

Cigarette Lighter & Pocket Watch Go Six Figures At Jones & Horan

Auction Action In Goffstown, N.H.

GOFFSTOWN, N.H. — George and Patty Jones of Jones & Horan conduct two major cataloged sales of watches and related objects annually, as well as online-only sales every two weeks. So, they sell a lot of watches. They've been in the business for more than 35 years and their business model may be unique. It makes bidding as simple as possible for buyers and gives their consignors advantages almost unheard of in this day and age. There are no reserves — everything sells. The buyer pays only what he or she has bid. There are no buyer's premiums, domestic shipping is free and done in-house (with minor exceptions), insurance is free, and there is no sales tax in New Hampshire. On an item selling for \$10,000, the savings to a successful bidder could add up to around \$2,500 to \$3,000. In addition to simplifying the bidding process, the absence of a buyers' premium means that the consignor will receive the full hammer price of the object, less the agreed-upon auction house commission. Using the \$10,000 example, if an auction house charges a 25 percent premium, the buyer will pay \$12,500 but the consignor would receive only \$10,000, less the commission. George Jones is vociferous in his belief that this is the fairest way of doing business for both the buyer and seller.

Bidding is also made simpler by the fact that all descriptions of a watch follow a standardized template. That means that all relevant technical details are presented in the same order for each listing. A standardized definition of condition is clearly spelled out in the catalog, and all descriptions are guaranteed with a full ten-day refund policy. Condition reports are detailed and include the condition of the packaging, when appropriate. In most cases, there will be a minimum of six photos used online for each item, and when helpful, as many as 20 photos may be used. If an interested buyer asks for an additional photo, that photo is added to those already online. YouTube videos show many of the watches working.

On November 1, the firm's sale grossed \$1.27 million. It included jewelry, men's and ladies' wristwatches, pocket watches, military timepieces and chronometers, clocks, related ephemera and more. In this instance, the "and more" category included the top-selling object of the day. It was a solid 18K gold cigarette lighter made by Dunhill in the detailed form of a lighthouse, 18 inches tall and mounted on a 110-pound section of an amethyst geode with large crystals. The gold base of the lighthouse was cut to accommodate the amethyst crystals. The gold alone, weighing 50.88 troy ounce-

es, was worth \$71,000 at the day's market price. When lighted, the top emitted a purplish tinted light to reflect the amethyst base. The lighter had been made in 1985 as part of Dunhill's Christmas collection that year and was priced at \$56,000. For decades it was listed as the world's most expensive cigarette lighter in the *Guinness Book of Records*, and perhaps with this sale, it regained that position. It had most recently been owned by Henry Dorman, chief executive officer of the *National Enquirer*, one of the most widely circulated newspapers in the United States.

The sale began with 22 lots of ladies' jewelry. Bringing \$6,800, the highest priced piece in the selection, was a 1.85-carat diamond and 18K gold engagement ring. Made by Boucheron of Paris, the diamond had a clarity rating of VS-2. It's always interesting to ask an auctioneer if an item in a sale had been a real "discovery." When asked that question, George Jones selected this ring. "It came in a plastic baggie with a bunch of other jewelry, most of which had little value," he recalled. "When I saw this ring

in the bag, it really caught my eye and I wondered is it real? When I looked closely, I saw the Boucheron mark and knew that we had saved a really fine ring." Selling for \$5,200, the second highest price of the ladies' jewelry part of the sale, was a 21-inch-long "monster" 14K gold Figaro chain with a lobster

claw clasp, weighing 86.2dwts.

Having noted the above, it was clearly watches that buyers wanted, and one paid \$100,000 for a Waltham, one-minute repeater with split-seconds chronograph and a 60-minute register in a massive, original 18K gold hunter case. It was cataloged as "an important and



George and Patty Jones have been conducting watch auctions for more than 30 years and began using the internet to conduct sales about seven years ago. Sitting in front of them is the solid gold Dunhill lighter that sold for \$110,000.



