Nutting's "Finest Piece of Furniture" Sells for Record Price
by David Hewett
Reprinted from Maine Antique Digest May 2002

In 1930, 68-year-old Framingham, Massachusetts, minister, author, and entrepreneur Wallace Nutting described many of the furniture reproductions he offered in that year's Supreme Edition General Catalog as "The Antique of the Future."

The Collectors Ron and Barbara Leavesley
by Robert Masoner
with Ron Leavesley

For Ron and Barbara Leavesley of Kinnelon, New Jersey, the Wallace Nutting bug bit in 1978. Rummaging through the attic at the Leavesley family home, they found tucked away in a closet, a good size Wallace Nutting exterior, Honeymoon Blossoms. When Barbara saw it, she commented, "I have one of those. It was a wedding gift to my parents."

That was the fateful moment and we bet it sounds familiar. Many collectors have begun the same way. A small start that blossoms into something much bigger. In the case of Ron and Barbara, it blossomed into several hundred Nuttings hanging everywhere. According to Ron, "they are much more attractive than wallpaper and every time you look at them, you see something different. They really grow on you in terms of their subtle beauty and the interesting content."

Both Ron and Barbara graduated from college in 1951. Ron from Temple University in Philadelphia and Barbara from Beaver College just outside of Philadelphia. Ron was from nearby Abington, Pennsylvania and Barbara was raised in South Orange, New Jersey. Fortunately for Ron, he received a basketball scholarship to Temple University.

Message From The President...
Bill Hamann

Included in the newsletter is an agenda for the 2002 Convention to be held at the Best Western Inn & Conference Center in Poughkeepsie, New York. If you want to reserve a table, attend the Mohonk lunch and guided tour, or attend the dinner on Saturday evening, please fill out the appropriate sections and return with your check or money order (no cash) to the address indicated. A prompt reply is most helpful in making the final arrangements.

This year the two-year term for the following Trustees expires:
Ron Leavesley – Trustee
Jan Liberatore – Trustee/
Newsletter Editor

The initial club bylaws contained term limits of three consecutive two-year terms. A unanimous vote from the officers and trustees eliminated these term limits. Our intention is to get more members involved, but the experience has been that few people are willing to...
President...
Continued from page 1...
serve in an officer or trustee capacity.

Ron and Jan have agreed to serve a fourth term if nominated. We strongly encourage and welcome anyone who would like to nominate a candidate to serve as a trustee. Please make sure anyone you nominate has agreed to serve if elected. Nominations must be received by May 15, 2002. Protocol to make a nomination is to send the candidate's name to:

Nominating Committee
Bill Hamann
3017 Montgomery Road
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122

Linda and Dan Palmer have arranged for lunch and a guided tour of Mohonk on Saturday afternoon. The cost is $20.00 per person. Should anyone care to visit Mohonk on their own, the entrance fee alone is $13.00. Parking is available at the front gate, and plan for a considerable (up hill) walk to the lodge.

Reservation forms for exhibition tables, convention registration, dinner and the Mohonk lunch with guided tour can be found in the newsletter.

Other points of interest in the area include:
- Vanderbilt Mansion
- F.D. Roosevelt Home

Our 2003 Convention will be held in the Hartford, Connecticut area to take advantage of the exhibit at the Wadsworth Atheneum: "Wallace Nutting and the Invention of Old America." The exhibit is co-sponsored by:

The Webb Denne Stevens House
and

The Wadsworth Atheneum

The exhibit is scheduled to begin the first part of June 2003 and run through October. It will consist of Wallace Nutting photos, books, ephemera and furniture and selected period pieces from the original Wallace Nutting collection in the Wadsworth Atheneum.

See you in June!
Leavesley...
Continued from page 1...

...and though, not a great player (he was just tall for the times), he made good use of the opportunity to get an education. He also went to earn a Masters degree from Temple in 1955 in Economics and Labor Relations. Good fortune smiled when his thesis was purchased by a major pharmaceutical company and also published a series of articles in a national marketing publication. He subsequently had published a number of other articles on marketing and management.

