

Four estates packed with antiques and collectibles across many categories will be auctioned Feb. 17 in Panama City, Fla.

Antique and collectible items spanning multiple categories from four prominent local estates will be rolled into one important auction on Saturday, February 17.

PANAMA CITY, FLA., UNITED STATES, February 5, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Antique and collectible items spanning multiple categories from four prominent local estates, plus additional merchandise from Panama City's Council on Aging, will all be rolled into one important auction on Saturday, February 17th, by The Specialists of the South, Inc., online and in the firm's Panama City gallery at 544 East 6th Street, at 8 am Central.

The auction will be a feast for the eyes, packed with sterling and silver, vintage dolls, furniture, art, pottery, glassware and more. Previews will be held the week of auction, from 9 am to 4 pm, and on auction day from 7 am until the start of sale at 8. For those unable to attend in person, online bidding will be facilitated by the platforms LiveAuctioneers.com and Invaluable.com.

The four principal estates break out as follows:

- Furniture (some of it antique), china, more than 120 lots of silver, original artwork, lamps, Asian objects and more, consigned by the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, following the death of a longtime volunteer and supporter who bequeathed the items to the Symphony. Money realized from the sale of these items will benefit the Symphony.
- Asian furniture and objects, antique and vintage American furniture, Meerschaum pipes, [Majolica](#), cloisonné, Limoges, 1930s-era china and a spectacular hand-built dollhouse from the living estate of David and Sayre Steere. Mr. Steere was the Commanding Officer of what was then the Coastal Systems Station and Navy Lab in Panama City from 1992 through 1995, as part of a storied 32-year Navy career that began in 1963 at age 17.
- The doll and doll accessory collection of Jean Seaman, all of which was handed down to her by her mother, who began collecting in the 1970s but loved older things in general and was drawn to dolls from the 1940s and earlier. And money was rarely an object. If she saw something she liked, she bought it. All the dolls are dressed in lovely clothing.
- The toy train collection of Leonard "Lucky" Ekman, a former Air Force fighter pilot who got a Lionel



Majolica pottery bird and nest pitcher (est. \$400-\$800).

train set for Christmas in 1946 and a collection was born. All of the trains and related accessories are either Lionel or [Marklin](#), the latter being the German maker so popular with collectors. Ekman was introduced to Marklin while in Germany in 1949.

A few items from the estate of the patron of the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra include a large wooden trunk, probably early 20th century, beautifully carved and very ornate, that was full of fine silver and other items that will be in the auction; gorgeous lamps, including a Moriage-style lamp, 35 inches tall and a cut crystal lamp; a Korg portable electric piano keyboard with bench; and an impressive limited-edition serigraph by [Erte](#), titled Printemps.

The silver is worth expounding upon because it's so nice and there's so much of it. Included are coin silver and sterling silver sets and pieces, to include a 5-piece Canadian silver set by Savage Lyman Company, circa 1868-1879, with teaspoons and tablespoons; and some souvenir spoons.

David Steere's father was a post-World War II Navy captain, and while he was stationed in Japan he and his wife would go off together on shopping junkets. They acquired a taste for exotic and unusual Asian furniture pieces – like the hibachi (or “fire bowl”), an open-topped container used as a heating device. Steere has refinished it more than once. It will be up for bid in the sale.

Other pieces from the Steere estate include a screen / room divider, purchased in Okinawa; a teakwood coffee table with two matching end tables, deep-carved with a religious theme, bought in Taiwan in 1968, made by eight artisans working side-by-side while Steere watched (his cost: \$65); and a Japanese woodblock triptych (artwork divided into three sections, for wall display).

Not all the furniture is Asian. Also up for bid will be a redwood burl coffee table hand-made by genuine hippies in a California commune around 1973, with a unique design and a beautiful polyurethane finish; and 19th century antique dark wood commode, very probably made from oak, round in design



Erte limited edition serigraph titled Printemps (est. \$500-\$1,000).



Two Meerschaum pipes, one showing a bearded man in a turban, the other a resting woman (both est. \$150-\$300).

and purchased by Mrs. Steere's mother while she was living in Maryland.

Also from Mrs. Steere is a Limoges china dinner service for 12, originally purchased in Egypt by her great grandmother in the 1880s; a Majolica pitcher with bird's nest design, from her mother, probably original, dating to the 19th century; two blue cloisonné vases, bought by her mother in China in the 1960s; a post-1925 set of English china, red and white, with six plates, a compote, a pitcher and a jar with lid, in the Dianthus pattern; a mink coat; quilts; a kimono; a temple rubbing; and a pair of coverlets (or blankets).

There are two Meerschaum pipes – one each from Mr. and Mrs. Steere. One, purchased by Mrs. Steere in Turkey, has the classic design of an old man with a white beard, except his eyes are brown and his beard is streaked in brown, making him rather unusual. The other pipe, from a cousin's grandfather on Mr. Steere's side, is narrow and horizontal and has a graphic of a lady.

Mrs. Steere's grandfather was a doctor in Pennsylvania, and when a craftsman came to him with an ailment and couldn't pay his bill, around 1920, the good doctor accepted instead a gloriously hand-made doll house, 42 inches tall by 3 feet wide, with four rooms, an electrified attic (no longer functional), shoeboxes full of furniture added later, and other accessories.

Jean Seaman's mother got into doll collecting after Jean was grown and out of the house, mainly as a way to start a hobby, one that would remind her of her bucolic childhood in California and Iowa. She loved her dolls (which number more than 60). She'd trade with other doll collectors and go to the area flea markets and antique shops, but she kept no written record of what she had.

As a result, Jean can't recite each doll's history or maker, but The Specialists of the South has done some research and determined the dolls are pre-1940 for the most part, some are German-made and they can all be graded in good to very good condition. The accessories include a doll house made out of fiberboard, dollhouse furniture, and a doll buggy. Interestingly enough, some of the furniture pieces were nicely hand-crafted by an inmate at a correctional facility in Maine.

Nearly every piece in the Lionel and Marklin toy train collection of Leonard "Lucky" Ekman is vintage



Vintage doll, possibly a Handwerk Breather example, with rocker eyes and waggle tongue (est. \$1,200-\$1,500).



Marklin DL800 electric toy train engine, with box (est. \$1,000-\$1,500).

the 1940s and '50s. For both makers, there are train cars and engines, loads of track and related accessories, to include a remarkable group of built-to-scale buildings modeled after the complex his father was assigned to when he was a post quartermaster in Germany in the 1950s.

The Lionel collection features three vintage style cars reminiscent of the 1880's; a locomotive with engine motor and drive wheels, plus locomotive housing; a coal car; a dairy car; some other specialized cars; a transformer; and track. The Marklin group will include an electric crane; two expensive engines, in the original fitted boxes, both of them electric; several cars; and track.

The Specialists of the South, Inc. has been serving the Panama City community for more than 35 years. The company specializes in a broad range of services, to include estate auctions, furniture refurbishing, interior decoration, personal property appraisals and business liquidation services. It has been named the Small Business of the Month by the Bay County Chamber of Commerce.

The Specialists of the South, Inc., is always accepting quality consignments for future sales. To consign an item, estate or collection, you may call them at (850) 785-2577, or you may e-mail them at contact@sospcfl.com. To learn more, or to register for the February 17th auction, log on to either www.SpecialistsoftheSouth.com or www.PanamaCityAuctions.com. Updates are posted often.

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