

Diverse regional selection a proves a winning recipe for Copley's annual "Winter Sale"



Swimming canvas-covered Canada goose by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire (est. \$60,000/84,000) sold for \$90,000, the top lot in the auction.

A SWIMMING CANVAS-COVERED Canada goose by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire sold for \$90,000, one bid over its high estimate, at Copley Fine Art Auctions "Winter Sale" held on February 12, 2016 at the American Theater in Charleston, South Carolina, the top lot in an auction where

By Decoy Magazine
photos courtesy Copley Fine Art Auctions

eight of the top ten lots were by different makers from different states. It was this diverse regional selection

that proved a recipe for success.

There were three more Boyd geese in the sale, all from the same rig and all with an upright posture, and two of them also made the top 25 list, selling for \$15,600 and \$7200, one making estimate and one well below; the other failed to sell.

A pair of Boyd miniature mergansers made their low estimate \$4800.

Many collectors of decoys by the Ward broth-



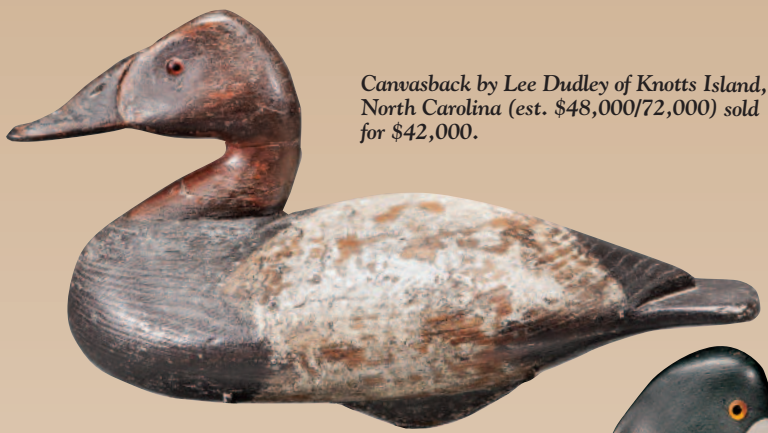
Hollow-carved sleeping mallard hen by Charles Perdwew of Henry, Illinois (est. \$72,000/96,000) sold for \$51,000.



Life-sized ruffed grouse decorative by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts (est. \$42,000/54000) sold for \$63,000.



Swimming Bishop's Head style Canada goose by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$72,000/96,000) sold to a Maryland collector for \$69,000.



Canvasback by Lee Dudley of Knotts Island, North Carolina (est. \$48,000/72,000) sold for \$42,000.



Black-bellied plover by Nathan Cobb Jr. of Cobb Island, Virginia (est. \$12,000/18,000) sold to a Southern collector for \$21,600.



Pair of goldeneyes by Charles "Shang" Wheeler of Stratford, Connecticut (est. \$48,000/60,000) brought \$36,000.

ers of Crisfield, Maryland think their Bishops Head style Canada geese with their swimming head position are among the finest of their carvings. One in this auction fell just short of estimate, selling to a Maryland collector for \$69,000.

Life-sized decorative carvings by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts

have a large and loyal following. Two in this sale, a ruffed grouse and a bobwhite quail, made the top 25 list, selling for \$63,000 and \$24,000 respectively, the first over estimate and the second just short.

Hollow-carved sleepers are the most desirable of all Illinois River decoys. A sleeping mallard hen carved and painted by

Charles Perdew of Henry sold at this auction for \$51,000, well below its low estimate. An upright mallard drake by Perdew made estimate at \$5400.

Decoys by Lee Dudley of Knotts Island and ruddy ducks in general are among the royalty for North Carolina collectors, and one of each made the top 25 list. A Dud-

