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Colonial Dames Protest
East Wing Demolition

Dear Dames,

Many of you have reached out to express concern over the recent demolition of the East Wing of the White House. Like you, I was deeply unsettled to see such a significant alteration to what is, in every sense, the People’s House. As the National President of the NSCDA, an organization devoted to historic preservation, I believe this moment calls for reflection and response.

As Dames, our mission transcends politics. We are committed to protecting the historic places that tell our shared American story. There is perhaps no structure more symbolic of that story than the White House, a home that belongs to all of us and to future generations. My response, therefore, is guided not by partisanship but by principle: a belief that the stewardship of our nation’s landmarks deserves care, transparency, and respect.

The White House, built between 1792 and 1800, stands as both a home and a symbol. Although the White House is exempt from the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I believe the spirit of that law with its emphasis on public engagement, professional review, and accountability still applies. Generations before us established those safeguards to en-

★★★
NSCDA
— 1891 —
National Society of the Colonial Dames of America

sure that our shared heritage would be preserved thoughtfully and with care. To ignore them now diminishes not only the building itself but also the trust we place in the process of preservation.

In the field of preservation, a simple adage: Measure twice, cut once is very apt. Thoughtful planning and expert consultation should always precede irreversible change. By that measure, this demolition was neither transparent nor collaborative. Such actions risk diminishing not only a national landmark but also the civic trust that binds us as stewards of our shared past.

As I reflect on this, I am reminded that stewardship is not about the past alone. It is about honoring those who came before us by

Continued on page 6

The 65th Annual Georgetown
Christmas Market



Each December the town of Georgetown transforms for two weekends into a bustling Christmas scene reminiscent of Christmas of long ago. Thousands come to this tiny moun-

tain town to experience a traditional holiday where Christmas hasn’t changed in 100 years: roasted chestnuts, holiday shopping, horse-drawn wagon rides through historic Georgetown, and wonderful sights and smells. Visitors enjoy appearances by St. Nicholas in his traditional dress and the daily procession of the Santa Lucia performed by the students of Georgetown Community School. Carolers in Victorian costume, dancers, and other family entertainment provide hours of memorable

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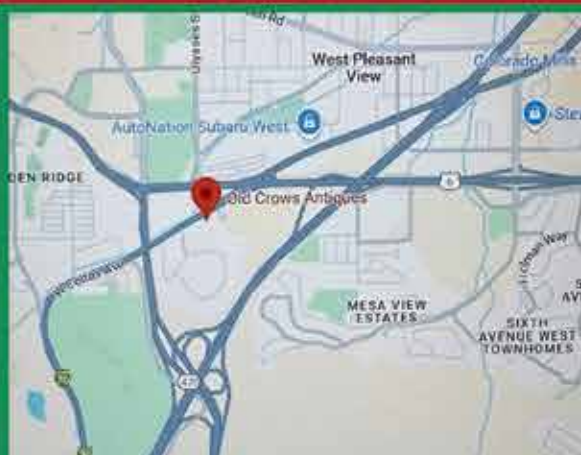
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Show Calendar: December 2025

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DEC. 1- 31: OLD CROWS' ANTIQUES HOLIDAY DEALER SALES ALL MONTH LONG Enjoy great holiday sales, get unique gifts, and support small businesses at the same time. We have over 100 independent small businesses operating in our community. Support Small Businesses. Caw Caw!

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Dec. 6: BRUHN'S AUCTION GALLERY Fine Antique and Architectural Auction, Saturday, December 6, 2025 @ 11:00 am; Preview Friday December 5th 12- 4 pm and 10 am day of sale. 1395 W. Alameda Ave. Denver,80223 After a half Century of Curating Eron Johnson is preparing to close its doors marking the end of an era in Denver. Eron is liquidating his inventory.

DEC. 6: OLD CROWS' ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW 12-3 p.m. (First Saturday of Every Month) 17120 W. Colfax Ave. Ste 106, Golden, CO. Get estimates on your favorite treasures. Talk to experts about your antiques, art, vintage and collectibles. Limit 1 item per person, 11 to 3. Call 303-973-8648 for more info.

DEC. 6 & 7 and DEC. 13 & 14: The 65th Annual Georgetown Christmas Market, The First Two Weekends in December. Celebrating the Yuletide Season in Our Historic Community. For more information visit: historicgeorgetown.org

DEC. 13: BOOKSIGNING AT OLD CROWS Author John F. Davis booksigning, "Buffalo Jones" & "The Hide Hunters!" 3-5 p.m.

DEC. 20: LIVE AT THE CROWS SANTA CLAUS For Children of all ages Come meet Santa from 10a.m. to 1 p.m.

DEC. 20: LIVE AT THE CROWS at the Old Crows Antique Mall & Root Beer Bar, live musical performance by Warren Floyd, 2-5 p.m., 303-973-8648.

Old Wagon Antique Mall Awarded Northgenn Small Business of the Year



Old Wagon Antique Mall was awarded the 2025 Small Business of the Year by the City of Northglenn at its annual Business Celebration on October 28, 2025. The award recognizes the business for its 17 years of operation in Northglenn and its significant role in the local community.

Stop by and shop all the new finds at Old Wagon Antique Mall ! We're offering some amazing deals all month long, with discounts from 10-50% off across a variety of unique finds (some exclusions apply). Whether you're looking for one-of-a-kind antiques, vintage treasures, or a little something special, we've got it all!!

Don't miss out!! stop by and see what's waiting for you!



Dames Protest East Wing Demolition *continued . . .*



The Hotel de Paris in Georgetown is a historic house owned by the Colonial Dames.

