Rare Corkscrews Come In Many Shapes

Collectible corkscrews are many and varied. In fact, a Romanian corkscrew museum has over 25,000 different corkscrews, the largest collection in the world. Most corkscrew users are familiar with simple common straight pull "T" types but dread to use them on frequently used modern day plastic and composite corks.

There are three broad variations of the simple straight pull "T" corkscrew.

Mechanicals
These corkscrews incorporate a lever or other form of mechanical advantage, requiring less effort to draw the cork. Mechanical designs mainly trace back to the golden age of industrial invention between 1850 and World War I. In the most recent online CollectorsCorkscrews.com

What’s In Your Attic?
By Deirdre Pook Magarelli

Every year, the crew of appraisers and movers at Pook & Pook Inc. goes in and out of hundreds of houses. Crew members have cleaned out houses filled with cats, been met by consignors in the buff, and even cataloged the contents of one house where the body still had not been found. After decades in the business, very little surprises the crew, until recently.

Several weeks ago, movers were out at a little nondescript home in Berks County to pack up a few boxes of material for one of our upcoming online-only decorative arts auctions. This wasn’t a lavish estate flush with period antiques and art. It was just a house. While there, one of the appraisers, James Pook, noticed a tin in the attic he thought looked kind of unusual, so he put it on the truck just before leaving. Once back at the gallery, the movers unpacked the truck, inventoried everything, and went home.

A week or so later, James was cataloging the material from that pickup and noticed the tin he had grabbed wasn’t in great condition and not really worth anything. He also noticed, however, that the container felt heavier than it should, so he popped the top to peek inside.

Inside, he found a bunch of moldy old yarn. He started to close the tin back up with the intention of just tossing it when something made him pause. He opened it back up and pulled out the yarn. Under the layer of yarn and thread he found the rest of the tin was filled with silver certificates, silver dollars, and bundles of pristine bills. The entire staff made guesses at the value. Some said $20,000, while some guessed as high as $100,000.

The heir to the estate was immediately called, and we set up a time to drop off the find. Shortly after returning the cash, the happy consignor called to thank us and to report the total was over $150,000.
Treasures In Your Attic?

Freeman's To Provide Verbal Auction Estimates At Winterthur's "Treasures Revealed" Appraisal Day

Get expert valuations for your antiques, jewelry, and other heirlooms at "Treasures Revealed," a special appraisal day on Saturday, Nov. 4, at Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library. Sponsored by Freeman's, "Treasures Revealed" will feature experts providing verbal auction estimates for participants' valuables.

The specialists will include Alastair Nichol, a regular on PBS's "Antiques Roadshow." Specialties include fine art, silver, jewelry, watches, rare books, militaria, decorative arts, manuscripts, photographs, rugs, pop culture, sports memorabilia, and furniture from Asia, America, and Europe. Modern guns, toys, dolls, coins, and stamps are not part of the event, which runs 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Winterthur's Visitor Center.

Participants are limited to two items. The fee for each item is $25 for members, $50 for nonmembers. Photos may be substituted for large items.

Reservations and timed tickets are required. Timed tickets are valid only during the time printed on the ticket. To make a reservation and purchase timed tickets, call 800-448-3883 or visit Winterthur's "Treasures Revealed" ticketing page. Tickets also include access to the garden and galleries.

Before or after the appraisals, enjoy "Treasures on Trial: The Art and Science of Detecting Fakes," a special exhibition in the galleries included with admission. At 2 p.m., enjoy the special lecture, "Collecting Classics: Henry Francis du Pont's Pursuit of New England Masterpieces" with Brock Jobe, professor emeritus at Winterthur. Jobe will explore five New England landmarks from the collection and the diverse paths that brought them to Winterthur.

The cost to attend the lecture is $10 for members, $15 for nonmembers.

Image courtesy of Freeman's.

Grist Mill

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8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This sale is always a great opportunity to find treasures, as many dealers from both the Grist Mill and sister store, Haddon Heights Antiques Center, participate. For vendor information, call Barbara Lind at 609-726-1588 or email theplace@gristmillantiques.com.

Grist Mill will also host a Holiday Open House on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. To learn more, visit www.gristmillantiques.com.