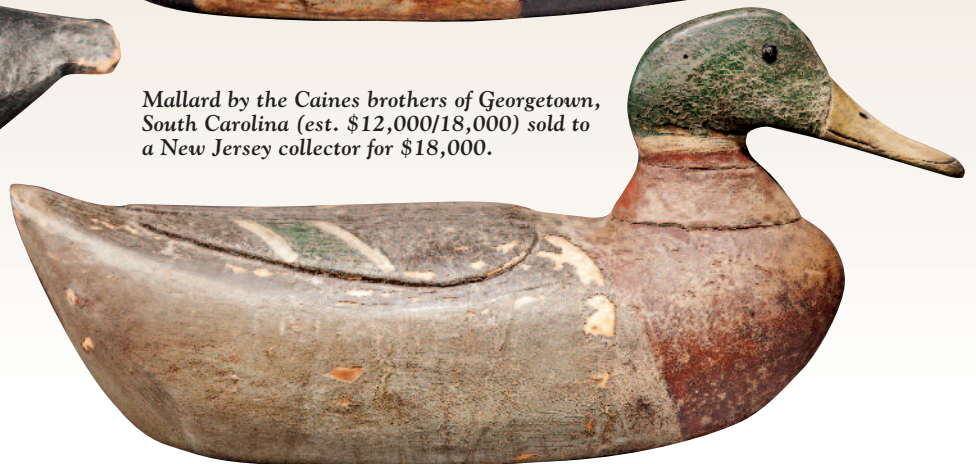
Hollow-carved bluebill by Nathan Cobb Jr. (est. \$14,400/21,600) sold for \$16,800.



Ruddy duck by Ned Burgess of Waterlily, North Carolina (est. \$7200/10,800) sold for \$8400.



Mallard by the Caines brothers of Georgetown, South Carolina (est. \$12,000/18,000) sold to a New Jersey collector for \$18,000.





Half-bodied flying goldeneyes by Chauncey Wheeler of Alexandria Bay, New York (est. \$9600/13,200 apiece) sold separately for \$8400 each.



Running black-bellied plover by Russ Burr of Hingham, Massachusetts (est. \$9600/12,000) brought \$15,600.



Top 25 lots at the Copley Fine Art Auctions "Winter Sale" Charleston, South Carolina, February 12, 2016

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
1.	George Boyd (NH) CC swimming Canada goose (311)	\$72,000	\$90,000
2.	Ward Bros. (MD) Canada goose (384)	84,000	69,000
3.	A.E. Crowell (MA) ruffed grouse, dec. (301)	48,000	63,000
4.	Charles Perdew (IL) HC sleeping mallard hen (437)	84,000	51,000
5.	Lee Dudley (NC) canvasback (363)	60,000	42,000
6.	Shang Wheeler (CT) goldeneye pair (414)	54,000	36,000
7.	A.E. Crowell (MA) bobwhite quail, dec. (300)	36,000	24,000
8.	Nathan Cobb Jr. (VA) black-bellied plover (353)	15,000	21,600
9.	Caines Bros. (SC) mallard (365)	15,000	18,000
10.	Nathan Cobb Jr. (VA) HC bluebill (364)	18,000	16,800
11.	Russ Burr (MA) running black-bellied plover (310)	10,800	15,600
12.	George Boyd (NH) CC Canada goose (313)	15,000	15,600
13.	Shang Wheeler (CT) wood duck hen (415)	18,000	13,200
14.	Chauncey Wheeler (NY) ½-bodied goldeneye flyer (351)	11,500	8,400
14.	Chauncey Wheeler (NY) ½-bodied goldeneye hen flyer (352)	11,500	8,400
14.	Ned Burgess (NC) ruddy duck (366)	9,000	8,400
14.	Ira Hudson (VA) hissing Canada goose (367)	9,000	8,400
18.	John Schweikart (MI) canvasback hen (439)	4,800	7,200
18.	George Boyd (NH) CC Canada goose (312)	15,000	7,200
20.	Obediah Verity (NY) tern (408)	10,200	6,900
21.	Charles Perdew (IL) HC mallard (438)	6,000	5,400
21.	Marty Hanson (MN) swan (283)	4,800	5,400
23.	John Tully (UK) Atlantic salmon plaque (272)	9,000	5,100
24.	George Boyd (NH) mini merganser pair (287)	6,000	4,800
24.	Cigar Daisey (VA) hooded merganser hen (383)	4,800	4,800
TOTALS		\$ 631,400	\$556,200

Key: HC - hollow-carved CC - canvas-covered dec. - decorative

The top 25 lots (13.4% of the 187 sold) accounted for \$556,200 (74.8% of the \$743,430 gross) and were 11.9% below their total average estimate.

ley canvasback used at the Dudley's Island Club sold below estimate for \$42,000. A ruddy duck by Ned Burgess of Waterlily made estimate at \$8400.

Through his participation in many of the early decoy carving competitions, many collectors believe that Shang Wheeler of Stratford, Connecticut elevated the craft into an art form. Two lots in this auction made the top 25 list: a pair of goldeneyes at \$36,000 and wood duck hen at \$13,200, each selling short of estimate.