Continued from page 1
ensuring that future generations inherit the best of what remains. As we approach the 250th anniversary of American independence, my hope is that decisions affecting our shared national treasures will be made with care, consultation, and respect for both history and the public trust that sustains it. At the end of the day, it's not about us. It's about those who will come after us and the history we leave for them to know.
In gratitude for your steadfast dedication to preservation, education, and patriotic service,

Mary Heyward Mundy

Mary Heyward Mundy
President, NSCDA



The Colonial Dames also own the historical McAllister House in Colorado Springs. The Colonial Dames own many historic places all across America. They lovingly take care of these places and keeping them in good condition in the interest of preserving history for Americans.

The 65th Annual Georgetown Christmas Market *continued . . .*

Continued from page 1
performances. Adorned with lights and Christmas greenery and blanketed with snow, the quaint, historic town of Georgetown, Colorado has been a Christmas tradition for generations of Colorado families.
The Georgetown Christmas Market is held the first and second weekends of December and admission is FREE. Christmas Market features an outdoor European marketplace with handcrafted gifts in addition to Georgetown's charming year-round shopping experience, an Alpine Biergarten at Rue de Noël, and additional marketplace shopping at Christmas Alley. Beautiful and unique shops show-



case Christmas ornaments and decorations, Victorian items for the home, art, Colorado wine, rare books, jewelry, exquisite clothing, antiques, and gifts. The Market will also feature food vendors in addition to our fabulous

local restaurants. Please visit www.georgetown-colorado.org for more information on local businesses.
Christmas Market Museum Tours offer a relaxed way to see the Hamill House, Hotel de Paris, Alpine Hose #2, Energy Museum, and The Old School (formerly known as the Georgetown Heritage Center). Docents are on hand to give information or answer questions, but guests may stroll through the properties at their leisure to enjoy the holiday decor.
NEW THIS YEAR!!!! You don't want to leave the Christmas market early, because there will be fireworks on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Stay tuned for further details.

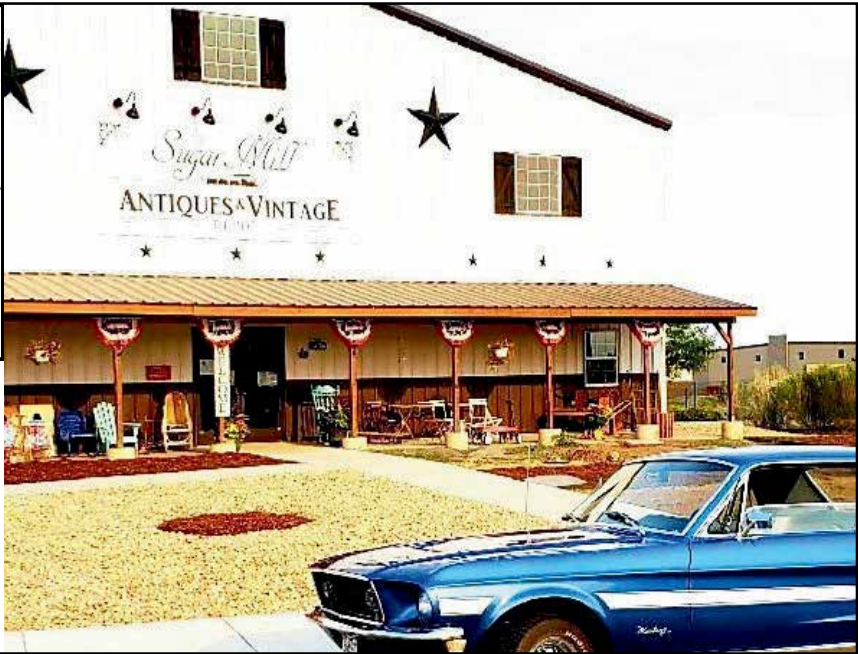
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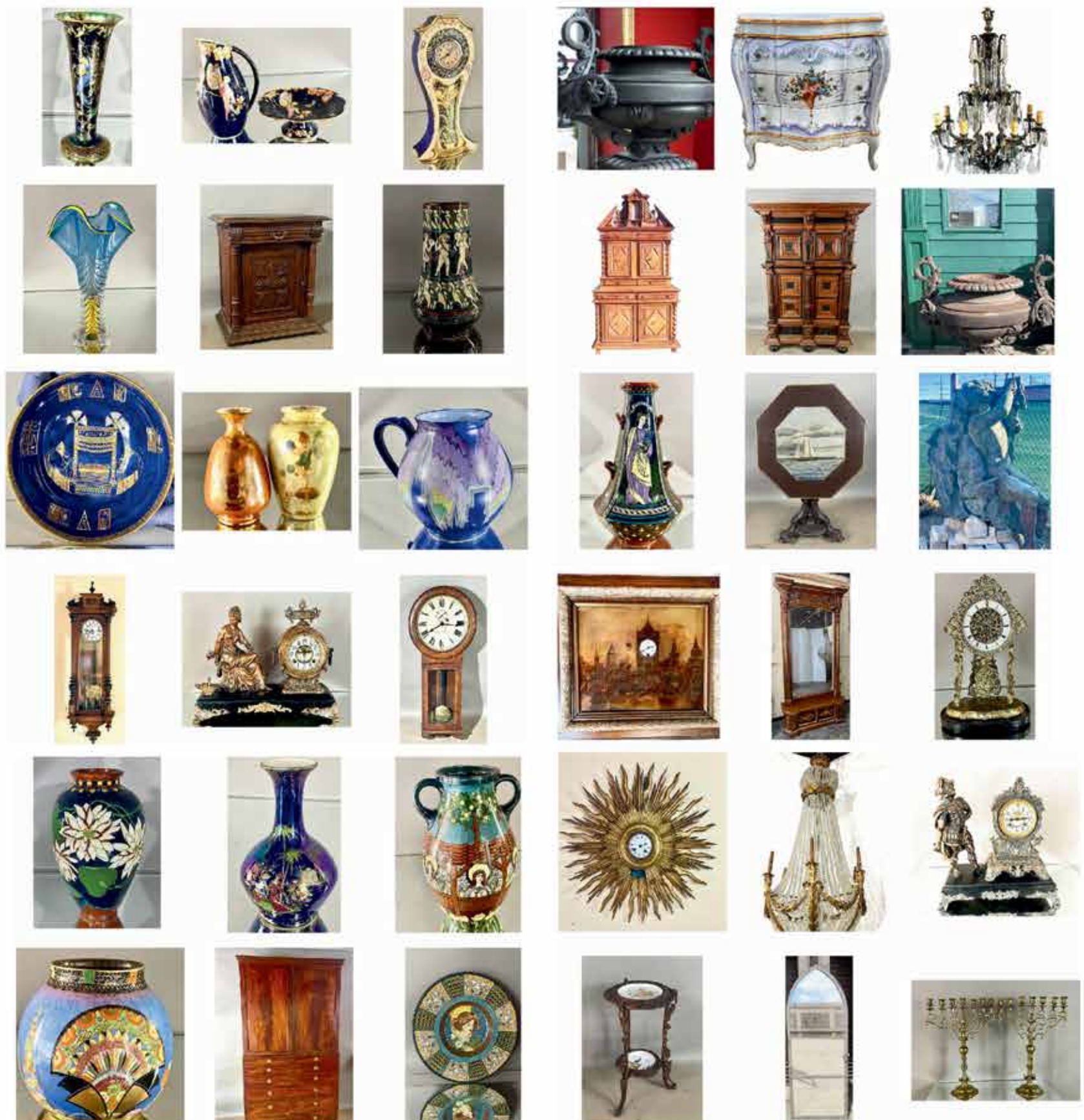
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After half a Century of curating and sharing history, Eron Johnson Antiques is preparing to close its doors, marking the end of an era in Denver. Eron has sold his building and is liquidating his inventory. Featuring exquisite lighting fixtures, chandeliers, a fabulous pair of cast iron urns from Spain, early fireplace mantels, and elegant French inlaid cabinets, side tables, six unusual antique showcases, signed bronze garden statuary, over 100 pieces of English art pottery from a private collection, furniture and decorative items from France, Italy, Sweden, England, and Austria. Great antique clocks, stained glass windows, lamps, French doors, fabulous Pier mirror. Plus over 500 more rare and unusual pieces. Everything sold to the highest bidder.