Ron and Barbara were married in 1952. They had met at a church discussion group, so you never know where you are going to find your mate! Now, blessed with three children and six grandchildren scattered around New Jersey, North Carolina, and Texas, they look forward to their regular visits. Barbara taught for a couple of years and then became a stay at home mom, certainly a full-time occupation with Ron traveling a lot of the time.

Business required moving several times, but for the past 28 years, they have lived in Smoke Rise, Kinnelon, New Jersey where they enjoy the hills and lakes of New Jersey in addition to the bear, turkeys, and too many deer.

Ron spent over 40 years in the pharmaceutical and dental industries as a Marketing and Sales Executive, General Manager, Company President, and CEO. Although he retired in 1989, he continued doing consulting work and served as Executive Director of a trade association.

In reality, there never was retirement because volunteering took hold in serving on various community committees and on the Board of Governors of the Smoke Rise Club. Today, among other interests, Ron is actively involved as President of the Friends of Kinnelon Library and as President of the Center for Lifelong Learning, a community adult education program that offers numerous courses and regularly has a semester enrollment of well over 200 students. He also teaches with the focus on his “Week in Review” discussion course of international and domestic issues.

An avid and eclectic collector since his early teens, Ron has collected Civil War firearms, Japanese militaria, mechanical banks, and cast iron toys. However, when it comes to collecting Wallace Nuttings, it is a joint effort with Barbara. Barbara on the other hand has her own history on “The Breidinger Family in America.” Just something else to keep them busy.

To top it off, Ron has become a dedicated oil painter. Always his hidden desire, he just didn’t have the time until retirement to take up the palette. Add to this their interest in world travel, and everyday is packed with activity. They follow that old Thomas Edison saying, “All good things come to he who hustles while they wait.”

According to Ron and Barbara, the great thing about collecting Wallace Nuttings has been the challenge of finding the quality picture plus the excitement of finding the unusual item. One of these great finds was a Wallace Nutting hand-written and signed letter in a States Beautiful book they purchased for $12.00. In this letter, Nutting discusses making up a special order of cherry furniture. Ron indicated, “the first ten good Nuttings we purchased cost just $120.00 and when we spent $60.00 for an 11” x 14” floral, we thought we were spending a fortune. These were the good ole days when dealers and antique shop owners didn’t know what they had. That’s not the way it is today. Just the name commands a high price despite the subject or quality of the photograph.”

Many of you will remember the slide presentation Ron and Barbara gave at the 1991 and 1994 conventions based on their trip to Ireland. It featured photos taken at many of the same locations, which Nutting photographed and in a number of cases, from virtually the same angle. Ron pointed out that this project gave an added meaning to their Irish trip.
Secretary...
Continued from page 1...
made by the Goddard-Townsend family of cabinetmakers.

According to factory sources, Nutting also made no more than seven of the secretaries during his lifetime.

The reproduction secretary is an almost exact copy of the genuine example Nutting showed in his 1928 two-volume masterpiece, Furniture Treasury, as No. 701.

The reproduction shown in the Supreme Edition did not have the corner boxes on the crest that raise the sides finials to the level of the center finial on the original, but the boxes were optional. (Nutting wrote a prospective customer in 1932, "You can have the one with the boxes on the corners or without, just as you wish.")

The original Goddard-Townsend block-and-shell secretaries are rare and expensive and have always been highly valued.

When Nutting selected three photos of furniture to use as illustrations in an article in the March 22, 1930, issue of the Saturday Evening Post, one of them was a nine-shell blockfront secretary by John Goddard.

Nutting captioned the photo, in part: "The Probable Chef-d'Oeuvre [masterpiece] of American Furniture."

The Nicholas Brown secretary, a six-shell 112" high extraordinary object made by John Goddard in the 1760s brought $12,1 million when it sold on June 3, 1989, at Christie's. That figure remains the highest price ever paid at auction for a piece of American furniture.

It's possible that Wallace Nutting may have offered more expensive reproductions than the No. 733 secretary, which carried a $1,800 price tag. No. 988 in the 1930 catalog is a highly carved Philadelphia swan-neck crest higbboy with a portrait bust finial, made "to order only," with no price listed. According to collectors, no examples are known, and there's a good chance no orders were ever received.

