

Arizona's ANTIQUE REGISTER

Vol 22 - Issue 2 A Guide to the Antique, Vintage & Collectible Marketplace March-April 2019

**Mid Mod Ceramics
at Sunshine Shop in Tucson,
Exhibition March 24th-May 5th**

Story on page 4...

Upper Row: 3 Rose Cabat 'Feelies'

Lower Row: Maurice Grossman 'Vessel',

Joyce McCullough 'Mushrooms', Erni & Rose Cabat 'Stoneware'

Arizona's ANTIQUE REGISTER

Your Guide to the Antique, Vintage and Collectible Marketplace • Established 1998

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The Antique Register was founded by Barbara Floyd

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Cover Story

Authentic Mid-Century, Contemporary, Modern Art & Goods at Sunshine Shop Tucson

by Barb Stillman

Shown on our cover are some of the fabulous featured ceramics from the upcoming **Mid Mod Ceramics AZ pt 1 Exhibition** at **Sunshine Shop Tucson**, which runs from March 24 through May 5 displaying art by Rose Cabat, Erni Cabat, Maurice Grossman, Joyce McCullough and more.

This is the first in a series of exhibitions featuring regional ceramic artists in an effort to contextualize the modernist art of ceramics and pottery. The series will focus on the Southwest's historic significance during this era. **Sunshine Shop Tucson** will offer modernist ceramic artworks for sale, as well as private collection examples for viewing. An Opening Reception will be held on Saturday, March 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

I recently had the delightful opportunity of meeting with **Sunshine Shop Tucson** Founder and Director Patricia Katchur on a day when the shop was closed. Even though she was busy preparing for a weekend exhibit, we had time to explore and she introduced me to a wonderful world of design on display in this fabulous shop.

Sunshine Shop Tucson is in the Historic Hirsh's Shoes Building, which has a history all its own. Built in 1954, the shoe store was one of the first mid-century modern buildings on what was and is now again referred to as the Sunshine Mile on Broadway Blvd. In 2016, the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation (THPF) took ownership and invited Patricia to host a shop in the retail front.

Patricia's concept for the shop was simple—create a retail space that befitted the location, hence, well-crafted mid-century modern furniture plus Tucson/Arizona related goods. And, drawing on her background in Fine Art Photography and Art History, to create a gallery with an emphasis on regional Modern to Contemporary Art/Artists to help explore the Southwestern culture. Almost immediately

she realized **Sunshine Shop Tucson** was her future.

Patricia loves history, and enjoys sharing her knowledge about the art, the mid-century furniture and the artists themselves. She described how a group of local artists, back in the day, were friends and spent time together. Many of the pieces of these artists are for sale and on display. Some of the artists have passed away but their children, who grew up together and spent time playing while their parents socialized, come by the shop and attend the exhibits to share in their parents' history. It would make for an interesting book on Tucson's history!

As owner, director and curator for **Sunshine Shop Tucson**, Patricia partners with professionals who add a unique perspective with their art, craft or wares. She works closely with Gino Baldasare, a dealer/collector who has an extensive knowledge of mid-century modern furniture and art. Kathy McMahon of Midcenturyville also retails furniture at the shop. Artists Valerie Galloway, Sharon Holnback (Triangle L Ranch), Elizabeth Frank, Heather Bentz and Andy Burgess (courtesy Etherton Gallery) always have artwork on view for purchase. Jewelry by Rameen Ahmed Designs, Michelle Spanyard Designs and Little Toro Designs are always available. June Cabat, daughter of Rose and Erni Cabat, has a wonderful selection of Feelies, Stoneware and artwork straight from Cabat Studio. The DeGrazia Archive offers a selection of Ted DeGrazia art. Vera Neumann Original Art is available, courtesy of Susan Seid and a rotating selection of artwork from Etherton Gallery can be found.

Offerings also include authentic Mid-Century Modern, 20th Century Modern, Danish & Scandinavian Modern (and occasionally Modern Contemporary) Furniture by designers and manufacturers

Continued on page 4...

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MID MOD CERAMICS - ARIZONA pt 1
Exhibition March 24 - May 5, 2019

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 23, 5:30 - 7:30

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Sunshine Shop, continued from page 3...

including: Eames, Knoll, George Nelson, Paul McCobb, Westnofa, Alva Aalto, Grete Jalk, France & Son, Max Gottschalk, Dansk, Lightolier and many more. Modern Artists, largely regional, include Rose Cabat, Maurice Grossman and Nik Krevitsky. Contemporary Jewelry by Little Toro Designs and Rameen Ahmend Designs. Vintage Modernist Jewelry includes Taxco, Mexican Silver, handmade and Native American.

Patricia said **Sunshine Shop's** mission is to define the impact for the Southwest region art scene and cultural, modern through contemporary from a historical perspective. She has a focused vision and is looking forward to growing in a creative and lucrative direction. Celebrating the shop's two years was a very positive milestone and she is very excited about several projects she is working on for the future. So, stay tuned!

Sunshine Shop Tucson is at 2934 E Broadway Blvd. and is open Thursday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment at 520-389-4776. Learn more at <https://sunshinestoptucson.com>, <https://www.instagram.com/sunshinestoptucson/>, <https://www.etsy.com/shop/SunshineShopTucson> or <https://www.facebook.com/sunshinestoptucson/>. You can also email hello@sunshinestoptucson.com.