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Old Stickpins & Hatpins Still Useful & Beautiful

By Anne Gilbert

Antique hat pins are not only an interesting collectible but still a useful fashion accessory for hat wearers. Some from the Victorian era with sometimes two inch pins can be a protective weapon as well.

While stick pins have long been out of fashion for men, a grouping, when framed can be an interesting accessory .

Both hat pins and stick pins show up at jewelry auctions. When they are topped with precious or semi-precious stones on gold pins they can cost as much as a thousand dollars.

At a recent Skinner jewelry auction a gold stick pin with a black opal, in an Art Nouveau design was estimated at \$1,000. However, interesting examples with metal stems and fake

gem stones can cost under \$100. Even less when found at a garage sale.

Historically, stick pins were in use as early as the 18th century. In France, women used them to hold scarves in place. Men used them as cravat and scarf holders. Those early versions were oval bands with a single bar attached. In those days they were considered as jewelry and resembled a brooch decorated with semi precious stones. By the early 19th century the brooch had become a stick pin. Those with the heads in the form of a fox or hound were used on hunting scarves.

Collectors look for the designs of the 1890s and into the 1920s, when they were at their peak of designer creativity. During the Edwardian era(1901-1910) not only precious metals and gems were used on stick pins and hat pins, but figural motifs were set with semi-precious stones as well.

The Art Nouveau influence resulted in some of the most beautiful examples. Human heads, mythological beings, flowers and butterflies combined with a variety of metals, enamel, glass, shells and crystal.

Some can be quite eccentric, such as the use of actual hard-shelled beetles set in gold. And then, there are dog portraits painted on enamel. These were popular with the British who are known for pet portraits.

Considering the craftsmanship that shows in the intricately carved stones, cameos and mosaic designs, some pieces are a bargain.



CLUES: There are reproductions waiting to stick-it-to-you. Look on the reverse side to see if the long pin is connected to a round patch, then soldered to a decorative old button, stud or cuff link. There are also new copies around. An important clue to age and authenticity is the quality of the workmanship. Cameos should be deeply cut and detailed, as should carved gem stones.

Since hat pins and stick pins followed current fashion influences of their eras, you can expect to find them in everything from Satsuma porcelain to hand painted china and Egyptian Revival motifs.

If you go for the look of plain gems, like a big diamond, you can get the effect el cheapo. Sears Roebuck sold stick pins and hat pins with heads of fake rubies, amber and diamonds. Stick pins went out of fashion in the 1930s, replaced by tie bars.

PHOTO CAPTIONS: (1) Art Nouveau stick pin. Gold with black opal. (2) \Art Deco stick pin. Diamond with faux sapphire.



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Chimney Sweeps Once Symbolic of the New Year

by Roy Nuhn

“Chim-chim-ney, chim-chim-ney, chim-chim charee, a sweep is as lucky as lucky can be. Chim-chim-ney, chim-chim-ney, chim-chim-charoo, good luck will rub off when I shake hands with you.”

Remember that song from Disney’s 1964 movie hit, “Mary Poppins”? The film and the tune romanticized the chimney sweep of old. Actually it was a very dangerous and dirty job. There was nothing romantic about it in the real world.

Artists illustrating New Year’s Day postcards during the earliest decades of the 20th century were very fond of creating allegorical scenes portraying the passing of the old year and the arrival of the new. Transitions from the worn-out old to the spanking new were symbolized by such pictorials as a “1906” trail passing by a stranded “1905” train and a “1908” balloon rising while “1907’s” slowly sinks to the ground.

Another image of this idea was chimney sweeps, a theme found on New Year’s Day postcards for about 20 years. Sweeps were especially symbolic of the notion of sweeping away the dust and dirt of the old year so that the new year could arrive shiny bright and minty.

