

# SHOW & TELL

A Quarterly Newsletter from Hanes & Ruskin

Joy Ruskin Hanes & Lee Hanes



## shows

The twenty-fifth annual Chester County Antiques Show is one of the top venues in Pennsylvania. The committee supports the dealers with enthusiastic buying and the attendees are always treated to the best of the best by the fifty dealers from all over Pennsylvania and the eastern seaboard. We sold five pieces of American furniture, early lighting, British ceramics and a fine English sampler.

A particularly thrilling sale was to a charming couple who spotted our "balloon tree" coffeepot. This is a pattern that we collect, but we felt that owning TWO coffeepots was a bit selfish, so we put one up for sale. We have discovered

Luck was with them at the preview,. One of the fund-raising activities was a raffle for a \$2000 shopping spree at the show. Guess who won it? We were delighted to sell these lovely people the coffeepot, and let the Chester County Historical Society foot the bill!

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The Shards



that this design was made by the Wood and Caldwell pottery in the late 18th and early 19th century. The couple had dug up some shards of this pattern on their property in the Lancaster, PA area, and had been looking for a whole piece ever since.



The whole pot

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 ☆**Living With Antiques**☆  
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Q & A Dept .

I've inherited a sampler made by my great grandmother. The edges are a bit ragged and stained. Can this be fixed? Also, the sampler was made off-center. Should I cut it so that it is centered in the frame? Mrs. M.W., St Petersburg, FL

Antique samplers are fragile and should be handled only by an experienced professional. They should be mounted on an acid free mat or linen backing, with spacers to keep the sampler off the glass. A good framer can make a black glass mat which can usually hide the unsightly edges without disturbing the needlework.

If you wonder why so many samplers have these rough edges, the answer is simple. Most of them were originally mounted on frames with either a series of nails, or glue, or both. When removed, there is often damage to the edges.

As far as cutting the sampler so that the work is centered, it is a matter of opinion. A purist would never cut it, and would choose to enjoy it as the young girl created it, with everything a little bit off center. Many people would, however, be bothered by the asymmetry of it, and would carefully fold one edge under before framing.



On the example pictures, we decided to leave the sampler off-center, and we used the black glass to hide a few rough edges.

We love American Eagles! Especially those painted on English pottery in the early 19th century. It all started in 1983, when, for a wedding gift, our ceramics restorer gave us the large platter hanging in the center. He was a very talented man, and he had taken this lovely green shell-edge undecorated platter and filled the center with this glorious eagle, copied from an original plate. We were so delighted with it that we began to collect the real thing.

Now the collection has grown to cover this wall in our dining room, and we love looking at it every evening when we have dinner.

We are also fascinated by the way the British potters continued to make ceramics for the American market, despite the fact that they had lost the Revolutionary War.

Business first, politics second! (What's changed?)

# New old acquisitions

## Just in

Although we specialize in early American furniture, we couldn't pass up this fine rosewood music stand for two players. It's a superb English piece from the 1820-30 period, and in excellent condition, retaining its original brass retractable candle holders.

Each side is fully adjustable, so if you (violin) like your music at a different angle than your partner (flute), you can each chose your own angle!



## Sisters

Those of us who are lucky enough to have a sister know about that special relationship. For those who have one, or those who wish they had one, here is your opportunity. This delightful miniature pair of sisters are painted in watercolors on card, set into their original black frames with brass hangers. They have been together since about 1800, and we are glad to be able to offer them to any loving home.

## Changing of the Guard

We'd like to congratulate Bob James and his wife, Ann Ramsey, who took over the helm of Bob Armacost's shows the first of the year. We like Bob Junior's (as he is known to the dealers) calm, unflappable demeanor, and we wish Bob Senior a happy retirement.

You can see a full list of the shows with dealer information and links at [www.armacostantiquesshows.com](http://www.armacostantiquesshows.com).

## A PRESENT FROM THE PAST

From the front, it looks like a pretty creamware plate with a hand-painted border, but turn it over and you will see that it is a warming plate. The cylindrical protrusion on the bottom is where the hot water would have been poured in, and then corked. The other small protrusion has a hole in it which held the chain which attached to the cork which held the water in. This English piece dates from the late 1700s and is in excellent condition (cork is replaced). And it can be yours for only \$195—a true bargain for a piece of the past as decorative and unusual as this. We only have one, so the first person to contact us gets it!



## The Cat's Eye

This handy portable black light lets you see things in the dark you never knew existed, like restorations on paintings and ceramics. Just 4" long, it fits in your pocket or purse, and runs on three AAA batteries (included). Just \$29.50 plus \$3.50 S & H. A thoughtful stocking stuffer for your favorite antiques hunter.

We are temporarily sold out, but will be restocking soon. Order now for delivery in April.



