

Manhattan Dealer Strikes Plea Deal in Ivory Case

The owner of a Manhattan-based antiques store and his corporation were charged with felonies in connection with illegal ivory sales in New York County Criminal Court in October, according to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Alexander Sakhai and Alexander's Antiques Inc. of 1050 Second Avenue were each charged with two counts of illegal commercialization of fish, shellfish, crustaceans, and wildlife, a Class E felony, and two counts of illegal commercialization of fish, shellfish, crustaceans, and wildlife, a Class D felony.

According to a press release, DEC police officers, working undercover on a tip, purchased an ivory item from the store in July. The item was brought to the American Museum of Natural History for analysis, and experts at the museum determined that the piece was carved from authentic elephant ivory and therefore could not be legally sold.

A search warrant executed on July 21 revealed that the store had for sale approximately 130 illegal ivory items in excess of \$25,000. The items were confiscated.

As part of a plea deal, Alexander's Antiques Inc. agreed to donate \$60,000 to the Wildlife Conservation Society to help end the illegal poaching of elephants in Africa. Alexander's Antiques Inc. also agreed to forfeit more than 100 ivory articles to New York state.

Sakhai also pleaded guilty to illegal commercialization of wildlife, and the corporation pleaded guilty to the Class E felony of illegal commercialization of elephant ivory.

The sale of more than \$1500 worth of products made from elephant ivory without having first obtained a DEC license or permit is a felony in New York. The law allows for limited exceptions, such as antiques demonstrated to be at least 100 years old that contain less than 20% ivory.

Fendelman and Farrell Join Board of CPWP

Helaine Fendelman and Daniel Farrell have joined the board of directors of the Center for Painted Wall Preservation (CPWP), a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the research and preservation of historic American paint-decorated plaster walls from 1800 to 1860. The mission of the organization is to survey and document paint-decorated walls in situ or in collections to create a permanent record and encourage the appreciation of this rare and vulnerable art form, as well as to serve as a resource for conservation and preservation.

Helaine Fendelman is a generalist appraiser with interest in paint-decorated objects. She is a past president of the Appraisers Association of America (AAA), television co-host of *Treasures in Your Attic*, adjunct professor at New York University, and instructor at the AAA Appraisal Institute. She also has served as a governor of the National Arts Club and is a board member of the Salvador Dali Research Center. She is the author of more than 14 books on art and antiques.

Daniel Farrell brought the *Antiques Roadshow* to America and currently serves as the show's consulting producer. He is the principal of Daniel Farrell, LLC, an art consultancy and appraisal firm. He has written numerous articles for the insurance trade regarding insurance coverage for fine arts, art fraud, and damage and loss appraisals. As an accredited member of the AAA, he often lectures on these topics.

Learn more about the CPWP's work online at (www.pwpcenter.org) and sign up for *Plaster Bits*, the free monthly online newsletter of the organization. CPWP accepts donations via PayPal or by check mailed to Center for Painted Wall Preservation, PO Box 187, Hallowell, ME 04347. For more information, e-mail info@pwpcenter.org.

Long-running Hudson, Ohio, Antique Show to Change Location

Entering its 48th year, the Hudson Antique Show, Hudson, Ohio, is changing venues. The show had been located at the Clarion Inn in Hudson for the past several years, but the hotel recently was sold and will no longer host events. The new location will be the Days Inn in Richfield, Ohio.

Show promoter Steven Sherhag stated, "The new location will have larger ballrooms and a better traffic flow providing a better customer experience." Sherhag also said, "The Days Inn is a newer facility with upgraded dining options, updated rooms, and more parking."

The next show will be held January 13 and 14, 2018. There will be 50 dealers from ten different states featuring smalls, furniture, stoneware, folk art, and Americana. For more information, visit the website (www.hudsonantiqueshow.com).

John Quincy Adams Daguerreotype Sells to National Portrait Gallery for \$360,500

by Jeanne Schinto
Photo courtesy Sotheby's

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., paid \$360,500 (including buyer's premium) for a newly discovered half-plate daguerreotype of John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) at Sotheby's sale of photographs in New York City on October 5. The photograph was made in 1843, only four years after the invention of the new medium by Louis Daguerre was announced to the public. It is the earliest known photograph of a U.S. president.

Adams sat for the portrait a few months before his 76th birthday in the Washington, D.C., studio of Philip Haas, a German immigrant who established one of the first daguerreotype-making businesses in the capital. At the time, Adams was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives from the 12th District of Massachusetts. Nearly 15 years had passed since he had left the White House. Our sixth president was the son of the second. Directly before his single presidential term, he had been secretary of state, appointed by our fifth president, James Monroe. When he was in his mid-30s, Adams had been elected by Massachusetts to the U.S. Senate.

