



HAND PAINTED FURNITURE SEE PAGE 8

the mountain states collector

DEVOTED TO ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, FURNITURE, ART, DESIGN AND HISTORY.

54th ANNIVERSARY — ESTABLISHED IN 1972

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Terrific Travel Posters of the Past

By Robert Reed

Collectors today can take that dreamed of trip, or they can seek out a treasured travel poster of the past.

Either way they are sure to have something to long remember.

From air travel to railways, and from bicycles to ocean liners, travel posters have lured people to find some means to roam distant locations.

Generally, for all their appeal, travel posters were not designed to last beyond a single season. Those that did survive are prized currently from the major auction houses to antique malls in the crossroads of America.

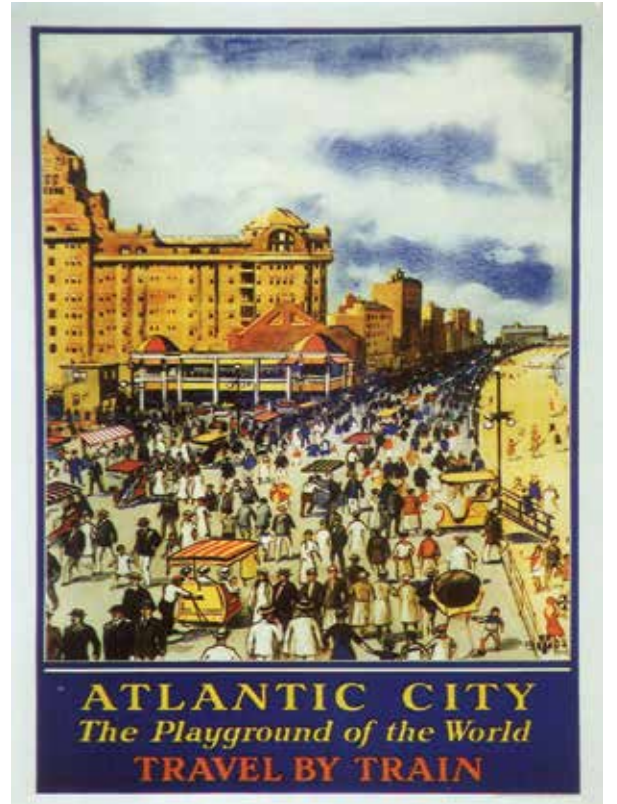
"Travel and transportation posters are a major poster collecting field with global impact and numerous specializations," noted Tony Fuscho author of the distinguished volume *Posters*, second edition.

Besides all the obvious methods of transportation on travel posters, there also those which featured the resorts themselves and what Fuscho calls "sporting vacations" at particular locations.

Some of the earliest travel posters in America were those that appealed to the public in the 1860s and 1870s to ride the newly completed railroads across the United States. In 1869 posters from the Union Pacific Railroad boasted "Pullman's palace sleeping cars" and welcomed "travelers for pleasure, health, or business" who would ride all the way to San Francisco. In 1870 the Central and Union Pacific Railroads promised travel from San Francisco to New York in only six days and 20 hours.

Bicycles were a major attraction by the 1890s, and Paris was the leading location for their manufacture and luxury use. To meet the fierce competition bicycle makers commissioned leading French artists such as Henri Thiriet, Jules Cheret, and Eugene Grasset to provide stunning posters.

That fashionable bicycle could come from



an array of French producers including Dayton, DuBois, Clement, Omnium, Pefecta, Soliel, Stella, Peugeot, and Liberator. American and British makers who offered similar poster campaigns included Columbia, Raleigh, Stearns, and Victor.

But bicycles were certainly not the only source of travel posters in the 1890s. As the world grew smaller there was a growing awareness of a developing middle class in both Europe and American. Before only the very wealthy could afford to travel, but now a 'new' emerging class of travelers appeared.

Increasingly both railroads and ocean liners also turned to travel posters to attract the tourists.

State-operated railroads in European countries like France and England during that period used the graphic print method to attract foreign visitors. They stressed the concept of "leisure" travel and encouraged the idea of

Continued on page 9

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Show Calendar: June 2026

2026 SUMMER: Walking Tours of Historic Florence, Colorado, The Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center offers guided tours through the historic downtown of Florence, Colorado. Through maps in the Museum, Florence was found to be a thriving community supplying not only local people with the basic necessities but also miners, gold hunters, and the adventurous travelers up and down through the canyons to other locations. RSVP: Marty Lamm 719-784-1904. Cost: \$10.00 per person.

