

PRESS RELEASE
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FLIGHTS OF FANCY AND IMAGINATION INSPIRE ANTIQUE OFFERINGS AT WASHINGTON ANTIQUES SHOW, JANUARY 7- 10, 2010

This is the one of a series of e-mails containing information about the 55th Washington Antiques Show. We hope you will forward it on to family and friends interested in learning more about the show. You can simply hit "forward" on your computer and send it up to 50 people at once from the contacts in your computer. Please help us share the news about our upcoming antiques show!

The fifty-fifth Washington Antiques Show, one of the premier and longest running shows in the country, will be held at American University's Katzen Art Center January 7 - 10, 2010. The Show is managed by the Antiques council, a not-for-profit organization of antique dealers from the United States and abroad, and is for the benefit of the Thrift Shop Charities.

From ancient times, man's fascination with birds has been eloquently expressed in the decorative arts with hundreds of wonderful interpretations in every antique category. This year, the forty- four premier dealers exhibiting at the show have been inspired by the "Flights of Fantasy" theme to bring some of their most imaginative and special pieces.



Majolica with its focus on animal motifs of is the perfect place to find birds in many forms. **Charles Wasburne** will offer two Minton examples, a fan-tailed pigeon covered game pie dish and a pierced bowl that the pigeons appear to be holding up with their tails. **Antique American Wicker**, a new addition to the show, will bring a late 19th century French Barbotine standing stork with iron legs and feet on a wooden base.

Running Battle Antiques will feature a fanciful peafowl on an English pearlware platter c. 1800. Also from England circa 1765-75 is a cream jug with two exotic birds hand painted in overglaze enamel from **Hanes and Ruskin Antiques**.

Birds can assume mythical forms such as the majestic griffin combining the face, beak talons, and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion. Paul Vandekar of **Earle Vandekar of Knightsbridge** will have a pair of these creatures in the form of Chamberlains Worcester Porcelain Candlesticks circa 1810. The gilt griffins, each holding a candleholder between their wings, are sitting on pale green painted plinths adorned with finely painted flowers.



Mankind's obsession with the mystery of flight and his attempts to imitate birds eventually brought about the invention of the hot air balloon in the late 18th century. Since then, their wonderful shapes and colorful exteriors have been a subject for artists. **Carlson and Stevenson Antiques** will be displaying a beautifully executed watercolor of an airship dating to the early 19th century.

In the 19th century, John James Audubon's book, "The Birds of America" brought birds into focus in a more scholarly manner. **The Philadelphia Print Shop** will be bringing a number of Audubon lithographs among them, "American Flamingo", John Bowen 1840-44, first edition, Royal Octavo, lithograph with original hand coloring.

Clocks faces, barometers, and measuring devices of the 18th and 19th century often had beautifully etched details of birds. **Charles Edwin Inc** of Louisa Virginia will be displaying a Regency period English octant, engraved with a swam among reeds, with cattails, flowers and foliage, as well as a 19th century rosewood barometer case inlaid with mother of pearl birds and flowers.

Antique birdcages for indoor and outdoor use have been popular as a way to keep birds or simply for use as decorative objects. **Dawn Hill Antiques** will be bringing a French turn of the century wrought iron birdcage on a stand with a peaked roof. Even more fanciful is a polychrome painted birdcage with a circus motif complete with pennants and circus performers. This wonderful late 19th century piece is Italian and will hang in the booth of **Antique American Wicker**.

The Washington Antiques Show begins with a preview party on Thursday evening January 7. Show hours are Friday, January 8 and Saturday, January 9: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday January 10: 11:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

One of the premier and longest-running decorative arts shows in the country, the Show benefits at-risk children and families through the Thrift Shop Charities. For information on events and tickets, visit www.washingtonantiques.org or call 202-388-9560.



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