

Press Release
Prehistoric Artifact Auction Brings in Record Results
Shelbyville, Indiana (USA)
September 15, 2013

A September 14, 2013 auction of prehistoric artifacts from the prestigious Earl Townsend, Jr. Collection netted record prices for Prehistoric North American Artifacts. The auction, presented by T&T Archaeological Consulting and Brent Fuchs Auctioneering, attracted an enthusiastic group of floor bidders to Shelbyville, IN (USA), as well as remote bidders from around the world.

The Townsend Collection is regarded as the single most significant collection of North American prehistoric artifacts ever assembled. The Townsend collection boasts excellent provenance and many artifacts carry storied collector histories. The highlights of the sale were the fifty-four “Birdstones” from the Townsend collection. Most were documented in his monumental literary work, *Birdstones of the North American Indian* (1959). “Birdstones” are small sculptured stone objects made by Native Americans thousands of years ago. They are rare objects, dating several thousand years in age. Birdstone shapes resemble “birds” and are usually drilled for unknown purpose(s). The exact use of Birdstones remains a mystery, despite many years of speculation and theory.

Tony Putty, of T&T Archaeological Consulting, reports that it was the most successful auction in their ten-year history. With bid prices totaling \$1.3 million, it is believed this was the highest grossing Prehistoric Artifact Auction ever to be held. Two Birdstones in the auction brought \$130,000 each, making them the highest selling Birdstones ever offered to the public. The auctioneer, Brent Fuchs, presided over an energetic sale – with seven Birdstones individually bringing a hammer price of \$50,000 or more.

All reported bid prices are before any buyer’s premium. More information on the auction, including sale results, can be found online at tonyputtyartifacts.com.



3.6” Slate Birdstone
Found near South Haven, Michigan in 1920
Sold for a record \$130,000



**3" Porphyry Birdstone
Found in Gratiot Co, Michigan in 1925
Sold for \$110,000**