

A Henry J. Kauffman Sampler of Antiques

Professor Henry J. Kauffman is well-known to most students and antiquarians of Pennsylvania German culture. This busy octogenarian continues to produce books on the arts, crafts, and architecture of southeastern Pennsylvania — especially the Pennsylvania German, or “Pennsylvania Dutch [Deutsch].” A retired industrial arts professor at Millersville University, Professor Kauffman has been a collector, author, and a philanthropist. In 1976, Professor Kauffman presented to the Rock Ford Foundation his splendid collection in the names of Zoe T. Kauffman, his late wife, and Henry J. Kauffman. The extensive collection is displayed in cases and settings designed by the benefactor in the old stone barn, known as the Rock Ford-Kauffman Museum, located near General Edward Hand’s mansion, Rock Ford.

Professor Kauffman was born 1 November 1908 at York, Pennsylvania. As a young industrial arts teacher, he came into possession by inheritance of an ancient Pennsylvania rifle — know also as a “Kentucky rifle.” This and other artifacts required mending, and Henry set about learning how these antiques were made. Moreover, he developed a deep and abiding appreciation for the quality of workmanship practiced by the old Pennsylvania German craftsmen. Henry will tell you that the “proper name” for these early weapons is “Pennsylvania-Kentucky rifles.” The outcome of his study of the gun was a large volume — it has been called a definitive history — titled, *The Pennsylvania-Kentucky Rifle* (1960, reprinted 1978).

Other books that have flowed from the prolific author’s pen included *Pennsylvania Dutch American Folk Art* (1946, reprinted 1965), *Early American Copper, Tin, and Brass* (1950), *Early American Gunsmith, 1650-1850* (1952, reprinted 1965), *Machine Shop and Foundry* (a textbook, 1960), *American Ironware, Wrought and Cast* (1956, reprinted 1978), *The Colonial Silversmith* (1969), *The American Pewterer* (1970), *The American Axe* (1974), *American Fireplaces, Chimneys, and Mantles* (1972), *American Andirons and Other Fireplace Tools* (1974), *The American Farmhouse* (1976), and *Architecture of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country, 1700-1900* (1992). In addition to writing his many books, and illustrating them with photographs he has taken, Professor Kauffman has written (and continues to write) articles on his favorite subjects.

Professor Kauffman graduated from Millersville State Teachers College, and began a career as an industrial arts teacher at Greenwich, Connecticut, and in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. During his summer vacations he studied at Sturbridge Village. When his alma mater needed a teacher to instruct industrial arts students in metals, Henry was chosen. In 1937 he earned a Master of Arts degree at the University of Pennsylvania. Eventually he was promoted to a full professorship — the first member of the Millersville faculty without

a Ph.D. degree to be so recognized. During a sabbatical, Professor Kauffman was a research fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, where he studied pewter, furniture, and guns. Later he went to Europe and studied silversmithing under Baron Erick Fleming, court silversmith to the King of Sweden.

In 1951 Henry designed and had built the handsome fieldstone house along the Millersville Pike. Zoe and Henry were an ideal couple, both deeply interested in the decorative and fine arts, and in antiques. Mrs. Kauffman died in 1965, leaving a much-bereaved helpmate. In 1980 he established a \$2000 annual memorial scholarship at Millersville University for the industrial arts senior who has attained distinctive achievement in metalwork.

Professor Kauffman values quality, and looks for honesty in materials, and their decoration. In this age of plastics, synthetics, and sham, Henry J. Kauffman stands as a beacon of hope for the quality-minded and those who appreciate the work of the artists and mechanics of early America.

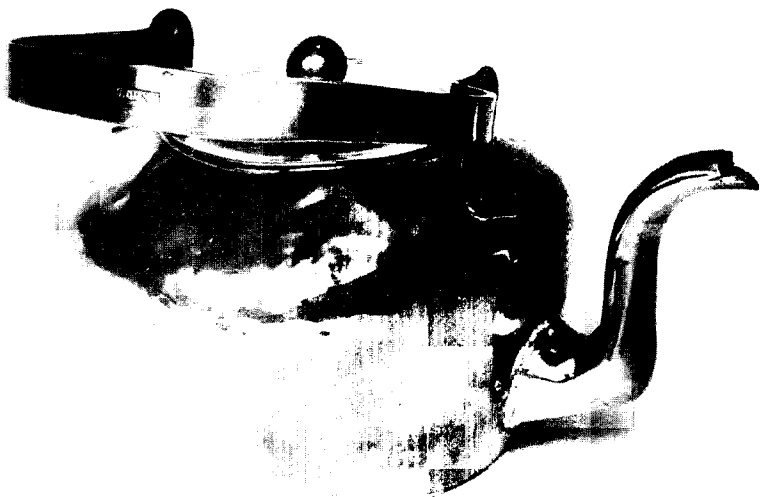
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Pennsylvania Dutch items always attract many high-bidders to public auctions. At a public auction held 21 September 1991 at the Horst Auction Center at Ephrata, Pennsylvania, the following items were a few of the pieces sold:

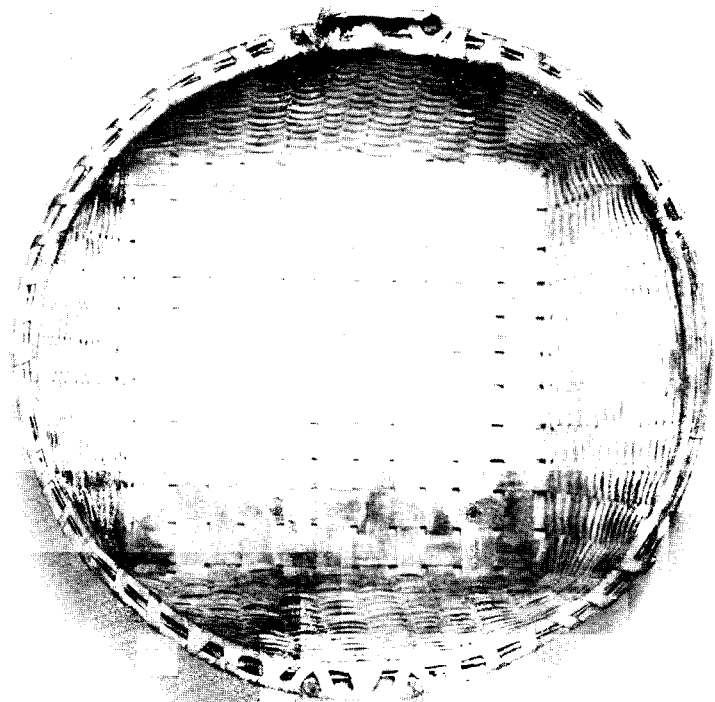
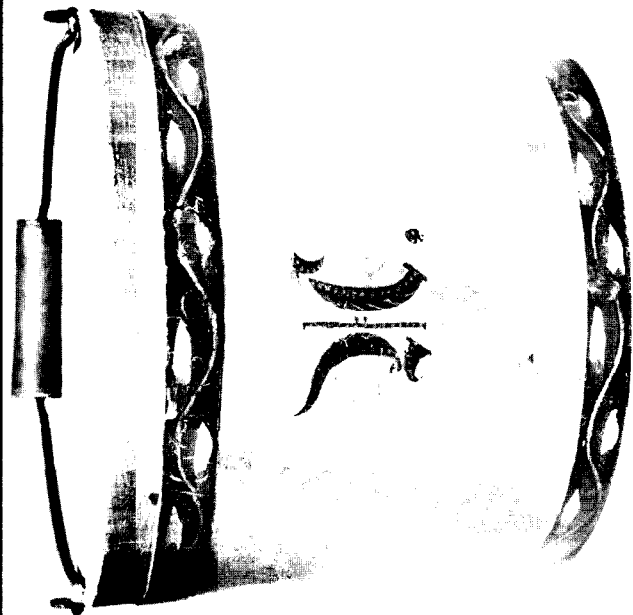
- Gaudy Dutch toddy cup plate, \$1,750
- Painted 18th-century candle stand, \$13,200
- Mahantongo Valley Dutch cupboard, \$10,000
- Hepplewhite bureau, \$3,500
- Grained bucket bench, \$2,900
- 3 Mantel water colors, \$9,900, \$6,100, and \$1,600
- Princess of Brunswick fraktur, dated 1796, \$17,000
- Heinrich Weiss taufschein, dated 1794, \$15,000
- Krebs taufschein, dated 1764, \$5,100
- 1775 taufschein by a Hereford Township artist, \$11,500
- Miniature Weber blanket chest, \$14,200
- Gaudy Dutch coffee pot, \$3,100
- Toleware coffee pot, \$3,400
- Toleware tea caddy, \$1,725
- Chalk rabbit, \$1,800
- Chalk cat, \$1,300
- Lehnware pin cushion, \$3,050
- Lehnware egg cup, \$3,400
- Spatterware master salt, \$2,200
- Spatterware cannon tea pot, \$10,300
- Spatterware thistle cup and saucer, \$4,200
- Spatterware schoolhouse plate, \$3,800
- Spatterware peafowl plate, \$2,550



This beautifully-decorated piece, a saffron cup by Joseph Lehn, was rendered in watercolor by the late Zoe T. Kauffman. Lehn's shop was north of Litz in Elizabeth Township where Hammer Creek Road crosses Clay Road. Lehn's woodenware brings fantastically high prices today. This piece is now in the Rock Ford-Kauffman Museum.