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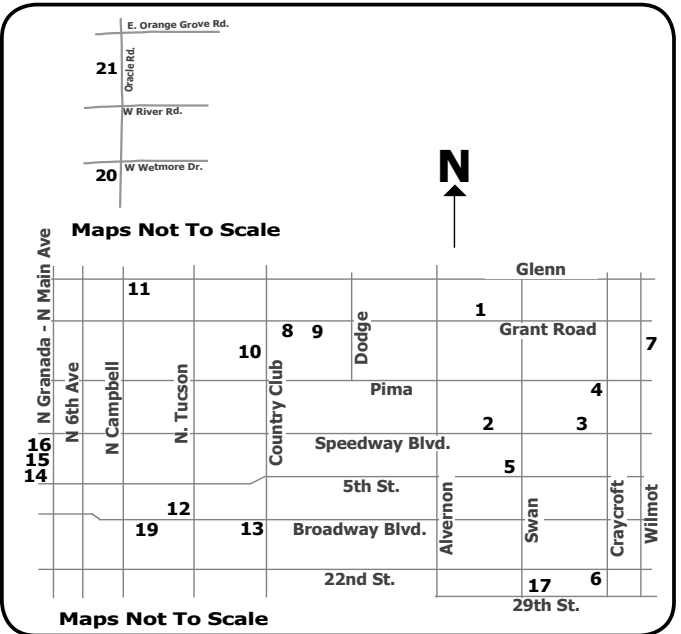
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8. **American Antique Mall**
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10. **Antiques Etc.**
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11. **Adobe House Antiques**
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12. **Arte De La Vida**
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13. **Sunshine Shop Tucson**
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14. **Gather - A Vintage Market**
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15. **Rose Alley Vintiques, LLC**
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17. **Safe Shift Estate Sale/Resale**
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18. **The Treasure Shop**
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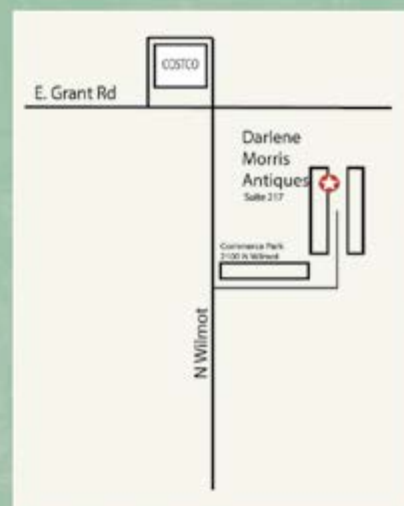
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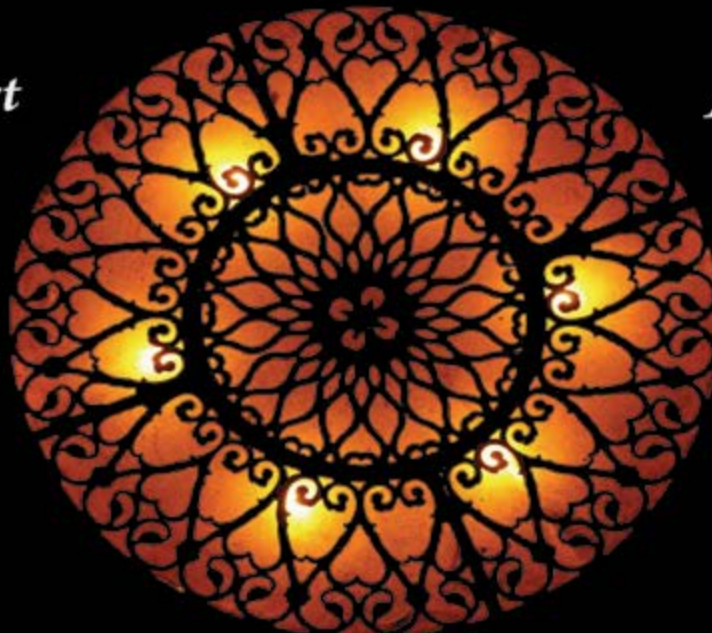
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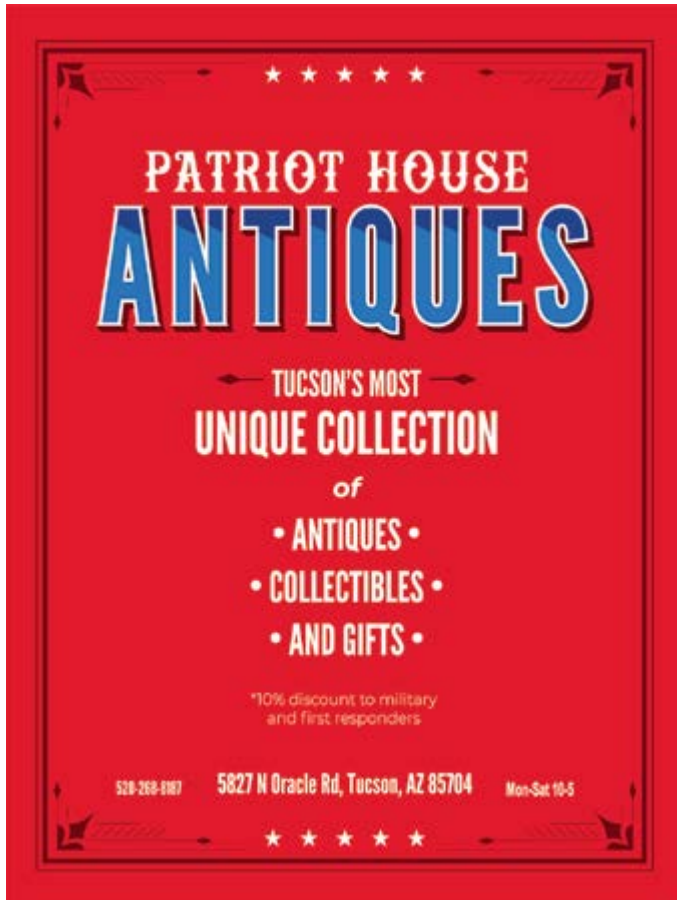
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Patriot House Antiques Is Open in North Tucson

