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NEWSLETTER

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Issue 1

This Issue:

Welcome 1

What's It? 1

The Site is BUSY! 1

New Arrivals 1



For a Fine Finish 2



Item of the Month 2



Drop Me a Line 2

Interesting Articles 2

Tip of the Month 2

Welcome

Welcome to the *FIRST EDITION* of the Antiques in Canada Newsletter. My goal is to open up an easy communication link amongst a growing community of antique dealers and collectors in Canada.

My intent is to publish monthly, however, it could be more often. This is a work in progress. These pages will be filled with ideas and stories from all of you ... as well as interesting tidbits I pick up on my travels. I want to hear from you.



is a BUSY Site

Antiques in Canada was launched on May 1, 2005 with approximately 80 shops and 10 events highlighted from Eastern Ontario.

Over the past year, by visiting shops in the Maritimes, BC and Southern Ontario we have more than doubled this number. As a result our site is busy ... already an average of 150 people are visiting it daily with each one looking at approximately 10 different pages ... this adds up to 1500 hits per day. Also, Google has found us ... and therefore, people are finding us.

What's it???



Do you know what this is?? If you do, please send your response to: marjorie@antiquesincanada.com. The correct answer and it's source will be published in the next newsletter. I will also publish the most humorous suggestion. Note: the watch is in the picture to give an idea as to the size of the object.

*Picture courtesy of
Country Store Antiques*

New Arrivals

We have just returned from an exciting tour of Southern Ontario. From this area fifty-four shops have joined the site, the most recent being The Antique Alley from St. Thomas. In July we will be heading back to the Maritimes to pick up where we left off last summer.

**To add your shop to the
Antiques in Canada web site
email me:
marjorie@antiquesincanada.com**

* * **FIRST EDITION** * *

For a Fine Finish on Your Furniture:



Gayle Thomas from "The Bruce Beckons", Wiarton, Ont., has a wonderful way of refinishing woodenware which she shares with everyone. This process uses urethane to give lasting protection and then treats the wood with sandpaper and wax thus producing a soft, waxed finish.

1. Strip paint if necessary - any liquid stripper works - use lots of elbow grease.
2. When completely free of paint or oils sand with #180 sandpaper - must feel smooth to the touch.
3. Vacuum or clean thoroughly with a tack cloth.
4. Stain the desired colour - I use Minwax Brand stains - 'Puritan Pine' colour works on most pieces - it dries immediately - if excess wipe with a clean cloth.
5. Brush on 3 or more coats of Minwax Brand Durathane - allowing it to dry well between coats- more coats are necessary if the wood is quite dry.

6. When completely dry, sand with #400 sandpaper to reduce the gloss and render it smooth to the touch - it will look as if you have ruined it - wipe the dust off with a tack cloth.
7. Paste wax - for all woods use the Minwax brand for dark coloured surfaces.
8. Leave 1/2 hour or more, then buff well with a soft cloth.

The urethane finish gives lasting protection, and with the final #400 sanding and the waxing you don't get the plastic look associated with Durathane. This guide will not agree with many refinishers, but it seems to work for me.

Gayle Thomas

Interesting Web Article

Antiques and the Internet - an article dedicated to the continued education of present and future buyers:
http://www.antiquehome.com/articles1_1.asp

I'd Like to Hear From You ...

1. If you have any antique related questions, send them along. I will publish them and invite readers to contribute answers.
2. Letters to the editor ... always welcome ... I look forward to hearing from you.
3. I would like to make this newsletter available to as broad an audience as possible. Therefore, please advise me if there is anyone you would like added to the mailing list.

Item of the Month

Rare Erard 1858 Piano Painted in Wedgewood Style - From Taylors Antiques in Kelowna.



Erard pianos were the biggest and most admired concert instruments during the early and mid 19th century. Sebastian Erard, also known for manufacturing harps, made his early pianos for Napoleon Bonaparte, and Joseph Haydn.

Tip of the Month

Learn why something is valuable -

While every good dealer and auction house will stand behind the things they sell, you should learn about authenticity because it can help you know what makes a piece "period" and why the object is valuable. Take the time to learn and enjoy the process. If you make smart decisions, you will make smart investments.

Smart buyers ask questions, do their homework

Suzanna H. Cullen

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marjorie@antiquesincanada.com