

Jeff Yale, Ansonia, Conn., holds up a German sulphide, about 1880, with a hand carved rooster made of gypsum or clay.



Mark Block, Trumbull, Conn., works with a customer.



Rudy Rudolph, Canterbury, Conn.




 Review and Photos by
 Antiques and The Arts Weekly
 Andrea Valluzzo, Assistant Editor

Mike Gallant, Bangor, Maine, shows off a fine onionskin marble, mid-1800s, having an unusual color.



Neve Douglas of Neve and Tim Douglas, Bar Harbor, Maine, holds a rare golden rebel shooter, circa 1940s-50s.

tion officially thanking its founder Stanley Block for his 40 years of service as chairman of the society as well as Claire Block for her 40 years as secretary. Both retired from the society this year.

Richard "Rudy" Rudolph, Canterbury, Conn., filled a musical instrument case with a fine sampling of American, machine-made marbles, circa 1915-50, while his booth neighbor, Ben Barocas, both a glass artist and collector himself, featured glass cat figurines he designed himself with a hole in the back, dubbed cat butts, as well as vintage glass, including a fine and large glass "Earth" sphere by glass artist Geoffrey Beetem of Ohio.

Winnowing down years of collecting, Dr Jeff Yale, Ansonia, Conn., found the meet to be excellent. "I revisited with several 'marble enthusiasts' I had not seen in several years and met a number of new collectors," he said. "Unusual antique marbles in 'mint' condition always trade and/or sell quickly and at high prices.

Since I had some unusual sulphide marbles and early 1930s machine-made marble boxes, the show was productive for me."

Tom Kingsley, Trumbull, Conn., sold well from his collection of contemporary marbles he makes and that he has earned quite a following for. "People today — young and old — are all interested in marbles," he said, saying his vortex swirls were popular here. "Each marble I sell is unique, no two are the same."

Lefty Bingman, Franklin, Penn., also had a good overall show, noting buyers seemed to hone in on marbles and not overly interested in marble-related items. "As far as selling, it was about even with handmade and machine-made marbles. I used to sell a lot of side items such as marble games, marble toys and marble jewelry. I also sold glassware made by the Akro Agate marble company. Sales of these items have really dropped off the last couple of years," he said. "The best part of the show was finding great

marbles to add to my collection and seeing old friends that you may only see once a year."

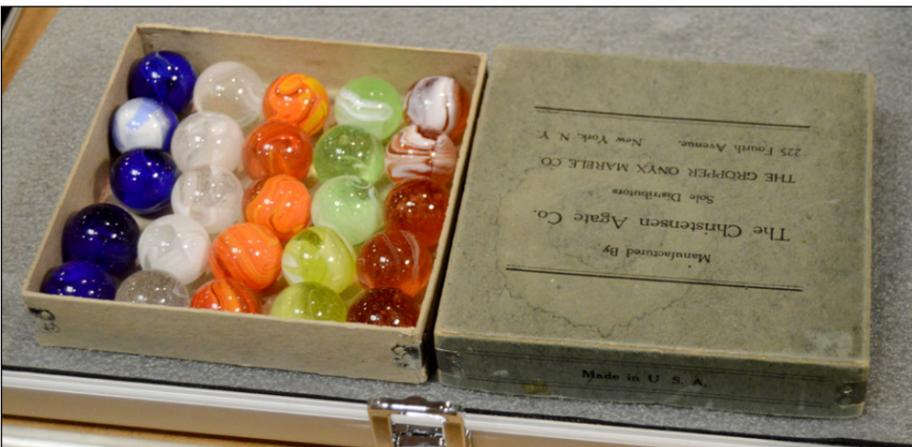
Specializing in handmade marbles, Elliot Pincus sold across the board from large and small swirls to sulphides, banded opaques and oxblood transitionals to a rare Akro box. He also picked up for his collection an elusive "Blue Galaxy."

Mark Block, Trumbull, Conn., who also has a retail space at Renninger's, Adamstown, Penn., specialized in marbles for 25 years and also deals in Americana. He had a nice mix of unique items on hand. "What I try to do is bring the rare thing that is hard to find," he said.

Buyers and attendees clearly agreed. One visitor described the event as "marble overload" on the society's Facebook page, and wrote, "If you have not been to a show, do yourself and your addiction a favor and make some serious plans to attend one in the near future...you will not regret it!"



A highlight in the booth of Lefty Bingman, Franklin, Penn., was this set of marbles. The lid of the case boasts nice decoration of children playing marbles.



Bob Block, Shelton, Conn., featured a rare, complete set of agates made by the Christensen Agate Co., circa 1927-29.



Carl Popp, Shrewsbury, Mass.