

Charles Belt and Colonial Maryland Furniture



Furniture in Maryland, 1740-1940, Weidman, 1984



Southern Furniture 1680-1830; Hurst and Brown, 1997

In her 1984 book, Furniture in Maryland , 1740-1940, author Gregory Weidman attributes a Queen Anne walnut side chair to Maryland, and possibly maker Charles Belt (c.1740-1775) of Prince George's County. Thirteen years later, Southern Furniture 1680-1830 authors Ronald Hurst and Jonathan Prown attributed a nearly identical chair, plausibly from the same set, to Maryland as well, based primarily on its' provenance. They explain "So compelling is the list of Philadelphia workmanship represented by this chair that Philadelphia or Delaware valley attribution would be a matter of course were it not for the fact that the chair belongs to a group of strongly related pieces with histories of ownership in and around Georgetown, Maryland (now within the District of Columbia)". However, while the authors do acknowledge Weidman's possible attribution to Charles Belt as the maker, they cite "Subsequent discoveries about historical ties between other chairs in the group and Georgetown now place the Belt attribution in doubt."

Fast forward sixteen years to September of 2013 when an "Assembled Pair of Maryland Chippendale Carved Walnut Side Chairs" came up for sale at Brunk Auctions in Asheville, North Carolina. The catalogue description listed their provenance as "By Descent in the Waters Family of Maryland". Well attributed examples of Colonial Maryland seating are rare. Virtually all are identified by their adherence to either English design and construction, Philadelphia versions of the same, or as is often the case, an amalgam of the two. The Brunk chairs once again appeared to be quintessential examples of Philadelphia chair making, specifically following the Quaker aesthetic: well constructed, of harmonious proportions, and with noteworthy but simple carving.



Assembled Pair Maryland

Estimate \$2,000-\$3,000

Sep 21, 2013

Sold for \$13,000

BIDDER	BID
COMPETING BID	\$13,000.00
COMPETING BID	\$12,000.00
COMPETING BID	\$11,000.00

[Show Remaining Bid History](#)

[SELL A SIMILAR ITEM](#)

DESCRIPTION

Chippendale Carved Walnut Side Chairs

1760-1780, each with shell-carved crest and pierced splat over slip seat on ball-and-claw feet, one with shell-carved knees, one with plain knees, through-tenon construction, mellow dark brown color, 40-3/4 x 21-1/2 x 19 in., likely made in the same shop, matching original seat blocking, period yellow pine slip seats, both with minor wear at knees and feet, example with shell-carved knees with old breaks and repairs to stiles at joint with crest rail, otherwise excellent condition with and small crack in splat and in crest rail at joint with splat; example with plain knees with old patch and repair to back of crest rail at joint with splat, otherwise good condition. Provenance: By Descent in the Waters Family of Maryland

CONDITION

both with minor wear at knees and feet, example with shell-carved knees with old breaks and repairs to stiles at joint with crest rail, otherwise excellent condition with and small crack in splat and in crest rail at joint with splat; example with plain knees with old patch and repair to back of crest rail at joint with splat, otherwise good condition

www.liveauctioneers.com

Shipping, Payment & Auction Policies



See Policy for Shipping ⓘ



Ships from Asheville, NC, United States

[View Shipping, Payment & Auction Policies](#)



Brunk Auctions

TOP RATED

Asheville, USA

★★★★★ 322 Reviews ▶

12,322 Followers

[ASK A QUESTION](#)

[✓ FOLLOWING AUCTIONEER](#)

The Waters family chairs, while relatively restrained in their execution, are purely Chippendale in style. This, versus their Queen Anne counterparts, whose stylistically later “transitional” crest rails appear at first blush to be the only common denominator ting the four chairs together. Upon further inspection, however, it becomes evident that all four chairs have various aspects in common. From similar, and sometimes identical, profile design, carving, dimensions, construction techniques, primary and secondary woods, and most importantly, the consistency in which all of these aspects are employed in concert, one can draw the conclusion that these chairs, and in fact a significant number of related examples, derive from the same source. Gregory Weidman notes “Several elements of the design are quite distinctive and unlike comparable features of known Philadelphia chairs, particularly the boldly shaped crest rail, the double curve below the vase splat, and the elongated trifold foot. The scratch-beaded crest rail and stiles and the flatly carved scallop shell are seen on other Maryland pre-Federal chairs.”.

There follows a checklist of sorts, compiled of attributes both purely Philadelphia as well as Maryland versions thereof, that serves to confidently differentiate this group of furniture from others. It includes Weidman's original observations, expounding further on some, as well as recent impressions by the author, all the result of careful comparison to other examples potentially originating from this shop. Needless to say, not all chairs from this group have the same style feet and back splats, and by definition, tables certainly don't provide clues such as corner block and slip-seat secondary woods. Occasionally, just one or two common threads, implemented with otherwise different traits, serve to weave together this body of work.

Hurst & Prown rather dismissively mention the trifold feet as being common to Philadelphia. Weidman, on the other hand, points out that it is the "elongated trifold foot.....that is quite distinctive and unlike comparable features of known Philadelphia chairs.". While trifold feet are certainly not rare, and in fact relatively common on Philadelphia and Delaware Valley made Queen Anne chairs, the Weidman observation concerning this Maryland variation is arguably the most salient factor in both separating this group of chairs from its' stylistic Philadelphia origins, as well as attributing their manufacture to a single source.

The concepts of "unique" or "a one-off" are sparingly used in the study of American furniture. And while certainly to be considered, true scholars know not to place too much credence in inlays and/or carving as lone indicators of a piece of furniture's origin. But every now and then, when no evidence to the contrary is available, there really can be established a true signature characteristic associated with a single maker. Such is the case with Weidman's "elongated trifold foot", but its' significant differences must be expounded upon. The central toe is not only longer but much wider than most comparables. Its' bulbous, almost spoon shape slopes dramatically downward, without flattening out, resulting in its' front edge being lower than those of the flanking sides. Below the toes, the conforming front foot edges, usually vertical or tapered slightly inward on most trifold feet, are more dramatically undercut and rounded beneath the central toe, curving toward the inner webbing of the two side toes. If "a picture is worth a thousand words", one might allude to an image of the Proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) to best illustrate the marked difference between this "Maryland" trifold foot and its' Pennsylvania counterparts.



image by the author



www.sciencephoto.com

The execution of the carved “stocking ribs”, in concert with the aforementioned “Probiscus monkey” toed foot, is also essential in differentiating this group of chairs’ from countless others. The central toe always transitions into a vertical rib above that is carved on both sides and terminates about 5 inches from the ground with a carved horizontal inset at the top of the stocking. The two side ribs are executed identically except there is no vertical groove delineating the back of either side rib, instead just continuing into the flush back surface of the leg.



The “boldly shaped crest rail....with flatly carved scallop shell” also appears to be ubiquitous to all chairs associated with this shop, Chippendale or Queen Anne. The accentuated “Cupid’s bow” profile, its’ “upward thrust”, the acutely pointed scrolled ears, the scratch-beaded outer edges, and the five-lobed shell can all occasionally be found in Philadelphia examples. But two aspects of the carved shell are not seen outside this Maryland group. In addition to the aforementioned overall shallow quality of the carving, the shell’s acutely tapered anterior wings are more meticulously carved with perfectly symmetrical concentric arcs. The base of the shell’s hinge lobe forms a convex contour that combines with the two concave bottoms of the ancillary wings to form a perfect double cyma curve, all three points tangent to the splat seam. Even on more closely related Philadelphia examples, the arcs are often little more than simple scratch-beaded curves. While determining shallowness of carving might be somewhat subjective, when in conjunction with the concentric arcs, the combination once again appears to be rare if not unique.



image by the author



www.sothebys.com

Construction-wise, there is really only one thing that stands out beyond the many standard Philadelphia practices employed. All original corner blocks of this group are made of yellow pine, triangular in shape, with rough hewn inner diagonals, and held in place with wrought iron nails. Gregory Weidman describes “The front block consists of two individual blocks: one larger triangular block behind a small rectangular block. The rear blocks are triangular with one canted corner.”. The fact that the corner blocks and knee returns were all reinforced with two rosehead nails, perhaps considered a necessary Quaker concession to expense in pursuance of quality, probably accounts for their high incidence of retention among all chairs from this shop.



images by the author

There are several other common features found on various forms from this shop. The Queen Anne “parrot” splats, whether solid or pierced, are all based on the same “double curve below the vase” template, undoubtedly derived from Pennsylvania examples. All of the standard Chippendale strap-work splats appear to be identical in profile, none with any relief carving. However, the upper crest rail corners are fully carved scrolls only in conjunction with the strap-work splats. Otherwise, more rudimentary flat roundel forms are found on the downward ear facings on all of the Queen Anne examples. The knee returns have either simple Queen Anne spurs or well carved scrolls on the Chippendale versions. When present, the carved knee shells closely follow the five lobed format of their crest rail counterparts, but lack any anterior wings. The more Chippendale characteristic pierced strap-work splat, the fully carved ear scrolls, and the carved knee return scrolls are, so far, always found together. While tempting to include the carved knee shells on this list, the one Waters family chair lacking them precludes this.



The consistency of the exaggerated “suppressed” ball feet on the Chippendale examples shows a perhaps over zealous adherence to their Philadelphia precursors. Also, the less attenuated claws and lack of any actual talons, while certainly not unique, is considered a Maryland trait by the likes of William Elder in American Furniture 1680-1880. Like most Pennsylvania instances, the rear legs on all chairs are hexagonally chamfered below the always present double pegged through-tenons. There are examples of pad feet associated with the group, but whether specifically to this shop or a “follower” of it, has yet to be determined.



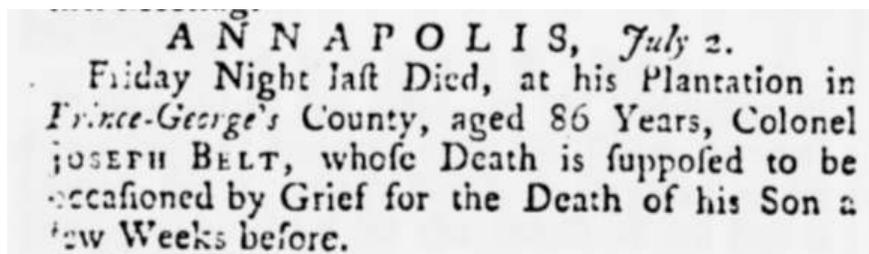
On most examples the top edge molding of the seat rails is a simple Queen Anne quarter-round above a shallow inset. Some are more traditionally Chippendale in style, having a two-step molding with a flat top surface. All armchairs associated with the group have typical Philadelphia splayed armrests with scrolled terminals, over carved crescent “spoon” supports. The arm support mounting plinth, where it meets the rail, always has a concave recess that then curves toward the rail, versus the more common convex rounding or truncated flat bottom, flush with the rail. Shaping of the bottom rail profiles with standard ovolo ends always occurs on the front, sides, and usually the back of side chairs. No armchairs have shaping to their side rails but all to their front. The only armchair that was available for inspection did have shaping to its’ rear rail. Proportionally, these chairs have slightly taller backs, thus appearing more tapered than most of their Philadelphia counterparts. Materials-wise, all furniture from this shop is made of black walnut, utilizing mostly if not solely yellow pine secondary woods.