by Barb Stillman

When I am in Tucson, it's typically to visit shops, deliver papers to an advertiser's show and/or visit my grandson, Shaun Skaff. Recently, I had the rare opportunity of doing all three. Shaun is a college student and works so his schedule is hectic, but he and his girlfriend Madison Hillis, also a college student, managed to meet me for lunch and I had a wonderful time catching up on their busy lives.

Soon it was time to head back to Phoenix and, on the way, I was looking forward to stopping at an antique shop in north Tucson that had recently changed hands. I had a delightful time meeting with new owner Fariba Mitchell and Barbara, one of her vendors. Fariba said that she has always had a love of antiques and vintage and it had long been her dream to have her own shop. She had been selling out of a booth under the store's previous ownership since January 2016 and was able to fulfill her dream when she bought the business this past June. **Patriot House Antiques Collectibles & Gifts** opened on July 4, 2018.

Fariba and her husband Alan own Big Denali Developments, a business to business custom software consulting and development company. She is its CEO and that experience, as well as a business marketing degree and a master's in business management, has been a huge help to her in managing the antique store.

She explained, "We love antiques at Patriot House, but that doesn't mean we are resistant to the changes that we must make that are driven by different factors in our environment. Even advances in technology matter in the antiques/vintage business.

Continued on page 13...

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Patriot House, continued from page 10...

We are continuously changing to stay on top of market and design trends."

Patriot House Antiques is located at 5827 N. Oracle Road in the Placita Del Norte Shopping Center that dates back to the 1940s. The store features high ceilings with exposed wood beams that help create an ambiance for the antiques, vintage items and gifts that are on display in a wide range of styles from formal/traditional to shabby/farmhouse.

Seven different vendor-dealers offer selections that include furniture, home décor, jewelry, accessories, tools and other fascinating and unique items. The shop is Tucson's only vendor for *Jeanne d'Arc Living*, an exclusive lifestyle company from Denmark that offers distinctive French and Scandinavian country style and produces its own Living Magazine as well as Vintage Paint, Soulful Yarn, JDL Clothing, handmade crafts, art crafts, furniture and more.

Patriot House Antiques' vendors cooperatively and creatively display their wide variety of merchandise in beautifully complete vignettes that customers can adopt as their entire look, purchase piece by piece or even use as their home design inspiration. The store can help customers put their entire home or office together using the custom interior design services. Furniture repair and refinishing services are also available so that clients can have the exact look they want without running all over town or settling for a new piece they don't truly love.

The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and, in addition to Fariba, customers will be greeted and helped by Barbara or Julia, who have display space at the store. Barbara curates and sells Tucson's most gorgeous Native American silver and turquoise jewelry collection. She has some forty years of experience in the antiques/vintage business. Julia offers an impeccable and beautifully eclectic European collection of antique and vintage jewelry and home décor items. Julia grew up with antiques. She has over forty years of experience collecting antiques and her background includes a degree in romance languages, five of which she speaks fluently including French and Spanish.

Fariba said, "My two biggest inspirations are my husband, Alan, whose whole-hearted backing makes my business possible, and my son, Stone, without whose support the day to day physical challenges of the business would be extremely difficult to overcome. Stone is a junior in high school and works in the store on a part-time basis helping with all the heavy lifting and physically demanding tasks. He also takes care of the technology related challenges. I also need to mention my longtime friends, Jim and Susie, whose ongoing support helps propel our business forward on a daily basis."

If you live and/or work in Northwest Tucson, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, Marana, Catalina or Oracle, **Patriot House Antiques** is conveniently located. Fariba invites you to, "Come give us a try! You'll be glad you did."

Learn more about **Patriot House Antiques Collectibles & Gifts** at <http://patriothouseantiques.com>, on Facebook or by calling 520-268-8187.



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14th Annual Art of Quilting Show

At Gilbert Historical Museum through 5/27

The 14th Annual Art of Quilting Show is being held at **HD SOUTH, Home of the Gilbert Historical Museum** from February 26th through May 27th. More than 100 quilts made by members of the community and featuring many different styles will be on display throughout the Museum. This year's event includes a special traveling exhibit of 19th Century Basket Quilts from the American Quilt Study Group.

Originally opened as Gilbert Elementary School in 1913, **HD SOUTH** is the oldest building still standing in Gilbert and is the only one on the National Register of Historical Places. It is a repository of artifacts chronicling the town's rich history and you are invited to explore newly remodeled exhibits and discover the history that each room holds.