So, at $1,800, Nutting's copy of the Goddard-Townsend mahogany nine-shell blockfront secretary is the highest-priced piece in the catalog. That 1930 price is the equivalent of $19,131.74 in today's funds, according to the formula used by the American Institute for Economic Research.

In 1930, the first full year of the Depression, would-be owners of $1,800 reproduced weren't exactly breaking down Nutting's Framingham door to get them.

By 1931, many of the leading dealers and collectors of genuine antiques were disposing of their holdings at auction.

James Silo of New York sold material from the Israel Sack firm in April, the same month American Art Association-Anderson Galleries offered the Benjamin Flintdermann collection.

Nearer to Nutting's home, the Kaufman Antiques stock was offered at a three-day auction in Boston that year. The market for reproductions plummeted, and in 1932 Wallace Nutting made a Hartford, Connecticut, man an offer he couldn't refuse.

Nutting wrote to Mr. Zacher at the Travelers Insurance Company, "When you were here [sic] I did not try to sell you the magnificent Goddard nine shell secretary...but what I want to do is cut the price on that secretary $300 below cost...that means $900 for the secretary." Zacher, no fool, bought it on March 31, 1932.

By 1934, Nutting's ads in Antiques magazine were offering much of his inventory at "from forty to fifty percent discount."


In 1943, Mr. S. Dennead Kolb of Salisbury, Maryland, wrote to Nutting about purchasing a No. 733 secretary. Wallace Nutting had died on July 19, 1941, but Ernest J. Donnelly carried on the business for Nutting's widow. Donnelly told Kolb that "seven of these were made, and they were the finest things ever put out in our shop," and yes, there was still one secretary left in stock.

Donnelly bemoaned the fact that making quality reproductions during wartime was impossible. "I so not wish to be a pessimist, but I am afraid our days are numbered."

In another 1943 letter, Donnelly noted that there was still a shop foreman with the firm, but offered little hope of ever making another secretary. "I could not make one now for love or money. I could not take our man's time to execute one, and I would not have the material [Cuban and Santo Domingo mahogany] for him to work on in any case."

The price of the last secretary was $1,000.

In 1945, Donnelly informed Kolb that Mrs. Nutting was dead and what remained of the furniture business had been bequeathed to Berea College in Kentucky. The last secretary was long gone.

At some unknown date, S. Dennead Kolb acquired the Zacher/Travelers Insurance Co. No. 733 secretary.

Fast forward to 2002.

Pete Richardson of Willards, Maryland, owns Pete Richardson Auction Sales, Inc. For over 35 years, Richardson has sold real estate, farm and heavy machinery, furniture, and antiques at auction.

"We picked up a whole house lot from the Kolb estate of Salisbury, Maryland," Richardson said in early April. "The husband had worked for the War Department during the Second World War; he was an insurance man.

"He wanted a Nutting secretary and tried to get one from Nutting, who didn't have any to sell then. Mr. Kolb did get one, I think from his connection with Travelers Insurance Company."

There were other pieces of furniture in the consignment, including a Pembroke table that would bring $18,900 (including buyer's premium) and a Baltimore sideboard by the Potthast brothers that would bring $13,650, but the Nutting secretary intrigued Richardson.

There was evidence that hinted it was valuable. There was a 1955 insurance appraisal valuing it at $25,000, but he had also been told by consignors that Sotheby's had been contacted and had said it wouldn't bring more than $20,000, Richardson said.

The 104" high secretary was in great condition, he recalled, but the finials and the ogee bracket feet had been removed when it was set up at the Kolb home. (In 1944, Ernest Donnelly advised Kolb not to buy it after hearing the height of the ceiling in Kolb's home.) Thankfully, the removed parts were still with it. Richardson had the metal gliders removed and the feet reinstalled.

"I'd never sold a piece of Nutting furniture before. I've sold a lot of his prints, though," Richardson said, "so I got on the Internet and asked for someone with expertise to help out. I heard

Continued on page 9...
Wallace Nutting Silhouettes
by Michael Ivankovich

This column will focus upon a very unique aspect of Wallace Nutting collecting...Wallace Nutting Silhouettes.