JUNE 6: Paris Street Market, Open-Air, Vintage, Boutique, Artisan. 1st Saturday thru October. June 6th, July 4th, August 1st, September 5th and October 5th. Aspen Grove, Littleton, CO. Visit www.aparisstreetmarket.com or call 303-877-9457.

JUNE 6: OLD CROWS' ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW 12-3p.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.

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

JUNE 27: OLD CROWS SUPPORTS THE ARTS, all day long Saturday. Call 303-973-8648 for more information.

JUNE 19-21: THE 129 ANNUAL STRAWBERRY DAYS FESTIVAL in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, the Glenwood Springs Chamber invites you to be part of one of Colorado's oldest and most beloved festivals where tradition, art and community come together in a stunning mountain setting. General Park hours: Friday June 19, 1 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

JULY 16 & 17: DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, Colorado, Friday 11 a.m. -6 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information, go to denverpostcardshow.com.

JULY 18: Happy 62nd Birthday Florence Pioneer Museum! Join the museum Saturday, July 18th for beverages and birthday cake. Admission is by donation that day. Join us for a grand celebration! www.florencepioneermuseum.org.

OCT. 10 & 11: PUMPKIN PIE DAYS sponsored by St. Vrain Historical Society, Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont, homemade pumpkin pies served.

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Collectors Loving 60s, 70s Designs Sense of Humor

By Anne Gilbert

Little did I know when I wrote my book "60's, 70s Design and Memorabilia, in 1994, that the objects would still be collected these days and at high prices. One of my disbelief-favorites is a molded plastic dog house with a step stool. Though it was designed in 2001 the look was a tad of 50s and 70s. It sold at a John Toomey auction this year for \$531.25.

Here's a bit of history for you Millennials and in touch with these times of protest. The items designed in the 60s and 70s were a form of protest of the Post war generation. Plastic was no longer a dirty word. Traditionally shaped furniture and decorative objects had new looks, materials and funny names. Who can forget the "womb" chair or the red, plastic "lip" sofa. Many were made and still come to auctions, at high prices. Then, there is the "roll top desk" that is barrel shaped and made of walnut and leather. Looks like a beer keg on legs. It fetched \$585 at a recent John Toomey auction.



New name designers in America, Italy and Denmark who embraced the changes included Wendell Castle, Vernor Panton and Joe Colombo. One of Wendell

Castle's most famous pieces, "molar loveseat", c.1967, was made of white polyester reinforced plastic. At the time he told me, "it was initially done in white. I wanted the look of a perfect glass automobile finish. I think of my work as sculpture." It did indeed look like teeth.

While acrylics were used in furniture manufacture from the 30s, through the 50s, it was in the late 60s that the look changed. Furniture designer Vladimir Kagan, for example, used sculpture acrylics and combined them with rare woods and expensive upholstery.

Glass took on a sculptural form. Whether it was lighting, decorative accessories or pottery, a variety of materials were combined, including plastic, metal, wood and stone.

Fulvio Bianconi, one of the most important names in Italian glass during this period created a series of heads and glass cubes with figures drawn in glass that are encased within.

Important American glass artisans include Michael and Frances Higgins who created new

concepts using fused, enameled and sheet glass.

Art pottery took on strange shapes and color combinations. It made its way into even utilitarian designs. Important names include Eva Zeisel, Edwin and Mary Scheier, in America.

CLUES: Many of these designs have been reissued. Some of Wendell Castle's small pieces such as boxes and mirrors have been forged. Upholstered pieces by other designers come to auction with new fabrics. This lowers the value. Avoid damaged plastic pieces. Unlike wood they are difficult to repair.

While there are now many books on the subject, one of the best ways to keep up with what is happening, are the catalogues of John Toomey Auction Galleries in Oak Park, Illinois, and other auctions featuring 60s, 70s items.



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Hand-Painted Furniture Still Pricey and Prized



By Anne Gilbert

When a piece of hand-painted, 18th and 19th century American furniture hits the auction block these days bidding zooms. Good examples can cost thousands.

In late 18th century England, Italy and France, painting and gilding quality furniture and decorative accessories became fashionable. At that time neo-classical furniture styles with flat surfaces offered the perfect medium for painted motifs. Rococo, Venetian and French Provincial painted pieces were top

sellers in the early 20th century, especially in America.