When Gregory Weidman ascribed the chair in her book as possibly the work of Charles Belt (c.1747-1775), the attribution was based primarily on his being “related to the Bowie family that owned this chair”. The likely first owner of the chair might have been Allen Bowie, Jr. (1736-1803) of the “Hermitage” in Montgomery County. Weidman goes on to surmise that “Belt may have lived on his brothers’ estate “Chevy Chase” in Montgomery County north of Georgetown, before he settled at Mount Pleasant in Anne Arundel County at the Patuxent ferry crossing to Upper Marlborough.”.

In 1761 Charles’s brothers, Thomas (1741-1823) and William (1753-c.1810), had been left “Chevy Chase” by their grandfather Col. Joseph Belt (1680-1761) only because their father, Joseph II (1717-1761), “after a long Indisposition”, had pre-deceased Col. Belt by 51 days and was thus not a beneficiary of the will. Along with siblings Ann, Elizabeth, and Joseph III, Charles was left at least one slave from his grandfather’s estate, but no land. This might well be because he had already been left the property at Mount Pleasant by his father a month and a half earlier. Joseph II’s will was actually written two years earlier in 1759. Whether or not 15 year old Charles was already practicing the cabinetmaking trade at Mount Pleasant before his father’s death is up for conjecture.

What we do know is that upon Charles’s death fourteen years later, his brother William placed an advertisement in the Maryland Gazette seeking the highest bid for the estate. It appears that the “five acres of improvements”, along with “a parcel of valuable slaves, consisting of men, women and children” were successfully sold, or decidedly kept by the family after the initial Gazette posting of November 16, 1775. The estate’s well established business concern including tools, lumber stock, a trained servant (with three years left to serve), and a large quantity of already made furniture were advertised again two weeks later. In hindsight, it makes sense that such a “specialty” grouping would not have brought the money William Belt had hoped for, certainly not what his brother had had “in it”. At the relatively young age of 28, it is highly likely that Charles Belt died intestate. There are no records of him ever having been married or having children. One or more of his siblings probably took over the generational land that he had been left by their father. As an aside, there were at least two Belts listed as cabinetmakers working in Washington, D.C. after 1800. While likely related, it is doubtful any were direct descendants.



A N N A P O L I S, *July 2.*
Friday Night last Died, at his Plantation in
Prince-George's County, aged 86 Years, Colonel
JOSEPH BELT, whose Death is supposed to be
occasioned by Grief for the Death of his Son a
few Weeks before.

To be sold on Tuesday the 19th day of December next, at 11 o'clock, near Mount Pleasant, in Anne-Arundel county,

ABOUT five acres of land, with valuable improvements thereon; also a white servant man that has three years to serve, is by trade an excellent cabinet-maker, with stock of almost every kind, and a considerable quantity of ready made tables, chairs, desks, &c. and a compleat set of cabinet-makers, and joiners tools, and a quantity of black walnut plank; likewise a parcel of valuable slaves, consisting of men, women and children, by

WILLIAM BELT,
ROBERT WHITAKER, } admsrs.

N. B. All persons having claims against the estate of Charles Belt, deceased, are desired to bring them in, and those indebted, are requested to make payment.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the free-school of Anne-Arundel county will be vacant after the first day of January, 1776. Any person willing to engage as matter, who is qualified agreeably to the act of assembly, is desired to make application to the visitors.

Calvert county, October 24, 1775.
RAN away from the subscriber, the 20th instant, a negro man, named Leven, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, his head has lately been shaved on the top; had on and took with him, a gray half-thick coat lined with ofnabrigs, with metal buttons, a white country cloth ditto without buttons, country cloth breeches, and a pair of tolerable good shoes and stockings. I will give one guinea for apprehending and securing him in any jail.

W. SMITH.

TO be let for reasonable terms, a good stone dwelling-house, either fit for a private family, or also fitted for a store-house, counters and shelves, and every thing fitted for either private life, or business; the said house is 32 by 22, two pair of stairs, three rooms below stairs and two fire places, two rooms above stairs, as also a good cellar; the above house stands on the great road near Simpson's tavern, from Fredericktown to Annapolis, as also a good stable 14 by 12, good pasture under a good fence. To be let by Thomas Bissett, in Anne-Arundel county, lying near William Hobbes, on the great road to Fredericktown.

The goods remaining in the and Stewart, will be sold on retail by the subscriber; manufactured at Newin; by the pipe, 15

STRAYED from Poplar-h Darnall, Esq; in Prince George's 10th of August, a dark ches about 14 hands high; he is a blaze in his face, paces, tro a brand on his near buttock; ever will return him to Mr. I in Annapolis, may receive a 12

Prince George's NOTICE is hereby given the subscriber, either account, to immediately com-tive debts, as I am determin-dulgences.—I hope this requi-otherwise I shall take compi-payment, without any respic 25

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK GREEN.

Annapolis, November 16, 1775.
To be sold on Tuesday the 19th day of December next, at 11 o'clock, near Mount Pleasant, in Anne-Arundel county,

ABOUT five acres of land, with valuable improvements thereon; also a white servant man that has three years to serve, is by trade an excellent cabinet-maker, with stock of almost every kind, and a considerable quantity of ready made tables, chairs, desks, &c. and a compleat set of cabinet-makers, and joiners tools, and a quantity of black walnut plank; likewise a parcel of valuable slaves, consisting of men, women and children, by

WILLIAM BELT,
ROBERT WHITAKER, } admsrs.

N. B. All persons having claims against the estate of Charles Belt, deceased, are desired to bring them in, and those indebted, are requested to make payment.

1775. Nov. 30. Gazette.
Vendue Estate of Charles Belt, Mt. Pleasant, Anne Arundel Co.,
"White male servant versed in cabinet making, with stock of almost any kind, and a considerable quantity of ready made chairs, tables, desks, and a complete set of cabinet makers and joiners tools".
William Belt, Robt. Whittaker, Admins.

The Belt family had been in Anne Arundel County since 1675 when Charles's great, great, great grandfather John Belt moved there from Lynnhaven Parish, Norfolk County, Virginia. His son John Belt II and Lucy Lawrence were married at West River Meeting in 1702, only 6 miles from Mount Pleasant. By 1760, in addition to the Belts, there were other long established Anne Arundel County Quaker families that had formed close religious, social, political, and commercial ties, now extending throughout central Maryland; the Chew, Kensey, Johns, Sprigg (Belt's mother's family), Lawrence (Belt's great, great grandmother's family), Galloway, Talbott, and Waters families to name a few.

Enter the Waters family, purported owners of the aforementioned pair of Chippendale chairs that sold at Brunk Auctions in 2013. John Waters (1660-1704), the progenitor, had arrived in Anne Arundel County before 1669. His "dwelling plantation" was at "The Forke", West River Hundred, named for its' location near a fork in the Patuxent River. It was undoubtedly in the same vicinity as the Upper Marlborough crossing near Mount Pleasant. By 1760 his progeny were spread throughout Anne Arundel County and beyond. If one were to hazard a guess as to which Waters descendant might have been the original owner of the chairs, around 1765 or so, one local candidate stands out. Owing to primogeniture, wealth, and the death of siblings, Josephus Waters (1742-1800) might well have fit the bill. Tax records from 1782 state that Josephus Waters owned 150 acres of "Water's Lotte" of Patuxent Hundred, Anne Arundel County, and had six in his immediate family. By the census of 1790, he was the head of a household with three males under 16 years of age, four females, and four slaves. Only a few years older, he was unquestionably a contemporary and acquaintance of Charles Belt. Whether or not either man was still practicing Quakerism is not known. By 1760 many later generation West River Quakers were "disuniting" from the faith in choosing a more affluent lifestyle, as well as in many cases, the slave ownership necessary to maintain it.

Throughout the eighteenth century, the wealth of the Quakers of this region and the lifestyle it afforded them became more and more at odds with the dominant interpretation of simplicity. As the eighteenth century progressed, the Quakers as a whole moved away from the world at large, especially material temptations, and the emphasis on simplicity became more pronounced. Some Quaker families gave up their faith so they could maintain their lavish lifestyle, and others who remained Quaker appear to have begun overlooking the testimony of simplicity in favor of fashionable dress and showy material possessions. Mary Peisly and Catherine Peyton, two British Friends, traveled in the colonies in 1753 and 1754. They attended a meeting at West River, and Catherine Peyton wrote in her journal about the West River Friends, "That they were principally the offspring of faithful ancestors; but many have taken their flight on the wings of vanity and earthly riches, and slighted the truly valuable eternal inheritance."¹⁰⁸

1762 - West River's Annual Meeting concluded it was members "solid judgment that *no member of our Society shall be concerned in importing..., buying..., [or selling] negros...without consent and approbation of the Monthly Meeting they belong to.*"

1777- Finally, *Maryland Quakers completely disavow slavery, stating "It is our solid sense and judgment of [the Yearly Meeting] that the continuing practice is become burdensome such that persons must be disunited from our religious Society."*

West River, having been located in the heart of Maryland's tobacco-plantation region and where operations' profitability depended on use of slaves, progressively lost local membership as planters left Quakerism (or were "disunited" from it) and joined the older Episcopal or newer Methodist churches. Remaining Quakers, mostly further north, found it more convenient and hospitable to gather in Baltimore.

This dissonance between Quaker simplicity and vogue style is also reflected in the restrained elegance of these chairs. Despite an undeniable adherence to the Queen Anne and Chippendale designs of Philadelphia, there is no attempt to emulate even higher style by employing more embellished carving than “necessary”, or through the extravagant use of imported mahogany.

The Quakers have no set rules about what constitutes simplicity in their material culture, though it is even today a source of constant discussion. Simplicity, in the Quaker model, is defined “not by what it is but by what it is not.”¹⁰⁴ Howard Brinton, a Quaker scholar, clarifies that “simplicity meant the absence of all that was unnecessary, such as ornamentation in dress, speech, manners, architecture, and house furnishings.”¹⁰⁵ It aimed to remove anything that would foster pride or distract from one's personal relationship with God.