Wallace Nutting (1861-1941) was a minister-turned-businessman who became extremely well known throughout the early 20th c, primarily through three categories of his work:

1. The millions of hand-colored photographs that he sold between 1900-1941
2. The 20+ different books that he authored between 1917-1933
3. The thousands of high quality furniture pieces that he reproduced between 1918-1941

As a leader within the Colonial Revival Movement Wallace Nutting became so well known that by 1920 hardly an American household was without something carrying the Wallace Nutting name. Nutting's hand-colored photographs were sold primarily to middle class households, his high quality reproduction furniture sold primarily to upper class households, and his books on travel and antique furniture cut across all economic lines. But like all fads, people's tastes change over time and by 1925 Wallace Nutting saw his sales declining.

In 1925 while returning from a European trip, Wallace Nutting happened to meet a young man named Ernest John Donnelly. Donnelly, who was traveling alone from his native Ireland, was in search of a new life in America and needed a job. Coincidentally, at this same time, Nutting was looking to hire someone to help him in the day-to-day operations of his business. Although his picture business was running quite smoothly, he was becoming more involved in the many other aspects of his ever-widening business. He was in the middle of writing his 10-volume States Beautiful series, he was beginning work on his 3-volume Furniture Treasury series, his furniture reproduction business was rapidly expanding, as was his research into early American antiques, and many new speaking engagements were coming his way. Nutting needed a reliable person to take over many of his daily office duties and Donnelly seemed to fit the bill. Nutting hired him on the spot.

So in 1925 Ernest John Donnelly began working for Nutting and, as he learned the ropes of his business, he gained the confidence of Wallace Nutting. And as it turned out, in addition to being skilled in bookkeeping and office management skills, Donnelly was a skilled artist as well. It's unknown whether Nutting or Donnelly first suggested the idea but by 1927 Nutting decided to market a series of silhouettes drawn by Ernest John Donnelly. These silhouettes seemed to be a perfect business proposal because not only were silhouettes becoming extremely popular with the American public, they could be machine-produced without the added labor expense associated with hand-coloring photographs.

The silhouette production process was fairly simple. Ernest John Donnelly would draw the original silhouette in pen and ink. Once approved by Wallace Nutting, Donnelly's original pen & ink drawing would then be machine reproduced, with literally several thousand of each silhouette being printed. To further keep costs down these silhouettes were only framed as they were sold to the public or through their dealers. Hence, literally thousands of silhouettes remained unframed in inventory until finally sold.

Distribution of the Wallace Nutting silhouettes started in 1927 and soon Wallace Nutting was marketing more than 60 different silhouettes which came in 4 distinct categories.

1. Women Silhouettes: These are the most common type of silhouettes and typically involve one woman in a garden or household setting. We are aware of at least 36 different Woman silhouettes and there may even be more. Common Woman silhouettes typically sell for $25-$50 each. Rarer ones can sometimes bring $50-$150 or more, especially from a serious collector trying the complete a collection.

Sizes: Wallace Nutting Women silhouettes came in 3 distinct sizes. The most common is the small format 3.75x4.25" size. Large format 7x8" silhouettes were the 2nd most common size, while medium format 5x5" silhouettes were the least common size. Although other silhouette sizes are sometimes found, these were typically one of the three primary sizes cut down to fit smaller frames. Women silhouettes were typically framed in a black wooden frame, usually square or rectangular, but sometimes in round or oval frames.

Signatures and Markings: Woman silhouettes are typically marked in three ways. Some carry an "EJD" in a circle, some are marked with a "(c)OWN", and some carry both markings. All Woman silhouettes carried one of these three markings, unless it was inadvertently cropped in order fit it into a smaller frame.