Actually, English and American custom



during the 19th century and a short ways into the next held that nothing was to be removed from the house on New Year’s Day. The chimney then had to be swept clean because it was through the flu that good luck for the new year arrived! The chimney sweeps who performed this yearly ritual were long an important part of New Year’s holiday tradition and lore.



This is the kind of scene that moved the great social reformers to change the conditions of child-life. Little boys were bought from their parents by sweeps, and made to climb up inside chimneys to clean them.

SOME ENGLISH REFORMERS

Though popular literature and music always portrays them as happy, go-lucky sort of fellows, in reality chimney sweeps were sickly, impoverished lads, usually younger than 13 years of age. They were short, slightly built children who rarely lived long enough to become teenagers, never mind young men.

During the 19th century and a little bit into the 20th, chimney sweeps played an important role in England and on the continent. Fire-

places in the congested cities and crowded villages of the Old World were the only source of heat and the only way to cook.

The homes of the poor had one; the well-to-do, middle and upper classes boasted of several - often one to a room. Soot built up quickly with such heave usage, and chimneys had to be regularly cleaned. If they weren’t, then eventually a fire broke out and, in those days before modern fire fighting equipment and technology, this meant a strong possibility of an entire block of homes or a neighborhood being burned to the ground.

The unpleasant and potentially fatal job of sweeping these chimneys was performed in merry olde England by members of the lower class. Sweeps were paid so poorly and labored under such horrible working conditions that it usually came down to the question of whether starvation, disease or injury would do the poor boys in first!

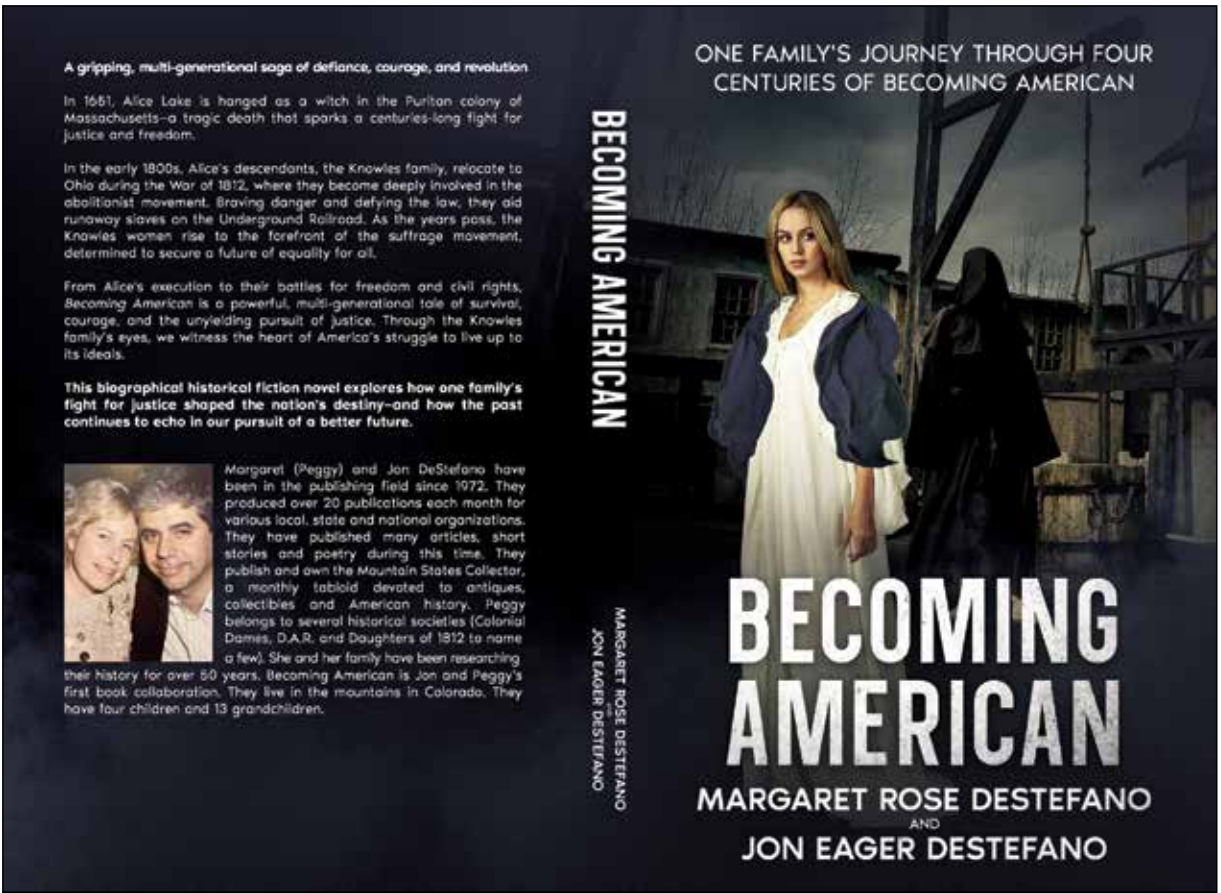
The young boys who worked as chimney sweeps were usually foundlings or discards from families who couldn’t afford to them. They lived short lives and worked from sunrise to sunset, 1 seven days a week. Tuberculosis, blindness, as well as malnutrition, were their common inheritance.

They labored for stern taskmasters who rarely took pity on them. In England, apprenticeship and poor laws doomed these children to a slave-like relationship with their Master-Sweep. These masters, who never did any of the cleaning work, were the ones who dressed themselves in the top hat and tails, purchased second-hand from undertakers, that came to symbolize their profession. The chimney sweeps themselves wore only rags. The arrival of the 1900s and the increasing use of gas, oil and electricity, eventually made chimney sweeps as archaic as blacksmiths.

