

In Brimfield, I was John, from Baltimore, therefore Baltimorejohn. Out of college in 1978, with a biology major and chemistry minor, I wanted to do something else, and formed Eastern Seaboard Salvage and Wrecking Corp, which morphed in to architectural salvage and old bricks. Realizing that not only would a brick rarely be worth more than a quarter and having my brickyard next to a corner Antique picker, I quickly shifted to Antiques. I went into the Yellow Pages as a buyer, at its height, a \$80,000 a year outlay I used to go to about 3 to 5 houses a day and cleared out houses and estates regularly.

I then decided I wanted to deal in art, inspired by the book *The King of Confessors* by Thomas Hoevig. Jumping into it I started buying paintings. My year living in Europe and being drug to every museum, church in cathedral from London, Spain, France, Italy and Germany must have rubbed off. I bought in my first year, with all the big boys in town, a still life painting by Raphaele Peale. The story about the painting is well known to most people who know me in the business. This experience taught me that my instinct and eye should reign. Subsequently, I owned a painting I identified as by James Peale. Despite facing headwinds from the person who wrote the book on the American Still Life which I used to identify it. I ended up succeeding in getting it proved a painting I had, now titled *Broken Watermelon*, was indeed by James Peale. and sold at Christies for \$155,000.

The point of these stories is that I turn up good art. I have traveled in top circles and for years, I bought art, always searching and acquiring. Because I did not have time to research the art, I stacked it and stored it. In addition, I personally collected art and objects. Much of what I kept was because I did not know what it was. I planned to, upon retirement, to research the art and place it.

I recently decided to look into regaining my Italian citizenship. My father was still a citizen when I was born in Baltimore so I was born Italian. Since I did not want to pay duty on 500 paintings and several trunks of objects and am now offering these items at auction.

While I remember many items and where I got them, many were rediscovered by me with no recollection of where they came from. Some estates I worked with were noteworthy and prominent. They were too numerous and sometimes confidential to mention, though there are some provenances with my descriptions.

All my offerings are being sold without reserve. My research of the items was limited and compressed, and I am sure that there are some hidden treasures here waiting to be discovered.