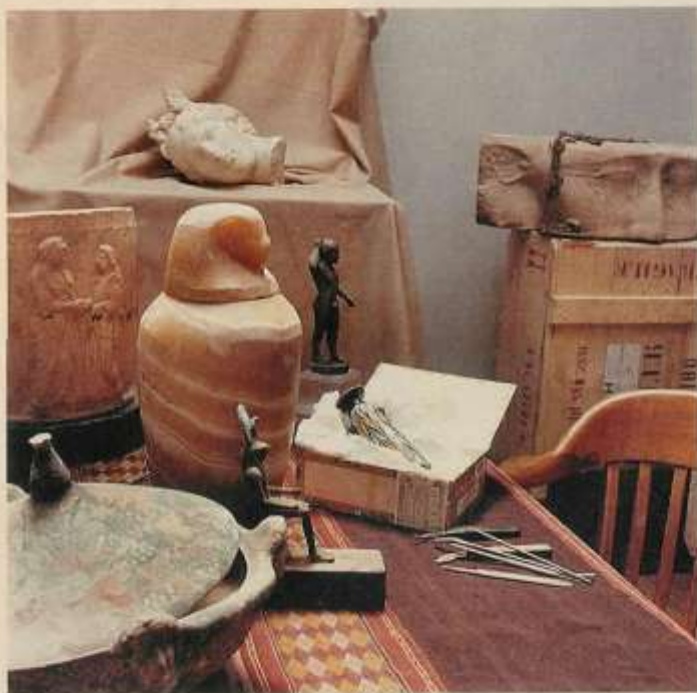
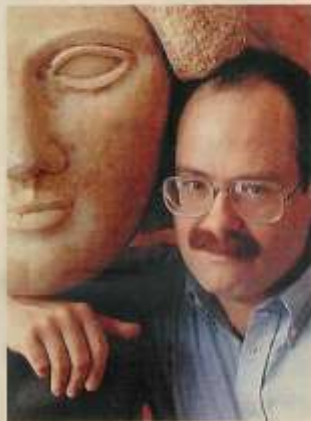


# SHOWMANSHIP



## Robert Haber

Exhibiting his antiquities in association with Artemis Fine Arts Ltd., he is bringing to the show such objects as a fifth-century B.C. marble Phoenician female head of a sarcophagus, right; an Egyptian alabaster Canopic jar, and a Sicilian terra-cotta vessel, above.



OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE NUMBER OF ART and antiques shows held at the Seventh Regiment Armory, Park Avenue and 67th Street, have increased so much it appears that from October through June there is a preview party nearly every other week. There are shows devoted solely to paintings, others that deal exclusively in drawings, some that exhibit only modern decorative arts, and one dealing exclusively in antiquarian books. Indeed, the age of specialization has hit the antiques business. But despite the plethora of shows, grumbings have persisted among experts that New York doesn't have a truly international show, one on a par with Paris's Biennale des Antiquaire or London's Grosvenor House; or one that is vetted by a panel of experts who authenticate every object, as they do for European shows.

It seems almost too good to be true, then, that a new five-day show opening at the armory on Sept. 23, called the International Antique Dealers Show, will fill all these gaps. Held in conjunction with the National Antique & Art Dealers Association of America, it will feature 84 dealers from the United States and Europe. The show will also be vetted by a panel of international experts. Many names will be familiar to regular showgoers, but what is particularly interesting about this new event is that it will also include dealers who have rarely, if ever, exhibited their goods publicly before.

"We thought this show would be a good forum for a first presentation," explains Robert Haber, who heads Robert Haber & Company, a specialist in antiquities. "We're hoping this show will entice new, private collectors." Haber, who sells out of an artist's loft in downtown Manhattan, has selected many rare pieces to exhibit. On view will be such objects as a female marble head of a sarcophagus that dates to the fifth century B.C., a second century A.D. marble statue of a dog and a first century A.D. bronze sea monster so whimsical that the dealer says it resembles a Walt Disney character. "Certainly these are rare objects, but their beauty will hopefully appeal to a general audience," Haber says.

Ketty Maisonrouge, who opened Vieux Livres d'Europe Inc. in Manhattan four years ago, has always sold to private collectors. In fact,



## Ketty Maisonrouge

She will be selling rare books publicly for the first time. The company that Ms. Maisonrouge runs, called Vieux Livres d'Europe Inc., specializes in 18th-century European illustrated books like those to the right.



**Robert Ellsworth**

After dropping out of the Winter Antiques Show 18 years ago, this dealer has sold privately from his Manhattan apartment. His collection of rare Oriental art includes a sixth-century A.D. stone sculpture of the goddess Saraswati in north-central India, left.

when she first went into business, she decided to appeal to a clientele other than the academicians who traditionally bought rare books. She deals predominantly in French 18th-century illustrated books. But, says the dealer, "surprisingly, most buyers are simply people interested in antiques and beautiful objects." As a result, rather than participating in an antiquarian book dealers' exhibition, she has chosen this new fall show for her initial foray into the public arena.

Many of the European dealers bringing their business to New York for the first time are hoping to make contacts with the new American collectors who have made news in recent years. "I

felt it was about time I revealed myself, since the best customers these days are in the United States," says Dick Turpin. Turpin sells English and Continental furniture and art out of his showroom in an old mews house in London. Peter Finer, another British dealer, is also interested in cultivating American clients. Although for the last 20 years he has been dealing in arms and armor from his home, which is 10 miles south of Stratford-on-Avon, he realizes the value of exhibiting in New York. "William Randolph Hearst and the early American millionaires had major collections," he says. "Back then, it was considered very fashionable." Fashion has a way of repeating itself. According to Mr. Finer, personalities such as Ronald Lauder are now dominating the field.

And it is just such important collectors whom Robert Ellsworth, the Oriental art expert, believes will attend at the new show. Ellsworth, who has sold privately from his Manhattan apartment since 1970, hasn't publicly exhibited his objects since he dropped out of New York's Winter Antiques Show 18 years ago. The rare furniture, sculptures, bronzes and paintings he is bringing to the armory are objects the public rarely sees. "These may be pieces not generally sold to the average collector," says Ellsworth. "But people are more knowledgeable now, more ready to collect esoteric objects. Besides, New York is slowly eclipsing London as the capital of the art world. And this show is sure to help." ■



**Peter Finer**

He has been dealing in arms and armor from his house in England for years. Although he is pictured near cannons, above, he is bringing objects that are easier to transport, such as a pair of flintlock pistols by Nicholas Boutet of Paris.

**Dick Turpin**

For 41 years, he has been selling English and Continental antiques from London. Among the objects Mr. Turpin, below, is bringing to the show is a George I walnut side chair originally from the Phipps collection.