Though gone for more than a generation by the time souvenir postals became all the rage, chimney sweeps were featured on numerous cards. But only on New Year’s Day greetings, never on occupational sets. All

Continued on page 15

BECOMING AMERICAN NOW AVAILABLE



Becoming American Is Now Available For Purchase

Peg and Jon DeStefano have recently completed their first book collaboration. *Becoming American* has been a labor of love for the couple as they wanted their children to know their ancestors. This book covers four centuries of the Knowles’ family experience in America which began in the early 1600s. This side of the family stems from Peggy’s maternal grandmother’s side.

The book is based on the genealogical research that Peggy’s sister Mary Sikora spent a lifetime recording. All the ancestors are real people. Their place in history helps bring to life America’s path up to this time. The book is an historical novel that captures history in a three-dimensional way that old-time history books never could capture.

It is now available through Kindle as a paper back. The electronic version is now available.

Christmas Records & Albums –

By Robert Reed

Part of the enduring Christmas season has always been the music. For decades much of it was captured on phonograph records and colorful long playing albums. Today many of those well-packaged Yule tunes are sounding very collectible.

"In the past few years the growth of Christmas music has been obvious," wrote author Tim Neely in the 1997 edition of the Goldmine Christmas Record Guide. "Many used record stores never remove their holiday offerings from sight; many collectors' catalogs offer Christmas records all year, not just in November and December."

By most measures the golden era of Christmas records and albums lasted from the late 1940s until well into the 1970s. During that time recordings offered a wide range of Christmas fare. Shoppers could choose from western singer's Gene Autry's Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer all the way to Yogi Bоргesson's comic I Just Go Nuts At Christmas. Additionally scores of memorable singers and entertainers donned Santa suits for more traditional holiday fare.

Typically the recordings were short-lived marketed only during the Christmas season and then discontinued. Many were based on a single 'breakout' hit which later headlined a full album. Other albums were simply based on



the already broad appeal of a particular singer whose fans logically followed there work into the Yuletide season.

Christmas records and subsequent albums were a part of a major change in the record industry during the latter 1940s. First was the boom in demand. By 1945 record sales had surpassed the 100 million mark, more than double what they had been just five years earlier. Next was the technology. At the time most records were in the 78 rpm form which meant each side

could contain only about four minutes of music. Eventually Columbia Records developed a method of producing a long playing (33 rpm) record which provided 30 minutes on music on each side. Rather than group three or four 78s into one cumbersome (and heavy) album, all the songs could be contained on a single long playing album.

Columbia Records first introduced the LP to the music-minded masses in 1948, but the reaction was mild. Instead of following the same course, RCA Victor instead responded with the smaller 45 rpm record. All this led to what author Eric Kohler describes in the fine book In The Grove, Vintage Record Graphics, as the "war of speeds."

By the Christmas of 1949 customers could find seasonal music in heavy 78 rpm albums and in the lighter long playing form. Christmas Music with Ethel Smith at the organ, for example, was in a three-record 78 album. Decca also used the same form for Bing Crosby's Merry Christmas album. LP choices included Christmas Music by Morton Gould, and Mario Lanza's Christmas Songs.

As the decade of the 1950s developed the LP became the overwhelming choice for albums including Christmas albums, and the 45 became the dominate form for singles. After some bad experiences with 78-like paper sleeves, the record industry turned to cardboard with pa-

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Sweet Sounding Holiday Collectible

per covering for albums. The cardboard not only protected the records but it was immediately graphic.

“Trends notwithstanding,” according to Kohler, “the 1950s still produced some of the best cover designs in the illustrative and typographic genre.” Artists defined that period “in cover graphics and carried on the concept of highly stylized, instantly recognizable cover art.”

The LP album and the graphic cover became a perfect combination for the Christmas season.

Holiday albums early in that decade included Patti Page’s Christmas, Burl Ives’ Christmas in the Morning, Liberace’s Christmas at Liberace’s; and Eddie Fisher’s Christmas With Fish-

er. There were also long-expected album offerings from likes of Rosemary Clooney, Perry Como and Bing Crosby. Later in the 1950s were the Christmas renditions and holidays albums of Nat King Cole, Connie Francis, Jimmy Rodgers, the Four Aces, Mitch Miller, and old blue eye himself Frank Sinatra.

In 1957 RCA issued an Elvis Presley Christmas album in a variety of forms. The Elvis Christmas Album was sometime printed with a gold title and sometimes with a silver title. Some albums had a gatefold, and some included a bound booklet. Some had a prominent sticker, while others did not. Experts generally agree however that the most collectible of the Elvis Christmas album varieties was the red vinyl issue of that year, produced in very limited numbers. The album itself, as were many others, was later re-issued for still other Christmas seasons.

The 1960s were grand times for the big high Christmas record and the accompanying Christmas album. Bobby Darin did The 25th Day of December, Nat King Cole did The Christmas Song, and Bobby Helms continued to offer versions of the immortal Jingle Bell Rock. The Osmonds provided, We Sing You A Merry Christmas, and Christmas With The Chipmonks starred a character named Alvin repeating a smash hit known plainly as The Chipmonk Song.

As the 60s continued so did the entertainers and their Christmas music. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans did the Christmas Is Always album, Paul Revere and The Radiers did Christmas Past and Present, and Brenda Lee not surprisingly did an album called Merry Christmas From Brenda Lee. Then too there was Jim Nabors, Wayne Newton, Loretta Lynn, and Ferlin Husky. There was Christmas With the Platters, the Led Zeppelin Show for Christmas Seals, and Stevie Wonder’s Someday at Christmas.

In 1970 the Jackson Five did a special Christmas album based on their rocking rendition of the single, Santa Claus is Coming to Town. The follow year, another ‘family’, the Partridge Family offered A Partridge Family Christmas Card album. Some of the albums included an



actual Christmas card while others had the image of a card printed on them. Even Flintstones family members got into the Christmas album act when Pebbles and Bam Bamm did a second release of their extended play recording featuring The Little Drummer Boy.

