

Auction Action In Mount Kisco, N.Y.

Bidders Are Bedecked, Bedazzled & Bejeweled At Benefit Shop Auction

MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. —The Benefit Shop Foundation Auction (TBS) that took place November 16 featured more than 500 lots, collected from Park Avenue to Pound Ridge, Scarsdale to Stamford, as well as Bedford. A to Z, there was something for everyone at this eclectic charity auction.

Items ranged from the farm and country outdoorsy — including horse saddles, reins and bits, to cast iron, stone statuary, pottery, wicker and bamboo furniture. The exterior inventory breadth was equally rivaled by the range of indoor furnishings, from penthouse sleek to period Georgian antiques, English manor traditional to vintage retro,

martini Modern Hollywood-style to midcentury Scandinavian design.

The top selling lot of the day was a Russian sable fur coat, custom made in 1960 by a well-known Brooklyn furrier for a very good and particular customer, the wife of a New York real estate entrepreneur. The piece enjoyed enthusiastic and competitive bidding on the phone, on the internet and in house. While it was originally pieced and constructed from Russian pelts at its original cost of \$75,000, today it will keep its winning bidder warm for \$8,890.

Beguiling jewelry was another star of the event. A circa 1880s ruby and diamond

brooch was originally purchased by the consignor's great grandmother, who was born and lived in France. The intricately worked pin, shaped like an insect, enjoyed many absentee bids and then active bidding before being shipped to its new home in Florida after realizing \$2,286.

A 1947 Art Deco jukebox, which started life in a New York City Soho restaurant, was then bartered to the consignor's father in exchange for payment of needed restaurant supplies where it fed tunes for 40 years to appreciative revelers in a Manhattan apartment. It then moved north to Greenwich where it was as a party favorite. After crossing the TBS auction block at \$425, it is now in the home of a Bedford resident who promises to play the 1950s rock and roll,

jazz and ragtime vinyl albums still racked inside it.

Other buyers chose to bedeck their rooms for the holidays with Hollywood regency glamour. A pair of crystal prism sputnik sconces that began life in Italy more than 30 years ago will light up a hipster home in Brooklyn, N.Y., after the hammer dropped at \$1,143. A pair Art Deco mirrored commodes, which sold for \$1,905, are headed to a Manhattan townhouse, and a pair of grand mirrored obelisks, taking \$889, will add sparkle to any permanent or holiday setting. Scandinavian and Danish design found new homes as well. The architectural and elegant lines of Mid-century Modern end tables caught a bidder's eye for \$953, while the branded pieces of a newly upholstered Adrian Pearsall lounge chair and ottoman fetched \$1,016. A pair of Bruno Mathsson armchairs with curved wide oak frame and cross hatched leather straps for seat and arms sold for \$1,118.

There was a small comeback for classic antiques. TBS saw respectable winning bids for continental English, American and French furniture

design. A circa mid-1800s English provincial open-front cupboard went to an internet bidder for more than \$1,200. The piece exhibited a beautiful warm patina to the walnut finish and an unusual painted robin's-egg blue interior. A pair of upholstered and caned Louis XVI-style bergeres sold online for \$1,143, and a pair of graceful Louis XVI-style settees went online for \$952.

Bedazzling the holiday table, lucky bidders took home a 53-piece set of Baccarat crystal stemware, complete with finger bowls — a table setting tradition of days gone by — for \$603; a Black Starr & Frost sterling footed water pitcher, circa 1940, for \$477, along with dinner sets of vintage porcelain from Royal Crown Derby to Limoges, Waterford, Staffordshire and Tiffany.

The biggest glitter of the day was in the jewel category of wearables. A never-used vintage Chanel bag was sold to a woman in Saudi Arabia for \$3,175, a never-used vintage Chanel tweed pocketbook achieved \$1,905. And for the Breakfast at Tiffany's-styled fashionista was sold an alligator leather clutch purse for \$478 by Judith Lieber.

Prices reported include the buyer's premium.

There will be more stocking stuffers and holiday gifts at the firm's December 14 auction. For information, 914-864-0707 or www.thebenefitshop.org.



This diamond and ruby bee brooch, circa 1880s, took \$2,286.



A pair of Midcentury Modern-style end tables finished at \$953.



A pair of mirrored two-drawer Judy commodes changed hands at \$1,905.



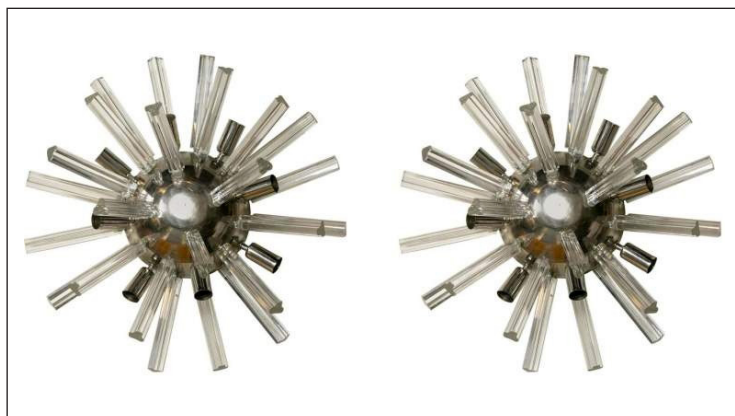
Bidding ended at \$1,143 for a pair of Bergere chairs in the style of Louis XVI.



Topping the day's lots was this vintage Russian sable fur coat selling for \$8,890.



This Black Starr & Frost sterling silver pitcher, circa 1940s, was \$477.



Fetching \$1,143 was this pair of Italian Art Deco "Sputnik" crystal lighting elements.



This Nineteenth Century English provincial open-front cupboard brought more than \$1,200.



Danish Modern lounge chair and stool by Adrian Pearsall were bid to \$1,016.



Never used, this Chanel bag drew a winning bid of \$3,175.