



MARY HELEN MCCOY FINE ANTIQUES ACQUIRES NEW PIECES
~ Exceptional Charleston Antiques Gallery Expands Already Impressive Collection ~

CHARLESTON, S.C., Jun. 19, 2008 – Mary Helen McCoy Fine Antiques, one of the nation’s premier sources for fine and unusual, period, 16th- to 19th-century French furniture and decorative arts, recently expanded its already impressive collection with important pieces from the 18th to 19th centuries. Since relocating from its former location in Birmingham, Ala., to Charleston this past March the gallery occupies a newly renovated 3,200 square-foot showroom at 120 King Street, which is more than double the size of its former location.

“We are constantly adding to our collection in an effort to present our customers with the very best offering of fine French antiques, as well as some pieces from other countries that mix well with French antiques,” Mary Helen said. “These new additions to our gallery represent the very finest in 18th and 19th century European craftsmanship and elegance.” They are also showcased on the company’s Web site: www.maryhelenmccoy.com.

French Louis XVI Period Painted Beechwood Fauteuils

This fine pair of French Louis XVI period painted beechwood fauteuils, circa 1770-1780, are stamped “C. Séné” by their maker Claude II Séné. Séné became a master joiner in 1769. The fauteuils are decorated with carvings of flowers and leaves resting on tapering fluted legs.



French Louis XV Period Amaranth Table en Secretaire

An important French amaranth veneer table en secretaire from the Louis XV period, circa 1740-1745, it is stamped “Migeon” by its maker Pierre II Migeon under the back crosspiece. The curved table en secretaire rests on slanted curved legs. The top is fitted with a fine gallery, opening with a leaf revealing six drawers and a compartment. There are two additional drawers on each side.

French Directoire Period Rare Center Table Jardinière

From the Directoire period, this rare French center table jardinière, circa 1795-1800, made of tole with a red lacquer finish and gilded bronze is highlighted by a rare Turkish motif. Bronze heads of lions with handles adorn each side.



French Louis XVI Period Tric Trac Table

This important French Louis XVI period tric trac table of mahogany and mahogany veneer is stamped “Beneman” by its maker Guillaume Beneman, one of the last great cabinetmakers of the 18th century.



Each angle of the table frieze features small rows of gilt bronze. The edge of the removable top is banded with gilt bronze slightly lower on one side, allowing for the top to be used as a writing surface. The top has a replaced leather surface with beautiful gold tooling. The reverse side of the top has green felt used as a playing surface. The well of the table reveals a handsome backgammon game board with inlaid ivory and tinted ivory. The piece features two drawers on opposite sides for storage of the ivory game pieces. The table rests on four tapered legs ending with gilt bronze.

Suite of Six French Charles X Period Fauteuils

This striking suite of six French Charles X period fauteuils, circa 1824-1830, five of which are stamped “J.J. Werner” by their maker Jean-Jacques Werner, are made from ash and burl ash with flat rectangular backs. The backs are ornamented with three Wedgwood biscuit medallions. The back of each arm ends with carved lotus flowers. The front legs have a console shape with back savor-shaped legs. The fauteuils were recently reupholstered in green silk document stripe with custom cording.



French Late Louis XVI Period / Directoire Period Mahogany Commode à Ressaut



A beautiful example of the simple, yet elegant, French Louis XVI / Directoire period, this mahogany commode with a marble top offers a rectangular-shape with slight projection. The piece, circa 1785-1790, features five drawers on three rows and is supported by carved, round “asparagus” fluted legs ending with tapering fluted feet. The gray and white veined marble top is correct for the period. There is a label in the top center drawer which indicates that this commode could have been one of a pair.

French Louis XVI Period Mahogany Gueridon “a Double Plateau”

This French Louis XVI period mahogany gueridon “a double plateau” is attributed to Jean-Henri Riesener, one of the most celebrated ébénistes of late eighteenth-century Paris. The piece, circa 1770-1780, is accented with fine brass fluting and mounts. The “carrara” top has a pierce bronze rail.



French Louis XV Period Marquetry Commode

Stamped “Mondon” by its master craftsman François Mondon on the front left panel, this fine Louis XV period marquetry commode galbée (curved) was crafted between 1730 and 1740. It is made of “bois de violet” (tulipwood) and “bois de rose” (kingwood). The curved front opens with four drawers on three rows. A chiseled and gilded bronze ornamentation of a shell adorns the apron and busts of women embellish each front corner. The feet feature the decoration of turned and spiraling acanthus leaves. The rouge marble is from Flanders.



French 18th Century Soupière en Faïence from Marseille

This rare example of a French 18th-century soupière en faïence (a two-handle, faïence soup tureen with lid), circa 1760-1770, is from Marseille. It offers a rich, finely painted polychrome decoration of flowers and insects on a rocaille form. Red fish and shellfish surmount a domed cover. Two handles with shells and four scroll feet support the bowl.



Two Dutch Baroque Brass Chandeliers

These are two fine examples of 18th-century Dutch Baroque brass chandeliers. Each chandelier features a ring suspending two graduated tiers of six, scrolled candle arms emanating from a double baluster and globular stem with turned finials. The drill holes indicate the chandeliers were previously electrified.

Mary Helen McCoy Fine Antiques exhibits in prominent, national and international fine art and antique fairs, including the upcoming International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show in New York City in October. The firm is one of only 15 dealers in the United States to be a member of the prestigious Syndicat National des Antiquaires (SNA). It is also a member of the esteemed Confédération Internationale des Négociants en Oeuvres d'Art (CINOA) and The Art and Antique Dealers League of America for which Mary Helen serves on the Board of Directors. Mary Helen also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Mary Helen McCoy Fine Antiques is located at 120 King Street in Charleston, S.C., and is open Monday to Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 843-577-6445, fax 843-577-6447, e-mail MHMcAntq@aol.com or visit www.maryhelenmccoy.com

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