



This piece of Canadian history was presented by Ernie Kowalchuk of Ol' Junk in Havelock, Ontario, and had a great story. A prominent decoration on the main gate of the Ben White Raceway in Orlando, Florida until its closing this year, this Running Horse is one of only three known. Benjamin Franklin White (of the Florida Raceway name) was born a few miles from the show location in Whitevale, Ontario, the village also named after the family. Ben White went on to become a legendary sulky driver. The piece itself was made by the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company of Beatrice, New Brunswick, sometime between 1892-1909. It may have been painted white at one time as still had vestiges of paint. I tried to move it to take the photo – and found it heavy at a full 33 lbs., as it was 19 1/2" long by 1 1/2" thick. Rare, and in perfect condition, it was priced at \$6,500. Ernie had a booth full of great iron, many pieces coming from Camden, Maine including an early 19th century grease lamp at \$147; door knockers from the 1800s at \$85; an 18th century hand-forged work light at \$175; and a great rooster weathervane found in LaChute, Quebec for \$7,500. The weathervane consisted of 11 sections, pieced together, originally red paint with the lower panel consisting of an alternating cutout bishop, heart, bishop. The cutout was suggested to be a secret lover's symbol. Who knows?

Authentic advertising items are hot, and Gaetan Girard, the Nostalgia Guy from Ottawa, had signs, door pushes and more. The Stubby Root Beer door push was offered at \$425 – the rarity and condition of this pre-WWII item from Toronto set the price over other door pushes that were \$225 and up. Gaetan is a repeat dealer from last year and had a seriously busy booth.



Please don't send me letters – I'm just covering the show! This Bikini Girl is actually a rubber flask, labeled 1957, her cap being the screw top. It almost sold at \$95 while we were there – the potential buyer was coming back after viewing more of the show. Russ and Marg Brownson from Quietling Collectiques of Peterborough were returning dealers who said they were "doing okay" on the day. They considered the show very well organized this year and felt the promoter had implemented a number of suggestions put forth in October of 2009.



Antique show?
Car boot sale?

Meister Markt was both!

by J. Herbert Bond

First, let me say that the word 'Markt' in the title is not misspelled. It's of German derivation, as is 'Meister'. Together, 'master market,' a challenging opportunity.

Inside the two large buildings at the Markham Fairgrounds was a wide range of antiques and collectibles. Outside at the back, more than a few cars and family vans had trunks and doors open to reveal items more flea market than high-end, yet still collectible – and, in fact, some solid folk art and garden pieces saw the sun there as well.

Promoter Angela Koszuta felt they had improved from last October's event – the first ever Meister Markt offering. She was already looking toward the next show in July, expecting rows of car boot participants – seems the inside dealers like them as well, as they can pick, plus consumers need to go through the main buildings to get to the outdoor area which draws people past their inside antique stands.

I certainly saw items of interest inside. A nice touch came courtesy of The Canadian Military Studies Museum, which displayed uniforms, sabres, documents, and other pieces of militaria, and were happy to share information. Sally Stuart of S. Stuart Antiques in Brooklin, Ontario had a great flower basket door stop, turn of the century, in good paint at \$125, plus The Old Woman tea service consisting of a teapot, creamer and sugar – what made it special was the music-box in the teapot – very reasonably priced at \$125 for the set.

More Than Marbles of Bowmanville was one of the few dealers who brought reference books including Shackleton, Pain, Palardy, Minhinnick and more. Doulton and Dinky toys shared a table at Favorite Ole Things of Madoc, Ontario. The figurine Penny was \$110 and BoPeep was \$130, while a truck and trailer toy commanded more at \$225.

There was not too much formal furniture on the day – some dealers said that was not generally the focus of the consumers drawn to the show – so the 19th century, inlaid lamp table from Arezzo Antiques of Richmond Hill was a

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What great colour! From Dane Rogerson of Millbrook, Ontario came this three-board table, in original paint, with the right air burns on the underside, found in a farmhouse in Maine. Early 1900s, with price on request. He also had great cutlery trays, in original paint starting at \$195 and up, as well as some nice Ontario decoys tagged at \$275. Dane commented that the show in the previous October was not so good for them but he'd seen lots of interest this time around with the potential to have a good show – it was still early!