2. Famous Couple Silhouettes: There are fewer Famous Couple silhouettes than Women silhouettes and they were...
Silhouettes...
Continued from page 5...
typically sold in pairs, although many
couples have become separated over the
together. We are aware of at least 8 different
couples, including Abraham & Mary Todd
Lincoln, George and Martha Washington,
John Alden & Priscilla, James & Dolly
Madison, Josiah & Harriet, Lord Byron &
Hope, Juel & Prudence, Thomas & Jane,
and there may even be more. Famous
Couple silhouettes typically sell for $100-
$200 per pair, with the rarest ones bring-
ing top dol-
Sizes: Fa-
mous Cou-
measuring
approximately 2.5x3.25" and the lar-
gest format measuring approximately 4x5".
Markings:
Many Fa-
amous Couple
silhouettes
are marked
with round
paper la-

cents are unmarked.
3. Cards and Calendars: This category
represents a catch-all category. Silhou-
ette Calendars are the rarest because so
many were thrown away after the year-
end. Greeting Cards and Mother's Day
Cards are
usually un-
framed and
blank ins-
side where
a message
could be
written.
Unsigned,
unused
cards are
more com-
mon than
signed
cards hav-
ing a hand
written message. In 1927 a
silhouette-style card titled "A Somerset
Highway" was issued. Drawn by Don-
nelly, this as no doubt a result on
Nutting's 1925 trip to England and
Ireland. The

The Nutting's 1939 Christmas Card

Foster Brothers Silhouettes

can bring anywhere
from $25-$50 un-
signed to $75-$150+
if signed by Wallace
Nutting himself.
4. Foster Brothers
Silhouettes Sold By
Wallace Nutting:
App-
arently during the
1930's Wallace Nut-
ing sold a limited as-
sortment of silhouettes
that were made by
Foster Brothers of
Boston, Mass. There is some speculation
whether these silhouettes were originally
drawn by Ernest John Donnelly, for
Foster Brothers, with Nutting's approval, but
I'm unclear whether this has been defini-
tively proven. Few people really under-
stand what these are and they generally
bring in the area of
$2.50-$10.00 each.
The best and rarest
silhouette finds of all
are those that come
framed in a Wallace
Nutting Curley Maple
Treenware frame.
Wallace Nutting's
1930 Furniture Sales-
man's Catalog, the
Wallace Nutting Gen-
eral Catalog, Supreme
Edition, pictures more
than 500 different fur-
niture styles that Nutting was reproduc-
ing and selling in 1930. Included in this
catalog are three different styles of curly
ma ple
frames, #1: 3
5/8"; #2: 4
3/4"; and #3:
5 5/8". Al-
though rarely
found, the
frame is actu-
ally worth far
more than the
silhouette and
can command
anywhere
from $75-
$200 each.
And a very
few framed
silhouettes even include an original Wal-

Donnelly's "A Somerset Highway"

Foster Brothers Silhouettes
fake Wallace Nutting silhouettes. Up to now, it hasn't been a major problem and relatively few fakes have appeared on the market. Yet these are so easy to reproduce, even on a common duplicating or copy machine, that I'm amazed that more silhouettes havent yet appeared. Original Nutting silhouettes have a glossy sheen and are often, but not always, darker around the edges from age. Beware of silhouettes that appear flat in color and depth and always ask yourself "Could this have been reproduced on a copier?". Your best defense is to only buy from knowledgeable dealers who guarantee what they sell.

And finally, let me comment on a very questionable silhouette that has appeared on the Internet several times. This silhouette is titled "Mr. & Mrs. Sambo" and carries a full script "Wallace Nutting" signature marking. I believe this to be a fake for three reasons:

1) Wallace Nutting was a Congregational Minister and this caricature figure was unlike anything else he ever did. Why this silhouette is so different than all others that he approved and released?

2) None of Nutting's other 60+ silhouettes carries a full signature. Why is this the only one with a full script signature?

3) We never saw this silhouette appear in 25+ years of collecting...until E-Bay came into the picture. You have to ask yourself...why?

Anyway, with 60+ Wallace Nutting silhouettes available to collect, this can be a fun and challenging area for collectors.

Key Points and Representative Auction Prices on Page 8...

See You There!!!
KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

* Most Wallace Nutting silhouettes date circa 1927
* Woman silhouettes are signed in three different ways; Famous Couple silhouettes usually have a paper label or are unmarked.
* Some silhouettes are much rarer than others and command a higher price
* As a rule of thumb, Famous Couple silhouettes are rarer than Woman silhouettes
* More silhouettes will be found in newer frames rather than original frames
* There are nearly 60 different silhouettes available to collect
* Silhouettes in Treenware Frames are the most desirable Wallace Nutting silhouettes of all.
* Beware...Wallace Nutting silhouettes easy to fake and reproduce

REPRESENTATIVE AUCTION PRICES

To help you to better stay in touch with current Auction Prices in the early 20th c. Hand-Colored Photography and Print Market, here is a representative sampling of some actual Auction Prices realized in our November Auction which was Hartford CT and our December Auction in Doylestown PA. After receiving numerous requests for this service we will try to include such prices in most future column. All prices include the 10% Buyer’s Premium.