It was up to each Quaker to decide what simplicity meant for him or her, and thus, it is subjective and negotiable. The level of simplicity in which the Quakers lived was also informed by their stations in life. Quakers recognized social stratification, and leaders such as Robert Barclay and William Penn advocated for a sliding scale rule for following the tenet of simplicity. The line between simplicity and extravagance was defined according to the size of a Quaker's estate and his rank in society.¹⁰⁶

Hurst and Prown attribute their chair to Maryland primarily because of its’ similarities “to a group of strongly related pieces with histories of ownership in and around Georgetown, Maryland.”. They go on to say “The combination of production in a single shop and ownership in or near Georgetown strongly indicates that all of these pieces were made there.”. They also imply commercial success of the town warranted the demand, noting that by 1788, “nearly a dozen vessels lay at anchor in Georgetown’s harbor, and by 1790, during a nine month period, exports passed through the port that exceeded a quarter million dollars in value”. So convincing is this rationale that seating from this group became referred to as “Georgetown chairs”.

However, if Charles Belt’s shop produced the chairs, they would have had to have been made between 1760 to 1775, thirty years earlier and more in keeping with their Queen Anne and Chippendale “transitional” styles. It was during that time that Annapolis, “The Athens of America”, was at its’ peak as central Maryland’s only urban center. West River was 14 miles away, Belt’s shop at Mount Pleasant was 18 miles away, and Georgetown was 35 miles away. Georgetown, founded nine years earlier, in 1751, would still have been relatively formative at the time. Historic Williamsburg’s description of Georgetown and environs even 25 years later is modest:

In 1800, the nine-year-old District of Columbia was anything but a major urban center. At the core of its one hundred square miles was Washington, an embryonic town of fewer than three thousand people. Just up the Potomac River lay the older city of Georgetown, recently annexed into the District from the state of Maryland and home to perhaps thirty-five hundred souls, while a few miles downstream was Alexandria, acquired from Virginia together with its population of some four thousand. Despite its status as the nation’s capital, in reality the District was a loosely associated group of three moderately sized towns widely separated by open farmland, swamps, and the Potomac River.

Historic Williamsburg; <http://emuseum.history.org>

Hurst and Prown acknowledge that similar traits, consistent quality, and the quantity of chairs made, suggest they were manufactured by “a single shop”, versus the more isolated plantation production ascribed to most rural Maryland furniture at the time. Mount Pleasant’s proximity to the ports of Annapolis and West River, while remaining available to newer regional demand to the north and west, including the newly established Georgetown, appears to have been advantageous to Charles Belt’s success, as made evident by his 1775 estate. Perhaps those Georgetown chairs, along with others from the group with histories from Baltimore County to Frederick, were actually either imported new, or more likely, brought with family possessions as next generations spread from Anne Arundel and Prince George’s Counties throughout the central Maryland region.

The authors of Southern Furniture feel that the maker of these chairs “was not merely a copier of imported Philadelphia chairs.....but actually trained in Philadelphia before moving to Maryland”, à la Gerrard Hopkins or Robert Moore. If that were the case, it seems doubtful Charles Belt would have had time to apprentice in Philadelphia before his 15th birthday and the subsequent death of his father. The average age for beginning an apprenticeship in the cabinetmaking trade at the time was around 14, but this varied widely, with the obligation usually terminating by the age of 21. Theoretically, if Belt were to have left for Philadelphia around the time of his father's death in 1761, he might not have returned to Mount Pleasant until as late as 1768, leaving only 7 years to run the shop before his untimely death.

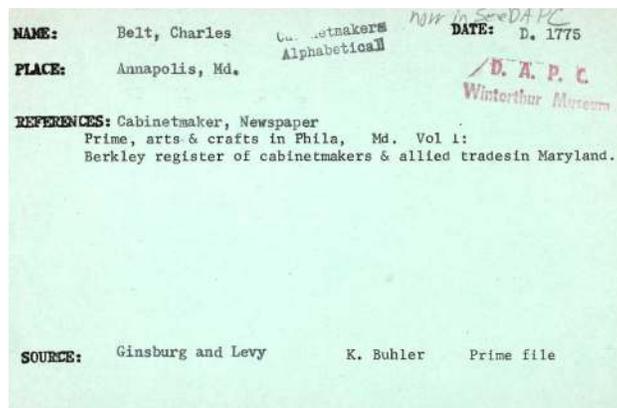
As just as likely a scenario might be that indeed Belt did base his work on one or two “imported” Philadelphia, specifically Quaker, examples. Given the half dozen or so interchangeable options available on his chairs, and the multiple combinations by which they could be employed, the reality is that all were enhancements to what is basically the same rudimentary chair design. Gregory Weidman notes that documentation of Annapolis’s commercial importation of furniture from “Philadelphia’s prestigious cabinetmakers of the Colonial era is scant”. However, “One primary way, which would not show up in records, would have been through the intermarriage of Maryland and Pennsylvania families. This was particularly true of the closely connected Quaker communities.”. Belt doesn’t seem to deviate from his consistent and rigid adherence to a single underlying design. Perhaps his one anomaly, the trifold foot’s central sloping “Irish” toe, was a hybrid of sorts, in deference to the imported George II furniture dominating the docks in Annapolis.



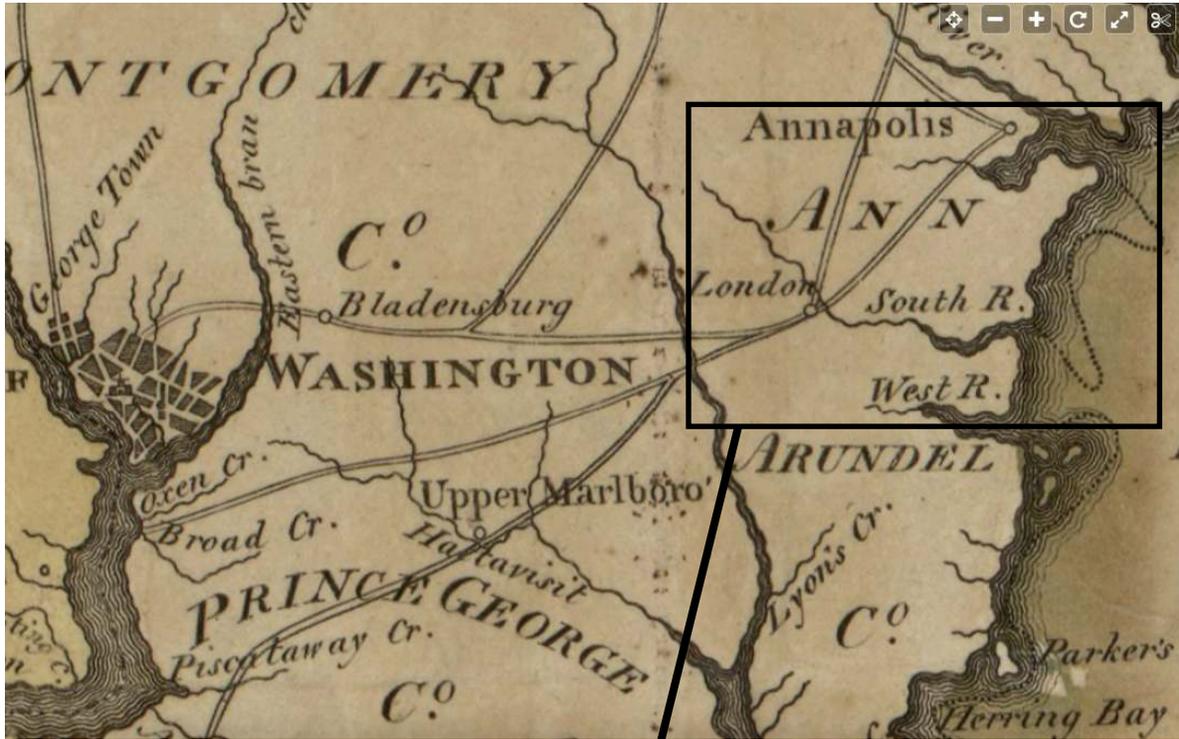
www.liveauctioneers.com

image by the author

Below is an image of an index card from the Winterthur library. The reference to “in Phila,” is not known.



It is now the year 2025 and the likelihood of someday identifying the specific individual who made these chairs is slim. However, there remains no doubt that from around 1765 until his death in 1775, Charles Belt was one of the most well established cabinetmakers in Central Maryland. Perhaps it is fitting that, ultimately, the artisan responsible will forever be revealed solely through the legacy of their work, that exquisite combination of bold proportion, restrained aesthetic, and structural integrity that are the chairs themselves.



Following are images of thirty-some chairs, two drop-leaf tables, two dressing tables, and two secretary bookcases, most attributable to the same shop or “circle of”. All were gleaned from various past auction listings, advertisements from the Maine Antique Digest, Antiques And The Arts Weekly, The Magazine Antiques, Weidman’s Furniture in Maryland, 1740-1940, Hurst and Prown’s Southern Furniture 1680-1830, Downs’s American Furniture Queen Anne and Chippendale Periods, Facebook, the internet in general, or the author. Very few were able to be examined in the flesh, but images and catalogue descriptions usually sufficed in qualifying (or not) an item for inclusion.

The following eleven examples, consisting of four pairs of and three single side chairs, all follow the original Queen Anne archetype of the Georgetown/Belt shop: solid splat, crest rail, single carved shell, trifold feet, quarter-round or stepped molded seat rail, cut-out ovolo profiles to rail bottoms, etc.. While individual chairs were almost certainly sold by the shop, it is likely that some or all of these are from the same set or sets. Besides the inconsistencies as a product of being handmade, the only truly discernible difference between any of these Queen Anne chairs is the two variations of molding profiles to the the seat rails.

