

THE COLLECTOR

The Ultimate Treasure Hunt

Old Glory

Winter Antiques Show, New York

After 51 years, America's oldest antiques show has not lost its luster. Held each January at the historic Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue to benefit East Side House Settlement, a South Bronx social services organization, the Winter Antiques Show attracts world-class dealers specializing in top-quality English, American, European and Asian



furniture, paintings and decorative arts. Unlike most art and antiques fairs, all net proceeds go to its charity. And there is nothing better than a heady mix of art and philanthropy to bring out the crème de la crème of New York society. At the glamorous opening night reception, you might rub elbows with the likes of Martha Stewart, Charles Rockefeller, Governor George Pataki or Oscar de la Renta. The centerpiece of New York's Americana Week, when a flurry of auctions, exhibitions and other fairs devoted to American antiques enliven the winter landscape, this prestigious show traditionally has been geared toward collectors of American antiques. But judging by its increasingly eclectic offerings, such as André Arbus' Aubusson carpet and an Egyptian cartonnage mummy mask that were among last year's highlights, the Winter Show is feeling the heat from competitors and trying to expand its audience. "This show is a must for serious collectors of any kind," says John Hays, deputy chairman of Christie's America. For collectors like Kip Forbes, the Winter Show is a hallowed tradition. "It's where I cut my teeth as a collector," he says. Critics say the faded, cramped quarters at the Armory are a drawback, and that the fair could benefit by adding postwar and contemporary art to its roster.

Rating: A-



Finds from the Winter Antiques Show. Top: A glover's hand form, ca. 1890. Left: A late 19th-century copper-and-lead centaur weather vane.