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by Jeanne Schinto

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On Sunday, April 22, the same weekend as the Schmitt auction (p. 16-D), Frank Kaminski of Kaminski Auctions, Beverly, Massachusetts, offered 520 items, including a tall clock made by Joseph Mulliken (1765-1802) of Concord, Massachusetts. Mulliken tall clocks are rare enough—by some accounts only around 20 survive—but this one is rarer still for having come fresh to the market from a West Coast family. How did they, descendants of the Hannah J. Davis family of Concord and Bedford, Massachusetts, find Kaminski? The auctioneer spends time in San Diego now because he has opened an office out there. Earlier this year, he conducted his first San Diego auction, and he plans to have more. His New England venue seemed the right place to sell the Mulliken, though. "I would say all the big clock dealers in New England were very interested in it," Kaminski said after selling it to a bidder he described as a "collector/dealer" for \$33,350.

A few days before the sale took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Colonial Hotel in Lynnfield, Massachusetts, we previewed the Mulliken in Beverly, along with David F. Wood. Curator of the Concord Museum, Wood is also author of the most recent scholarship on Mulliken and other Concord clockmakers, "Concord, Massachusetts, Clockmakers, 1789-1817," published in *The Magazine Antiques* in May 2000. The cherry case had its old finish; it also had some peculiarities. As Wood pointed out, though, "There is a variety to Mulliken cases—he had more than one cabinetmaker working for him—while Munroe cases are pretty consistent." The reference was to Daniel Munroe (1775-1859), another early Concord clockmaker, who moved to Boston after 1808.

At 90" tall, this Mulliken was a nice size—"He made some monsters," said Wood—and its painted dial was signed "J. Mulliken/ Concord" while its falseplate (found between the dial and the movement) was cast with the name "Wilson." That is for Englishman James Wilson, who supplied the American clock trade with painted dials from the early 1770's until his death in 1809, first with a partner, T. Hadley Osborne, and then by himself.

At the same sale, Kaminski offered a late 19th-century tall clock in a massive, elaborately carved golden oak case, 100" tall, with a musical movement supplied by Walter Durfee & Co. Retailed originally by J.E. Caldwell & Company of Philadelphia, it had come to the sale from a house not too far from Kaminski's East Coast office, on the North Shore of Boston. It was perhaps too much clock for the majority of bidders. Estimated at \$12,000/18,000, it was bought in at \$10,000. For more information, contact Kaminski at (978) 927-2223 or via the Web site ([www.kaminskiauctions.com](http://www.kaminskiauctions.com)).

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