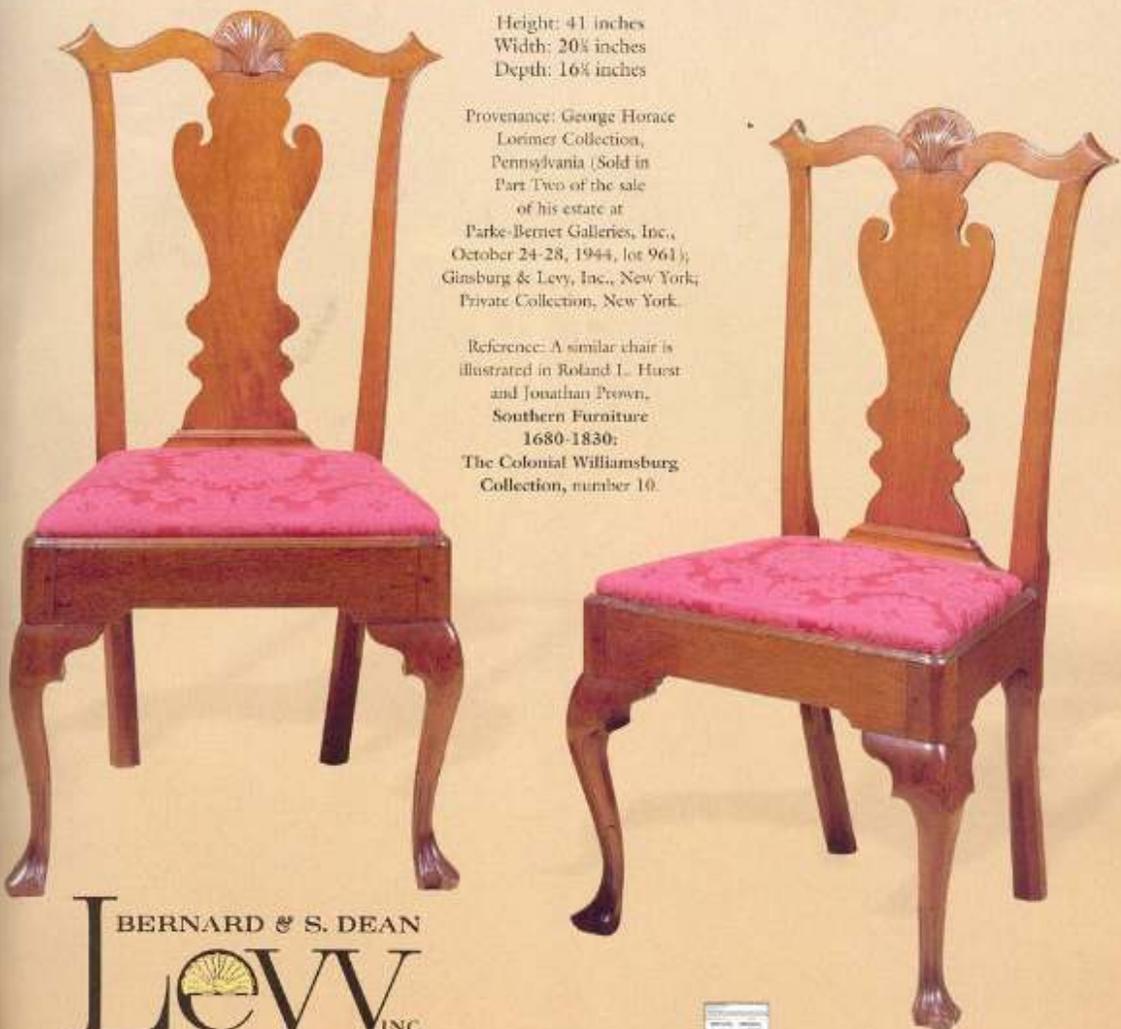
**A PAIR OF QUEEN ANNE SHELL CARVED
SIDE CHAIRS WITH DRAKE FEET**
Georgetown, Maryland Circa 1740

Primary Wood: Walnut
Secondary Wood: Yellow Pine seats and blocks

Height: 41 inches
Width: 20½ inches
Depth: 16¼ inches

Provenance: George Horace
Lorimer Collection,
Pennsylvania (Sold in
Part Two of the sale
of his estate at
Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc.,
October 24-28, 1944, lot 961);
Ginsburg & Levy, Inc., New York;
Private Collection, New York.

Reference: A similar chair is
illustrated in Roland L. Hurst
and Jonathan Prown,
Southern Furniture
1680-1830;
The Colonial Williamsburg
Collection, number 10.



**BERNARD & S. DEAN
Levy INC.**

Just one block from The Metropolitan Museum of Art
24 East 84th Street New York, NY 10028
212-628-7088 Fax: 212-628-7489
We invite you to visit our website
www.levygalleries.com



*We are currently on
our summer hours:
9:30 to 5:30
Monday - Friday.*

C.L. PRICKETT INC.

Fine Authenticated American Antiques

STONY HILL ROAD
YARDLEY (Bucks Co.)
PENNSYLVANIA 19067

*Pair of Philadelphia
Queen Anne side chairs.*

*Old finish, retaining
original glue blocks
and slip-seat frames.*

Circa 1760

From The Appel family.

Hours: 10 to 5 daily.

Closed Sunday.

Phone (215) 493-4284



Located 30 minutes from Philadelphia on Interstate 95.



♥ 505 💬 57 ▼ 📌

thistle_americana Absolutely thrilled to welcome another seat at our table! Baby boy Thistlethwaite due April, 2022... more

November 3, 2021

A Short Train Ride from Center City, PA

Blum's Chestnut Hill Antiques

Est. 1930

45 E. Chestnut Hill Ave.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118 215-242-8877
Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Walnut Philadelphia Lowboy,
Original Brass, Shell-Carved
Knees, Drake Feet, circa 1750.



Pair of Maryland Side Chairs. Identical chair is illustrated in
"Southern Furniture" by Hurst and Prown, page 74, plate 10,
in possession of Colonial Williamsburg.

From turnpike take Ft. Washington exit.



American Queen Anne walnut side chair

Estimate \$600-\$800

Nov 11, 2017

Sold for \$650

BIDDER	BID
COMPETING BID	\$650.00
INTERNET BID	\$600.00
COMPETING BID	\$560.00

[Show Remaining Bid History](#)

[SELL A SIMILAR ITEM](#)

Item Details

Description

Philadelphia, circa 1740; serpentine crest rail with carved shell and scrolled flared ears, solid vasiform splat, seat upholstered over half frame, cabriole legs, trifid feet, 40 in. H., 21 1/2 in. W., 20 in. D.

Condition

Old damage and repairs throughout

Buyer's Premium

28%

Shipping, Payment & Auction Policies

See Policy for Shipping

Ships from Towson, MD, United States

[View Shipping, Payment & Auction Policies](#)



Alex Cooper

TOP-RATED

Towson, USA

367 Reviews

7,290 Followers



Sold at Alex Cooper Auctions February 2, 2003

Sold at Sotheby's December 4, 2003

- \$7,000-10,000
- 32 A QUEEN ANNE CARVED WALNUT SIDE CHAIR, PENNSYLVANIA CIRCA 1760**
old dry surface.
height 41 1/4in. 104.5cm
\$1,000-2,000
- 33 A GEORGE III MAHOGANY AND PARCEL-GILT LOOKING GLASS, ENGLISH LAST QUARTER 18TH CENTURY
height 45in. by width 24 1/2in. 114.5cm by 62cm
\$600-900
- 36 A CHIPPENDALE CHERRYWOOD DISH-TOP TILT-TOP TEA TABLE, PENNSYLVANIA CIRCA 1770
height 38 1/2in. by diameter 34 3/4in. 72.5cm by 88cm
\$5,000-8,000
- 37 A QUEEN ANNE CARVED WALNUT OPEN ARMCHAIR, PENNSYLVANIA CIRCA 1760

Lacking a portion of right side glass panel. Together with a brass shelf clock on a white glass stand, manufactured by the Terryville MFG. Co., Terryville, Connecticut, 19th century. 2 pieces.

height 14 3/4in. by width 8 1/4in. by depth 5 1/2in. 37.5cm by 21.5cm by 14cm

\$500-1,000



This pair of Chippendale chairs appears to be identical to the one Waters family example that also has carved knee shells. Apparently the only difference between the “assembled” Brunk pair is that one of the two lacks carved knee shells. Cooper Auctions representative James Plumer stated that this pair came “directly from an old Frederick, Maryland family”. Both chairs retain their original yellow pine triangular glue blocks and knee returns.



A Pair of American Chippendale Walnut Side Chairs

Estimate \$3,000-\$5,000

Nov 06, 2021

Sold for \$2,500

BIDDER	BID
COMPETING BID	\$2,500.00
COMPETING BID	\$2,250.00
COMPETING BID	\$2,000.00

[Show Remaining Bid History](#)

[SELL A SIMILAR ITEM](#)

Shipping, Payment & Auction Policies

- See Policy for Shipping
- Ships from Towson, MD, United States
- Free Local Pick-Up Towson, MD, United States

[View Shipping, Payment & Auction Policies](#)

Alex Cooper
 TOP RATED
 Towson, USA
 ★★★★★ 369 Reviews



Brunk Auctions
 TOP RATED
 Asheville, USA
 ★★★★★ 322 Reviews
 12,322 Followers

Description

Chippendale Carved Walnut Side Chairs
 1760-1780, each with shell-carved crest and pierced splat over slip seat on ball-and-claw feet, one with shell-carved knees, one with plain knees, through-tenon construction, mellow dark brown color, 40-3/4 x 21-1/2 x 19 in., likely made in the same shop, matching original seat blocking, period yellow pine slip seats, both with minor wear at knees and feet, example with shell-carved knees with old breaks and repairs to stiles at joint with crest rail, otherwise excellent condition with and small crack in splat and in crest rail at joint with splat; example with plain knees with old patch and repair to back of crest rail at joint with splat, otherwise good condition. Provenance: By Descent in the Waters Family of Maryland

The Chippendale chair below is identical to the previous chairs except for the fact that it does not have a cut-out recess in the bottom edge of its' back seat rail. It is not known whether either of the Brunk chairs have the same ovolo ended cut-out to their rear seat rails. Its' sale history started off in a collection from York, Pa., a primary gateway for Maryland furniture on its' way to becoming Philadelphia furniture in the early 20th Century.



OFFERED BY
PHILIP BRADLEY ANTIQUES

Follow this Dealer

P.O. Box 405
 Summerytown, PA 18084
 United States
 610.269.0427

Email Dealer

EXHIBITING AT:

Delaware Antiques Show

\$ 5,500

Inquire

Make Offer

Save

Tear Sheet

Add to Board

Share



All three images are of the same chair.

A Philadelphia Chippendale side chair

Origin: United States, Pennsylvania
 Period: 18th Century
 Materials: Walnut
 Condition: Good
 Creation Date: c. 1765
 Description: Made of walnut, with three carved shells and a pierced strapwork splat in an old finish.
 Styles / Movements: Americana, Chippendale, Traditional
 Dealer Reference Number: D-544
 Incollect Reference Number: 411249



Item Details

Description

Pennsylvania Chippendale walnut dining chair, ca 1790, the shell carved crest with voluted ears above a pierced splat and trapezoidal slip seat supported by shell carved cabriole legs with voluted returns terminating in ball and claw feet, retaining an excellent old surface.