# An Artist With No Hands

Not much is known about Martha Ann Honeywell, who was an extraordinary artist. She was born around 1787 in New Hampshire, with no arms and only three toes on one foot. Despite this handicap, she became an artist, an embroideress, and a silhouette cutter, all with great proficiency. Like many artists of her era, she was itinerant, and not only traveled in the States, but also went to Europe and England. The first piece we ever saw of hers was purchased in England in the 1970s, and it was a simple floral sprig embroidered in silk on paper, and signed "Done without hands by M A Honeywell." We sold it, and thought nothing more about it until many years later when we began to find other pieces with the same signature.

There is an advertisement from Salem, Massachusetts, from the early 19th century, which reads as follows:

*At Mr. Upton's Boarding House, tow doors west at the Salem Hotel, Essex Street. Miss Honeywell, a young lady born without hands, and with only three toes on one foot; who is not so much a subject of wonder and admiration for her great ingenuity and elegance in embroidering flowers fit for framing, and in cutting with rich variety and taste gentlemen's watch papers, with the initials of their names, as for the peculiar fe-*

*licity of her disposition and her entertaining style of conversation, diffusing gaiety all around her: Indeed, her cheerful and sportively engaging aspect at once dispel those painful sensations which the deprivation of her limbs excites in the sympathizing breasts of her visitors which give place to the most felicitous impressions, resulting in an admiration of the unparalleled good sense and cheerful resignation of this Young Lady to her peculiar lot, which she has rendered by her persevering industry, spirit and wisdom a happiness to herself, and a very instructive and consolatory example to the world generally, and to her own sex particularly. She threads her needle and ties the knot.*

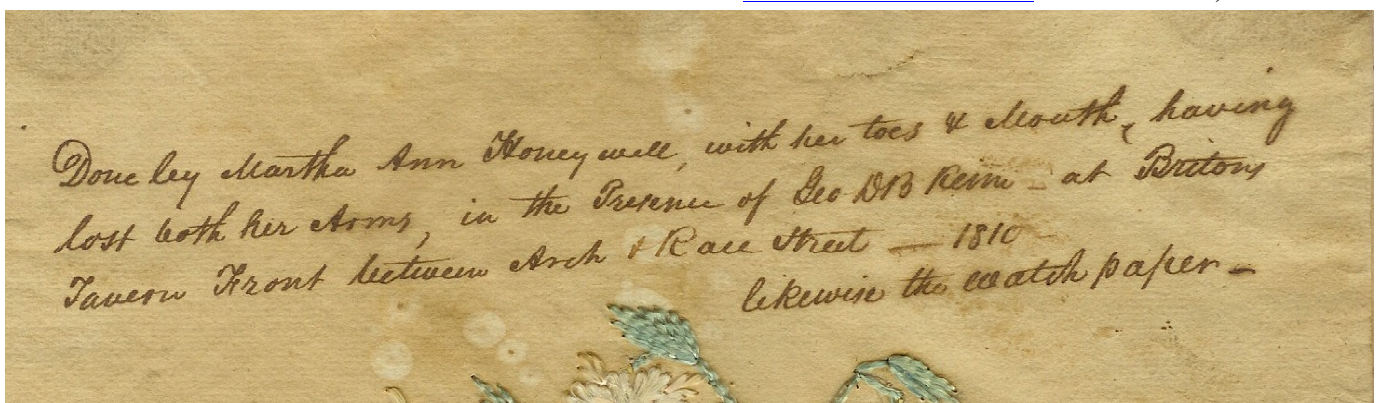
*N. B. large flowers, fancy pieces, watch papers &c. for sale by the above mentioned place.*

*Admittance 25cents. Children half price.*

*Interesting?*

We were fortunate to be able to purchase this embroidery, which is fully documented to a corner in Philadelphia! Although it is in rough condition, we are thrilled to own it, and have it displayed on our wall along with one of the two silhouettes pictured, which came out of a collection in Richmond, VA.

(One of the silhouettes is available, please contact us at [info@hanesandrskin.com](mailto:info@hanesandrskin.com) for information.)



## ABOUT US



Investment quality antique American furniture of the 18th and 19th centuries, and appropriate accessories with an emphasis on English ceramics, needlework, silhouettes, paintings, lighting and metalware. Our logo is a symbol of good faith and integrity dating to the 18th century or before. We stand behind everything we sell, backed by a money-back guarantee.

Christies	20% Buyer's Premium
Sotheby's	20% Buyer's Premium
Northeast Auction	16% Buyer's Premium
Skinner's	17.5% Buyer's Premium
Hanes & Ruskin	0% Buyer's Premium, Plus a FULL GUARANTEE

## The Roadrunners

See us year round at Willington Antiques and at these upcoming shows:

BEDFORD SPRING ANTIQUES SHOW, MARCH 30-APRIL 1

PHILADELPHIA NAVY PIER SHOW, APRIL 14-15

EASTON, MD, ANNUAL CHARITY ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE, APRIL 28-29

BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM ANTIQUES SHOW, MAY 25-28

Check out our website 24/7 at [www.hanesandrskin.com](http://www.hanesandrskin.com)

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