

# Hudson House Antiques

BY CASEY UEBELHOR

Markt-ers looking for a unique, highly curated experience in shopping antiques and collectibles will be thrilled to know that Hudson House Antiques is returning to the YMCA for its fifth year at Christkindlmarkt. Husband and wife team, Marsha and Bob Hudson, specialize in authentic antique items. “We stay away from reproductions,” Bob affirms. “I would say 75% of our collection dates prior to 1900.”

Recently, the collecting enthusiasts celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary — an anniversary that in many ways marks their history with antiques. “When I met my wife at a basketball game of all places,” tells Bob, “she had already started collecting.” Back then, Marsha specifically had an eye for antique furniture.

“It didn’t take long for me to get interested,” he says. “My dad was a carpenter, and I had an interest in tools...One thing led to another, and we learned very quickly to feed our own habit.”

These days the couple enjoy collecting antique tools, inkwells and lamps, and those are exactly the items they love to bring to market! “Carpenters’ tools vary, and there’s a wide range,” says Bob. What fits the needs of the cabinet maker, may not suit for coach making, and that fact generates an exciting display at the Hudson House booth. Specialty planes, marquis gages, scribes and chamber plane levels are just a few of the mysterious long-ago-items that Bob describes during a recent interview.

“I kind of specialize in rulers,” he tells, “both boxwood rulers and ivory rulers that fold, and those are really nice pieces.” Many attractive tools are purchased by collectors as decoration. “I try to find pieces that have been made of exotic woods such as rosewood, ebony, as well as the ivory and bone.”

Carpenters’ planes have been used for centuries to smooth wood, and Bob lists

several types — rabbit planes, coach maker’s planes, floor planes, etc. “Primarily I sell to collectors,” he says. “Some of the planes that I have were used back in the 1800s. They were made of very high quality steel then, so a lot of those planes have a lot of life left in them.”

Bob refers to television series that now show craftsmen using old tools and techniques. “I think that’s inspired some of these young guys to go that direction in their own woodworking,” the dealer explains.

An assortment of American and English antique inkwells (crystal, pewter, wooden, etc.) also trim the Hudsons’ booth. “Some are very decorative, very showy,” says Hudson. “I try to find those that still function. Some of the early pewter inkwells actually have a little white porcelain well that actually holds the ink, but I do sell to collectors that mainly want to put them on a desk. These make great accent pieces.”

And the Hudsons offer transferware, some of which is truly Victorian, dating to the mid-1800s. Most transferware is English; some pieces enjoyed American manufacture. The name refers to a process by which engraved copper was used to print paper, and the printings were then pressed (transferred) onto pottery. Resulting patterns were intricate,

scenic and monotoned — blue and white, and brown and white are most common. (Transferware should not be confused with blue willow patterns, which were inspired in the late 1800s by hand-painted designs from China.)

“One of our jobs as dealers is to try to get people interested in things like this,” asserts Bob, who is a retired Jr. High teacher. To that end, he made a practice of bringing one antique tool into his classroom every Monday and explaining the item to his students. “After they’d graduate, they’d come back to me and remind me how impressed they were with the tools...You know, history is very important...That’s what all this is — it’s the past. And it’s survived all these years. Hopefully, it will survive many more in someone’s home,” says the collector.

At Christkindlmarkt, Hudson House An-



tiques is located right next to the Winzerwald Winery booth (stop by for a taste!) and Odin Roasted Nuts in the YMCA building. There are tons of other wonders to see, specially curated by the Hudsons, including antique game pieces in bone, ebony and ivory.

Bob and Marsha can’t wait to share their love of collectibles with this year’s markt-ers! “We have new merchandise,” tells Bob. “We’ve just been on a couple buying trips to New England, and we’re hoping our finds will appeal to someone. We have customers that come by year after year to buy from us!”

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decor

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