Pennsylvania Chippendale walnut dining chair, ca

Estimate \$4,000-\$8,000

Oct 2, 2009

Sold for \$8,000

BIDDER

BID

STARTING PRICE

\$2,000.00

SELL A SIMILAR ITEM



Pook & Pook, Inc.
 Downingtown, PA, United States
 ★★★★★ 39 Reviews >
 3,179 Followers

The following four chairs, apparently all from the same set, are prime examples of how closely related Pennsylvania forerunners, or nearly identical “school of” replications, can be difficult to differentiate from authentic examples produced by this Maryland shop. For starters, their Philadelphia provenance raises real questions until one realizes the first owner of these chairs originated from Rock Hall, Maryland, just across the Chesapeake Bay and a little north of West River and Annapolis. They certainly could have been brought along with other household furnishings by Presley Blakiston when he relocated to Philadelphia. While initially looking like strong candidates, several observations help to confirm that these chairs are in fact not the product of the Georgetown/Belt shop. The splat not being based on the same template is evident by the narrower uppermost “hourglass” piercings and an abbreviated solid margin above, where the splat flares to meet the crest rail. This results in a stouter proportion compared to the more vertically tapered backs associated with the Maryland chairs. The carved crest rail shell does not have as large a margin or “halo” between its’ outer lobes and the conforming scratch beaded arch above. Its’ slightly less concave anterior wings’ concentric arcs are more flatly carved. Additionally, the upper crest rail ear facings and knee returns do not have carved scrolls, a trait always present on the Georgetown/Belt group when the Chippendale strap-work splat option is employed. The molding profile to the top of the seat rails is neither of the aforementioned options but rather a sort of cross between the two, single quarter round, but with a flat surface above. The ball and claw feet, while duly “compressed” in the Philadelphia style, are not as extremely so as those associated with the shop. Visible pegs inside the seat frame preclude any possibility of original two-part triangular yellow corner blocks. The smooth surfaced triangular blocks visible in the image appear to be later. Importantly, the use of mahogany primary wood is not seen in any of the Maryland chairs. In the final analysis, it seems more likely that these chairs are indeed of the Pennsylvania style on which the Maryland versions might have been based, rather than being “circle of” emulations thereof.

Philadelphia Chippendale mahogany dining chair



Pook & Pook Inc.

[Inquire now](#) [Add to favorite](#)

Estimate: \$1,500 - \$2,500

Sold for

\$3,444

[16 Bids] [Bidding History](#)

[Absentee vs Live bid](#) (?)

[Bid increments chart](#)



About Auction



[Live](#)

Americana & International - Session One

By Pook & Pook Inc. | Sep 30, 2021

[View full catalog](#) (542)

Lot Description

Philadelphia Chippendale mahogany dining chair, ca. 1770, with a shell carved crest and knees, terminating in ball and claw feet. An early plaque affixed to the shoe reads *This Chair was the Property of Presley Blakiston Born 1741- Died 1819*. Provenance: A Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Collection.

Condition

Plaque affixed to rear of seat frame. Original slip seat.



P3542 Pair of Chippendale mahogany claw and ball foot side chairs with shell carved knees and webbed shell in crest rail, crest with scribed line borders and scrolled ears, nut brown patina, Philadelphia circa 1760-1770. Slight variations in each chair suggest that the Blakiston family had two sets of the same vintage. On the back of each chair is a family brass plaque as illustrated. The chairs were purchased from direct descendants of Presley Blakiston, born 1741—died 1819, cordwinder of Philadelphia.

"The Mitchells & Days of Philadelphia" published 1968 contains a biography of Presley Blakiston, pages 48 and 49. A copy of this book accompanies the chairs.

Ht. 40½"



Presley Blakiston

Birth 1 Jan 1741 - Rockhall, Swan Creek, Maryland
 Death 4 Apr 1819 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Mother Ann Glenn
 Father William Blakiston

Chippendale walnut side chair



Philadelphia, 1760-1775.
 Made for
 Presley Blakiston,
 who amassed a
 fortune as boot
 and shoemaker.
 His shop was at
 212 South Front Street,
 Philadelphia.

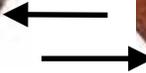
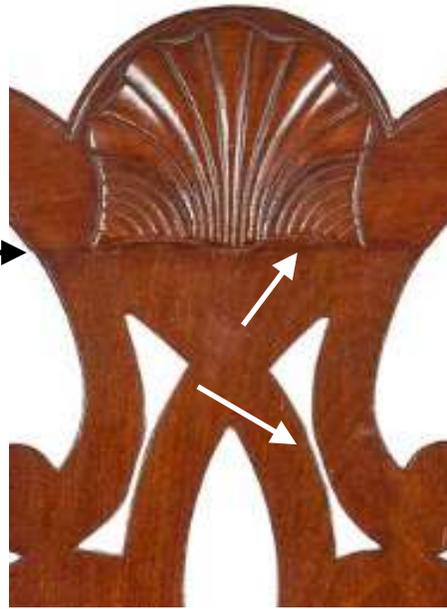
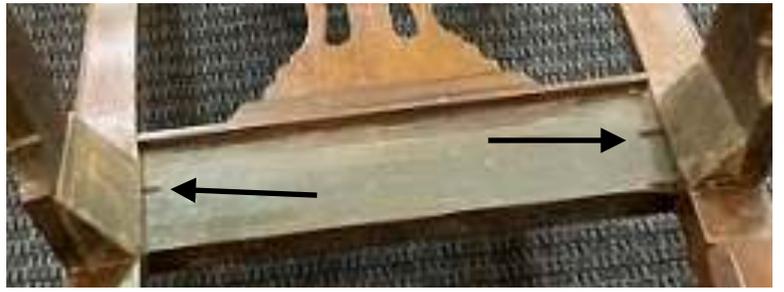
Chinese Export
 porcelain watch case,
 circa 1760.
 Exceptionally
 fine quality.
 Height 7½".



MATTHEW & ELISABETH SHARPE

THE SPRING MILL ANTIQUE SHOP

Spring Mill, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania Tel. (215) 828-0205
 Only minutes from Pa. turnpike exits 24 (Valley Forge) & 25 (Norristown)



While no more images or information were available, this chair is almost certainly a product of the shop. It would be curious to know if it had the carved ear volutes, but likely not if lacking the carved knee return scrolls and strap-work splat as well. The pierced Queen Anne vase splat is rarely used along with the Chippendale ball and claw feet. This example exemplifies the interchangeability of the relatively limited number of stylistic options offered. While not exactly an assembly line, this enabled the maker to offer “consumer choice” with a minimum of new design and retooling.



Lot 168

Transitional walnut side chair philadelphia, third quarter 18th century

SALE 5435 - BICENTENNIAL PENNSYLVANIA SALE

Nov 19, 2005 6:00AM ET

/ PHILADELPHIA

Own a similar item?

REQUEST AN ESTIMATE

Estimate
\$3,000 - 5,000

Price Realized
\$3,250

Sold prices are inclusive of Buyer's Premium

Lot Description

Description Catalogue Note

Transitional walnut side chair philadelphia, third quarter 18th century
Having a serpentine crestrail with scrolled volutes and shell carving to the center, pierced vasiform splat, straight seat rail with needlepoint slip seat, on shell-carved cabriole legs, ending in claw and ball feet.



This side chair appears to possibly be a mate or from the same set as the previous example. It might even be the same chair except for the noticeable distress to the top edge of the front seat rail and the fact that the ball and claw feet appear more “compressed”, either carved that way or having undergone heavy bottom wear. In this chair’s image, carved scrolling to the upper crest ears is visible, something previously only seen in conjunction with a Chippendale strap-work splat below.

Bonhams

[Results](#)

[Departments](#)

[Locations](#)

[Services](#)

[Sell](#)

[Search](#)



[All lots](#)

LOT 1230^{W#}

A CHIPPENDALE CARVED WALNUT SIDE CHAIR

Sold for US\$ 1,342 inc. premium

[FOLLOW](#)

[American Furniture and Decorative Arts](#)

22 Jan 2009, 13:00 EST
New York



These three side chairs, all with pad feet, appear closely associated with the Georgetown/Belt shop and in all likelihood are products of it. There are two notable inconsistencies concerning their crest rail shells. They lack the usual concentrically ribbed anterior wings and, related to this, the base where the five lobes begin at the bottom of the shell, rather than being rounded, is abruptly truncated, abutting where it meets the splat seam below. Stylistically, these simpler Queen Anne shells should date the chairs to an earlier production date than those with the more typically Chippendale shells. But once again, they are just one more option offered by the maker that don't necessarily follow a rigid chronological adherence to style. In that these simpler shells are essentially products of omission, variations on a theme rather than being an entirely different motif, there is every reason to believe the chairs are indeed from the same shop.



SALE 5808 - PENNSYLVANIA SALE

Nov 19, 2006 7:00AM ET

/ PHILADELPHIA

Own a similar item?

[REQUEST AN ESTIMATE](#)

Estimate
\$20,000 - 30,000

Price Realized
\$20,000

Sold prices are inclusive of Buyer's Premium

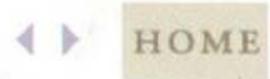
Lot Description

DESCRIPTION **CATALOGUE NOTE**

Three Queen Anne walnut sidechairs philadelphia, circa 1755
 Having serpentine crestrail with center shell, rolled volutes, pierced vase splat, shell carved cabriole legs and pad feet.
 Provenance: A hand written note attached to one chair reads " This chair and the two like it belonged to Andrew Forsythe, my Great-grandfather, and came to me through my father, Andrew F. Russel, are genuine Chippendale and came from England, and are to her knowledge 160 years old and how much older we do not know-Nov. 1904 Danville, Pa. Helen M. Russel."



This pair of chairs appear to essentially be more of the same, including the standard carved crest rail shells with anterior wings. One observation of note is the border or margin between the shells' upper edges and the scratch beaded arch above appears to be narrower than usual, but this could be due to the graininess of the image. The front feet of each chair are also curious. Based on a less-than-detailed image, either they are of the typical trifold form, with consistent distress and significant losses, especially to the central toes, or they are less deteriorated versions of more typical drake feet. If they are indeed drake feet, that would now be a fourth type of foot option offered by the shop.



FR2002034

Pair of side chairs, Possibly Charles Belt (1775) or his circle Maryland, probably Georgetown Circa 1765

Walnut primary; poplar and yellow pine s

Height 40", width 20 1/4", depth 16 1/2", height 16"

SUMPTER PRIDDY III, INC.



www.bidsquare.com

Curiously enough, this chair, with true drake feet, has some characteristics in common with Georgetown/Belt group, but upon closer inspection displays notable disqualifying differences. The linear carving of the anterior wings of the crest shell, as well as the lack of any step molding to the otherwise smoothly rounded chair rail edge indicate a slightly less sophisticated take on the form. As such, this chair might even be a candidate for attribution to “school of” or “after” the Georgetown/Belt shop. Obviously, many other unknown factors would have to be considered, including secondary woods and construction techniques.