Located at the southern end of the vibrant Gilbert Heritage District at the southwest corner of Gilbert and Elliot Roads, the Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum admission is required for one-time access to the exhibit—Adults, \$6; Seniors, ages 60+, \$5; Youth, ages 5 to 12, \$3; and free for children under age 5.

On site at the Museum is a Quilters' Boutique filled with handmade items for sale. The boutique will be open during the show and remains open year-round at the museum.

Raffle tickets will be sold during the **Quilting Show** for a beautiful queen sized blue and cream basket quilt with embroidered flowers in each basket. The drawing will be held on Memorial Day and the winning ticket holder does not need to be present to win. There will also be a Silent Auction offering a variety of over twenty quilt pieces and handmade items. Silent Auction items will close to bidding on Memorial Day and winning bidders will be notified.

All proceeds from the exhibition, silent auction and raffle drawing will benefit **HD SOUTH**, a private 501©3 nonprofit organization.

On Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon, historian

Continued on page 18

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Season's Final Thieves Markets Held on March 2 & April 6 in Tempe

What began as a community flea market eight years ago in the “dusty cowboy town” of Cave Creek has morphed into an old-school antique, vintage, handmade, art and exotic imports outdoor event that is now held in Tempe on the first Saturdays of the month from October to April. Upcoming **Thieves Markets**—the last of this season—will be held March 2 and April 6 at the historic Big Surf Waterpark lot, 1500 N. McClintock Drive.

Over the years, **Thieves Market** has become a local staple for loads of sellers—from savvy pickers, Junkers, creative types and inventors to folks looking to unload Aunt Mildred's house full of antiques and collectables.

Thieves Market is a hot shopping spot for crazy collectors, free spirited decorators, high-octane artsy treasure hunters and weekend warriors! Be ready to dig and haggle at this flea known for its diverse selection of the “weird and wonderful.” It's great fun and you never know what you'll find, such as vintage furniture, clothing, jewelry, tools, salvage, industrial and odds and ends. You name it and it's bound to be in the Market somewhere—and at a reasonable price! This is where dealers shop. And, keep in mind, it features local business owners.

The wonderful and wacky **Thieves Markets** are held rain or shine from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door

and kids, age 12 and under, are admitted free. Mellow pets on a leash are welcome. Parking is FREE.

Learn more, including vendor info, at ThievesMarketVintageFlea.com. There are lots of photos, reviews and comments at <https://www.facebook.com/thievesfleamarket/> and info on Instagram. You can also email: info@thievesmarketvintageflea.com.

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Gilbert Historical Museum, continued from page 14...

Carole De Cosmo, Executive Director Arizona Farm and Ranch Experience, will present the History of Arizona Quilting—a journey into Arizona's history through quilts. The presentation is free with museum admission.

Carole grew up in on a small farm in Glendale, received her MEd in education at ASU and taught at Phoenix College for ten years. Her love for Arizona history started in childhood as she listened to the stories of the old timers in Glendale and in Flagstaff in the summers. As the Executive Director of Historic Sahuaro Ranch for ten years, she saw the farms and dairies disappear as urban development moved west. After leaving Sahuaro Ranch in 2006 she wrote the conceptual plan for the Arizona Farm and Ranch Experience. In 2007, she brought together a committee to form the Arizona Farming and Ranching Hall of Fame to capture and honor the agricultural legacy in Arizona.

HDSOUTH is the vibrant cornerstone of an intergenerational community that celebrates the past, inspires community unity and cultivates life-enriching collaboration. **HD SOUTH** is an ongoing project and where it is today is not where it will be in two, five or ten years. There are exciting plans and the goal, using the Communities for All Ages model, is to use art, history, culture and education to bring generations together.

Learn more at www.hdsouth.org, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HDSOUTHGilbertMuseum/>,

Twitter: @HDSGilbert and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hdsouthgilbert/?hl=en>. Email info@hdsouth.org or call 480-926-1577.

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Those Were the Days!

Newton Z. Fulton's Whatizit?

by Jay Mark

As an historian, researcher, writer and longtime dealer in antiques, I am often considered an expert and frequently tested on how much I actually know. Can I really identify every artifact? Is there anything I haven't seen? Have I ever been fooled by a reproduction? The answers are an emphatic "No!" "No!" and "Hell, yes!"

I have a closet full of Whatizits?—fakes and knockoffs. But I really don't want to talk about them. Except for this article's puzzling box, which provides proof that any antiques dealers who say they have seen it all are liars or fools—or both.

Although it took some time—years in fact—I can definitively confirm the identity of this oddity. And now, at long last, can move it from the dark recesses of a Whatizit? into the bright glow of the Ta-Da! spotlight.

In assessing how an artifact was used, first examine the visible evidence. In the case of this novelty, it is obviously a square box, well constructed of walnut and maple. In addition to a hinged cover are seven other odd hinged pieces. Beneath the

top is a concealed lid that provides access to the interior space. There aren't sufficient design cues to determine a date.

Probably the biggest initial clue is an ornate brass plate reading "Patented. American Splane Company. Chicago." Not much to go on but it's a start. Where from there? Without a number and not knowing how it was described, finding the patent would prove a real challenge.