Not all of the Venetian pieces were hand painted, but used small, colored engravings, glued on then varnished over.

When it filtered down to America everyday pieces took a different turn with folk art designs known as Pennsylvania Dutch. By 1825 mass-produced pieces, such as Hitchcock chairs and inexpensive, heavy country style pieces, known as "cottage furniture" had painted designs.

Quality wood with fine graining wasn't painted but covered with a transparent finish. Less expensive woods were often painted to imitate finely grained woods. Tops of chests imitated marble. Subjects often pictured landscapes and flowers as well as historical or neo classical motifs.

Some of the finest painted furniture, known as "fancy furniture" was made in Baltimore.

There was nothing amateurish about furniture painting. In fact there were many professional ornamental painters during the 18th century who advertised the type of decorations they specialized in. Only a few are known by name such as John and Hugh Finlay, of Baltimore. Another center for furniture painting was in Albany, New York. Some of the landscapes on the top rails of chairs are similar to the Hudson river paintings done at the time.

Painters also worked throughout New England.

Probably the best known producer of "fancy chairs" is Lambert Hitchcock. By 1825 he employed over one hundred women, men and children. Designs could be done more quickly using stenciled ornamentation. The wood used was maple and the style combined Sheraton and French Directoire. Popular designs were fruit and leaf patterns, fountains, drinking birds and horns-of-plenty. Some chairs were painted black to imitate ebony and designs were gilt stencils. Seats were rush, cane and wood. Today an authentic Hitchcock chair could sell for \$1,000 or more.

CLUES: Antique painted furniture can still turn up anywhere, especially original painted Hitchcock chairs. However they were reproduced from the 1920s on. During the 1976 Bicentennial it was popular to stencil and paint undecorated antique furniture.



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A Journey Through Time: The Story Behind Timeless Relics & Whatknots

In a metro area rich with history, character, and the thrill of the unexpected find, Timeless Relics & WhatKnots has become a vibrant thread in Denver's antique tapestry. But its story begins far more modestly — with a single booth, a passion for the past, and a dream that refused to stay small.

Timeless Relics & WhatKnots first opened its doors to the public in 2016 as a vendor at Heirloom's Antique Mall. What started as a side hustle quickly grew into a calling, expanding to additional spaces at Antiques Etc., The Brass Armadillo, Lafayette Flea Market, Hampden Street Market, The Old Crows, Colorado Antique Gallery, Homestead Antiques, and other beloved antique destinations across the Denver metro area. Each move brought new customers, new treasures, and a deeper connection to Colorado's thriving community of collectors and vintage enthusiasts.

After many years in the corporate world, the antique business began demanding more than evenings and weekends — it demanded heart, time, and full attention. The "side hus-



tle" had become a fullfledged business, and the next step was clear: it was time to build something of our own.

With that vision in mind, we began searching for a small facility — just enough space to create a cozy, independent antique shop. But as any treasure hunter knows, the right find often comes when you least expect it. Many of the

properties we toured were already leased or simply too small to make the numbers work. Then we discovered the building at 1410 South Wadsworth Boulevard in Lakewood, Colorado — a space that didn't just meet our needs, but expanded our imagination.

What began as a plan for a small shop quickly transformed into something much bigger: a fully realized antique mall. Today, Timeless Relics & WhatKnots proudly hosts 50 exceptional vendors, each offering thoughtfully curated booths filled with history, artistry, and the joy of discovery. Together, they create a destination where every visit promises something new — a place where stories live on through the objects we cherish.

From a single booth to a bustling 7,000squarefoot community marketplace, our journey has been shaped by perseverance, passion, and the belief that the past still has plenty to say. And here in Lakewood, surrounded by fellow treasure seekers and the vendors who make this place shine, we're just getting started.

Terrific Travel Posters of the Past Continued . . .

Continued from page 1

cultural development. As Fuscho points out, often the posters did not feature the actual trains but instead depicted the scenery of places along the way.

Red Star Lines boasted of wonderful trips from New York and Philadelphia to Belgium in the late 19th century. Gunard Lines meanwhile bragged that even third-class passengers could go by ship across the Atlantic from England to the United States in only five days, seven hours and 23 minutes. It was billed as "record passage by the old reliable."

Ocean liners continued to dominate both the travel business and the use of travel posters early in the 20th century. French Lines chose to highlight the word "France" in many of their 1900s posters. American Lines used posters to

offer direct ocean transport service from Southampton to New York. By 1913 Gunard Lines full-color posters proclaimed travel "to all parts of the world."