In addition to all the general interest Christmas records and albums, there were those offered to a special market. A particular album would be only available at a specific service station chain, or tire store, or television set dealer. Other Christmas albums were available only by catalog, or with as mail-in premiums for a purchased product.

Among collectors today there is a great deal of emphasis on the condition of Christmas albums of the past. Beyond the direct pull of nostalgia, such albums are sought mainly for their graphic appeal. They can made a very profound display for the holiday season by filling a wall or the corner of a room like other yuletide decorations.

Since visual appearance is vital, excessive wear, creasing, stains, and mouse-lunch munching detracts from the overall value of the Christmas presentation. Any original sleeves, lyric sheets, greeting cards, or other inclusions generally add to the value and prestige of the Christmas recording.

Recommended reading:
Goldmine Christmas Record Price Guide by Tim Neely (Krause Publications).



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December Anniversaries

December 1, 1955
The Montgomery bus boycott began after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

December 5, 1933
The 18th Amendment, which prohibited alcohol, was repealed with the ratification of the 21st Amendment, officially ending Prohibition.
December 6, 1865: The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery, was ratified.

December 7, 1941
The Japanese attacked the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, prompting the United States to enter World War II.

December 16, 1773
The Boston Tea Party occurred, where colonists disguised as Native Americans dumped tea into Boston Harbor to protest the Tea Act.

December 17, 1903
Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful sustained flight

of a heavier-than-air powered aircraft at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

December 21, 1864
Union General William T. Sherman captured Savannah, Georgia, after his “March to the Sea”.

December 24, 1814
The Treaty of Ghent was signed, officially ending the War of 1812.

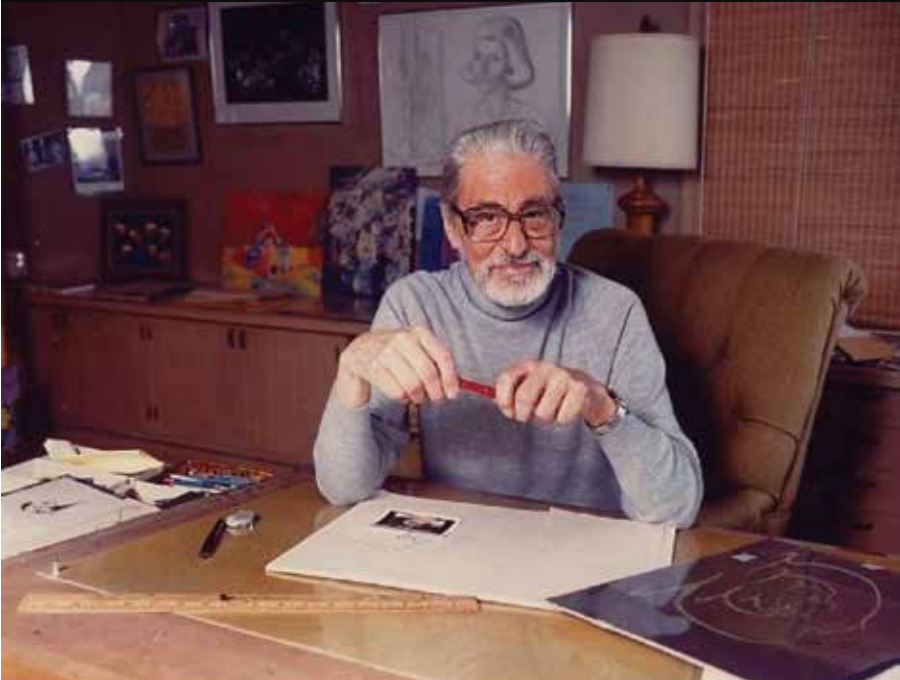
December 31, 1879
Thomas Edison demonstrated the first practical incandescent electric lamp in Menlo Park, New Jersey.



INSPIRATION

December’s
Quote of Month

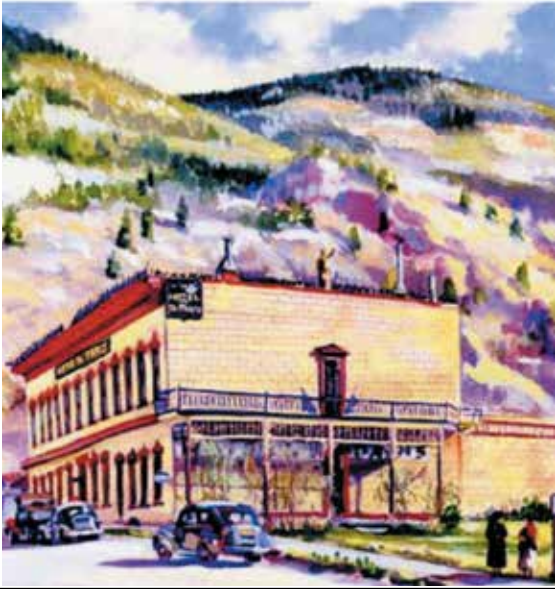

How did it get so late so soon? Its
night before its afternoon.
December is here before its June.
My goodness how the time has
flew. How did it get so late so
soon?
— Dr. Seuss —





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Oh, Christmas Tree!

By Bobbie Sweeney

It is hard to imagine not having a tree decorated in our homes at Christmastime. Most everyone today remembers their childhood and the pleasures of trimming the tree. When my children were young, our friends and relatives had a good laugh when they walked in our house and saw our work of art. I felt this was one time of the year the children should participate in the festivities. First of all I struggled with their help to put the tree in its holder. I must admit, it wasn't always straight, the way it had grown in the forest, but it held up during its time with us.

Then the children carried on from there. Oh, there were lots of arguments, but there were also lots of laughs. No one ever agreed on exactly the right place to hang the ornaments. But in the end, they were all proud of their Christmas tree.