Bessie Pease Gutmann - The Butterfly - $132
William Henry Chandler - Landscape Pastel - $145
David Davidson - The Red Parasol - $210
F Jay Haynes - Falls, Yellowstone Park - $77
Fred Thompson - Untitled Sailing Schooner - $166
Sawyer - Along the Hudson - $110
Harrison Fisher - January 1911 Cosmopolitan Cover - $28
Maxfield Parrish - Wild Geese - $200
R Atkinson Fox - Sunset Dreams - $66
Wallace Nutting - An Eventful Journey - $910
Wallace Nutting Furniture - #408 Windsor Arm Chair - $825

Michael Ivankovich is a collector, author, dealer and auctioneer specializing in early 20th century hand-colored photography and prints. His Auction Company conducts 3-4 Live Catalog Auctions per year in this field. E-Mail questions or inquiries can be directed to Michael at: ivankovich@wnutting.com or you can write to: P.O. Box 1536, Doylestown, PA 18901. If you would like a reply, you must include a self-address-stamped envelope. You can learn about his next live Catalog Auction at: www.wnutting.com/upcoming.htm
Secretary...  
Continued from page 4...
from Ken Lacasse in Massachusetts, and I flew him down to look at it."

Sharon and Ken Lacasse of West Barnstable are ardent collectors of Nutting furniture and have been members of the Wallace Nutting Collectors Club for over ten years. Fellow members of the club are regularly invited to their home to view their furniture collection.

Soon after their visit, Richardson’s auction was posted on the Wallace Nutting Center Website. The Nutting secretary, a dumbwaiter, and a kneehole desk were the main attractions. The Nutting secretary of the kneehole desk was questioned by the Lacasses and others after closer inspection, and it had extensive damage. It sold for $3,255. The dumbwaiter was deemed genuine and brought $4,305.

“We had a gazillion phone calls about [the secretary], and most wanted to leave bids. I said, ‘Nothing doing,‘” said Richardson. “You had to be there to bid on it.”

“There were a lot of interested bidders, and not just the Nutting specialists. There were regular dealers chasing it too. Four bidders were on it up to the fifteen-to-twenty-thousand-dollar range, then three, then two when it went over thirty thousand.”

On the afternoon of March 2, in the Somerset County Civic Center in Princess Anne, Maryland, the secretary sold to Ken Lacasse for $36,750. Sharon Lacasse was on the phone with her husband. “Kenny quietly watched it go up to twenty-five thousand dollars within seconds. My heart was beating like a drum. The final bid was Kenny at thirty-five thousand dollars.” That’s an auction record price for a piece of Wallace Nutting furniture.

“That’s the most I’ve ever got for a piece of furniture,” Richardson willingly conceded.

The price may be a bargain. Six years ago Kindel custom copies of six-shell Goddard-Townsend secretaries were retailing for $31,000. Maine cabinetmaker Allan Breed’s custom copy of the $12.1 million Nicholas Brown secretary was a reported $40,000.

Prior sales of No. 733 secretaries at auction include one at Sotheby’s in New York City on January 31, 1993 (miscalculated as a #933) that brought $14,950 and one at Wesceller’s in Washington, D.C., on January 18, 1997 that also brought $14,950. The Wesceller’s example was damaged and missing parts.

“The condition of the secretary is extraordinary,” a still excited Sharon Lacasse said a couple of weeks after the sale. “I swear Mrs. Kolb must’ve dusted it everything. The finish is just perfect. It’s probably just as well it was used without the feet. It didn’t get vacuum cleaner dings and scratches that way.”

The Lacasses have over 40 pieces of Nutting furniture at present. They have no intention of selling the secretary.