Worldwide trips were offered on travel posters of early 1920s by the London-based Orient Line-Cruises. One example depicted stylish people swimming in a pool on board a luxury ship. For those with a little less time other posters offered trips by ferry boat from France to England.

Back in the United States during the Roaring Twenties automobile traffic was already a problem. Travel posters announced Chicago's unique solution to the problem. "Avoid street congestion," exclaimed a poster in behalf of Rapid Transit Lines. It featured the city's El tracks with crowded traffic in the background.

In the middle 1920s still another railway added a series of travel posters which incorporated travel with a sports event. The South Shore Line offered to take fans to the Notre Dame football games from Chicago to South Bend, Indiana. This is one



of many sports-related posters of that period. Winter Sports in the French Alps was a major

Continued on page 15

BECOMING AMERICAN NOW AVAILABLE


A gripping, multi-generational saga of defiance, courage, and revolution

In 1661, Alice Lake is hanged as a witch in the Puritan colony of Massachusetts—a tragic death that sparks a centuries-long fight for justice and freedom.

In the early 1800s, Alice's descendants, the Knowles family, relocate to Ohio during the War of 1812, where they become deeply involved in the abolitionist movement. Braving danger and defying the law, they aid runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad. As the years pass, the Knowles women rise to the forefront of the suffrage movement, determined to secure a future of equality for all.

From Alice's execution to their battles for freedom and civil rights, *Becoming American* is a powerful, multi-generational tale of survival, courage, and the unyielding pursuit of justice. Through the Knowles family's eyes, we witness the heart of America's struggle to live up to its ideals.

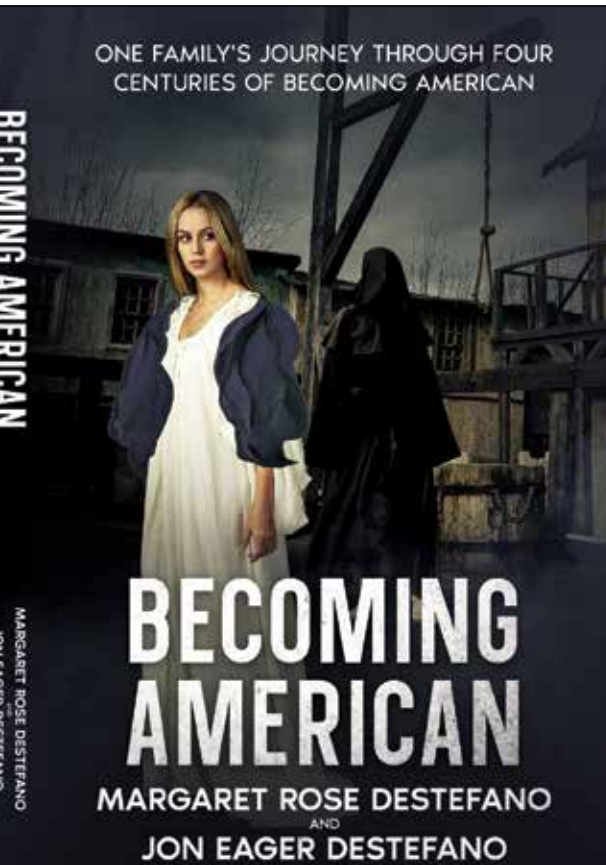
This biographical historical fiction novel explores how one family's fight for justice shaped the nation's destiny—and how the past continues to echo in our pursuit of a better future.



Margaret (Peggy) and Jon DeStefano have been in the publishing field since 1972. They produced over 20 publications each month for various local, state and national organizations. They have published many articles, short stories and poetry during this time. They publish and own the Mountain States Collector, a monthly tabloid devoted to antiques, collectibles and American history. Peggy belongs to several historical societies (Colonial Dames, D.A.R. and Daughters of 1812 to name a few). She and her family have been researching their history for over 50 years. *Becoming American* is Jon and Peggy's first book collaboration. They live in the mountains in Colorado. They have four children and 13 grandchildren.

ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY THROUGH FOUR CENTURIES OF BECOMING AMERICAN

BECOMING AMERICAN



**MARGARET ROSE DESTEFANO
AND
JON EAGER DESTEFANO**

BECOMING AMERICAN

MARGARET ROSE DESTEFANO
AND
JON EAGER DESTEFANO

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 paperback. The electronic version is now available.