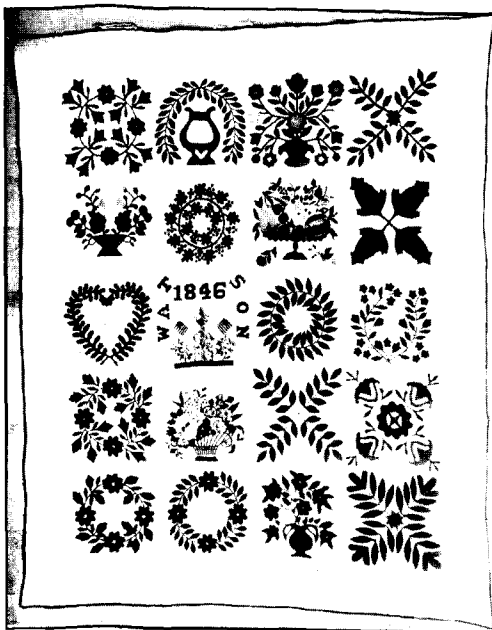


The smooth symmetry of a handcrafted copper tea kettle (top) is indicative of the artistry of the coppersmith's craft. Three graceful objects of pewter (below): Heyne made the dram bottle on the left, and William Will made the tankard; the maker of the sugar bowl is unknown. Joseph Lehn made many kinds and sizes of wooden vessels, from the saffron cup to this great water bucket (top of facing page). This unusual basket (below) has a square bottom and a round top. The maker is unknown.

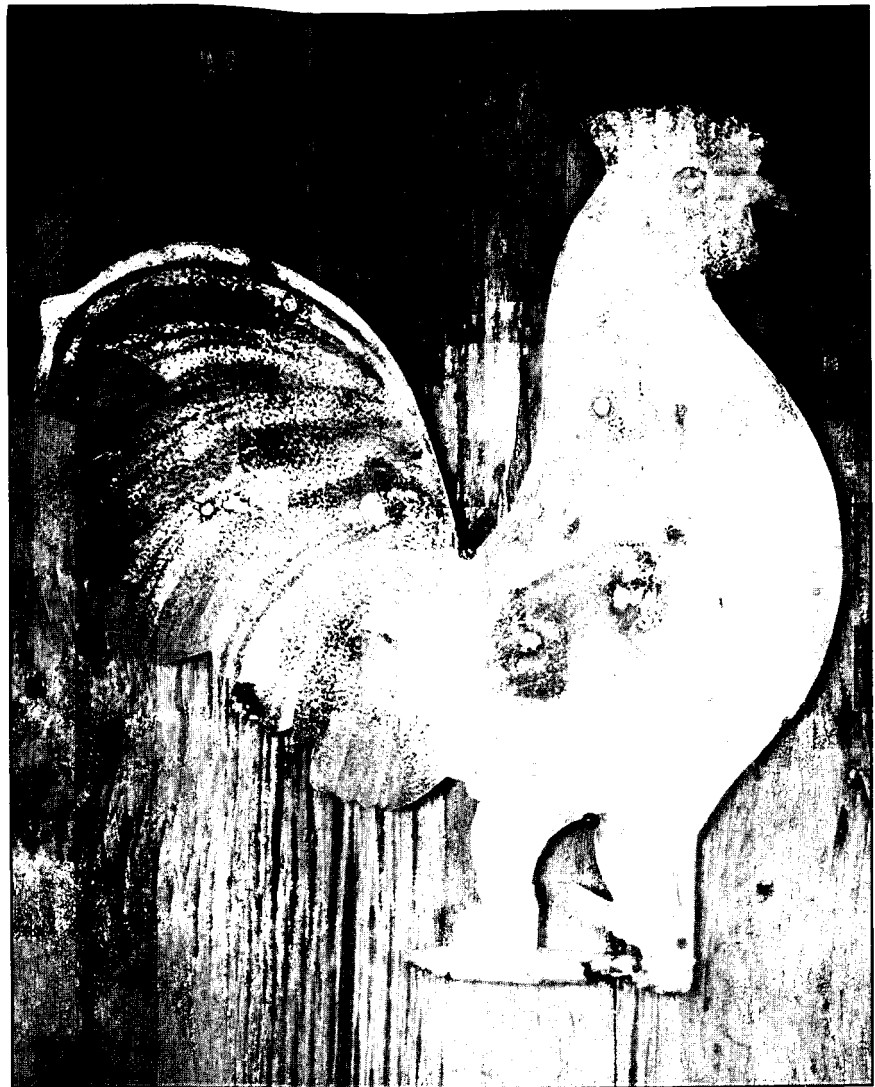




This piece of Stiegel-type glass (top) may have been made by the eccentric and high-living "Baron" Henry William Stiegel of Manheim. The rooster decoration always has been popular. The ceramic fat lamp (bottom left) was made in Lancaster County. Antique ceramic objects from Lancaster County are extremely rare. The tinsmith who made this twelve-inch tall cookie cutter (right) had a great idea!



Two Mennonite ladies sold their rag dolls (top) at an auction at Lititz, Lancaster County. The dolls' cradle is a wooden store box. The names of the dolls were attached to their dresses. Beautiful quilts abound in the Pennsylvania Dutch country, but dated ones are very rare. Frakturs with unicorns are at the top of the folk artist's imagination. This attractive Lancaster County fraktur (bottom) is dated 1791



The weather cock was an important feature found on many 18th and 19th century barns and stables. This sheet iron weather vane was cut out with a cold chisel, and then the edges were filed smooth. Who painted the weather vane is a mystery.

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