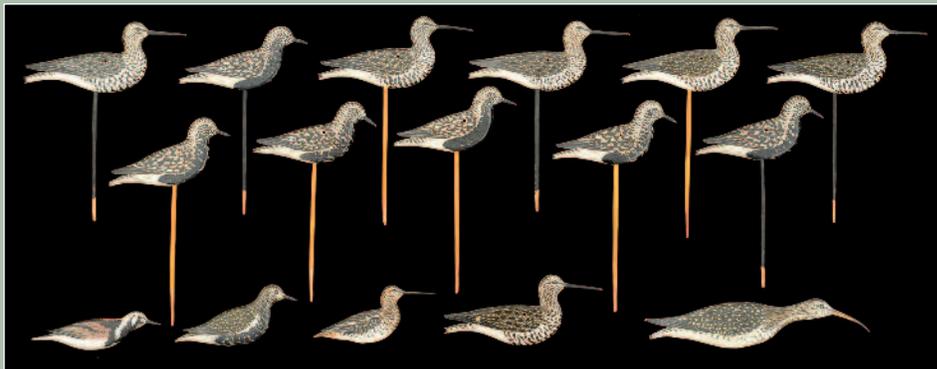


## Set of Crowell silhouettes soar at Julia's summer auction

A lot of sixteen silhouette shorebird decoys were offered at James D. Julia's Fine Art, Asian & Antiques Auction on August 25, 2016 with a modest estimate of \$1000/1500. The set, which included six black-bellied plovers, six dowitchers, a golden plover, dowitcher, ruddy turnstone and running curlew, were described in the catalog as "carved and painted shorebird decoys. All bodies have brown and white paint with spotted bodies." All had holes drilled through the bodies and they were "Unsigned."

When the last bid was cast the lot sold for \$90,060, as by the time they were offered most of the decoy collecting world, including the auctioneer, knew they were the work of Elmer Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts.

Right before the cut-off for the auction, while the boss was on vacation in Alaska, the consignment was accepted by one of Julia's "non-decoy" specialists, who provided the catalog description as well as the appraisal and estimate. After his return, while walking through the storage barn, Jim spotted the silhouettes and recognized them as Crowell



Set of 16 silhouette shorebird decoys by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts sold for \$90,060.

shorebirds as soon as he saw them. But it was too late to make a correction to the catalog, as it had already been printed.

The auction house proceeded to send emails announcing the mistake, directly contacted prominent decoy collectors and made the correct attribution when they reached the auction block. Since it had already been cataloged as one lot, they decided that "this is the way they'll be sold."

While many examples of Crowell silhouette yellowlegs and black-bellied plovers have been sold both privately and publicly, this is the first time we can recall seeing a golden plover, dowitcher, ruddy turnstone or curlew, which no doubt added a premium to the sales price.

In a printout announcing the correction, the auction house suggested, "This will certainly be an interesting lot." 



### PUBLIC AUCTION DECOYS, FOLK ART & AMERICANA Saturday, October 15, 2016

**AUCTION 5:30pm (Preview: 3:00pm-5:30pm)**  
**ELKS Club, 146 Palmer Avenue (Rt. 28), Falmouth MA 02540**

We are pleased to offer under short notice the Roger Williams Collection of Decoys and Americana. The sale will include many Lincoln decoys with many geese, ducks and sea ducks from his Coot Farm Collection (Coot the local name of scoters). Roger was an avid duck hunter particularly of sea ducks. His Uncle Abel Poole of Rockland, MA hunted with Joe Lincoln and Roger has memories of sitting and talking hunting with them on the porch of his uncle's home as a young man. The sale includes over 250 decoys and carvings and 50 lots of Americana, Coca-Cola Memorabilia and Folk Art, featuring an original Benson watercolor. Other makers include: A.E. Crowell, James Look, Gus Wilson, A. Wallace, Keyes, Chadwick, Ward Brothers, Masons, Madison Mitchell, Gelston, Fred Gardner, Wilbur Corwin, Abel Poole, plus many others. Many surprises are to be unpacked. A complete list of this sale will be available by early September, and is available upon request.

**Auctioneers Note:** Roger Williams is a descendent of Roger Williams of RI, one of the founders of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. A graduate of Brown University, he was a superb athlete who acquired two engineering degrees. He served in WWII as Lieutenant on a sub-chaser. His career accomplishments include serving as Chief Executive of Carling Brewery followed by Rheingold Brewers, then served as CEO of S.S. Pierce, and then as Senior Vice President of Operations for Coca-Cola in NY. He later acquired the Laconia, NH and Lowell, MA Coca-Cola Bottling Industry - the 9<sup>th</sup> largest bottler in the country. He served as Chairman of Massachusetts Fish and Game Board, was a founding Member of the Blue Mountain Forrest Association Hunting Club in NH and the National Beagle Club in Aldie, VA. Roger and his wife Carla have decided to sell their beautiful 600 acre estate in NH, just a little more than 1 hour from Boston. The property includes a 18,000 sq/ft home with many amenities including; indoor pool and observatory, 3 additional houses, barns, hunting cabin, heated kennels, shooting and fish ponds, rolling hay fields abounds in wildlife, especially white tailed deer. For further information on the property, please call the family directly at 603-953-4460.

Terms: 15% premium for cash or known checks.  
Absentee bids accepted.  
17% for credit card purchases.

Auctioneer:

Phil Stanton, MA license 255. Phone 508-728-2201 eiderduckman@aol.com



**DECOYS  
AND  
AMERICANA  
SINCE 1962**