

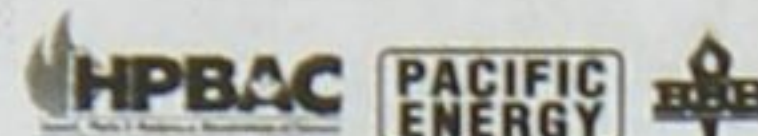
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# ATTIC TREASURES...

by Rob Reid

I welcome inquiries about any objects that you may have and look forward to seeing and perhaps writing about them. Please forward a photo and a description to me through *Stouffville this Month*, or drop it off at Reid's Antiques, 6397 Main St. Stouffville during regular business hours or via e-mail at robert.reid5@sympatico.ca.

This is a lovely Victorian fan dating from about the turn of the century. The accordion-pleated silk is a rich shade of plum with a transfer printed pattern. The colours are rich shades of burnt orange, greens, blues and yellows arranged in a stylized boteh (paisley) pattern. The handle is made of wood with a lacquered tortoiseshell finish and a gilded design of cranes and palms. It is mounted with a finely etched brass ring and steel mounts for retracting the veins when not in use.

All together the design influences are Asian -- Japanese for the handle and Indian for the decorative motifs of the fan, yet all combined, it is very much an English lady's accessory for an evening reception. The fan's clever design meant it could be worn from a cord about the wrist when not in use while the

lady was dancing or dining, but quickly put into action to cool a close environment or ward off a gentleman who attempted to get too close.

The boteh pattern first appeared to westerners as an embroidered pattern in South Asian textiles. It adapted well to block printed cloth from Java and reached its peak in European popularity as the primary design element of jacquard woven shawls that were so popular at the height of the industrial revolution and made the town of Paisley, Scotland a household name.

This particular fan is the treasured keepsake of a local family and as such its value is priceless. The careful mount and shadowbox display technique will protect it from dust while permitting it to be admired. Fans should be kept away from direct sunlight to prevent fading of their delicate veins.

Decorative fans of this quality and excellent condition are rare finds. Women's accessories of this type are very collectible and one would expect to see high calibre fans at specialty sales for prices ranging from \$250 - \$1,000 depending upon the materials and condition.

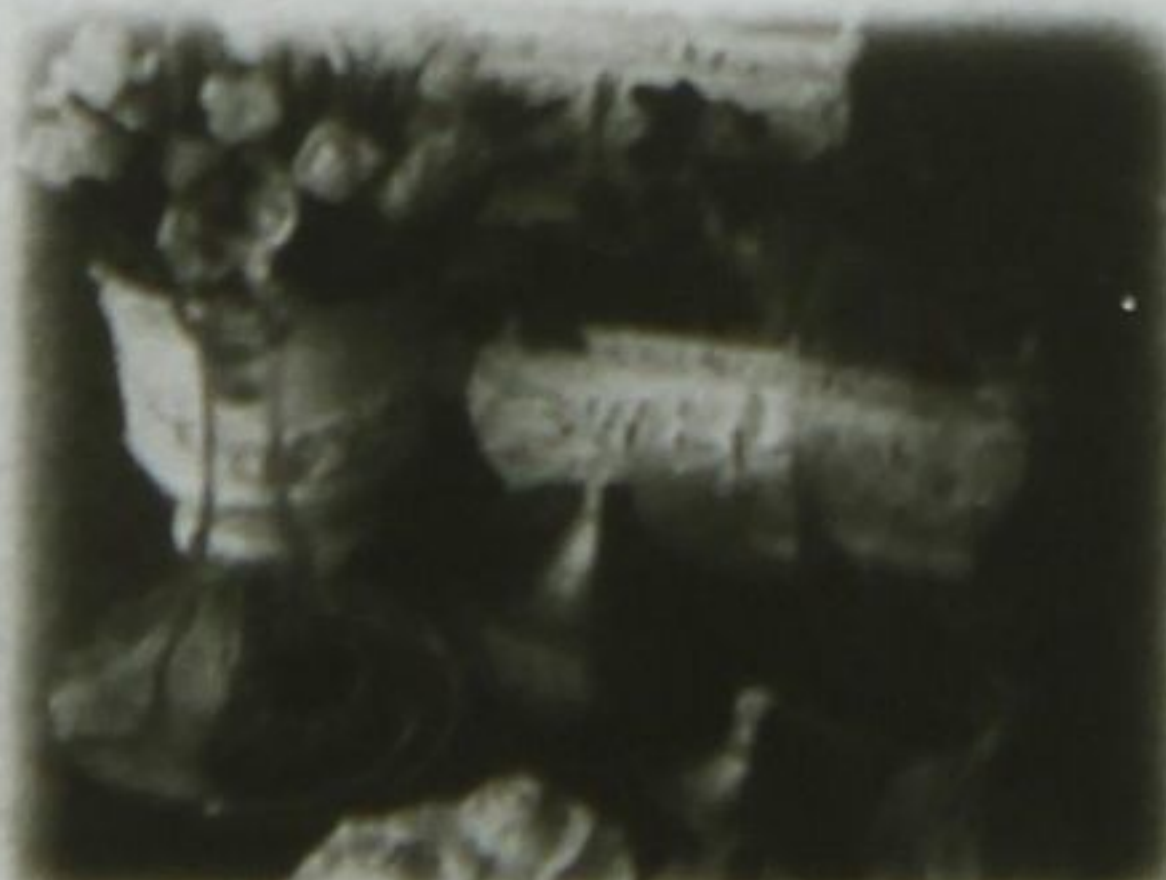
Rob Reid is the owner of Reid's Antiques and Consignment on Stouffville's Main St.



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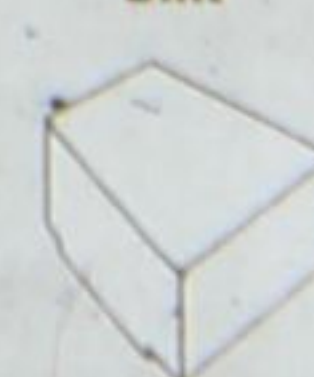
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