Have you ever wondered, like me, where the tradition of having a decorated tree placed in a prominent place in our homes at Christmastime originated? I found in my research that not too much has been written about its beginnings. We do know one thing for certain: The German settlers in America brought the tradition with them from their homeland to the New World.

The first account of such a tree, in Germany, is described in a diary written by an unknown author who visited Strasbourg in 1605, according to Phillip V. Snyder in his book on Christmas trees. In the diary, the visitor wrote about fir trees placed in the home and decorated with roses, flat wafers, fruit and candy.

It is believed that there is a religious symbol associated with bringing a green tree into the home and decorating it in such a manner. From the study of primitive cultures, it was learned that trees remaining green in the winter were thought to have godlike powers that protected their homes, and helped bring good crops to their seemingly barren land.

When Christianity gradually overcame the pagan religions, people in the northern part of Europe continued to decorate the evergreen trees at Christmastime. The rose had always been a symbol for the Virgin Mary, and it is believed that the flat wafers, described in the writings of the traveler, related to the "host," the symbol for Christ in communion. The tree decorated with the flat wafer and roses became known as the Christbaum.

There is an account of candles being fastened to the branches of a decorated tree as early as 1708. And in 1801, Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband who came from Germany, made the tradition popular in England. However, the custom had been known and practiced by the royal family for half a century. The custom didn't last long in England, as it had in Germany and later in America.

German settlers introduced the Christmas

tree to America during the 19th century. Most of the immigrants brought their ornaments with them from Germany, and for many years the only ornaments used were imported from Germany.

There was quite a controversy over the idea of a Christmas tree among Americans not of German descent. Critics disliked its pagan origin.

The first picture shown in America of the Christmas tree was printed in a women's magazine in 1850. The engraver of Godey's Lady's Book copied the picture of Prince Albert of England's tree that had been printed earlier in the London News. He made the picture seem more American by removing a few royal details and by changing the look of many of the ornaments.

The people in America introduced the idea of the floor-to-ceiling Christmas tree soon after they had followed the German custom of having a small tree that could be placed on top of a table. In the early years, Americans decorated their trees very simply, with strings of cranberries and popcorn, pine cones, cookies and candy. But by 1870, we were importing glass ornaments from Germany. And 10 years after that, ornaments were made of other material besides glass—wax, tinsel, silver and gilt paper, and cardboard.

The custom grew slowly in America, but since the early part of the 20th century, the Christmas tree has been a part of American life. Every home now has a Christmas tree, and thanks to Thomas A. Edison we have replaced the dangerous candle on the tree with small electric light bulbs that brighten the trees during the festive occasion.



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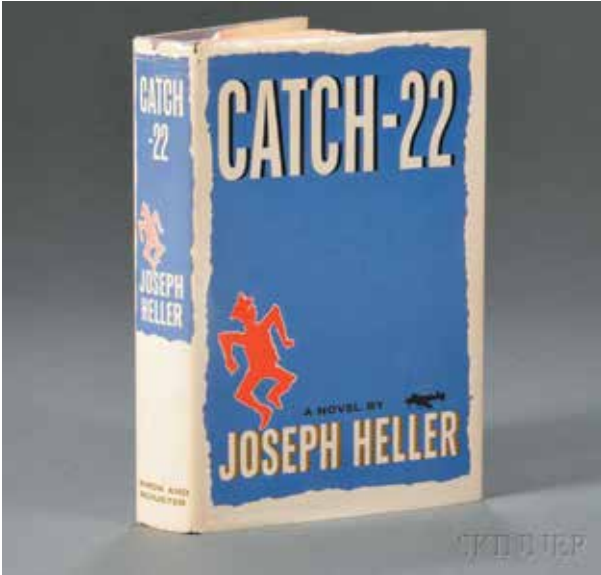
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Mountain States Collector – DECEMBER 2025 13

Auction Book Values Depend On Many Factors



By Anne Gilbert

Pay no attention to the person who says “nobody is collecting books these days.” Book auctions prove there are plenty of collectors. However selling your old books is a challenge these days. Sometimes 20th century books can sell for more than 17th century examples. What you don’t know about old and recent books can cost you. At the November 17, Skinner, Boston auction of books, the winning bid for a signed, first edition of “A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthurs Court” by Mark Twain only fetched \$123, while an inscribed, first edition of “Catch-22” by Joseph Heller sold for \$4,500. Timely were books relating to President John

F. Kennedy that did well.

First, there are still rare and valuable books waiting to be discovered. Consider that back in 1974 a book thrown into the trash brought \$123,00 at auction. It was “Tamerlane”, the first book ever written by Edgar Allan Poe.

Obviously age alone doesn’t count unless the book is rare and interesting. For example, dozens of 15th century religious books can be picked up for under \$200.

Illustrated books with illustrations by famous illustrators such as Arthur Rackham and Jessie Wilcox , can up the price.

Finely decorated book bindings and illustrated covers add to the value, Condition is one of the most important considerations for books published since 1900.

Such books should have their dust jackets and be in mint condition.

Always check 19th and 20th century books to be sure they are first editions.

Look for 20th century books by such “name” authors as Faulkner and Hemingway in their original dust jackets.

If you are left a collection of books, call in a book appraiser, before selling. Don’t sell to the appraiser who will low-ball a valuable book. Try and sell locally. The shipping cost for books can be astronomical.

If possible, do your own research, using internet auction price results. You can get a sense of what is going on by checking eBay, and what sellers are asking.

Make sure that books you want to sell have covers intact and that the pages aren’t soiled. A spin-off of book collecting is pamphlets. Consider the collector who found a 1920 pamphlet with a newspaper story on Christmas, republished in 1970. The author was Ernest Hemingway. It is titled “Will You Let These Kiddies Miss Santa Claus ?” He sold it for several hundred dollars.