Hats? Lamps? How about hat lamps! At These Foolish Things, Olwyn Dennison is a 're-designer' as witnessed here. Take a vintage hat, a vintage base and viola – a working one-of-a-kind lamp. Other lamps are seen here as well, all priced at \$85.



A number of original WWI posters, circa 1917, were found in their original mailing tubes, hence the excellent condition. Offered by Karen Brown of Merrie Lea Acres of Deseronto, they ranged from \$499 to \$699. These, along with a circa 1910 original Aladdin Lincoln Drape ruby crystal lamp, came from her great grandfather's estate. The rare Aladdin was priced at \$395 – colour and limited production priced it over another Aladdin seen at the show, which in plain glass was \$65.



Sandra Lumley of At the Barn Antiques & Collectibles of Markham had shelves of graniteware (\$65 average price), pyrex, colourful Fiesta ware, and wicker for the cottage. While taking our photographs, she sold a small school desk for \$115 to a couple whose little girl had taken a shine to it.

Teresa Stewart of Ajax likes this show. At the previous show, she surveyed the crowd, and this time left the sterling silver at the shop, instead bringing silver plate with more modest prices – trays, tea service, place settings and more. A late 1800s bun warmer was on the other side of the booth tagged at \$175. Her plan worked, as Teresa was keen to tell us she was having "not a bad" show.

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pleasant surprise, a good example priced at \$950. De Freitas had a great Victorian oak display case marked for sale at \$900. Peter Frampton Antiques (yeah, I'm sure he gets comments, just like my brother James Bond!) of Brooklin, deal in antiques from 1720 to 1920 but this day they were showing mid-20th century pieces as Frampton figured he needed to hit a price point for this show. "Who doesn't have \$10 or \$15 in their pocket for a great bowl that they can take home and use right away?" asked Peter. He also had contemporary paperweights – great colour and form – selling between \$60 and \$100.

Bob Cooper of Ye Olde Plough, Campbellford, said he did well at last year's show and while he was off to a mediocre start early in the day when we were there, he indicated there was lots of interest. A piece in his booth that caught my eye was a Whippet dog ink well, great colour, great form, great condition and \$175. I meant to go back, but forgot – hey, I was focused on bringing you this story.

I asked Brad Barnes of Hamilton, who was selling marbles and more marbles, about – what else? – marbles. I learned that prices can range from \$1 to \$15,000. And what makes a marble worth \$15,000 at auction? Rarity, onion skin, lobes (dents), and size. Brad didn't have a rare marble on his table, but he did have some nice Victorian carpet balls at \$50 to \$75.

What else? Paper notes and coins were on offer from N & K Coin Shop of Brantford, Ontario. Norma and Ken Preece participated in last year's show and had good sales, so they came again this year. For a promoter, it doesn't get better than that.

I try not to throw around broad generalities. But this time I will – the Meister Markt show, to me, has something for everyone. True collectors chose from a wide assortment of genres, and a range of price-points running into the multiple thousands of dollars. A finely formed kitchen chopper went home with me – not a lot of money, yet with unusual shape, and a great addition to our collection. Similarly, a lovely forged iron candleholder, with a heart-shaped hanger, and 18th century, from Ernie Kowalchuk of Ol' Junk in Havelock, Ontario – who had many pieces of old iron just as good or better. The point is, great old pieces were there, and you just had to walk the show and look. But I also saw young children, pushed in prams by moms looking for toys, or something vintage and modestly priced for themselves. The crowd was truly a mixed bag, befitting the items on offer. And the car boot outside drew a different crowd again.

At a show like this, the fun is in the poking around. Have some fun yourself, as you poke through the variety in our photos. And then poke around the next Meister Markt on July 10.