Because the box appeared to have some technological use, I thought it might help to begin by finding out what a "Splane" is. And guess what? The dictionary has no definition of the unusual word. Even the Internet offered few clues. Another dead end.

That's when the unidentified object went back into the Whatizit? bin, awaiting new information.

And there it sat, gathering dust, for the next couple of years. Then, out-of-the-blue came an unexpected encounter that re-opened the cold case. While researching some other piece of history, I just happened upon a brief illustrated article in an 1893 issue of Scientific American. Before me was a beautiful description in exquisite detail explaining the precise intent of this mysterious object.

The headline revealed the mystery box was "A Geometrical, Educational Appliance." O.K., I got that. But what did it do?

Continued on page 26...



Above: An intriguing puzzling box led Jay Mark on a year's long quest to determine its purpose. Photo: Jay Mark

Below: With seven moveable panels the quizzical box revealed few clues as to its intent. Can you figure it out? Photo: Jay Mark



The only visible clue to the box's identity is a brass plate saying the box was patented by the American Splane Company. How do you 'Splane that? Photo: Jay Mark

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Asheford Institute Releases 2018 Data For Top Selling Antiques & Vintage Items

The saying “for every season, there’s a reason” seems to be spot-on these days when it comes to those looking for antiques, vintage and collectible items. **The Asheford Institute (AIA)**, a professional-level distance-learning program related to the study of antiques, appraising and the decorative arts, recently released the results of its annual in-depth 2018 survey of trends and movements within the antiques and collectibles marketplace. The school’s poll includes a yearly compilation of statistics from a sampling of over eighteen hundred students and graduates who are actively engaged within the business side of the decorative arts community.

Asheford, which has been conducting the industry related survey for over ten years now, says it uploads the poll results every January to the school’s web site for review and dissection. According to Sharon Tomey, one of the Institute’s chief strategists for compiling the raw data, the primary focus of the survey has always been towards gauging meaningful interest by the public regarding

Continued on page 27...

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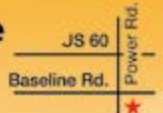
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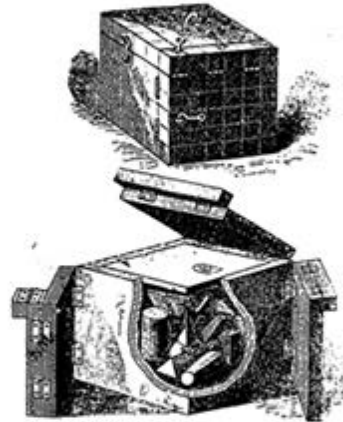


Whatizit, continued from page 20...

The article explains the box "...was designed to facilitate the work of teachers of geometry" getting us closer to an answer. From the language of the patent application, we learn "It consists of a cubical shaped box of novel construction, designed for use

A GEOMETRICAL EDUCATIONAL APPLIANCE.

THE device shown in the annexed illustrations was designed to facilitate the work of teachers of geometry, and has been patented in the U.S. by Mr. Newton Z. Fulton. It consists of a cubical shaped box of novel construction, designed for use as a receptacle for the various models of plane and solid geometric forms, such as cylinders, cones, cubes, pyramids, globes, squares, triangles, ellipses, parallelograms, etc. The top of the box proper is



made to fit within its sides, so as to be flush with their upper edges, and it has a flush or non-projecting handle or pull. On the outer walls of three sides of the box are hinged sections which when folded form a perfect cube of larger size than the box, and the sides have also other hinged sections which, by being moveable may be used to illustrate the principles of square and cube root by the segregate character of the aliquot parts of a square or cube. The hinged sections are provided with locking devices, whereby all the parts are connected together and not liable to be detached and lost, and an external handle affords convenient means of carrying the box. Further information relative to this improvement may be obtained of Mr. D. J. Splane, Crested Butte, Colorado.

as a receptacle for the various models of plane and solid geometric forms, such as cylinders, cones, cubes, pyramids, globes squares, triangles, ellipses, parallelograms, etc."

So that's what went inside. What about the peculiar hinged appendages? The explanation is typical patent lawyer convolusion. Here goes . . . pay close attention . . . "On the outer walls of three sides of the box are hinged sections which when folded form a perfect cube of larger size than the box (itself), and the sides have also other hinged sections, which by being moveable may be used to illustrate the principles of square and cube root by the segregate character of the aliquot parts of a square or cube."

A chance discovery of this brief article in the November 11, 1893, Scientific American finally revealed mysterious purpose of the Fulton Cube. Scientific American

Now I had enough information to track down the patent, which was issued November 7, 1893, to Newton Z. Fulton for the design of a "Cube Box."

Almost all of the pieces of the puzzle were now in place—with the exception of "Splane." For that, I had to return to the Scientific American article to learn the following: "Further information relative to this improvement may be obtained of Mr. D. J. Splane of Crested Butte, Colorado.

So, Splane is not a thing but rather a distinctive Irish name. Additional research revealed Splane probably financed Newton's patent and marketing. Less is known about Newton Fulton except, during the time he worked on his patent, he lived in Gunnison, Colorado—less than 30 miles from Crested Butte.

Newton's Cube Box gained some recognition while on display at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Sometime after, the American Splane Company was incorporated in Chicago where Splane held several business interests.