Virginia collectors covet the incised serifed "N" signature on the bottom of the decoys by Nathan Cobb Jr. of Cobb Island, and two in this auction made the top 25 list: A black-bellied plover sold over estimate to a Southern lady for \$21,600 and a hollow-carved bluebill made estimate at \$16,800. A hissing Canada goose by his Virginia neighbor, Ira Hudson of Chincoteague, made estimate at \$8400.

Decoys by the Caines brothers of Georgetown, South Carolina, the most sought after of the Palmetto State's decoys, rarely come to market. An oversized mallard in this auction sold for its high estimate \$18,000 to a Yankee who often vacations along its shores.

Chauncey Wheeler of Alexandria Bay is without doubt the most famous decoy maker from Upstate New York. A pair of his life-sized half-bodied flying goldeneye wall mounts sold separately at this sale, and both sold below estimate at \$8400 each. From downstate in Long Island, a tern by Obediah Verity of Seaford sold below estimate at \$6900.

And Michigan was represented on the top 25 list as well, as a hollow-carved canvasback hen with inserted metal wingtips by Capt. John Schweikart of Strawberry Is-

Swan by Marty Hanson of Prior Lake, Minnesota (est. \$3600/6000) sold to a Wisconsin collector for \$5400.



land topped estimate at \$7200. Other vintage birds of note included a curlew by William Roberts of Cape May, New Jersey, a Canada goose by Bob McGaw of Havre de Grace, Maryland and a black-bellied plover by Charles Clark of Chincoteague, Virginia at \$4200 each.

Two contemporary lots made the top 25 list: a swan by Marty Hanson of Prior Lake, Minnesota at \$5400 and hooded merganser hen by Cigar Daisey of Chincoteague at \$4800, both lots making estimate. Other decoratives of note included a pair of mergansers by Mark McNair of Craddockville, Virginia at its low estimate \$2400 and mandarin duck by William Gibian of Onancock, Virginia over double the estimate at \$2280.

An Atlantic salmon fish plaque by John Tully of Scotland also made the top 25 list, selling below estimate at \$5100.

While variety is said to be the spice of life, the regional diversity in this auction was the perfect recipe for success, as decoys and decoratives by 17 different makers were among the top lots in the sale. And just 22 lots with a total low estimate of \$58,680 failed to find a suitor. The "Winter Sale" also included about 250 lots of paintings and prints in the first session, the results of which are not included in this report.

In summary, of 209 lots offered 22 failed to sell, leaving 187 lots that sold for \$743,430 for an average of \$3976 per lot and were 5.7% over the total low estimate after deducting the low estimate of the unsold lots. The top 25 lots (13.7% of those sold) accounted for \$556,200 (74.8% of the gross) and were 11.9% below their total average estimate. All prices include a 20% buyer's premium.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Antiques • Decoys • Folk Art


SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016

Preview from 4 to 6 pm ■ Auction at 6 pm
Elks Club, 146 Palmer Ave. (Rte. 28), Falmouth MA




We are pleased to offer several iconic decoys along with other quality decoys and Americana. The stars of the sale; The first is a Willie Eastman Loon Circa 1884, one of Dr. Starr's favorite decoys. Three pages were dedicated to this decoy in *Decoys of the Atlantic Flyway* by Dr. Starr. As Dr. Starr states "Thanks to Willie's generosity, my collection has one of the finest examples of decoy design and construction that I have ever seen" The second is a hollow carved Swan from the Swan Island Club, Currituck Sound. Only a few of these survived after the Swan season closed in 1905. A spot on the bottom shows it once contained Dr. Starr's collection stamp. The sale also includes decoys and folk art from the following makers: Elmer Crowell, Joe Lincoln, Russ Burr, George Boyd, Goodspeed and Windsor White, Duxbury, Guss Wilson, Amos Wallace, George Soule, Mason, Wildfowler, Dodge, C. Keith, George Starr, Mr. Harris, Nantucket, Nickerson, Kane Bert Graves, Bacon, J. Murphy, Holger Smith, J. H. Whitney, T.J. Hooker, Veasly, Bedard, R. D. Keen, Maryland Jim Slack, Keyes Chadwick, Sonny Norton, Frank Adams, Madison Mitchell, Mayhew, Hart, R. Mitchell, Jerry Smith, Sparre and Jason. A complete list of this sale will be available by the end of March.









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