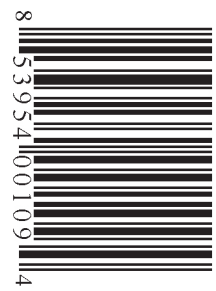


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American artists and a San Francisco private collection at Michaan's in May National Page 1



Gore collection tops Brunk Auctions event

National Page 1

# Antique Week

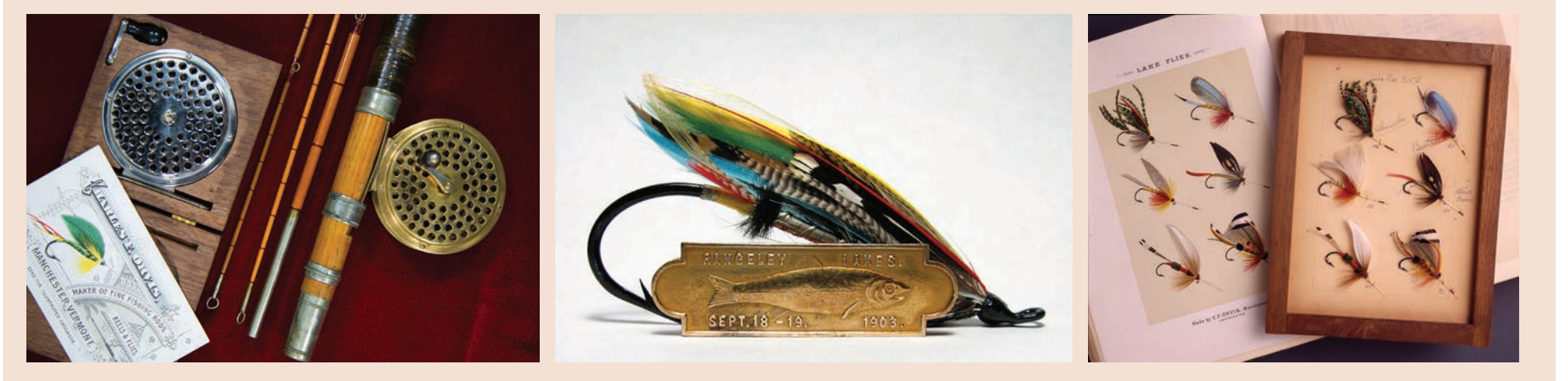
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Above Left: Early Orvis Rod, reels and tradecard. Above Middle: Fishing tournament pin from Rangeley, Maine. Above Right: Orvis lake flies.

## The allure of fly fishing collectibles: Sport from the 1400s

BY STEVE WOIT

The sport of fishing has more equipment associated with it than any other sport, and the development of fly fishing tackle has a long history. This means collectors can find all manner of items. The earliest written record for the first fly patterns dates back to 1460.

There is also resurgence in the sport of fly fishing, meaning fly fishing tackle continues to sell well in antique shops and in specialized auctions. The success of regional fly fishing shows and the emergence of new bamboo fly rod makers and fly reel makers have also enlivened the field.

The first rods made for sport fishing with the fly were introduced in the 1700s and the first true tackle makers emerged in the early 1800s, including the founding of Farlows in the UK in 1840 and of Hardy's, perhaps the most famous global fly fishing brand, founded in 1872.

The first American tackle maker, Orvis, was founded in 1856. Many of the first tackle makers were also gunsmiths who expanded into fishing tackle as sport fishing became more popular with the availability of more leisure time. The first manufactured American fly reels were designed in the mid-1800s, with the first reel patented by Billingham in 1854.

In general, some of the most active categories in fly fishing tackle include classic and collectible bamboo fly rods, fly reels, flies and accessories such as fly wallets, creels, fly tying desks and materials, and vests and fly fishing bags and apparel.

Starting with classic and collectible bamboo fly rods, the most sought after rods are those that include the most famous brands, clearly marked on the rod, either with lettering on the bamboo itself (typically near the handle), or on the reel seat or fittings where the reel is attached to the rod. Some rod makers also included patent dates stamped on the reel seats or on the butt cap at the end of the rod.



Above: Megan Red Sandy salmon fly.



Left: Megan Boyd Jock Scott salmon fly.

SEE FLY FISHING ON PAGE 16

Fly fishing accessories from Dean Smith collection.



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