

The Auctions

by Lita Solis-Cohen

Copley Fine Art Auctions

The auctions begin on Monday, January 21 at 11 a.m. with the Copley Fine Art Auctions sale of decoys and sporting art. The Copley preview continues from 8 to 10:30 a.m. on sale day. Fresh to market is a boldly carved eider drake decoy by Augustus Aaron Wilson (1864-1950), one of the finest examples of Maine carving by the region's premier maker, with its original paint and an old dry surface. Pictured in Ricco and Maresca's *American Vernacular*, this sea duck will appeal to collectors of folk art as well as decoy collectors. It is estimated at \$150,000/200,000.

A bluebill drake in a turned position by Ira D. Hudson (1873-1949), a rare form and in original paint, not at auction since 1980, is estimated at \$50,000/70,000. Decoys by Harry V. Shourds, A.E. Crowell, and the Ward brothers are among the decoys and decoratives illustrated in the catalog. A salesman sample robin snipe from the Mason Decoy Factory carries an \$18,000/24,000 estimate.

Sporting pictures will be offered during the first part of the sale. *October Hunting*, a large oil painting by Philip R. Goodwin (1882-1935), the frontispiece in the October 1911 issue of *Scribner's Magazine*, is expected to bring \$125,000/175,000. A classic Ansel Adams (1902-1984) photograph, *Grand Tetons and the Snake River, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, 1942*, has a \$40,000/60,000 estimate. A broad selection of oils and watercolors are expected to bring from \$8000 to \$20,000.



Eider drake decoy by Augustus Aaron Wilson (1864-1950) of Maine, estimated at \$150,000/200,000. Copley Fine Arts photo.



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