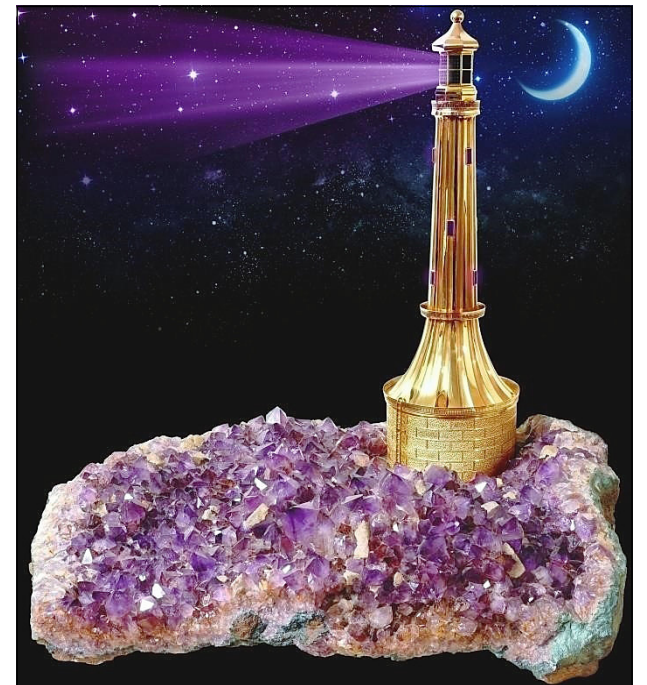
Tyler St Gelais is the firm's wristwatch specialist and truly loves his job. He was trained as a goldsmith at the North Bennet School in Boston and said that his favorite item in the sale was a Longines Flyback Chronograph that sold for \$9,600. "I really like it because it's a very complicated mechanism that does many different things. Those are my favorite kind of watches."



This Waltham one-minute repeater with split-seconds chronograph and a 60-minute register was one of the three known examples and it sold for \$100,000, well over the estimate. Only three total American pocket watches have reached the six-figure mark at auction, Jones & Horan has now sold two of them.



Review and Onsite Photos by
Rick Russack, Contributing Editor
Additional Photos Courtesy
Jones & Horan



The star of the sale was a solid 18K gold cigarette lighter made by Dunhill in the detailed form of a lighthouse. It was 18 inches tall and mounted on a 110-pound section of an amethyst geode with large crystals. When made in 1985, it was priced at \$56,000 and was listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's most expensive cigarette lighter. It may still hold that distinction, having sold for \$110,000.



An Eighteenth Century fusee alarm watch by Gaudron a Paris realized \$6,200. There were two watchmakers by this name working in Paris, and it's possible that this watch may be of an even earlier date.



This was one of the world's first automatic chronographs, a Breitling Chono-Matic Chronograph. It was originally produced for the launch of the Chono-Matic in 1969 and it sold for \$5,000.



The dial of this fusee watch with a mock pendulum is marked "Rich Farmer, London" and the case is marked CW, likely for Cuthbert Weaver or Clay Whitton. Farmer is listed as active in 1683 and before 1732. It reached \$2,600.



The Breitling Co-Pilot chronograph was released in 1965. This particular model was worn by Raquel Welch in the film *Fathom* and also was worn by Jean-Claude Killy during the 1968 Winter Olympics. It finished at \$6,400.



Diana Kelly has been with the company since 2014. She's now chief operating officer, does some of the cataloging and shares auctioning responsibilities. She said her favorite item in the sale was an Eighteenth Century fusee watch in a heavily enameled case, which sold for \$1,700.



Ephemera related to watches included several lots of watch papers. A group of 21 calendar watch papers dating from the 1700s to the Victorian era sold for \$650.



Selling for \$4,600, this Gruen 50th anniversary watch included the original gift box. The catalog informs us that the “Gruen Fiftieth Anniversary Watch was produced in 1924 with a total production of 650. These watches were marketed as ‘The Priceless Possession of a Few’ and catered to a very exclusive clientele being prohibitively expensive with a base cost of \$500 in 1924.”



Watch papers with maps are not common. A group of four hand colored Nineteenth Century examples sold for \$1,300. The lot included a map of the various principalities of Italy pre-unification as well as a detailed map of a five-mile radius around London.



This colorfully enameled fusee movement watch was in a white metal case decorated inside and out. It was made by Joseph Strixner, a watchmaker in Vienna who died in 1760. It brought \$1,700.



Made by Barraud's of London, this eight-day marine chronometer was set in a three-tier brass-bound mahogany box. It earned \$5,400.

exceedingly rare watch,” with the cataloging continuing, “We are aware of the existence of only two examples of the Waltham one-minute repeater with split-seconds chronograph. The single other example we have encountered was sold by Sothebys in 2004, and was formerly a part of the Rockford Time Museum collection and it was in a ‘reconstructed case.’ This example is notable for its superb condition throughout including its very heavy original gold hunting case made by prestigious New York casemaker Jeannot & Shiebler. It has been owned by our consignor since the mid-1970s and is offered here to the marketplace for the first time in more than 40 years.”