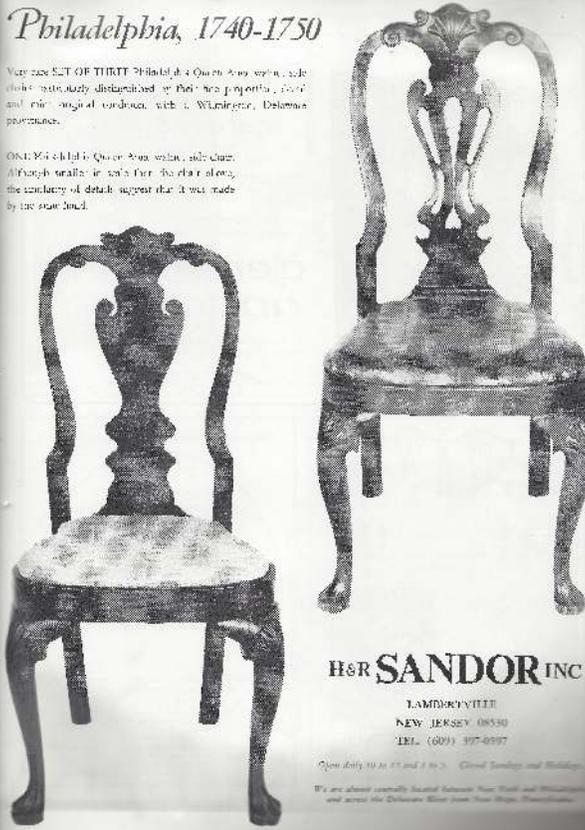


These old advertisements effectively illustrate the Philadelphia styles that obviously influenced the designs of the Georgetown/Charles Belt shop.

Philadelphia, 1740-1750

Very rare SET OF THREE Philadelphia Queen Anne shell-carved chairs, individually distinguished by their fine proportions, form and rich original varnish, with a Wilmington, Delaware provenance.

ONE OF A PAIR OF Philadelphia Queen Anne shell-carved chairs. Although similar in style to the other chairs, the simplicity of details suggest that it was made by the same hand.



H&R SANDOR INC
 LAMDORVILLE
 NEW JERSEY 08530
 TEL. (609) 937-0397

Open daily 10 to 5:30 and 9 to 5. Closed Sundays and Holidays.
We are always carefully located between New York and Philadelphia and across the Delaware River from your State, Pennsylvania.



PHILIP H. BRADLEY

East Lancaster Avenue (Route 30)
 Downingtown, Pennsylvania
 Telephone: Andrews 9-0427

Important set of six Queen Anne shell-carved walnut side chairs of Philadelphia origin, Eighteenth century.

Having serpentine crest rail with knuckled terminals, and carved with a central shell, curving to a pierced urn-shaped splat; the balanced seat rail continuing to cabriole legs with scrolled ears, ending in droke feet, flaring slip seat in rose damask—original old finish and patina.



PHILIP H. BRADLEY CO.

East Lancaster Avenue (Route 30) • Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19338 • Telephone: (215) 294-1171 or 293-8738




A pair of early Philadelphia Queen Anne side chairs with shells on the crest rail and splat and with a "spotted heart" in the pierced splat. Philadelphia circa 1740.

Knowlton are nos. Figor 96-11. Chipendale chest with a carved serpentine interior with an eared, proportioned. Delaware No. 108 1780.
 H - 43" W - 35" D - 50"
 S. H. P. H. 108 105.

This armchair is in the collection of the Henry Ford Museum. Note the concave chamfering where the armrest joins the side rails, and the rounded shaping above as it transitions into the bottom of the crescent arm support. This is apparent on all armchairs attributed to the group.



Figure 10.1. Armchair, Georgetown, Md. (now D. C.), 1755–1770.
Black walnut, OH. 42½; OW. 30½; SD. 22½.
Courtesy, Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Mich.



This armchair is pictured in Joseph Downs's American Furniture Queen Anne and Chippendale Periods (1725-1788). In its' description "Large triangular blocks of hard pine brace the corners". While almost certainly from the Georgetown/Belt shop, the million dollar question is whether or not the chair started out life as is, a rare form to say the least, or might it have employed a later "make do" alteration to an originally more typical vase or strap-work splat back.



13

13 • ARMCHAIR
Walnut
Philadelphia 1740-1750

High-backed upholstered armchairs often show in early eighteenth-century portraits by Smibert, Greenwood, and Kühn. Several similar chairs of northern origin are in the collection (Figures 15, 16, and 20), but only this one is Philadelphia made. The walnut frame is typical of Queen Anne chairs there; the long-toed web feet and incurved arm posts often appear on solid- and pierced-splat armchairs.

Large triangular blocks of hard pine brace the corners; the strips of poplar under the slip seat originally held the commode form.

The upholstery is old cowhide.

Height 41 3/4"

Width 22"

Depth 19"



Figure 10.1. Armchair, Georgetown, Md. (now D. C.), 1733-1770.
Black walnut, O.H. 42 1/2"; O.W. 30 1/2"; S.D. 22 1/2".
Courtesy, Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Mich.



Figure 10.2. Armchair, Georgetown, Md. (now D. C.), 1733-1770.
Black walnut, dimensions not recorded.
Courtesy, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America,
Dumbarton House, Washington, D. C., 01.10, gift of G. Free and Peter.

Search the Winterthur Museum Collections

armchair

Search

Reset

Only records with images



Enlarge

Chair (Armchair)

Category:
Furniture

Creator (Role):
Unknown (Furniture maker)

Place of Origin:
Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mid-Atlantic, United States, North America

Date:
1740-1750

Materials:
Walnut; Pine, yellow; Wood; Leather

Museum Object Number:
1961.1189

Related Searches

Category

Furniture

Creator

Unknown
Unknown in Furniture

Place

Philadelphia
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania
Mid-Atlantic
United States
North America

Complete Details

Object Number
1961.1189

Object Name
Chair (Armchair)

Category
Furniture

Credit Line/Donor
Gift of Henry Francis du Pont

Creator (Role)
Unknown (Furniture maker)
This record is to be used when the maker of an object is unknown.

Place of Origin
Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mid-Atlantic, United States, North America

Date
1740-1750

Materials
Walnut; Pine, yellow; Wood; Leather

Dimensions (inches)
42 (H) , 29.75 (W) , 26 (D)

Dimensions (centimeters)
106.68 (H) , 75.565 (W) , 66.04 (D)

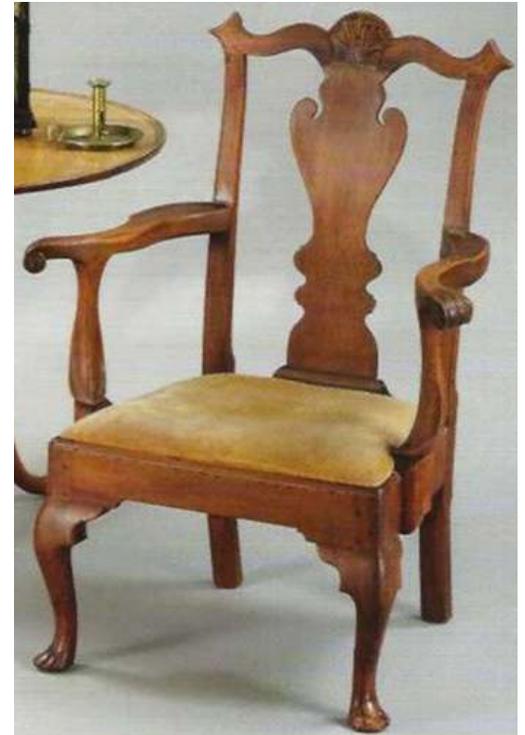
Measurement Notes
OW and OD are at feet.

Object Description
Text available soon.

Bibliography and Bibliographic Notes

[Book] Downs, Joseph & du Pont, Henry Francis. 1952 American Furniture: Queen Anne and Chippendale Periods, in the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.
• Published: fig. 13.

This armchair initially sold at the same Sotheby's December 4, 2003 sale as a previously cited side chair. The condition report used the description "restored". The same chair appeared twenty-one years later at a Pook & Pook sale where better images were available. The crest shell's anterior wings at the junction with the splat have been replaced and re-carved as the result of a repair. Also, the front "drake" feet appear to be vestiges of heavily worn and/or damaged trifold feet probably made by the Georgetown/Belt shop. Most importantly, it has the required concave chamfering below where the arm supports meet the side rails.



31 A QUEEN ANNE WALNUT EASY CHAIR, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS CIRCA 1730

height 47in. 119.5cm
\$7,000-10,000

32 A QUEEN ANNE CARVED WALNUT SIDE CHAIR, PENNSYLVANIA CIRCA 1760

old dry surface.
height 41 1/2in. 104.5cm
\$1,000-2,000

33 A GEORGE II MAHOGANY AND PARCEL-GILT LOOKING GLASS, ENGLISH LAST QUARTER 18TH CENTURY

height 45in. by width 24 1/2in. 114.5cm by 62cm
\$800-900

36 A GEORGE III BRASS AND EBONIZED WOOD SHELF CLOCK, ENGLISH LAST QUARTER 18TH CENTURY

the round in the arch monogrammed JH. Lacking a portion of right side glass panel. Together with a brass shelf clock on a white glass stand, manufactured by the Terryville MFG. Co., Terryville, Connecticut, 19th century. 2 pieces.

height 14 1/2in. by width 9 1/2in. by depth 6 1/2in. 37.5cm by 21.5cm by 17cm

\$500-1,000

36 A CHIPPENDALE CHERRYWOOD DISHTOP TILT-TOPTEA TABLE, PENNSYLVANIA CIRCA 1770

height 38 1/2in. by diameter 34 1/2in. 72.5cm by 88cm
\$5,000-8,000

37 A QUEEN ANNE CARVED WALNUT OPEN ARM CHAIR, PENNSYLVANIA CIRCA 1760

restored.
height 39 1/2in. 100.5cm
\$1,500-2,500





Pennsylvania Queen Anne walnut armchair, ca. 1765

Lot 44

◀ Prev Lot | Next Lot ▶

[Inquire now](#) [Add to favorite](#)



Estimate: \$1,000 - \$1,500

Sold for

\$1,200

[10 Bids] [Bidding History](#)

[Absentee vs Live bid](#) (?)

[Bid increments chart](#)



About Auction



[Live](#)

100 Years: The Kindig Collection - Session On...

By Pook & Pook Inc | Feb 8, 2024 | [Set Reminder](#)

[View Full Catalog](#) (377)

Lot Description

Pennsylvania Queen Anne walnut armchair, ca. 1765, with a shell carved crest and sticking drake feet.

NO in-house shipping for this lot.

Condition

Crest reattached to stiles. Slip seat replaced. Patches to pads of front feet. Rear legs ended out.



About Seller



Pook & Pook Inc
463 East Lancaster Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335
United States

This armchair was certainly in the running, but the unorthodox splat, the straight angular chamfering of the arm supports, the flatter and wider anterior wing carving, the shallower concave curvature to the base of the shell, the pad feet lacking an elevated, more bulbous front ring profile, and finally, the lower “slipper chair” form itself, all prevent a viable Georgetown/Belt attribution.



