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Decoy Dealings

First-ever Copley Fine Art Auction in New York City a resounding success.

The Copley Fine Art Auctions first-ever New York sale, held January 17 at St. Ignatius Loyola on the Upper East Side, got off to a resounding start with high sales in both the fine art and decoy lots. The auction did over \$1.5 million in sales, including several high prices for rare and hard to find decoys.


"The preview hit its crescendo on Saturday evening with over 450 guests in attendance for a special Scotch and Smoked Salmon Cocktail Preview," says Copley Chairman Stephen B. O'Brien Jr. "We flew in 20 sides of salmon

from New Brunswick because we wanted to create a festive atmosphere, since one of my favorite things on earth is coming in after a long day on the river, sitting by the fire among friends, and sharing the tales of the day. We had people traveling in from all parts of the country, so we wanted to do something special."

The top lot for the day was a Canada goose by John Tax (1894-1967). "This rare, hollow cedar decoy by the famous Minnesota maker is one of only six known feeding stick-up Canada goose decoys ever created by Tax,"

says O'Brien. "The goose sold for \$115,000, soaring well above its \$40/60,000 estimate and setting a new record for Tax."

The previous high was \$100,625 set in 2005.

Following close behind this record-breaking sale was a pair of goldeneyes by A. Elmer Crowell (1862-1952). They were from the historic Crowell decoy rig ordered by John Ware Willard, the grandson of the famous Colonial Massachusetts clockmaker Simon Willard. The pair sold for \$109,250, well above its \$40/60,000 estimate. 



John Tax, Feeding Canada Goose
Estimate: \$40/60,000 SOLD: \$115,000



Ogden M. Pleissner, *The Orchard Cover*, watercolor on paper, 17 x 28"
 Estimate: \$40/60,000 **SOLD: \$46,000**



A. Elmer Crowell, Hudsonian Curlew
 Estimate: \$60/90,000 **SOLD: \$74,750**



A. Elmer Crowell, Pair of Goldeneyes
 Estimate: \$40/60,000 **SOLD: \$109,250**