“I sell Nutting hand-colored photos to support my furniture habit,” Sharon Lacasse joked. “But seriously, that’s what Wallace Nutting had to do when the Depression struck. The photo business kept him going.”

Wallace Nutting proved prophetic when he wrote in his 1930 catalog, “Shrewd business men have told me that pieces bearing my name will soon be coveted by collectors.”

“You know,” auctioneer Pete Richardson summed up, “this was quite an experience. The Nutting people are probably the most passionate collectors I’ve ever met.”

Our thanks to the Lacasses for permission to copy portions of the correspondence acquired with the secretary, some of which was found in a hidden compartment.

For more information, call Pete Richardson Auction Sales at (410) 546-2425; Web Site (www.prauctions.net).

A Glimpse of Sharon and Kenny Lacasse  
by Sharon Lacasse

Sharon Lacasse Antiques was started in 1989. Our first Michael Ivanovich auction was in this year also and we bought 12 photos, mostly foreign scenes. We bought them because we liked them, not that we knew they were more unusual. Our education in Nutting was just beginning as we set next to Jim Eckert at the auction. He helped us make wise decisions all throughout the day. We were very impressed by the friendly manner of the club members towards each other. Our list of friends has grown immensely over the years and we hope it will continue. We soon found we had accumulated a large collection of Wallace Nutting photos and did not have enough wall space to hang them all. At the time Kenny was doing furniture refinishing as a hobby and he was becoming familiar with a lot of different furniture styles and woods. Wallace Nutting furniture drew his attention due to the fact that it was excellent hand crafted furniture made in the old way. Soon we were selling pictures to buy more Nutting furniture. The Nutting furniture slowly started to replace our other home furnishings and is today most of the furniture in the house.

We both feel that the quality and craftsmanship is hard to find even in other furniture makers of Nutting’s time. Our collection is comprised of more than 40 pieces and growing. Our latest addition is the #733 Goddard Secretary. Made of solid Cuban Mahogany, it is a real eye catcher and only seven of these were made. Some of our other favorites are a #599 Brewster Settee with doweled arms so that the back can flip over to the other side. This was fashioned after the old railway seats that could flip over depending on which side of the track the train was arriving on. This piece only appears in Nutting’s 1927 Furniture, Rugs, and Iron salesman catalog, then in later catalogs #599 is a Dutch three back settee. Interesting enough I presume that the settee was not a big seller and was probably discontinued. Some other favorites are a #916 Curly maple chest of drawers, a #764 Mahogany mirror with gold intalgo bird, a #21 Maple Whirling Candlestand, and a #477 Rocker. Almost every bedroom in the house has a Wallace Nutting bed, some are full size and there are sets of twins. We also have a small collection of Cape Cod photos by Nutting, Thompson, Davidson, Winslow, H. Marshall Gardiner, etc. that we enjoy immensely.

Come by and see us sometime, we always look forward to visiting with Nutting club members. Sharon and Kenny Lacasse may be reached at slacasse@capeweb.net or P.O. Box 170, West Barnstable, MA 02668.

See photos of some of Sharon and Kenny Lacasse’s furniture on page 10.
Leavesley...
Continued from page 3...
and added another dimension to their interest in Nutting and a better appreciation of his photographic skills.

Each year, Ron and Barbara also break out their tent and participate in three major New Jersey outdoor antique shows where they display and sell Nuttings. This, according to Ron, adds still another dimension to their collecting. Not only do they meet great people, but they also look forward to seeing their loyal customers return each season. Then there is the fun of explaining to lookers and potential buyers about Wallace Nutting. "We only deal in quality pictures and our motto is 'If you are not sure you really like the picture, don't buy it. Come back.' It's amazing how many times this approach results in a future sale and a dedicated buyer. We even tell them where there are other dealers with Nuttings so they can compare quality and price.

On the other hand, when Ron and Barbara are out in the field trying to find that gem, they go their separate ways. It's great fun at any show, particularly at Brimfield. For example, when you are competing with your friends seeing who can get to a particular dealer the fastest, or you take the approach of avoiding your competitors by going in a different direction. It's a challenge we have all experienced. Also, when they travel, they always check out the antique stores. They have found pictures in Iowa, Texas, and wherever they go. As an added plus, all their children have Nuttings hanging on the walls so the whole family is involved.

