

Stockelbach, Lavonia Ruth

Rec'd Jan 30/07 p. 1

## Collection of paintings historic and fascinating

By Luke Hendry  
THE INTELLIGENCER

DEMORESTVILLE — At a distance, they look like small, colourful coasters.

But to John and Diane Brisley, the paintings of Lavonia Stockelbach are collector's items and a fascinating piece of Belleville's art history.

In 1980, the Brisleys moved to Napanee from Peterborough.

Both were avid collectors of antiques, and throughout his life, John was also interested in birds.

At an auction that year, he spotted a series of small paintings of birds and flowers by Lavonia Stockelbach, a late Belleville artist. Most were painted on 4-by-5-inch wafers of wood between about 1928 and 1963, yet the colours remained brilliant.

The auction was to liquidate the estate of the artist's niece.

"I just liked what I saw, basically," he said, explaining the paintings combined his loves of antiques and birds.

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INTELLIGENCER PHOTO BY LUKE HENDRY

Diane and John Brisley of Demorestville sort through their collection of books and paintings.

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