By Roy Nuhn

Gulliver's Travels has been a part of our literary and cultural history for close to 300 years. First published in 1726, the novel quickly became a favorite with children. It has remained so for countless generations, being considered almost a fairy tale during the last 150 years. Collectors have long sought books and memorabilia inspired by the 18th-century tale of a ship's surgeon's fantastic South Seas adventure. Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World, as the book was originally titled, was a biting political and social satire. An overnight success, Gulliver's Travels was initially enjoyed by people of all ages. From parish pastor and royal cabinet minister to wealthy businessman and college student, everyone read and devoured Swift's powerful commentary on the foibles of the ruling class. Great work that it was, though, the novel soon became outdated. But it has flourished ever since as a juvenile literature classic.

The saga of Gulliver among the tiny people of Lilliput is but one, albeit the most famous, of four parts of the novel. Gulliver is later left ashore on Brobdingnag, a land of



giants; then visits the flying island of Laputa, where men of science, philosophers and historians are lampooned; and, finally, he goes to the country of the Houyhnhnms, a land inhabited by noble, rational horses and by the Yahoos, beasts in the form of people but whose human vices shock and disgust Gulliver.

Gulliver's Travels, one of Western civilization's great literary works, was written by Jonathan Swift (1667-1745). Swift was a clergyman and a political activist for most of his life. He wrote countless political pamphlets

Gulliver's –

and tracts, and edited a Tory newspaper.

Since Gulliver's Travels' first printing in 1726, the adventure fable has endured as a staple for both English and American publishers. In this country special small sized, abridged editions for children of all ages began appearing toward the middle of the 19th century. Almost always, however, only the story of Gulliver in Lilliput, the most adaptable part of the novel for children, was told.

One of the earliest of these books, sometime in the 1850s, was by McLoughlin Company as part of its "Aunt Fanny Fairy Tales" series. Later, when the firm became the more familiar McLoughlin Bros., numerous printings continued to be marketed throughout the balance of the century.

From the beginning, Gulliver's Travels books and booklets by all publishers of children's literature were illustrated, with hand coloring being used in the earliest editions. After the Civil War, the perfection of color lithography began a tidal wave of beautifully drawn and printed books for young people, including those of Gulliver's Travels. An 1889 edition, for instance, was illustrated by Arthur Rackham, another in 1900.

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Travels

Gulliver in the land of the Lilliputians was an image that beckoned certain manufacturers, especially makers of sewing threads. J. & P. Coats, the largest user of the idea, issued several trade cards in the late 1880s and 1890s ballyhooing the strength of their product. One, "Gulliver and the Lilliputians," portrays the ship-wrecked man securely tied down by the company's thread after being washed ashore and falling asleep. Another trade card scene is of Gulliver dragging Blefuscu's invasion fleet of 50 men-of-war ashore with lengths of Coats Spool Cotton tied to each boat.

Pictorial versions of the story in magazines, anthologies and educational books were plentiful during the first decades of the 20th century. The Book of Knowledge (The Grolier Society, 1912), an illustrated child's encyclopedia set, is a good example. It offered several excellent illustrations in their section on Gulliver's Travels.

In the 1920s and 1930s, leading publishers of juvenile literature and paper novelties, such as Whitman and Saalfield, published a few booklets, but interest in the classic tale declined.



In the early 1930s, Walt Disney's Gulliver Mickey, a cartoon with Mickey Mouse in the lead role, had its first theatrical run. Rare film memorabilia from this includes one-sheet posters and promotional materials.

A brief revival of fascination with the tale occurred in 1939 when legendary cartoonist Max Fleischer's animated feature, Gulliver's Travels, was released. The film premiered in December, 1939 amidst a barrage of publicity. The story centered on the Lilliput episode, which underwent major changes. New characters were added, such as Prince David and Princess Glory of the warring kingdoms, and Gabby the town crier who first discovers Gulliver. The film did poorly with critics, who panned it, and with audiences, who stayed away. The nearest thing to a winner from it was Gabby, who went on to star in his own cartoon series in 1940 and 1941.

But the full length cartoon movie did result in a considerable amount of souvenirs. Licenses were granted to Saalfield and others to publish all kinds of books and booklets about Fleischer's rendering of Gulliver's Travels.

