

European Pewter Auction

There was a European Pewter auction run by Pook & Pook, Inc. of Pennsylvania on 28th March, 2015.

I asked David Hall about the collection, parts of which are pictured below, and he said:



“It seems to be almost all Continental, probably mostly Germanic in origin; Austrian, German, Swiss, Polish, Czech, Hungarian even, possibly, Scandinavian. Pewter-making did take place in the Colonies, largely, of course, English in origin; and later in the independent States.

“Pewter collecting has been well established in the States for many, many decades and there is a collectors’ organisation, the PCCA (Pewter Collectors Club of America) of which I am an Honorary Member.

“Most Americans traditionally collected local or English-made pewter. There was a considerable English export trade to the Colonies and later to the US. There is some German influence in pewter-making in the 18th century Colonies/USA but I would expect that most of the lots in Pook

and Pook's sale arrived in the 20th century. American collectors have been quite active in the antique pewter market in the British Isles for a long time.

"European pewter does not sell well in the USA and even more poorly in the British Isles. This was not always the case; in the early years of the 20th century collectors in the British Isles often included Continental material in their collections. Why the change took place is not clear, at least to me. It may have been the result of two World Wars, or just of an expansion in knowledge which made it easier to identify home-grown material.

"There are collectors' societies in Belgium and the Netherlands but I do not know of any national societies in Germany or France. The antique pewter market in Germany and related lands suffered around 1980 when it was exposed that certain traditional pewterers, in the period 1920 -1950, had been faking and forging on a very considerable scale. A man called Weygang was particularly notorious."

I asked Pook & Pook how the sale had gone and, to my surprise, they said it had fared poorly. Vice President, Deirdre Pook Magarelli, said:

"While the results for European and Asian furniture, fine art and ceramics were quite strong, the market for European pewter turned out to be quite soft. Despite extensive advertising and promotion of this collection, both here and abroad, the majority of the pieces did not sell. We've had incredible results for good pieces of American pewter sold through Pook & Pook, but, unfortunately, the pewter in this auction, which was all of European origin, did not elicit the same bidding frenzy we typically see at our auctions. It is truly a shame, because the collection put up for auction in the March 28, 2015 International Auction was absolutely beautiful and represents one man's life-long love of European pewter."

She added: "Please keep an eye out for our upcoming auctions. We have a huge collection of American pewter coming up."

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