

Business
of the Week

Bijou Galleries Cold Spring

By Sam Barron

Cold Spring is known for having some great places to shop, but Bijou Galleries might take the cake.

The antiques store, owned by Michael Timm, has been a collectors dream for the last 15 years. Timm rents out his space to 30 different dealers, who peddle all sorts of rare items, enough to fill any living or bedroom.

Timm's path to running an antique business was certainly unique. He was an assistant attorney to the attorney general in New York State, but a regime change left him without a job. He owned his own space, and after a prior tenant left, he and his wife, Jane, decided to start their own business. Timm freely admits that when it comes to knowledge of antiques, his wife is in the brains in that area.

"It's a fairly common setup for an antique store," Timm said. "People rent out space and we act as a sales agent. We assist and help collect the sales tax."

This allows Timm and his tenants to be in business with a very low overhead. Bijou features all types of antiques, from sculpting to collectibles.

"It's a very eclectic mix," Timm said. "We cater to art buyers and the serious antique collector. People seem to always be able to find something."

Timm admits that his knowledge of antiques still isn't that great, but in his 15 years, he has picked up a thing or two. He said he acts more like a space manager,



Bijou Galleries has been a prime destination for antique shoppers in Cold Spring for the past 15 years.

dealing with the finances of the building. But after 15 years in the industry, he has come to see why people are fascinated with antiques.

"I think it is two-fold," Timm said. "There is a certain fascination with old things. People are just fascinated with how people lived.

I'm fascinated with wind up phonographs. They got the music out somehow."

Timm said that his wife enjoys collecting silver and dishes, and also has a love for ceramic portions and jewelry. Five of Timm's dealers have been there since the business opened, while another four have been with

him for the past decade, while other deals come and go. Even with the fluctuation, Timm said that it is a fairly easy business, allowing him and his wife to explore hobbies, including motor biking for him and going to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for her.

The Poughkeepsie resident said that most of his customers are repeat, who come in to see what the latest knick-knacks his dealers are selling. He said that Cold Spring is the perfect place to sell antiques, since there is a constant stream of people coming into the town, and that it's the most picturesque place in all of New York.

Despite an economic recession that has caused people to hold onto their wallets, Bijou has been able to survive. While Timm acknowledges that it has had an impact, he says they are selling as much as they used to, but not selling as many expensive items.

"If people like antiques, they love these places," Timm said. "The joy of the hunt is part of antiquing. People are always looking for great deals."

Most importantly, the business has allowed the Timms, both retired from their previous jobs, to live what he calls, a stress-free life.

"We're the landlord, so the landlord isn't going to kick us out," Timm said. "We have enough energy to keep this thing going."

Bijou Galleries is located at 50 Main Street in Cold Spring. For more information call (845) 265-4337 or visit www.bijougalleries.com.

Currier & Ives Collector to Give Lecture at Boscobel

Think you may have an original Currier & Ives lithograph in your attic? Want to learn more about how to identify authenticity?

Join us at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 29 to hear noted Currier & Ives collector John Zak give an illustrated lecture on the fascinating history of Currier & Ives, followed by a visit to the Gallery for further discussion

and questions regarding Currier & Ives on the Hudson.

Zak is recognized as one of the pre-eminent collectors of Currier & Ives in the country. He has been collecting the firm's lithographs since the late 1970's and in 2007 served as a consultant to a PBS television program about Currier & Ives produced by WGBY in Springfield, MA. Mr. Zak is currently the President of the American Historical Print Collectors Society and lives in Long Island.

Boscobel's major summer exhibition, Currier & Ives on the Hudson, opened July 4 and features prints of the 19th-century publishing firm that issued thousands of lithographs on a wide variety of popular subjects, earning their reputation as "printmakers to the American people." Boscobel's exhibit of 35 hand-colored lithographs focuses on Currier & Ives landscapes and views of the Hudson River Valley, as well as depictions of river activity, such as steamships and ice boat racing. The exhibit also examines the process of lithography and features the display of a 150-pound lithographer's stone.

While the paintings of the Hudson



The Hudson, from West Point. Grounds of the U.S. Military Academy, after Frances Flora Bond Palmer, Hand-colored lithograph, published by Currier & Ives, 1862, Collection of John and Theodore Wunderlich.

River School first brought prominence to the scenery of this region, the prints by Currier & Ives disseminated these views to a broad audience and transformed the landscape into a series of iconic vistas that still resonate with the public today.

Although the popularity of Currier & Ives prints has been enduring, there have been only a few recent exhibitions that exclusively feature their prints. Boscobel's exhibit and an accompanying publication will offer an opportunity to re-examine the history of the firm and will bring together much of their Hudson Valley imagery in one place for the first time.

The Currier & Ives Exhibition Lecture will take place in the Thompson Room at the Carriage House and will be followed by a visit to the Gallery to further discuss the exhibition and address questions from visitors. Space is limited. Lecture admission is included in the price of a House Tour ticket or a Grounds & Exhibit ticket. The exhibition will be on display for viewing during regular business hours through Monday, Oct. 11.

Boscobel is located on scenic Route 9D in Garrison. For more info call (845) 265-3638 ext. 115 or visit www.Boscobel.org.

Cool in Cold Spring



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NANCY GOLD

Cold Spring area residents cooled off recently during an unusual trip on the Hudson when the historic NYC fireboat MS John J. Harvey showed what its 79-year-old water pumps can do. The visit of the boat was arranged through the North River Historic Ship Society to celebrate the re-opening of the village dock at Cold Spring. More historic vessels will be coming in over the Labor Day weekend and will be open to the public free of charge.