Pennsylvania Queen Anne slipper chair

Lot 615



Estimate: \$1,000 - \$1,500

Sold for

\$1,100

[12 Bids] Bid

Absentee

Bid increments chart

Inquire now



About Auction



Live

Americana - Session Two - Lots 544-984

By Pook & Pook Inc | Jan 17, 2025 | Set Remin

View Full Catalog (439)

Lot Description

Pennsylvania Queen Anne walnut slipper chair, ca. 1760.

NO in-house shipping for this lot.

Shipping Info

Payment & Auction Policies

About Seller



Pook & Pook Inc
463 East Lancaster Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335
United States



Walnut Queen Anne Arm Chair

Offered by: HL CHALFANT

\$ 7,500

INQUIRE

MAKE OFFER

Tear Sheet Save Add to Board Share

Description

More Information

Dimensions

Message from Seller:

Welcome to H.L. Chalfant: American Fine Art and Antiques, offering exceptional examples of American furniture, decorative accessories, and fine art from the 18th to the 20th century. For inquiries, please contact us at 610-696-8030 or email info@hlchalfant.com.

This armchair is the only Chippendale style example attributable to the Maryland maker as of yet. The carving of the crest shell's anterior wings is a little flat, but that is made up for by the textbook example concave chamfering of the arm support junction with the seat rail. All original glue blocks are missing. Joe Kindig's recollection as to provenance alludes to ownership in Easton, Maryland right across the Chesapeake Bay from West River.

My answer:

Here is what Joe said:

"Well I got your email and don't feel I can add any more to it. I bought the chair from Alice Lewis in Easton along with a number of pieces including the pair of Baltimore eagle inlaid dining tables that I sold to Bill Frieling. The chair belonged to Mrs. Lewis and came down in the Vaux family of Philadelphia. It was not part of Reg's collection but there are pieces in the Blue book that belonged to her family although she had no interest in antiques. I felt there was nothing wrong with the chair but I haven't looked at it in 45 years. I had it about ten years when Dan bought it. You know what a beating we have taken over the past eight years. Last year the almost mint Philadelphia Queen Anne Walnut chest on chest in New York sold for \$16,000 that they paid \$110,000 for. I don't know what to say."

Here is the provenance from Pook & Pook

A Pennsylvania Chippendale walnut armchair, ca. 1770, with a shell carved crest, pierced splat and shell carved legs, terminating in ball and claw feet. Provenance: Alice Vaux Lewis, Easton, Maryland; Joe Kindig Jr. & Son 1985; The Collection of Daniel Heisler and Mary Jane Sheppard, Lutherville, MD.

Last edited: Jan 10, 2021

KikoBlueEyes, Jan 9, 2021

#5 + Quote Reply



favorite

Pennsylvania Chippendale walnut armchair

Lot 137

◀ Prev Lot | Next Lot ▶



Estimate: \$3,000 - \$5,000

Sold for

\$1,300

Bid increments chart



About Auction



Live

Americana & International - Session Two

By Pook & Pook Inc | Oct 4, 2019 | Set Reminder

View Full Catalog (446)

Lot Description

Pennsylvania Chippendale walnut armchair, ca. 1770, with a shell carved crest, pierced splat and shell carved legs, terminating in ball and claw feet. Provenance: Alice Vaux Lewis, Easton, Maryland; Joe Kindig Jr. & Son 1985; The Collection of Daniel Heisler and Mary Jane Sheppard, Lutherville, MD.

Condition

Refinished. One arm likely replaced. No other apparent condition issues.



Pook & Pook Inc

463 East Lancaster Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335
United States

While of similar overall design to the previous example, these two armchairs are both confidently not attributable. Each has more bluntly cut-off bases to their arm support joints at the side rails, one is mahogany, and the walnut example has a front rail apron drop.



414

209

Property of a Delaware Private Collector

■ 414 FINE CHIPPENDALE CARVED WALNUT OPEN ARMCHAIR, Maryland, 1755-85, the shaped crest centering a carved shell ending in scrolled ears above a strapwork volute-carved splat, shaped arms with scrolled terminals on incurvate supports, the slip seat with shaped front rail on shell-carved cabriole legs ending in claw-and-ball feet. *Some repair.*

Provenance

Israel Sack, Inc., New York

\$30,000/35,000

Sotheby's

AUCTIONS

BUY NOW

PRIVATE SALES

SELL

Search Sotheby's



Important Americana / Lot 1673



38

Property from a Private Collection, Pennsylvania

← 1672

1673

1674 →

CHIPPENDALE CARVED MAHOGANY ARMCHAIR, PHILADELPHIA, CIRCA 1765

Estimate: 8,000 - 12,000 USD

Lot sold: 16,250 USD

SAVE

PLACE BID

Print

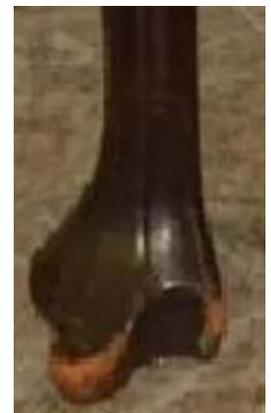
Tables and case furniture attributable to the Georgetown/Belt shop are rare. We do know that Charles Belt's estate listing included "ready made chairs, tables, and desks". These two Queen Anne walnut drop-leaf tables, almost certainly by the same hand, appear to also be products of the Maryland shop based on their trifid feet with extended central toes. The original knee returns visible on the top example are slightly different in form, based on their usage, and lack the spurs seen on the Queen Anne knee returns on chairs from the shop. The only noticeable difference between the two tables themselves seems to be the rounding off of the top edge on the MCHC's example, possibly a production decision but likely a later alteration.



Maryland Center for History and Culture

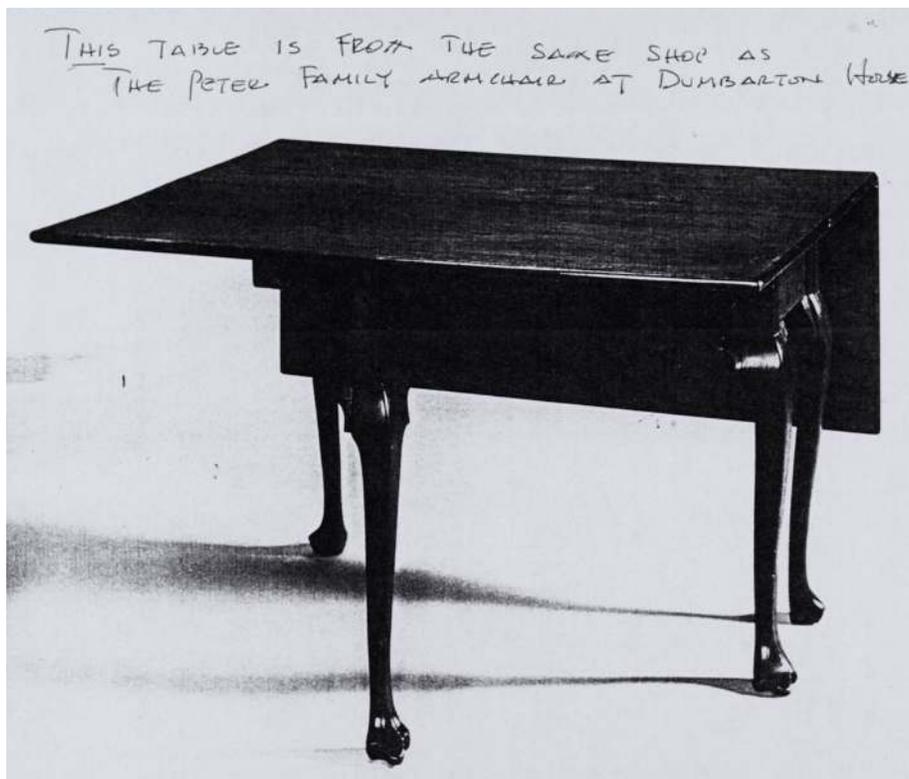
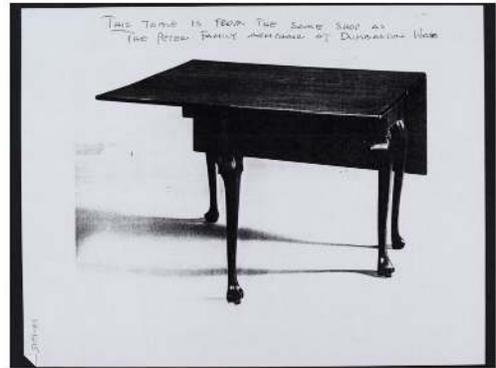


www.liveauctioneers.com

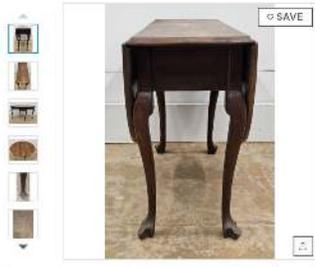


TABLE, DINING

Category FURNITURE
Object Name TABLE, DINING
Place Made Georgetown or Montgomery County, Maryland
Date 1770
Materials walnut __primary __throughout
Dimensions [Overall Ht]28" __[Overall Wdth]42" __[Overall Depth]13 3/4" closed; 46" open.
Description drop leaf dining table with two drop leaves and four cabriole legs terminating in trifold feet. It is possibly the work of Charles Belt (1740-1775)
Object Location present location unknown
Photo Number NN-1215
File Location MT-12-176
Examined Not Examined by MESDA



QUEEN ANNE DROP LEAF TABLE



Item Details
 Description
 Walnut, swing leg, tifle feet, single boards; normal wear; chis; hinges replaced, H-28", L-42", F-C
 Buyer's Premium
 23%

Estimate \$200-\$400 Jun 26, 2025

Sold for \$650

BIDDER	BID
COMPETING BID	\$650.00
COMPETING BID	\$600.00
COMPETING BID	\$550.00

Show Remaining Bid History

[SELL A SIMILAR ITEM](#)

14 bidders are watching this item

- You were approved to bid in this auction.
- LiveAuctioneers Purchase Protection
 - Vetted auction houses
 - Secure, online bidding
 - Returns guaranteed for misrepresented listings
 - Dedicated support when you need it
- [Learn More](#)
- Shipping & Pickup Options**
 Item located in Timonium, MD, US
- Ship with LiveAuctioneers
 - Local Pickup Available
 - Arrange Your Own Shipping
- [View Auction Policy for Details](#)

Payment

- Accepts seamless payments through LiveAuctioneers

[View Auction Policy for Details](#)

Richard Opfer Auctioneering, Inc.

TOP RATED
 Timonium, MD, United States
 4.5 (235 Reviews)
 5,474 Followers



Drop Leaf Table
 Attributed to Charles Belt
 Of Anne Arundel County

During his short life, cabinetmaker Charles Belt (ca. 1740-1775) was working in and around Annapolis, eventually settling at Mount Pleasant in Anne Arundel County. Chairs attributed to Belt feature his distinctive "drake foot" with an elongated central toe seen here on this fine drop leaf table in a beautiful old finish. A lovely early dropleaf.

