

# Willie Eastman loon tops New England auction

hollow-carved loon by Willie Eastman of Cundys Harbor, Maine, sold to a phone bidder for \$26,450 at Phil Stanton's April 23, 2016 auction of decoys and Americana held at the Elks Club in Falmouth, Massachusetts. The top lot in the auction, it was formerly in the collection of Dr. George Ross Starr and is pictured in his book, "Decoys of the Atlantic Flyway." It last sold in Richard Bourne's May 1986 sale of the Starr collection for \$12,000.

There were 205 lots offered in this auction, many consigned by a prominent and early New England collector, including the majority of the top sellers. The second highest priced lot in the sale, a hollowcarved swan from North Carolina, also sold to a phone bidder, bringing \$25,300.

A hollow-carved pintail from the Delaware River attributed to John Blair but thought by many collectors to be made by a talented but unknown Philadelphia carver, sold for \$8280. A hollow-carved black duck from the Delaware River, attributed by the auctioneer as an unknown Connecticut decoy, brought \$2013.

A pair of Eskimo curlews from Nantucket Island was the top lot from Massachusetts, selling for \$4313. A scoter by Joe Lincoln of Hingham sold for \$4025. Also from New England, a canvas-covered Canada goose by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire brought \$2760 and a turned head scoter by Gus Wilson of South Portland, Maine sold for \$1150.

There were two Southern lots of note

and both were from North Carolina: a brant with a swimming posture without attribution but made by Charles Edwards of Core Sound sold for \$1035 and a hollowcarved Canada goose with carved eyes, attributed to New Jersey, sold for \$1121.

According to the auctioneer, the majority of the lots were sold - five failed to get a bid - and they grossed approximately \$143,000. All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Stanton has been holding primarily Americana auctions for the last 40 years and hopes to schedule another decoy auction for the fall.



Swimming brant by Charles Edwards of Carteret County, North Carolina brought \$1035.



Hollow-carved pintail an unknown maker from Philadelphia sold for \$8280.





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May/June 2016 43