Its selling price was well over the \$60,000 estimate. The day after the sale, Diana Kelly, the firm’s chief operating officer and auctioneer, said that the sale of this watch marked only the third time that an American pocket watch had sold at auction for \$100,000 or more “and we also sold one of the other two,” she

said. “That one brought more than \$300,000. It was a Howard, Davis & Dennison pocket watch and we sold it last summer.”

Buyers also responded well to a circa 1979 Rolex Oyster Cosmograph Daytona wristwatch with its original inner and outer boxes as well as the manuals, original punch papers and matching hang tag with serial number. In the mid-1980s, the original owner had the black dial changed for the current silver dial by a Rolex authorized dealer and kept this watch in a safety deposit box since the late 1980s. It sold for \$75,000. Bringing \$22,000 was a Patek Philippe, Genève, five-minute repeater with split-seconds chronograph and 60-minute register, retailed by Jaques & Marcus of New York. It was in a 53mm, heavy 18K rose gold original hunter case. It had a dark blue enamel monogram inlay of initials to the front and the date 1888.

The catalog described it as “an unusual watch with split-seconds chronograph in combination with a five-minute repeat-



As railroad watches are collectible, so are the fraternal rings worn by locomotive engineers and other railroad workers. This 10K gold example belonged to a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. It was decorated with black, red, green and white enamel in a sunburst pattern and sold for \$275. The most expensive ring of the several offered belonged to a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and sold for \$400.

Jones & Horan



An unusual gold watch made by Cartier and apparently intended for nature lovers or hikers, this watch included a sundial to tell time in case the watch stopped and a compass to help its owner find his or her way. It sold for \$8,400, and the catalog entry provides more information on these watches.

ing function rather than the more typically seen minute repeating function, and the presence of a 60-minute register rather than the more typically seen 30-minute register.” Interestingly, when the watch was most recently serviced by Patek Philippe, the consignor was advised “to make sure the watch is fully wound before engaging the chronograph functions and also that due to the age of the piece it should not be carried and run daily.”

The sale included a number of early and unusual watches. Perhaps the most unusual was one that was designed for the adventure lover. It was made by Cartier, and, in case the watch stopped while its owner was hiking or far from home, it included a sundial and compass. In an 18K gold case, a small post could be lifted to create a real sundial, although of a delicate construction. The catalog provided some history: “Cartier workmanship from a bygone era when Cartier’s biggest clients were royals and when decadence was on a different scale.



In addition to Rolex watches bringing good prices, Rolex watch bands do as well. This 6-inch band, or bracelet, would fit Rolex day/date models and sold for \$4,400.



George Jones found this ring in a plastic baggie full of mostly scrap rings that someone had brought in with no knowledge of potential value. Made by Boucheron of Paris, the 1.85-carat diamond and gold engagement ring sold for \$6,800.

Very few sundial compass watches were produced by Cartier; a notable example that belonged to the late Duke of Windsor was sold in 2010 by Sotheby's for £63,650. That was then and this is now — without the noteworthy provenance, this example brought \$8,400.

Erotica has always existed, and watches were no exception. Made by Dubois & Co, a signed 18K gold quarter-hour repeater with Jacquemart automaton included a shuttered erotic scene. Although the catalog did not provide a date, it was likely from the early Nineteenth Century and it sold for \$7,000. A 30-



At \$75,000, the third highest priced item in the sale was a circa 1979 Rolex Oyster Cosmograph Daytona wristwatch with its original inner and outer boxes as well as the manuals, original punch papers and matching hang tag with serial number. It had been kept in a safety deposit box since the late 1980s.

second YouTube video on the catalog page showed the watch working. It was not the only piece of erotica on offer.

The day after the sale, George Jones said, "We were really pleased. The lighthouse was a one-of-a-kind piece and brought what it should have. It will be quite an addition to someone's home. We've now sold two of the three most expensive American pocket watches with the Waltham repeater. That's a nice



As in other areas, watches with erotic movements do well. Probably dating to the early Nineteenth Century and made by Dubois & Co, a signed 18K gold quarter-hour repeater with an automated erotic action sold for \$7,000.

record to have. Our consignors were happy and so were our buyers. The \$1.27 million total reflects the work the whole team put into the sale. And I'm always glad when we can help a consignor realize the fair price of an item they knew nothing about, as we did with the diamond ring."

When Diana Kelly was asked which item surprised her, she quickly said, "It was the last item in the sale, an early fusee

watch made in London, with a single hand that we think dated to the late Eighteenth Century but it may have been earlier. It brought \$6,000 against our estimate of \$1,000."

