

## January 2014 - Art Asset Overview

### Volume 23 - American Furniture

Dear Friends,

Winston Art Group's monthly newsletter is designed to give you a closer look at a particular aspect of the art world so that you can best manage your assets and continue to grow your collections. The current issue focuses on American furniture.

January is traditionally Americana season in the New York antiques world. Sotheby's and Christie's will be holding a total of nine furniture auctions with American material this month. American furniture collectors are notoriously selective, and the value of American furniture depends on factors such as maker, time period, region, provenance, and condition.

The auction record for American furniture is held by the Nicholas Brown Chippendale block and shell carved desk and bookcase, which sold for \$12,100,000 in 1989. More recently, the Fisher-Fox Family Chippendale carved mahogany tea table set the auction record for Philadelphian furniture, selling for \$6,761,000 in 2007.

Key American furniture makers to keep in mind include Thomas Affleck, John Goddard and John Townsend. Thomas Affleck specialized in Philadelphia Chippendale-style furniture with Marlborough legs and elaborate carving. John Goddard and John Townsend also specialized in Chippendale-style furniture, with block front, undercut talons, on claw and ball feet.

In October, Winston Art Group had the honor of handling the sale of the Estate of Charles Paine Fisher, the results of which demonstrated strength in the American furniture market. Mr. Fisher was a descendant of Robert Treat Paine, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Massachusetts, and a prosecutor at the Boston Massacre trial. Some pieces of furniture in the estate were made in Boston and once furnished the Paine home at 87 Mount Vernon Street, which is now the headquarters of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. Given the strong Boston provenance of this collection, Winston Art Group offered the estate for sale at Skinner Auctioneers in Boston, negotiating special financial and marketing terms.

There were two especially notable items in the Fisher Estate sale. First, a Federal mahogany carved and inlaid lady's secretary bookcase, attributed to Thomas Seymour circa 1807-1812, with eglomisé painting attributed to John Ritto Penniman, and turnings possibly by Henry and/or Thomas Ayling. It sold for approximately \$150,000. The second was a maple and oak low back chair circa 1660-1680, which sold for approximately \$40,000 against an estimate of \$8,000-12,000. There is an identical chair without feet in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Winston Art Group is the nation's leading art appraisal and advisory firm. Independent of any auction house or dealer, Winston Art Group specializes in confidential and objective appraisal services and advice on the acquisition or disposal of all fine and decorative art, jewelry, and collectibles. For more information about any of Winston Art Group's services, please contact Claire Brown at [cbrown@winstonartgroup.com](mailto:cbrown@winstonartgroup.com).



Federal mahogany carved and inlaid lady's secretary bookcase, attributed to Thomas Seymour, Boston, c. 1807-1812. Sold by Winston Art Group on behalf of the Estate of Charles P. Fisher for approximately \$150,000.



Maple and oak low back chair, Boston, c.1660-1680. Sold by Winston Art Group on behalf of the Estate of Charles P. Fisher for approximately \$40,000.



Mahogany case clock by William Clagget, Boston, 18th century. Sold by Winston Art Group on behalf of the Estate of Charles P. Fisher for approximately \$45,000.

#### ART ADVISORY SERVICES

Winston Art Group's advisory department advises on the acquisition and sale of all types of fine and decorative art, jewelry, and collectibles. Art advisory services include access to primary and secondary markets, price negotiation, preferential terms at auction, unbiased advice on condition, price, authenticity, and quality, and more.

For more information about the Fisher Estate sale, or other questions about Winston Art Group's advisory services, please visit the art advisory section of our website or contact Jasmine Beatty.

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