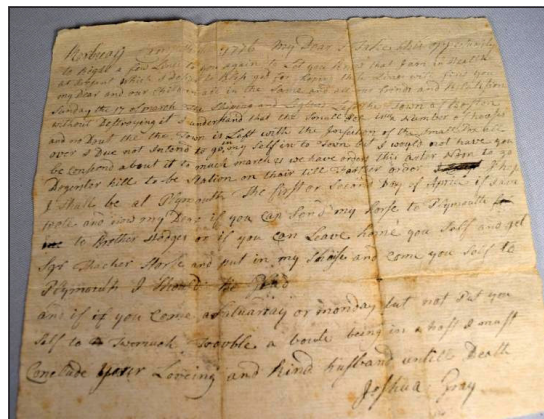
Among the many currency lots on offer was six US Mint 1986 \$50 one-ounce gold coins in original boxes, with paperwork, which reached \$8,640.



The top lot of the sale was this diamond solitaire engagement ring, weighing in at approximately 3.75 carats, old mine cut, in a 14K white gold setting. Interest from the floor opened bidding at \$6,500. With spirited bidding on the floor and phones, the ring achieved \$13,800, selling to a customer at the sale.



This Nineteenth Century folk art painted panel — a depiction of whaling ship in open sea with three small boats and three whales — saw lots of spirited bidding from the phones and the floor. Ultimately, the panel went to a buyer at the auction for \$4,800.



A letter from Revolutionary “Minuteman” Captain Joshua Gray, from March 1776, Camp Roxbury, describes the smallpox outbreak. It opened with a \$525 bid from the telephone, and ultimately achieved a selling price of \$1,620.



Review and Onsite Photos by
Jackie Sideli
Catalog Photos Courtesy White's Auctions



A Modernist Larry Rivers (1923–2002) serigraph on Plexiglas poster, screen print with collage, was signed and dated 1965. Titled “Double French Money or Currency” and measuring 30 by 32 inches, it achieved \$1,200.



An elegant American coin silver coffee pot by Robert Keyworth, which dated from 1830, was offered. Keyworth was active from 1822 to 1855, working in the Philadelphia area. The coffee pot opened for bidding at \$625, and finished at \$2,400.



Among the many coins and other currency offered was a lot of two US 1986 one-ounce proof gold bullion \$50 proof with box and paperwork, with certification, \$3,000.



Gallery owners Kathryn Black and John White take a moment before their auction to pose in their new headquarters.



Antiques dealer Richard Donnelly, Barrington, R.I., standing in front of a folkly yellow scallop top cupboard, which sold for \$1,170.



This Nineteenth Century scrimshaw whale's tooth measured 7½ inches long and had an inset photo of a gentleman (perhaps a sea captain?) on one side, and a reverse polychrome peasant girl on the other side. It was mounted to a wood base with brass feet, and realized \$2,400.



A buyer at the auction won the stylish and tall Victorian oak locking dental cabinet for \$2,640. It had separate compartments for drill and tool storage, and swivel drawers. The cabinet was made by Ransom and Randolph Co., Toledo, Ohio, late 1800s.

A relic from the American Revolution was a letter from "Minuteman" Joshua Gray to his wife from Camp Roxbury, dated 1776. The letter talks about the smallpox outbreak in the camp. Gray was a prominent figure during the early days of the Revolution, and was captain of a Yarmouth Company of Minutemen that marched April 20, 1775, in response to the alarm of April 19, 1775. Bidding opened at \$525, and the letter reached \$1,620.

phones, bringing \$810. Among the Art Deco and Modernist items offered was a collection of desk top cradle telephones, including an automatic electric #40 Bakelite Art Deco Monophone, made in the 1940s, in red with chrome trim for \$600 and a Lucy example, a green Western Electric #302, made \$750. A signed 1975 Robert Rosenquist (1933-2017) serigraph/collage poster reached \$900, and a signed Robert Rauschenberg litho-

graph/collage poster brought \$900.

This was an active, vital auction, with bidders in the hall, on the phone and on the internet. The new auction venue is conveniently located and well suited for its purpose.

All prices reported include the buyer's premium.

For additional information, www.whitesauctions.com, 508-947-9281 or 508-269-9275.

A stunning Pairpoint table lamp that had a reverse painted Puffy glass shade and flowers and hummingbird decoration, and a bronze metal tripod base in original finish, attracted buyers on the phones and in the auction room, as well as the internet. The lamp went to the internet, achieving \$5,760.



A primitive scalloped top yellow cupboard opened at \$600 and reached \$1,170. An elegant three-part classical secretary from Boston, dating to the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century, with ornate ormolu embellishments on the top cornice, in mahogany and flame mahogany veneer, was offered early in the auction, and sold quickly for \$840. A formal gilt Federal mirror, 1815-20, having patriotic eagle and flag, with gilt ball drops under pediment top, 47 by 28 inches, brought just \$480. A Sheraton chest, dating from 1830, with bird's-eye and mahogany drawer fronts, and possessing its original drawer pulls, 40 by 48 inches, saw activity from the floor and the

This rare Pairpoint table lamp with a reverse painted Puffy glass shade in black and pink ground with flower and hummingbird decoration was, according to catalog notes, in good condition. With interest from buyers at the sale, the phones and the internet, the lamp went to \$5,760.



A period whaling photo album with more than 50 pictures of whaling ships sold for \$810.

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