"Thank you Wallace Nutting and all the great people we have met in the Club and for making our lives ever more interesting. There is not a day that we don't look at a Nutting photograph and examine some detail. There is always something new to see."

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Newsletter Articles Needed

This is your newsletter and we need your help. Please send us anything that you would like to see published in an upcoming newsletter. Articles you write or find in a magazine or newspaper, auction results, and photographs are all needed and appreciated!

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Wallace Nutting Collectors Club
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Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Sharon and Kenny Lacasse are the proud owners of this Nutting #599 Brewster Settee.

This Nutting #916 Curly Maple Chest also adorns the Lacasse home.
You are invited to join the

WALLACE NUTTING
COLLECTORS CLUB

The WALLACE NUTTING COLLECTORS CLUB started in 1973 and today has grown to more than 300 members throughout the United States and Canada. Its objective is to help members learn more about Wallace Nutting, The Man and His Works, and is your best way to keep in touch with other Nutting collectors, dealers, events and special information that will be of interest to you as a Wallace Nutting collector.

The $20.00 annual dues include:

- 1 Year Membership in the WNCC.
- 2 semi-annual Club Newsletters... in an all-new and enlarged format
- A copy of the complete WNCC Membership list, which includes the name and address of each club member!
- Ability to attend the annual WNCC Convention
- You’ll periodically receive mailings from club members who are actively buying and selling Wallace Nutting items.
- You will also automatically receive information on upcoming Wallace

The Wallace Nutting Collectors Club is a non-profit organization. The club is self sustaining and all monies collected from dues will be used for club expenses. All persons involved in club activities are working on a voluntary basis and without monetary compensation.

JOIN TODAY!!!

Wallace Nutting Collectors Club
Membership Form

Please accept my Membership into the Wallace Nutting Collectors Club for the 7/02-7/03 year. The $20.00 annual dues include either one or two individuals within the household.

Name(s)

Address

City _______________ State _______________ Zip _______________

E-Mail Address ______________________________ Include on Membership List: [ ] Yes [ ] No

Phone __________________________ (will not be included on the membership list)

Please make checks payable to “Wallace Nutting Collectors Club” and return to:

Pam & Bob Franscella * 23 Newstar Ridge Road * Sparta, NJ 07871 * (973) 726-9736
WALLACE NUTTING COLLECTORS CLUB CONVENTION 2002
Friday, June 21, 2002 & Saturday, June 22, 2002

WHERE:  Best Western Inn & Conference Center
         2170 South Road, Route 9
         Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

         Telephone: 845-462-4600
         Fax: 845-462-3228

Rooms blocked for the Wallace Nutting Convention are $99.95 plus tax. Please reference the convention so the club receives credit for your room nights and you receive the negotiated convention rate. The room rate is valid through May 31, 2002.

Get your room now!

AGENDA

Friday, June 21, 2002
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Wallace Nutting Auction Preview

3:00 p.m. – approx. 9:30 p.m.  Wallace Nutting Auction Conducted by: Susan & Michael Ivankovich

Hospitality Suite  Open during the Auction

Saturday, June 22, 2002
6:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m.  Setup for registered tables*

7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  Buy, Sell, Trade Displays

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  Annual Meeting

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  Presentation by: Marianne Berger Woods
         “Nutting and the Colonial Revival: A Movement, An Obsession or Evangelization”

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  Presentation by: Rick Griffin
         “Charles Nathaniel Vilas”

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.  Presentation by: Linda Palmer
         “Mohonk – a slide presentation”

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  Jim Eckert – Show & Tell - Bring a treasure, a story or a request. Pictures of Mohonk would be appreciated to share with the group.

12:00 p.m.  Adjourn

Lunch  On your own unless pre-registered for the Mohonk lunch and guided tour

Afternoon
         Visit Mohonk (on your own) - Directions and information will be available

7:00 p.m.  Dinner/Special Guest Entertainer

9:00 p.m. – ?  Hospitality Suite

*Contact Jim Eckert at 309-723-4241 or anchorsb@ntco.com for table registration. Cost per table is $15.00. Doors will be locked until 7:00 a.m. No buying before doors open - including exhibitors.