Familiarize yourself with 19th century reference books on medical and scientific developments. Long out of date many have been trashed. Those that remain are rarities and can sell to collectors of those categories for several hundred dollars.

Collect by subject, author or both. Research what books were published by that author. Unfamiliar or long forgotten titles can add to the book’s value.

PHOTOS: (1) “Catch-22 sold for \$4,500 at Skinner auction. (2) “A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthurs Court” fetched only \$123, PHOTO CREDIT: Skinner Book Auction, Boston, MA

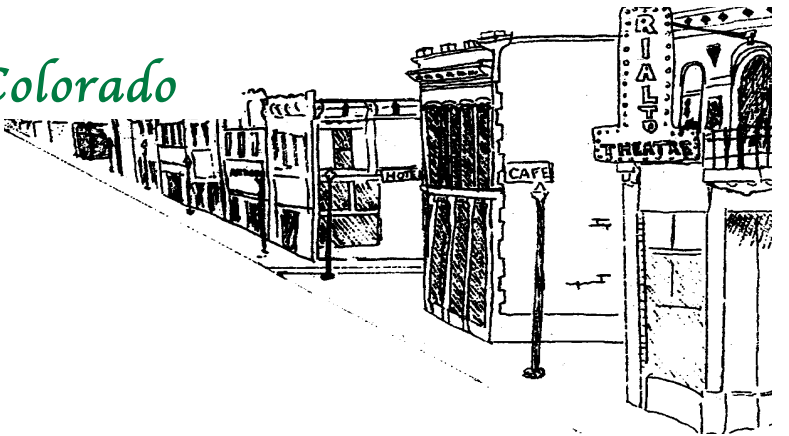


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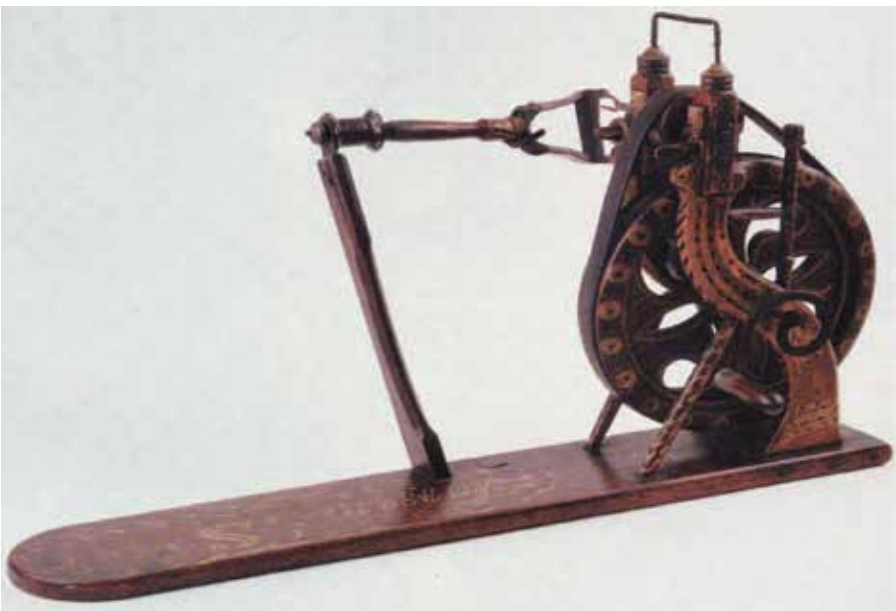
November's What Is It?

December's What Is It?

We had one correct answer for our october's What Is It. Dennis Thode of broomfield, Colorado correctly identified the object as a holder for powder papers. It is a 19th Century pharmacy tool—a powder folder used to hold meds in the days before solid tablets. He is correct! It is a brass powder folder which was listed in an 1874 catalogue. It is a rare device today. Dennis explained that, "Powder papers are folded paper (glassine, parchment) about 4 x 3 inches. Medications are prepared by the pharmacist and then measured (weighed out). The paper is folded in half then folded again. The medication is placed inside the center of the fold.



Then the ends are folded to the center. The finished paper is placed in the hold while more are produced. When the correct number are finished, they are then put in a box. A prescription label is attached to the box." Thank you, Dennis, for sending the sample of a powder paper. It is fun to learn more about this What Is It!



Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by December 20, to the Mountain States Collector, P.O. Box 1003, Bailey, CO 80421. At least three winners will be drawn. Winners will receive a one year electronic subscription to the Mountain States Collector. Be sure to include your email address to your guess.

Chimney Sweeps Once Symbolic of the New Year continued . . .

Continued from page 9
sets of working people, such as Pictorial Stationery Company's "Familiar Figures of London" (1901); C. W. Faullfner's Series No. 564, "Cries of London," and the French "Les Cris de Paris," completely ignored the chimney sweep. Even Raphael Tuck and Sons Company's many comic valentine sets of this era, depicting all sorts of working people and characters, bypassed them.



New Year's Day postcards with illustrations of chimney sweeps were all made in Europe - mostly England, Germany, Hungary and Austria, by about a dozen different printing houses. They were captioned "Happy New Year" in a foreign language. Large numbers, though, were imported to the United States for sale to first and second generation immigrants from these countries. German-Americans, especially, were attracted to such cards for exchanging with each other. Scenes usually depicted young children; and, infrequently, an adult. Most are shown only with the ladders and brushes of their trade; off and on/though other paraphernalia are portrayed. Various traditional New Year's Day motifs, such as pigs, flowers or sacks of money, often crept in. Generally speaking, production of chimney sweep themed greeting postcards for the holiday stopped in 1914, when World War I engulfed Europe. After the 1918 Armistice, the old days and the old ways were forgotten as the world rushed toward the modern era.

So as we sweep away the old year and prepare to welcome in the new, let us give a quick thought to the little lads of yore who, with their cleaning brushes and ladders, decorated so many New Year's Day greeting postcards a century and more ago.



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