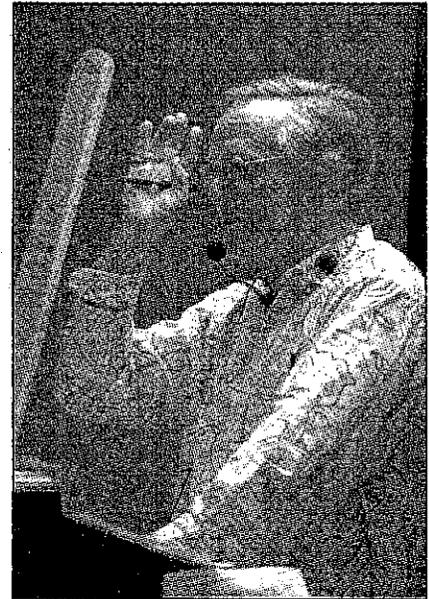


# Lismer painting stays in province

BY MOIRA BAIRD  
The Telegram



KEITH GOSSE/THE TELEGRAM

**Auctioneer Chris O'Dea calls for bids during an auction at the Star of the Sea Hall on Henry Street Thursday.**

- An art book on Christopher Pratt with a serigraph titled Labrador Sea sold for \$1,600
- An 1893 sterling silver bowl, known as a Monteith, fetched \$1,500.
- A photo of the old Newfoundland Hotel taken by Don Lane in 1982 went for \$50;
- A sculpture by Hans Melis sold for \$100.
- An 1853 pen-and-ink sketch of St. John's believed to have been done by Rev. William Grey sold for \$3,200.
- A signed photo of a youthful Queen Mother went for \$225.
- Coal buckets were popular — one went for \$120, the other \$200.

See COLLECTING, page A2

**A**uctioneer Chris O'Dea called it an auction with something for everyone — from a Group of Seven painting to a Danby microwave.

Arthur Lismer's oil painting of a Port de Grave cove sold for \$38,000; the microwave went for \$40.

O'Dea auctioned more than 350 items — paintings, books, china, crystal, tables and chairs — in a steamy Star of the Sea Hall in downtown St. John's Thursday evening.

In all, the event drew 237 registered bidders, with most people bringing a friend or two to the packed hall. They filled every seat in the house, including the furniture for auction, and stood several deep in the aisles.

Almost four hours into the auction, the crowds had thinned and 60 items were still up for bids.

Bidding for the Lismer started at the reserve price of \$21,000.

A handful of people bid on the 1952 painting, but it came down to one local bidder and another on the phone from Montreal.

In the end, the Lismer stayed in Newfoundland.

So did a second one — a 1948 oil on board that O'Dea figures was a study for the later painting.

It fetched \$14,000 — slightly above its \$12,000 reserve.

Among other items that sold:

- An 1841 white and blue plate commemorating the Basilica of St. John the Baptist in the city's centre sold for \$450. It was a late addition to the auction.
- A handmade Grenfell mat depicting a dogsled team went for \$2,500.

## Collecting what you like most fun

Continued from page A1

Viewing of the auction items began 10 a.m. Thursday with hundreds filing through the hall.

All bidders are registered in the computer, assigned a bid number and given cards to wave when bidding.

"When I accept bids from the floor... there's a lady at the computer and she logs in that purchase for bidder No. 7," said O'Dea. "Then if somebody wants to leave partway through the sale... they can pay and go on."

"They all have a bid card and they put their bid card up in the air."

"There's some people in the audience, they're a little more discreet and don't want to be seen to be bidding, and it's really a struggle sometimes... it's just a wink of an eye or something."

A nod of the head can be a little hard to see in a crowded hall.

"I miss some, but I also have a spotter," O'Dea said. "He stands at the front of the hall and he helps me spot bids. The moment he sees a bid, he'll call out so I know right there's a bid which he's recognized."

The spotter's usual call is "yep."

Among those at the daytime viewing were Art Taylor and wife Carol.

Taylor was an appraiser for the Antiques Road Show during its St. John's stop earlier this month. He was also in the antique business for 18 years, and operated Kelly's Island Antiques in C.B.S. before closing up the shop in December.

He collects art nouveau, Mary Grey glass, furniture and china.

"You just come in looking for the one item that'll make your day. I don't collect just one thing anymore. I collect anything I like. That's the most fun."

Taylor says deals can be had at auctions.

"If you're bidding against the dealers, you're generally going to pay at least half what the shop value will be and that's got to be good," he said.

Alan Molloy, whose wife Elizabeth runs Chatsworth Antiques and Collectibles, dispelled one myth about bidding at auctions.

"You don't sneeze and all of a sudden you've just spent an extra \$1,000."

His advice to bidders is set a price range and stick to it.

"That's the smart thing to do."

[mhaird@thetelegram.com](mailto:mhaird@thetelegram.com)