And when Fred Hansen, one of the watch experts who catalogs for the company, was asked about unexpected surprises, he commented on the early Hamilton pocket watch with a low serial number that sold for \$8,400, twice the estimate.



An Elgin pocket watch in a gold case with Masonic imagery sold for \$5,400. It was one of seven models produced by Elgin for the series "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine." It was enameled with several colorful Egyptian scenes of a woman overlooking the Nile river with pyramids and the Great Sphinx in the background and included two Shriners scimitars.

Hamilton records indicate that it was originally sold January 13, 1894. "It came from a good collection of Hamiltons that we've been selling. It was an early example." The other positive comment he made concerned the fact that each sale brings new customers.

Prices given are hammer as the auction house charges no buyer's premium.

For information, 800-622-8120 or www.jones-horan.com.

Florida's Seminole Tribe Reclaims Ancestors, Artifacts

BY BROOKE BAITINGER, *SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL*
CLEWISTON, FLA. (AP) — For decades, Florida's Seminole Tribe has been fighting to reclaim their ancestors who were stolen from burial sites across the state during the height of colonialism in North America.

Now, thanks to a brand new policy at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, they'll have the chance to bring their ancestors back home.

The conflict stemmed from imprecise labeling and record keeping when the remains and artifacts were exhumed from burial grounds.

Throughout the 1900s, the Smithsonian obtained human remains and archaeological artifacts through donations and acquisitions — including nearly 1,500 Seminole ancestors and tens of thousands of archaeological artifacts that had been exhumed from burial sites across the state, according to the tribe.

In some cases, archaeologists said they weren't sure which native tribe the remains belonged to. They labeled them "culturally unaffiliated."

Those remains ended up on display at the Smithsonian but weren't tied to any specific tribe. And because legislation such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act didn't apply to the Smithsonian when it was passed in 1990, the museum didn't have to set up a framework for native tribes to reclaim their ancestors to bring them back to their rightful resting place, according to the Seminole Tribe.

Facing mounting pressure from many native tribes, including the Seminoles, the Smithsonian changed course and decided to allow the tribes

to reclaim their ancestors, even if archaeologists hadn't said the remains came from a specific tribe.

The victory opens the door for native tribes to begin that process and remedies some of the damage inflicted upon Native American tribes by the legacy of colonialism, said Paul Backhouse, historic preservation officer for the Seminoles.

"It's hugely significant right now for Indian Country in general and for the Seminole tribe in Florida," he said. "It's a huge victory for indigenous rights."

Other native tribes have also been fighting for the change, Backhouse said. The policy needed to be updated to give equal weight to tribal knowledge and oral histories that could identify their ancestors, even when archaeologists could not.

"That's a big issue for Native American tribes who always have known who they belong to, because they're their ancestors," Backhouse said. "Just because there wasn't an object buried with them that indicates they're Seminole doesn't mean they're not ancestors of Seminole and Miccosukee populations that still live in Florida."

For years, Native American groups have been seen as the "other," as objects of examination rather than characters in their own story, Backhouse said.

Many other tribes have fought for the same goal for years, but the Smithsonian turned them away, said Bill Billeck, the museum's head of repatriation. Now that the Seminole Tribe has won, the museum will inform the rejected tribes of the policy change, he said.

The new policy, officially

adopted October 5, affects Native American tribes, Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian organizations.

As for the archaeological artifacts, those could be anything native-made or even trade items from contact with Europeans, Billeck said. Backhouse said it's anything that the ancestors had with them when they died.

That could include pottery, jewelry, hand carved bone tools, arrowheads and wooden effigies.

The Smithsonian has returned about 6,200 ancestors and more than 200,000 artifacts that they know belonged to certain tribes and were so deemed "culturally affiliated" with that tribe. Now, when tribes request to reclaim their ancestors who have been labeled "culturally unaffiliated," Billeck's staff will have to handle it on a case by case basis, he said.

Tina Osceola, a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and associate justice for the tribal court, said the victory had been a long time coming

and was generations overdue.

"I hope that the nation and world will shift their beliefs that our culture and people are only valuable when owned, displayed or studied," she said.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum in Clewiston posted about the victory on Facebook, and shared a photo from when

tribe members visited Washington, DC, to push Congress to change the policy. They shared the social media hashtag related to their efforts: #NoMoreStolenAncestors.

In the Seminole language, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki means a place to learn and a place to remember.

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