Saalfield put an assortment of different items on store shelves in 1939 and 1940, most of them to an indifferent public. Among their products were illustrated story books in all sizes, a paper doll cut-out booklet, a Big Little Book, and a line of jigsaw puzzles.

In 1939 an advertising booklet was handed out by Macy's Department Store (New York City) as a Christmas present for shoppers. The premium with blue and white illustrations and color covers, helped promote the film, and wished customers "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Macy's." Valentine & Sons, the English postcard publisher who had an American sales office, printed at least two sets of six cards each. One had only scenes from the cartoon and was intended as a souvenir; the other, with similar illustrations, carried different birthday greeting messages and was intended for everyday use. These cards are found with early 1940s postmarks.

The first comic book to feature Gulliver and his wild escapades was Classic Comics (later known as Classics Illustrated) No. 16 (December 1943). Like nearly all Classics



Illustrated titles, there were many reprints over the next 30 years. This and other comic book editions were based on the original tale and characters by Swift, not Fleischer's version.

In January 1945 Dell Publishing Co., under its Junior Treasury label of comic books, sold a Gulliver's Travels title. These were 15¢ sellers and had painted covers. Later, in September 1965, Dell debuted Volume No. 1 of a new Gulliver's series. But this lasted for only two issues.

Later movies inspired little or no merchandise. A musical British-Belgium production, part live-action and part animation, was a flop. A Japanese animated feature, Gulliver's Travels Beyond the Moon, took the franchise into outer space - and to commercial success.

Having prospered for close to three centuries, Jonathan Swift's timeless novel seems destined to endure for many more generations to come. And along with such popularity, interest and fascination with Gulliver's Travels memorabilia and collectibles will continue unabated.

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June's Quote of Month

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AMERICAN HISTORY June Anniversaries

June 2
252th anniversary of the "Intolerable Acts;" passing of the new Quartering Act, also called the Coercive Acts, requiring American colonists to provide better housing for British soldiers upon demand (1775)

June 10
John Adams proposes the Continental Army (1775)

June 12
Women's Veterans Recognition Day

June 14
Congress establishes the U.S. Army (1775)

June 15
George Washington named Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army (1775)

June 17
Battle of Bunker Hill begins (1775)

June 19
Juneteenth Freedom Day

June 20
Congress adopts the Great Seal of the United States (1782)

June 22
British Parliament passes the Quebec Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts" (1774)



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Unique Paper Art Old or New Very Collectible



By Anne Gilbert

There is nothing new about paper art be it sculptures or dollhouses or furniture. It has existed in many forms and in nearly every culture for hundreds of years. For example the Vietnamese have never stopped turning it into vases and bowls. These days they make it from newspapers. Japan is known for Origami (the Japanese term for paper folding).

The Chinese are credited with inventing paper in the 2nd century. Korea began to make it by the sixth century. The Japanese put a different spin on it shortly thereafter creating sliding doors, fans, lanterns, toys

and even clothing.

Papermaking progressed westward through Central Asia and Persia. By the early 16th century decorative paper was created. It was painted, speckled, marbled, colored and stenciled. Many of these types were later adapted later in the West for books, box and drawer linings.

During the 18th century new machinery and fibers developed in Europe made it possible for new uses.

Paper cutting became an art form called "silhouettes" in France in 1757. In the days before daguerreotypes it was often into family images.

However it is the delicate and lacy scissors-cut-outs that evolved into a unique art known as "Scherenschnitte", the German word for scissors cutting, that became trendy by the early 19th century. Rare examples sell for thousands of dollars.

By the late 19th century manufacturers were mass producing kits for making paper dollhouses, dollhouse furniture and figures, Chromolithographed paper over wood.

CLUES: In the late 1980s there was a revival of interest in handmade papers that spread into paper sculpture, jewelry and other forms. Scherenschnitte was revived and reproductions could be found in museum gift shops. However the good news is that scissors art was always cherished it can often be

discovered between the pages of old books or scrapbooks.

Collectors can look for old marbled paper in secondhand bookstores and flea markets. They are being framed and hung as art.

Very collectible are examples of 1980s paper jewelry and sculpture. These days there are paper sculpture artists around the world. The most famous works are priced in the thousands.