Between 1879 and 1911, Splane was involved in numerous disparate businesses including the Scientific Medical College, Panama Portland Cement Company, Artesia Land Associates, National Association of Land Men, and a governing board

Continued on page 31...

Asheford, continued from page 21...

current and popular trends related to the antiques, vintage and retro inspired marketplace. She says, "Our results are based on actual sales and requests for particular items."

As in past years, the **Asheford** poll seems to note the unabated move towards modernism in collecting. "Mid-Century is still very much the thing," said Tomey, "but we're beginning to see that movement spread out into other fields as well."

Also of interest for many who participated in the survey was the general consensus by a number of storeowners that there was definitely a younger vibe to the shopping experience than ever before. Poll participant Mike Schol said, "I've been selling antiques and vintage for twenty-years and I've never seen so many young folks into thrifting and vintage. It's definitely a good sign."

While Sharon Tomey cautions people not to read too much into such anecdotal tales, she does acknowledge that, on average, store owners are beginning to notice a younger demographic appearing than before. She said, "Whether or not this will last remains to be seen, but it's certainly encouraging."

Some of the other movers-and-shakers from this year's poll included vintage fashions and textiles—which had a strong showing over previous years—as well as costume and vintage jewelry that continued its surge in popularity and price. Other notable stalwarts included toys—specifically Star Wars items—and American Western memorabilia, all of which drew high-ticket prices according to many of the survey's respondents.

Readers wanting to view the full results of the school's 2018 survey can find them online at: <https://www.asheford.com/2018-survey-results.html>.

To learn more about the antiques and appraisal study program being offered by the Institute, you can email asheford@mail.com or visit www.asheford.com. You can also write to the Asheford Institute of Antiques 981 Harbor Blvd., Suite 3, Dept. 275RDK7 Destin, FL 32541-2525, or to the Canadian office at 131 Bloor Street West, Suite 200, Dept. 124RDK8 Toronto, ON M5S 1R8.

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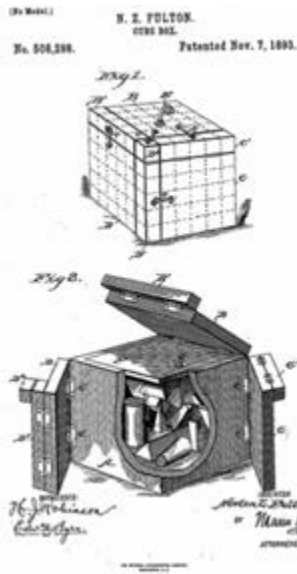
Whatizit, continued from page 26...

member of the Art Institute of Chicago.

How many Cubes were made is unknown. Given its scarceness, few have survived thereby making determination of its value problematic. No reference to a listing or sale of such a piece can be found on the Internet. Given its rarity and unusual nature should one come to the auction market it would not be unreasonable to expect its value will be determined through the bidding process. Newton's Cube Box could bring somewhere between \$150 and \$300—or higher.

The moral of this piece? Never give up on a search. The answer is out there. But it might just be hiding somewhere. Did I 'Splane it okay?

Virtually an antique himself, Jay Mark, a 46-year antiques business veteran and historian, owns *Those Were The Days!*, now an online specialty bookstore. He also teaches, lectures and writes regularly about antiques and history. Reach him at jaymark@twtdbooks.com. © 2019



With sufficient information in hand, Jay Mark could at last research the patent, which explains in detail all aspects of the Cube Box. U.S. Patent Office

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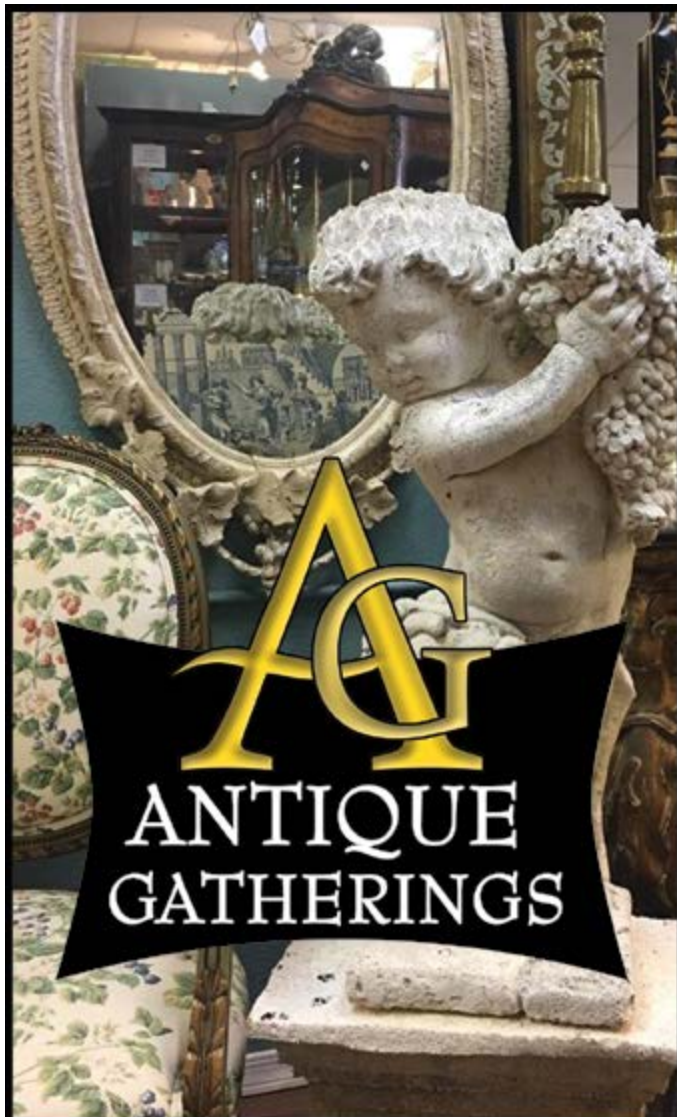
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Rinker On Collectibles