The daguerreotype is in a mid- to late 19th-century wood wall frame that provided the evidence for its provenance. On its reverse is an inscription to Horace Everett (1779-1851), indicating that it was a gift to him from Adams. The inscription reads "Hon. Horace Everett / Windsor / Vermont" and is signed "J.Q. Adams." A Capitol Hill colleague of Adams, Everett represented the 3rd District of Vermont. Also on the frame's reverse is a bookplate illustrated with the Everett family crest. A handwritten annotation on it says, "Presented by J.Q.A. to his Kinsman H.E. 1843."

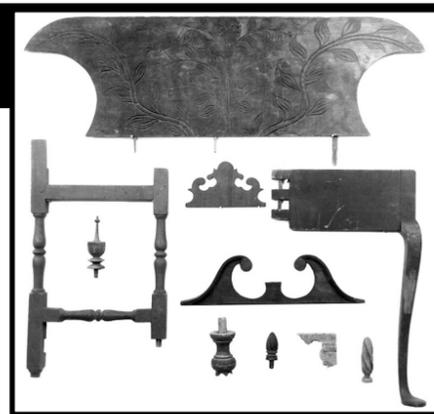
The portrait descended in the Everett family and had never left it, until now. According to the *New York Times*, a great-great-grandson, who wants to remain anonymous, consigned it to the auction house.

Adams wrote in his 1843 diary of two separate visits to the Haas studio on Pennsylvania Avenue, one on March 8, the other on March 16. On that second visit, he found Everett in the studio "for the same purpose of being facsimiled." Just 13 days earlier, Everett's 14-year Congressional career had ended. After Everett sat

for his single image, Adams sat for three. Only this one is known to have survived. The other two portraits are, however, known through so-called copy images. One is in the form of a smaller-format copy daguerreotype, made circa 1850 by the well-known firm of Southworth & Hawes of Boston. It is now in the collection of New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art. The other is in the form of a lithograph issued by Haas in 1843, a variant of which is in the National Portrait Gallery's print collection.

The National Portrait Gallery owns one other daguerreotype of Adams. It was made in August 1843 by the studio of Bishop & Gray in Utica, New York. Another, made in 1846 by one of the studios of John Plumbe Jr., is in the collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. In addition, a copy of an undated Adams portrait by an unknown daguerreotypist is in the collection of the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis. Apparently, Adams was an early and eager adopter of the new technology.

According to a Smithsonian press release, the National Portrait Gallery will put its new acquisition on view in 2018 as part of the museum's revamped *America's Presidents* exhibition. For more information about the gallery, see the website (www.npg.si.edu). For more information about the auction, see the website (www.sothebys.com).



Sammons Indicted

On October 20 Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. announced that art broker Timothy Sammons, 61, had been indicted for stealing millions of dollars through a scheme involving the sale of valuable artwork. The New York State Supreme Court indictment charged Sammons with grand larceny in the first and second degrees and with a scheme to defraud in the first degree.

"As alleged in the indictment, the defendant used his industry experience to gain the trust of prospective art sellers then betrayed that trust by pocketing the proceeds of those sales to fund his own lavish lifestyle," said Vance. "Not only did victims lose millions of dollars, but many lost valuable pieces of artwork that had been in their families for generations. I want to thank our partners at the City of London Police for their important assistance in putting an end to this cross-border scheme."

According to the indictment and documents filed in court, between 2010 and 2015 Sammons, who operated businesses in London and New York, brokered the sale of multiple pieces of artwork on behalf of his clients at auctions and private sales, but he failed to turn over the corresponding proceeds of those sales to the owners. In many cases, Sammons misled his victims about the timing of the sales or failed entirely to inform them that their artwork had been purchased. When victims inquired about the status of their artwork, the defendant responded by asking them to be patient or ignored them entirely when they demanded the return of their artwork. In some instances, Sammons used the proceeds from the sale of artwork owned by one victim to pay debts owed to other victims. The defendant also used victims' artwork as collateral to obtain personal loans from a financing company based in New York, and when Sammons failed to repay these debts, many of the works were sold at discounted prices.

It is alleged that Sammons stole tens of millions of dollars in total from victims in the U.S., U.K., and New Zealand through the scheme, which involved multiple pieces of famous art, including *Buste de Femme* by Pablo Picasso, *Réverie* by Marc Chagall, and *Calanque de Canoubiers (Pointe de Bamer)* by Paul Signac, among others.