Walnut, oak and poplar
 Circa 1760
 H: 28" · W: 39" (open), 15" (closed); D: 41"
 Condition: Repair to swing leg joint, other hinges replaced.

\$4,800





TABLE, DINING

Category	FURNITURE
Object Name	TABLE, DINING
Place Made	South (possibly)
Materials	walnut, curly __primary __legs walnut __secondary __gates yellow pine __secondary __inner rails
Description	dining table with two drop leaves; top with indented corners; frame with shaped ends; four cabriole legs with returns that continue the shape of the end frame; and terminating in pad feet with discs; two legs swing
Object Location	present owner unknown
Photo Number	NN-977
File Location	AC-12-66
Sign/Marks	located on hinges __"W S"
Joinery	applied half-round molding to the underside of the top center section - also found on an Annapolis attributed table, also in New York state and in England. See S-10540.
Examined	Not Examined by MESDA



This table recorded on MESDA's website is confidently not attributed to the Belt school. The cut-out profiles in the end aprons and the considerably taller tapered platform beneath the pad foot are more likely associated with the nearby Annapolis school described in Daniel Kurt Ackermann's Chipstone article [Sitting on the Severn: A Group of Mid-Eighteenth Century Chairs from Annapolis](#).

This Queen Anne walnut dressing table, now in the collection of the author, has everything one would expect from the Georgetown/Belt shop. The knee shells, carved knee return volutes, flatly carved apron shell with beaded concentric anterior wing carving, elongated trifold feet, and yellow pine secondary woods are all seen on well attributed chairs from this group. Each of the original knee returns are held in place with two rosehead nails, the same technique employed in all of the seating furniture. The drawer runners and backboard are made of walnut while all other secondary wood is yellow pine. The somewhat unorthodox drawer layout is indicative of a maker who, while certainly familiar with the Philadelphia tradition, didn't necessarily adhere to all the traits that might have been instilled while actually apprenticing and training in that city. Notably, the top terminals of the stocking's side ribs do not terminate with the same carved horizontal inset, as do those on the chairs, but rather transition by melding into the side surface of the leg. Short of simply ascribing this to aesthetic choice, perhaps the stouter and longer legs required of a case piece were behind the maker's decision.



Description
 Queen Anne Walnut Dressing Table
 Delaware Valley, mid 18th century
 With shell carvings to apron and knees. Height 29 3/4 inches, width 33 inches, depth 19 1/2 inches.

Queen Anne Walnut Dressing Table

Estimate \$2,500-\$3,500

Nov 3, 2021

Sold for \$7,500

BIDDER	BID
COMPETING BID	\$7,500.00
COMPETING BID	\$7,000.00
COMPETING BID	\$6,500.00

Show Remaining Bid History

[SELL A SIMILAR ITEM](#)

8 bidders are watching this item



DOYLE Auctioneers & Appraisers
 TOP RATED
 New York, NY, United States
 ★★★★★ 166 Reviews >
 10,128 Followers



Figure 20 Dressing table, Annapolis, Maryland, 1745–1755. Walnut, poplar, white cedar, and yellow pine (by microanalysis). H. 29", W. 34 1/8", D. 19 1/2". (Courtesy, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts; photo, Dan Routh.)

This table is a tough one. It has considerable shallower platforms beneath its' pad feet, but the question is, originally made as such or due to wear? Also, unlike the well attributed preceding dressing table, this table utilizes white cedar secondary wood.



Figure 21 Details of the feet on the chairs in figs. 10 and 19, and on the dressing table in fig. 20. (Photos, Wes Stewart [left], Dennis McWaters [center], and Dan Routh [right].)

This essentially Georgian style dressing table, while lacking most of the carved features associated with the group, is attributed to "circle of" by furniture scholar Sumpter Priddy. While lacking any yellow pine secondary wood, it does display the elevated, bulbous front ring profile pad feet seen on several of the side chairs attributed to the shop. Interestingly, the same George II influenced pad feet are a common characteristic seen on a well identified group of chairs attributed to Annapolis.



Estimate: \$5,000 - \$7,000

Sold for

\$4,095

[4 Bids] Bidding History

Absentee vs Live bid ?

Bid increments chart



About Auction



Live

Premier Auction

By Brunk Auctions | Jul 10, 2021

View full catalog (441)

Lot Description

attributed to Potomac River Valley, Georgetown/Alexandria area, circa 1760, figured walnut top with rounded corners above four figured drawers, dovetailed construction with poplar, pine, and white cedar secondary, scalloped skirts, cabriole legs with pad feet, 30 x 36 x 20 in.

Provenance: Sumpter Priddy Antiques

Note:

The accompanying write up by Sumpter Priddy Antiques indicates that "the table is attributed with confidence to a small circle of mid 18th century, Georgetown joiners, among whom two stand out..."

Condition

brasses replaced, typical minor bumps at corners of drawer facings, no leg or foot repairs found, top with later blocking and evidence of previous brace now removed, top currently loose, minor warping and finish distress to top. (There is some small disparity between hole history in top and base, suggesting the base was perhaps fitted with another top at one point. However, this period top does appear to be original to the table with perfectly matched timber, matching primary attachment holes, and other physical evidence. In addition, the top on this table is identical in form to other known tables from this shop.)



Brunk Auctions

117 Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC 28805
United States

Based in Asheville, North Carolina, Brunk Auctions has been conducting sales of fine and decorative arts for over 30 years. Auctions are held in our North Carolina sale room but attracts a global audience. Founded by Robert Brunk in 1983, the auctions became well known for their integrity and profes...[Read more](#)



emuseum.history.org



www.mesda.org

Categories

These three examples all have trifold feet with accentuated central toes that are worth examining. But in addition to various dissimilarities across the board (i.e. height, flaring, different stocking carving above the feet, etc.), and not occurring in tandem with other acknowledged traits, the forms are just not quite the same. The central toes, while all sloping to varying degrees, don't curve downward as dramatically at their ends.



www.wiscassetantiquescenter.com



Charles Belt's estate listing does not include any reference to secretary bookcases. These two examples (and a known third), obviously out of the same shop, can confidently be geographically attributed to Eastern Virginia or Central Maryland. Based on one having a documented history of ownership in the Berry family of Prince George's County, Gregory Weidman has made a possible attribution to Annapolis, Georgetown, or the area in between. Their tall ogee feet relate to a West River Quaker owned chest of drawers from William Elder's Maryland Queen Anne and Chippendale Furniture. Maker-wise, the two possibilities cited are either Charles Belt or Gerrard Hopkins, both Quakers. Weidman notes the Philadelphia/Baltimore "duality" of the piece. Hopkins, who was born in Anne Arundel County, did train in Philadelphia but opened his shop in Baltimore, not Annapolis, upon his return in 1767. Also, as of now, virtually all furniture attributed to him is made of mahogany and generally follows a higher urban style.



Desk and Bookcase, 1760-1780
 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY,
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY OR BALTIMORE
 Charles Belt may have made this desk and bookcase. Belt was born near Upper Marlborough and later lived with his brothers at Chevy Chase, his grandfather's estate five miles north of Georgetown. We know from tax records that Charles Belt was working as a cabinetmaker in Baltimore Town by 1773.
 This desk and bookcase was originally owned by Allen Bowie Jr. (1736-1803) at the Hermitage, an estate north of Georgetown.
 POSSIBLY CHARLES BELT
 (WORKING 1760-1775)
 Walnut and yellow pine
 MdHS Museum, bequest of Lucy Leigh Bowie, 1968.90.4

Southern Chippendale Walnut
 Bonnet-Top Desk and Bookcase

Estimate \$15,000-\$25,000 Mar 12, 2022

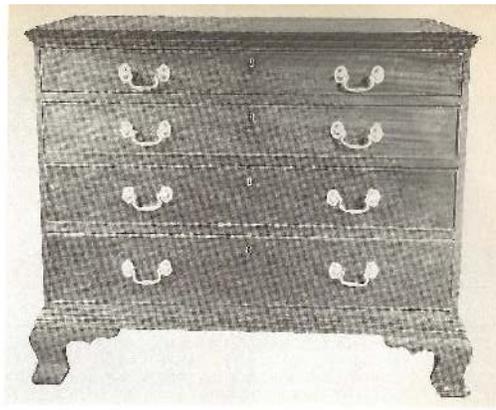
Sold for \$13,000

BIDDER	BID
COMPETING BID	\$13,000.00
COMPETING BID	\$12,500.00
COMPETING BID	\$12,000.00

[Show Remaining Bid History](#)

[SELL A SIMILAR ITEM](#)

22 bidders are watching this item



54
CHEST OF DRAWERS—Chippendale Style; c. 1775-80
 Mahogany, Secondary woods, tulip poplar, yellow pine, white cedar and sweetgum
 h. 33½; w. 39; d. 19
 The moulded edge of the top is found on much Annapolis furniture and may be a local characteristic rather than the trademark of one cabinetmaker. The heavy cabriole feet are original and retain their original blocking. This piece of furniture has always been at Cedar Park on the West River in Anne Arundel County.
 Lent by Mr. & Mrs. Eveleth W. Bridgman, Jr.

Item Details

Description
 Southern Chippendale Walnut Bonnet-Top Desk and Bookcase

attributed to Eastern Virginia or Maryland, circa 1760-1780, two-part form, yellow pine secondary, broken arched pediment with applied cove molded scrolled cornice terminating in applied rosettes, the open frieze with applied carved shell and vine surmounted by carved finials on plinths, two hinged raised panel tombstone doors, louvered shelved interior, two pull-out candle slides, the desk with hinged lipped lid having bread board ends and loper support, central prospect door opening to reveal two pigeon holes above four small drawers flanked by four valanced pigeon holes above four small drawers to each side, the case with two over three lipped graduated drawers with full dust boards, applied molded base raised on shaped ogee bracket feet.
 95 x 43 x 23 in. (without finials), upper case width 38.5 in., max height 102 in.

Featured: Fig. 116, pg. 85, *The Magazine Antiques*, January 1952. The dimensions are not accurate in the comparison, but otherwise this is the example deaccessioned from the Brush-Everard House, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, 1951-432. It is noted from Williamsburg and found on this example: "AMD" chalked on the back of the upper section; "4218" chalked inside the upper section; "RH" penciled inside to small interior drawer; "SM" penciled inside bottom of top full-length drawer.

Shipping & Pickup Options
 Item located in Hillsborough, NC, US
[See Policy for Shipping](#)

[View Auction Policy for Details](#)

Payment
[View Auction Policy for Details](#)

Leland Little
 TOP RATED
 Hillsborough, NC, United States
 687 Reviews >
 22,610 Followers