Hobby Shop Memories

by Harry L. Rinker

A September 7, 2018, email from Jane Sarasohn-Kahn, my good friend and sister in all but name, contained a graphic showing survey results from a question that asked former Toys 'R' Us shoppers where they will purchase their toys and gifts for Christmas 2018. Walmart gained 1%, Amazon 5% and Target 4%. The battle between the Big Box stores and the Internet remains. What was surprising were the lost percentages—Dollar Tree 1%, Dollar General 1% and Kmart 5%. I do not shop at any of these stores, albeit I occasionally buy on Amazon. I remain puzzled why eBay was not included in the survey mix.

Throughout my career writing about antiques and collectibles, I have and continue to hold firm to the belief that change is not an enemy. Change is inevitable. Denying its existence by taking a negative position towards change solves nothing. As Clint Eastwood, as Sergeant Thomas Highway in the movie *Heartbreak Ridge* (1986), noted, the key is to "adapt, improvise and overcome." It is impossible to go back, albeit many movies suggest this is possible.

It is possible to reminisce about the past. When studying the results of where "Toys 'R' Us costumers will turn now that this last "Big Box" toy store has gone, I returned to those "thrilling days of yesteryear" when buying Christmas toys and gifts was very different.

There were stores such as F. A. O. Schwarz in the big cities. I never visited one. The first shopping malls in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley arrived when I was nearing the end of my teenage years. By then, my interest had moved from toys to other things.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the primary sources for Christmas toys and gifts were: 1) local merchants ranging from drug to hardware stores that added toys to their inventory in late November and early December, often via specialized catalogs from which toys could be ordered in time for Christmas; 2) "Santa's Workshop," one of a variety of names used, in urban department stores; 3) mail order catalogs from companies such as Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck; 4) five and dime stores (although in fairness, I do not have memories of major changes in merchandise for the Christmas season); 5) redemption of merchant/trade stamps; and 6) neighborhood mom and pop hobby shops.

People often reflect on how fortunate they are to have lived through a specific time period. My life would have been incomplete without Mac's, the mom and pop hobby shop in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

I am old enough to remember when collecting was a hobby rather than the serious endeavor it became in the 1970s and 1980s. A dictionary definition of hobby defines it as "an activity done in one's leisure time for pleasure." The pleasure was felt individually not collectively, albeit occasionally hobbyists would meet to share their accomplishments. The concept of financial gain was limited to select adults. Youngsters never entertained the thought. They traded and swapped, more often than not on a one for one basis.

In the 1950s, there was a clear distinction between hobbies and crafts. A dictionary definition of craft is "an activity involving skill in making things by hand." My mother crocheted. It was not a hobby. She crocheted to relax and create things for her family or to use as gifts. In the mid- or late 1960s, my mother and her sister Jeanette became enamored with the creation of cracked/cooked marble jewelry. This a story best saved for another time. The good news is that none of their efforts appear to have survived in the family. The same cannot be said for some of the Prosser sisters' other craft craze artifacts, again a story for another time.

Some hobbies such as coins and stamps had their own specialized shops. The rest relied upon a neighborhood mom and pop hobby shop. An Internet search for books or websites providing a history of hobby shops was unsuccessful. How is it possible that this important social institution has remained undocumented? Instead of finding a history of hobby shops, I found numerous references to family owned hobby shops going out of business. Those mid-twentieth century mom and pop hobby shops that survived into the new millennium were devastated by the 2008-2009 Great Recession:

[Author's Aside: Some hobby shops remain in roadside malls. Many have transformed into gaming stores. The Hobby Lobby and Michael's

Continued on page 41...



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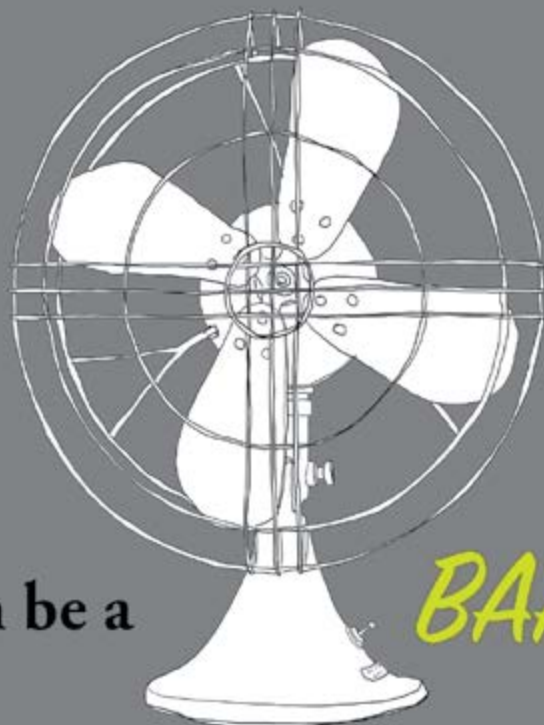
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Hobby Shop, continued from page 36...

chains are arts and crafts supply stores, not hobby stores as defined using twentieth century terminology. Crafters and hobbyist are not synonymous.]

