
MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:
Fine and Collectible Knives and Edged Weapons
Friday, September 6, 2013, 1pm

Previews:
August 30 – September 1 and day of Auction

Location:
Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501
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Michaan's to Hold Premiere Fine & Collectible Knives Auction

Michaan's presents its first Fine and Collectible Knives Auction on September 6, 2013 at 1pm. A grouping of over 350 knives has been acquired from a single personal estate collection, culminating in the auction event. Available categories in the sale are plentiful, including a handsome representation of 19th and 20th century English exhibition knives. Fine American and dress pieces will also be sold, with exceptional examples seen from sought after San Francisco manufacturers Michael Price and Will & Finck. Pieces from WWII to the Vietnam Era and numerous KA-BAR knives will make an appearance as well. A plethora of antique folding knives in a range of styles will also be sold, providing exciting bidding opportunities. Estimates in the sale range from \$20 to \$50,000, making this special auction a diverse and worthwhile collector event.

A rare and highly important George Wostenholm tortoiseshell exhibition sports lockback knife stands at the forefront of the auction (lot 2127, \$30,000-50,000, SM #251). The circa 1850 lockback knife measures approximately 5 1/8 inches in length, with the piece containing the following implements: a master fancy worked back spear blade with a long pull, a fish scaler and hook disgorging, a file blade, a spey blade, a compass, a triangular leather punch, a buttonhook, a fleam, a leather sewing blade, a hacksaw with blade, a wine cork remover, a chisel blade, an awl, two pen blades, a clip blade, a fancy manicure blade and a corkscrew. Four pullout implements complete the

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collection of tools held within the piece, identified as one of the finest ever created by George Wostenholm and Son. This knife was chosen for the prestigious cover illustration of "Sheffield Exhibition Knives" and was exhibited at the 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition. It was also shown at the 1855 Paris Exhibition where it was awarded the Gold Medal of Honor; the only one presented for English cutlery. The mint condition knife will be sold with a copy of the "Sheffield Exhibition Knives Book" (number 17 of 1300). An original French style, red velvet covered exhibition case completes the lot.

Choice exhibition pieces are found throughout the sale, including a presentation grade, multi-blade knife with engraved German silver bolsters, faceted blades and accessories (lot 2295, \$30,000-40,000, SM #250). The knife features pearl grip panels and a 4 1/2 inch spear point and lockable blade measuring approximately 3/4 inches at its widest point. Also available is a rare Crystal Palace Exhibition multi-blade IXL folding knife with miscellaneous tools that was featured in the London exhibition in 1851 (lot 2112, \$15,000-25,000, SM #171). Considered one of the finest folding knives in existence, several blade and tool surfaces are exquisitely faceted and highly decorated. This piece was also prominently featured in the "Sheffield Exhibition Knives" by Clausen, Watts and McMickle et. al.

Estimated at \$12,000-15,000 are three additional lots of superb quality and excellent condition in the auction. In their order of appearance in the sale is a pre-1898 George Wostenholm IXL folding knife with etched blade and mother-of-pearl grip panels (lot 2118), yet another George Wostenholm Sheffield offering is a pair of fine coke-bottle folding IXL jackknives (lot 2288) and a fine and rare exhibition grade bright steel spear point bowie knife by Evans & Co., London with checkered steel grip and faceted crossguard circa 1850 (lot 2296).

Michaan's Fine and Collectible Knives Auction will be held on Friday, September the 6th at 10:00 a.m. Previews will commence from August 30th to September 1st as well as the 6th, the day of sale. Michaan's Auctions is located at 2751 Todd Street, Alameda, CA 94501.

About Michaan's Auctions

Michaan's Auctions is a leading full service auction house on the West Coast. Specializing in the appraisals and sale of antiques and fine art, Michaan's has specialists in the fields of Furniture and Decorative Arts, Modern, Contemporary Art, European and American Paintings and Prints, Jewelry and Asian Works of Art.

Established in 2002, Michaan's Auctions holds up to thirty sales each year attracting a broad base of buyers and consignors from all over the world. With one of the largest facilities in Northern California and the Bay Area's lowest buyers premium Michaan's

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offers buyers and sellers the opportunity to preview and bid on many unique and desirable property. Some of these pieces realized world record prices. In 2005 A.D.M. Cooper's oil painting, Three Graces 1915, sold for a record \$21,060 and an Eduard Gaertner oil, German City Street Scene 1831, sold for \$266,000.

Michaan's has built its reputation on its ability to accept single items, groups or entire estates with its "no risk consignment policy" free of hidden fees and charges. Michaan's specialists are dedicated to staying current on the latest issues and developments in the market and are committed to providing personalized and professional attention throughout the entire auction process.

For a full listing of upcoming auctions or to view a complete catalog, please visit www.michaans.com.