

# Asian cinnabar bento box grouping finishes at \$23,750 in Nye & Company's auction of items from Wawapek, July 25th-26th

*It didn't come with a sushi roll, ginger salad and miso soup, but a darling cinnabar bento box, offered with a cloisonné teapot and dish, gaveled for \$23,750.*

BLOOMFIELD, NJ, UNITED STATES, August 6, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- BLOOMFIELD, N.J. – It didn't come with a sushi roll, ginger salad and miso soup, but a darling [cinnabar bento box](#), offered together with a cloisonné teapot and dish, gaveled for \$23,750 to take top lot honors at a two-day weekday auction held July 25th and 26th by Nye & Company Auctioneers. The sale was held online and in Nye's gallery, at 20 Beach Street in Bloomfield.



Asian bento box grouping consisting of a cinnabar box, cloisonné teapot and dish (\$23,750).

Headlining the auction were items from the estate home in Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island known as "[Wawapek](#)" – the Queen Anne-style residence of the de Forests, a family so deeply rooted in New York history it dates back 300 years to the days of the early Huguenot settlers in Manhattan. The cinnabar bento box grouping turned out to be the centerpiece lot of the estate.

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*John Nye*

“The de Forest collection brought out A-list members of the trade and huge numbers of people for the preview,” said John Nye of Nye & Company Auctioneers. “The galleries were set up like museum showrooms. There was spirited international bidding, record numbers of online bidders and solid in-room attendance.” By the time it was over, the sale had grossed more than \$500,000.

Following are additional highlights from the auction. Internet bidding was facilitated by LiveAuctioneers.com and Invaluable.com. Phone and absentee bids were also

accepted. All prices quoted here include the buyer's premium.

A mid-century modern black leather crescent rocker designed by [Wendell Castle](#) (1932-2018), an American furniture artist credited with being the father of the art furniture movement, brought \$17,500; and a whimsical and colorful Empire painted bedstead, crafted in New England circa 1820-1840, finished at \$12,500.

Native American objects were a hit with collectors. A Mexican faience jar (Puebla, circa 1700), in a bold blue conventional color with a bird decoration in the Spanish manner, 10 ½ inches tall, coasted to \$20,000; while a Southwest Indian small-neck coil basket, made circa 1900 with a faded geometric design and a tight weave, plus an old attribution note inside, realized \$15,000.

A handsome Chinese zitan painter's table, 33 inches tall by 66 inches long, was a star lot of the Asian category, selling for \$8,125. Also, two Chinese carved stone figural sculptures depicting women and foo dogs, circa 18th or 19th century, each 29 ½ inches tall, sold as one lot for \$5,000.

An American Queen Anne turned gumwood rush seat daybed, made in the first half of the 18th century, breezed to \$10,000. Also, a gorgeous 19th century Henry Gautschi & Son music box on a stand, including nine bells with butterfly strikes and nine musical cylinders, finished at \$8,125.

A pen and ink wash figural rendering of heavenly humans, putti and a winged horse, signed by Giulio Romano (It., 1499-1546), measuring 8 ¾ inches by 7 inches and matted in a nice frame, knocked down for \$9,375. Also, a stately George III mahogany dual barometer-thermometer, beautifully crafted in the late 18th century and housed in a 44-inch-tall wood case, hit \$5,000.

"Wawapek" is a Gilded Age mansion built in 1897 and occupied by the de Forest family up until this year. Most items in the auction were from the attic and cellar, including yachting trophies, Native American pots and baskets, American glass, and European and Mexican pottery (some of it exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where Robert de Forest had served as president).

Also from the de Forest estate were numerous period furniture pieces (much of it New York in origin), steamer trunks (to include examples by Louis Vuitton, Goyard and others), and even a rare and simple pine box that Tiffany & Company used as a shipping crate that bore their label.



Black leather crescent rocker designed by Wendell Castle (Am., 1932-2018) (\$17,500).



Southwestern Indian small-neck coil basket, circa 1900, with faded geometric design (\$15,000).

An aside: the de Forests were close friends with Louis C. Tiffany and called him "Uncle Louis".

"Much of the de Forests' collection was stashed away in 'Wawapek' and showed condition that was commensurate with being forgotten in the attic," Mr. Nye said, "but regardless, these items were a trove rich in family lore and New York's past. Robert de Forest, who built the home, was a major philanthropist and civic leader in New York City. Bidders were literally buying history."

John Nye had a long and fruitful career at Sotheby's before he and his wife, Kathleen, acquired Dawson's in 2003 and started Dawson & Nye. With the move to Bloomfield seven years later, they renamed the business to Nye & Company (Auctioneers, Appraisers, Antiques). The firm is nationwide, but the vast bulk of the business comes from trusts and estates in the tri-state area.

For more information about Nye & Company Auctioneers, visit [www.nyeandcompany.com](http://www.nyeandcompany.com).

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Whimsical and colorful Empire painted bedstead, crafted in New England circa 1820-1840 (\$12,500).



Mexican faience jar (Puebla, circa 1700), in bold blue with a bird decoration (\$20,000).

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