Those fortunate to grow up with a neighborhood mom and pop hobby store were blessed. I am one of them. From my childhood until I moved from Bethlehem to York, Pennsylvania, in 1972, and following my return to Bethlehem in 1977, I patronized Mac's Hobby Hall. Gertrude Goodman Makagon (1907-2001), known as Mrs. Mac, established Mac's Hobby Hall in 1946. Originally located at 516 Broadway from 1946 to 1948, the store moved first to 315 West Forth Street in 1940 and in 1970 to 721 Linden Street until its close in 2012. It changed hands a number of times and did its best to change with the times. The sale of Dungeons and Dragons materials was its last great hurrah.

Just as Barbara Bel Geddes as Katrina remembers her mother, played by Irene Dunn in the movie *I Remember Mama* (1946), I remember Mac's. I am astonished by how much I remember. The memories' list I made filled a page. My difficulty is that I am having trouble ordering the memories chronologically. They keep wanting to blend into single rather than separate memories. Hence, if what follows appears jumbled, I apologize.

When my family moved from Dundalk, Maryland, to 717 High Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in early 1946, we lived two years with my Prosser grandparents. Readers are familiar with my fascination with my Uncle Bill's matchcover collection. Uncle Bill had another hobby—scratch building airplanes and assembling airplane model kits. Dozens of models hung suspended from his ceiling. I can envision him working on them.

Uncle Bill introduced me to the possibilities inherent in balsa wood. There appeared no limit to what could be built from it. I paid no attention to Uncle Bill's source of supplies. My High Street memories are more attic than hobby oriented. Uncle Earl's toy soldiers and Uncle Bill's chemistry set were among the many toys located there.

My Mac's memories start after the autumn of 1948 when my family moved to 50 West Depot Street in Hellertown, Pennsylvania. My father and I visited Mac's to buy American Flyer train equipment and materials

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to build and use on our family train platform—an object that magically appeared the day after Thanksgiving on an annual basis until I left for college.

While I was a Cub Scout, Mac's supplied me with the materials to make and enter a car in the Pinewood Derby. I also became enamored with making Plaster of Paris figurines and painting them. I bought the rubber molds and supplies at Mac's. Mold subjects ranged from the head of an Indian to jewelry pins.

When paint by numbers kits became the rage in the early 1950s, my father, and to a lesser extent, I, took part. Mac's was our supply source. When I was 11 or 12, I built my own HO layout and scratch-built several cars using materials bought at Mac's.

Following Uncle Bill's example, I tried my hand at building a few model airplane kits. I was tempted by the large scale, gasoline-engine-driven model planes but never succumbed to the temptation.

The plastic model kit era arrived when I was a teenager. Again, I tried my hand at building a few battleships and cars. What I remember more than anything else is Testor's model cement, which managed to get on everything but where it should be and leaked incessantly from its tube, and Testor's butyrate dope paint, commonly referred to as "dope" by hobbyist. Time certainly has changed the meaning of that term.



My view of Mac's is shaped by my personal experiences. My
Continued on page 43...



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recollection is that a mom and pop hobby shop was primarily male dominated. I question this. Neighborhood mom and pop shops must have had a female component.

Did you have a neighborhood mom and pop hobby shop near you when you grew up? If yes, please share your memories with me. Email them to harrylrinker@aol.com.

Meanwhile, I have added a history of mom and pop hobby shops to my list of book titles I hope to research and write. All I need is time. As I now realize, time is a formidable enemy. I hope I have enough energy to keep fighting it.

Harry L. Rinker welcomes questions from readers about collectibles, those mass-produced items from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Selected letters will be answered in this column. Harry cannot provide personal answers. Photos and other material submitted cannot be returned. Send your questions to: Rinker on Collectibles, 5955 Mill Point Court SE, Kentwood, MI 49512. You also can e-mail your questions to harrylrinker@aol.com. Only e-mails containing a full name and mailing address will be considered. You can listen and participate in WHATCHA GOT?, Harry's antiques and collectibles radio call-in show, on Sunday mornings between 8 and 10 a.m. Eastern Time. If you cannot find it on a station in your area, WHATCHA GOT? streams live on the Internet at www.gcnlive.com. Copyright © Harry L. Rinker, LLC 2018

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Martha wrote that this is her favorite shop because of the great selection of merchandise with frequent turn over, a friendly staff and good prices.

We love to hear from our readers and customers about how they enjoy *The Antique Register* and use it to hunt for great finds. In this issue, there is another \$20 Gift Certificate giveaway so be sure to enter and tell us where you pick up *The Antique Register*. Be sure to take a copy with you when you travel around Arizona in this spring!



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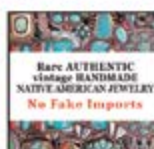




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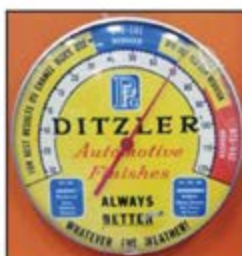
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