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An octagonal pair of Rose Mandarin garden barrels was clean as a whistle and realized \$9,200.

Auction Action In North Reading, Mass.



A 23-inch pair of delicately decorated Chinese Export Rose Mandarin vases brought \$4,888.



A nest of five Nineteenth Century Nantucket baskets, signed R. Folger, descended in the Nantucket whaling family of sea captain Alexander D. Bunker and sold for \$12,950.

Nantucket Baskets Impress At Carl Stinson Auction

NORTH READING, MASS. — Impeccable maritime and military provenance characterized much of the offerings across the block at the January 24 Carl Stinson auction where historic objects from several old Massachusetts families sold easily.

A nest of five Nineteenth Century Nantucket baskets signed by maker R. Folger and branded "Caldwell" descended in the family of Nantucket sea captain Alexander D. Bunker, captain of the whaling ship *Howard*, and the descendants of William Caldwell Wood.

The baskets are thought to have been a wedding gift to Bunker's daughter and were in fine condition. They went to the trade on the phone for \$12,950. Bunker

was a retired sea captain in 1848 when he was appointed Keeper of the Sankaty Light on the island; his family had arrived on the island in the mid-Seventeenth Century. A Nantucket lightship basket with a whale on the lid went for \$1,035.

A miniature portrait on ivory of Captain Bunker attracted \$2,875 and a scrimshaw tooth thought to have belonged to Bunker and engraved with images of a naval engagement sold for \$863. A history of the Bunker family in North America since 1670 brought \$115.

Captain Bunker's China Trade camphorwood trunk was decorated prettily and realized \$575.

A group of miniature portraits on ivory from the family of Revolutionary War Captain Rufus Lincoln of Lincoln Hill in Wareham, Mass., were painted beautifully and elicited interest for their historic and aesthetic qualities.

An 1843 miniature portrait on ivory of Helen Lott of New York by Samuel Raymond Fanshaw sold for \$10,925. A miniature portrait of Sarah Hyde attracted \$6,038, and an image on ivory of one of Shaw as a child drew \$5,463. A miniature portrait under glass of a woman identified only as a member of the Roosevelt and Lincoln family was \$4,888.

A miniature portrait of Josephine Hammond Bates of Lewiston, Maine, along with a daguerreotype of the sitter as a child, attracted \$4,313. A miniature portrait of Almira Shepard Lincoln, wife of Minor Sprague Lincoln, of Wareham, Mass., sold for \$4,025. Each image had between four and six absentee

and four and six phone bidders on it. They sold to collectors and to a dealer buying for a collector.

A Swiss watch that had belonged to Helen Lott, and before that was the property of a French noblewoman, took \$1,970 from a phone bidder.

Elegant mid-Nineteenth Century dresses, some of which were worn by the subjects of the miniatures, came from the Lincoln estate and had been stored in a camphorwood trunk, a factor of their pristine condition.

A silk wedding dress, accompanied by the wedding announcement, sold for \$1,668. A black silk dress with detailed embroidery and lace and fastened by a malachite and sterling silver brooch, sold for \$1,150. A blue dress with intricate detail was also \$1,150. A rich lot of remnants from Lincoln Hill was \$2,185.

A deep amethyst glass cologne fetched \$316, and a hat pin found in an attic attracted two phone bidders who drove its final price to \$288. A beautiful delicate seed pearl necklace, brooch and earrings brought an eminently reasonable \$403.

A 1987 view of the Ipswich River by Cape Ann artist Wayne Morrell sold for \$3,450, and the 2000 oil on canvas view of Bickford Marina from artist Robert Gruppe's Rocky Neck studio sold for \$2,128. A portrait on board of Helena Roosevelt, great-grandmother of Josephine V. Lincoln, sold for \$2,530.

Charles Warren Eaton's tonalist watercolor landscape of the wintery view from the Montclair, N.J., studio of his mentor George Inness was purchased in 1902 by Theodore R. Ludlow, Tenth Suffragan Bishop of Newark and a

Lincoln descendant. It sold for \$2,875. A Paul Revere spoon from the Ludlow estate sold for \$2,013.

A pair of ancestor portraits on glass in the original China Trade frames elicited \$1,610, while a lot of majolica butter pats went to a Cape Ann dealer for \$230.

A Boston Chippendale mahogany slant lid desk with a serpentine block front and a hand carved drop sold for \$3,738. A Rhode Island Chippendale slant lid desk had a nice stepped interior and realized \$1,725.

The Captain Rufus Lincoln slant lid desk was paint decorated and bore distinct similarities to Southeastern Massachusetts pieces made at Taunton, Mass., where Lincoln had lived before he moved to Wareham. Doug Stinson said the backboards were nearly identical to those of other Southeastern Massachusetts desks described in the forthcoming book *Harbor and Home: Furniture of Southeastern Massachusetts, 1710-1850* by Brock Jobe, Gary R. Sullivan and Jack O'Brien. It sold for \$2,300. An English Hepplewhite satinwood demilune table with segmented inlay attracted \$1,955.

A pair of Massachusetts brace back Windsor chairs with nicely carved ears and maple on the legs sold for \$1,380. A pair of Massachusetts Sheraton-style games tables was also \$1,380.

A French lady's marquetry desk with bronze mounts drew \$863, and a small Chinese Export tabouret that Carl Stinson informed his sons was "the cutest thing I've seen since your mother," realized \$173. A Georgian dressing mirror, circa 1760, fetched \$460.

A Royal Doulton dinner service sold for \$1,295, and two lots of six

Royal Doulton figures sold for \$863 and \$690.

A selection of choice Chinese Export porcelain was found stacked in a closet beneath the stairs in a house outside Boston, much to the gratification of bidders, the estate and the auction house. A pair of Rose Mandarin octagonal garden barrels in pristine condition realized \$9,200.

Carl Stinson, father of auctioneer Douglas Stinson, described a 23-inch pair of delicately decorated vases as "The best lot we've had in 45 years," and they sold for \$4,888. A 25-inch pair of Mandarin vases was \$4,313, and a 32-inch Mandarin porcelain temple vase sold for \$3,163. A large Mandarin vase with gilt dragon handles took \$3,738.

A Rose Mandarin five piece garniture set purchased from the Baltimore estate of Mary Washington, cousin to George, brought \$2,875 from an absentee bidder.

A Rose Mandarin punchbowl with a gilt key decoration went for \$3,163, and another example with French bronze mounts sold for \$1,668, while a Mandarin basin fetched \$1,725, and a set of six Rose Mandarin plates drew \$1,150.

A lot of 55 pieces of Waterford stemware in the Rosslea pattern sold for \$1,035, and a Lalique perfume atomizer was \$219.

Rounding out the auction were a table lot of baseball cards (some with bubble gum) and bats that appealed to several bidders who drove it to \$2,070 and a late Nineteenth Century ivory carving of bok choy with a detailed locust and a blossom at \$1,380.

All prices reported include the 15 percent buyer's premium. For information, www.stinsonauctions.com or 781-944-6488.



An ivory carving of bok choy was hand painted and realized \$1,380.



An 1843 miniature portrait on ivory of Helen Lott of New York by Samuel Raymond Fanshaw sold for \$10,925.



A Southeastern Massachusetts paint decorated slant lid desk, similar to pieces made in Taunton, was from the Lincoln family and sold for \$2,300.

Review and Photos by
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Auctioneer Doug Stinson and dealer Bert Rosengarten are pictured with one of a pair of Massachusetts Windsor chairs that sold for \$1,380.

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