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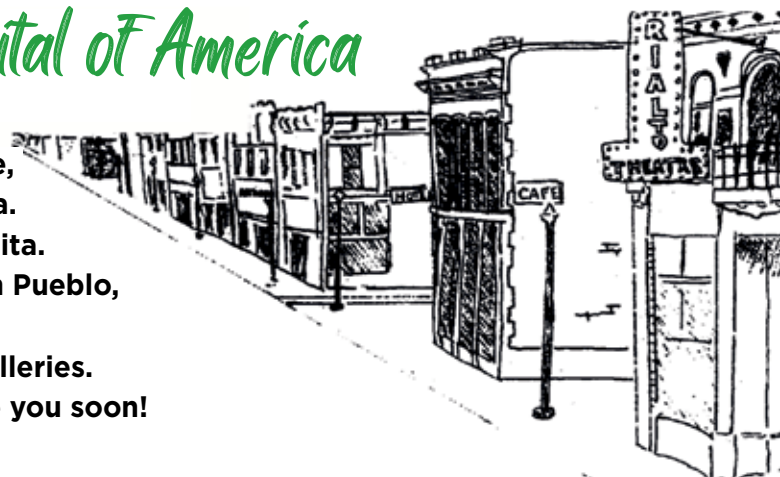
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May's What Is It?

Wow! Nothing like having the previous owner of this device send in his guess. Mark Schlesinger of Middletown, New Jersey wrote us, "In response to your May's What Is It" I not only know what the antique is, I was the second owner of this exact penny arcade machine. I bought it in the early 1970s from the Casino Arcade in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Unfortunately, I sold it 9 years later. This 1 cent (converted to a nickle) "Electric Pen" was made in 1933 by the International Mytroscope Co. in Long Island City, New York. It is a 9 floor model machine — the photo only shows the top half. After inserting a nickle in the coin slide, the lights start flashing and a fountain pen (between the towers) moves back and forth simulating writing a personalized fortune.



After about 10 seconds the lights and pen stop and a "fortune" card is dispensed." Thanks, Mark, for helping us out here. And, thank you for sending us a fortune card that popped out of this very machine. It is fascinating!

June's What Is It?



Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by June 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.

Terrific Travel Posters of the Past Continued . . .



Continued from page 9

topic, along with major golf resorts in France. By 1928 event major aviation events in various parts of the world became the subject of elaborate travel promotions.

Early in the 1930s major American cities

went toe-to-toe and even poster to poster in an attempt to entice travelers to their particular location. The Illinois Central Railroad advertised Chicago as "The Vacation City" in its colorful posters. And a series of Travel by Train posters sponsored in part by the American Railroad Companies of America offered Atlantic City as "the playground of the world."

Smaller tourist spots were in play as well as the metropolitan sites during that era. The Boston and Maine Railroad, for example, used posters to draw visitors to tiny Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. More ambitious railroad travelers could simply "See America" 1939 by journeying from the World's Fair in

New York City across the country to the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco.

Following the war years of the early 1940s, still another travel element moved heavily to the marketplace and consequently into elaborate travel posters. The airlines clearly wanted to take travelers away from it all too.

Major airline poster users of the late 1940s included Pan American Air Lines, Dutch KLM Airlines, Air France, and American Airlines. By the early 1950s American Airlines had launched a series of travel posters promoting numerous flights including trips to Hawaii. American Airlines was one of the first airlines to go with a full series of posters, and to commission major artists for the job.

It was American which used artist E. McKight Kauffer to illustrate travel posters, which featured locations both in the United States and Europe. Kauffer, an American born artist living in England, was one of the most talented and versatile contributors of his time. It was Kauffer who also created a dashing Kentucky Derby travel poster in behalf of Chesapeake and Ohio Railroads.

Mention of Kauffer leads to one of the more significant factors regarding travel posters, the artist.

Some very famous artists have contributed

to this specific aspect of posters over the years including Edward Penfield, Alphonse Mucha, Frederick Lawler, A.M. Cassandre, Otto Baumburger, and Paul Colin. Even esteemed American artist Maxfield Parish rendered a few travel posters during the 1930s for the New Hampshire Planning and Development.

Important artists naturally contribute greatly to the value of many travel posters of the past.

However there are also other considerations.

Content and graphic appearance can also be very important. A catalog of travel posters prepared by Swann Galleries recently noted, "...in grading a poster's condition the standards and criteria of the print collector cannot be used. The most important element in grading a poster's condition is its appearance as defined by lines, colors and overall design."

Recommended reading: Posters by Tony Fuscho, 2nd edition, Avon Books.



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Krysti Jomei of Birdy magazine couldn't resist visiting the dinosaurs at the Brass Armadillo. Photo by Sean Forrester.

