

# Resources for disposing of your "stuff"\*

Decide whether you want to sell or to donate. Remember that the type of item, its condition, its "story" (acquisition and sales history), and its rarity are all factors that determine the potential value of something that you may wish to sell. Many auction houses have a minimum value requirement that must be met before they will accept an item on consignment; and there are seller's and other possible fees involved.

Giving to a thrift shop is simple, and you generally receive a tax donation sheet on which your donation can be itemized. Consignment shops receive a percentage of the sale price. Giving to museums or historical societies is trickier because of the costs involved (staff and time) in the complex process of formally accepting an object into a museum collection. Regarding books, Chris Doeblin, owner of Book Culture, stresses the importance of being aware that, for the most part, old collections of books are not all that valuable because of the time that it takes to sort and check titles to determine how saleable they are. Also, there is no category of books that is always in demand, only a few specific books in any given category that will attract buyers.

\*this is a partial list of those resources considered to be most useful to the BAiP audience

# **AUCTION HOUSES**

Swann Galleries 104 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10010 212-254-4710; <u>www.swanngalleries.com</u> Items on paper, posters, photographs, books, and original works of art on canvas

Capo Auction Fine Art & Antiques 36-01 Queens Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101 718-433-3710; <u>www.capoauction.com</u> Silver, jewelry, paintings, furniture, rugs, lamps, porcelain, Asian art

## AUCTION HOUSES (continued)

Philip Weiss Auctions 1 Neil Court, Oceanside, NY 11572 516-594-0731; <u>www.weissauctions.com</u> Collectibles (postage stamps, coins, comic books, sports memorabilia, toys, etc.)

Doyle New York Auctioneers & Appraisers 175 East 87<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10128 212-427-2730; <u>www.DoyleNewYork.com</u> furniture, fine and decorative art, watches, Asian art

# BOOKSELLERS

Book Culture 536 W. 112<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10025 212-865-1581; <u>www.bookculture.com</u> (<u>chris@bookculture.com</u> Chris Doeblin, owner) Will buy books Monday-Saturday, 10-5

Strand Book Store 828 Broadway (East 12<sup>th</sup> St.), New York, NY 10003-4805 212-473-1472; <u>www.strandbooks.com</u> Buying desk open Monday-Saturday, 9:30-6 (no text books or magazines)

Housing Works Bookstore Cafe 126 Crosby Street, New York, NY 10012 212-334-3324 ; <u>www.shophousingworks.com</u> Monday-Friday 10-9, Saturday-Sunday, 10-5 Donations only (no pick-ups; no text, self-help, or religious books)

#### THRIFT SHOPS; CONSIGNMENT SHOPS

Housing Works Broadway & 96<sup>th</sup> Thrift Shop 2569 Broadway, New York, NY 10025 212-222-3550 Bring in donations 10-8 weekdays, 10-4 weekends (good idea to call first)

#### THRIFT SHOPS; CONSIGNMENT SHOPS (continued)

Salvation Army Thrift Store 268 West 96<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10025 1-800-SA-TRUCK; <u>www.salvationarmyusa.org</u> Donations accepted Monday-Saturday 10-6, Tuesday-Friday 10-7

Good Will Store & Donation Center 217 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10024 212-874-5050; <u>www.goodwillny.org</u> Donations accepted Monday-Saturday 10-8, Sunday 10-7

Holy Name Thrift Shop (for Franciscan Community Center) 207 West 96<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10025 212-749-0276 (Parish office) Donations accepted Tuesday-Sunday, 10-5

Columbia University Consignment Shop 52 Tiemann Place, New York, NY 10027 (between Broadway and Claremont, just south of West 125th St.) 212-663-2051; <u>columbiauconsignment@verizon.net</u> Monday-Saturday, 11-9; Sunday, 12-8 Proceeds are split 50-50 with consignor. Pam, manager, will advise about items you may wish to consign (646-797-9849)

**APPRAISERS** (all of the **AUCTION HOUSES** listed above have appraisal services; many have free, walk-in evaluation days)

Appraisers Association of America Inc. 386 Park Avenue South, Suite 2000, New York, NY 10016 212-889-5404; www.appraisersassoc.org

#### ONLINE SALES AND VALUATIONS

You may be able to get an idea of what your item is worth by checking the following websites for listings of items similar to yours. There is no charge for searching, and a little online research, if you are comfortable doing it, can help you to be better informed as you make decisions about selling or donating your possessions. (There are several online databases of auction

## **ONLINE SALES AND VALUATIONS** (continued)

results, such as artfact.com and artnet.com, which are fee-based, require registration, and are fairly costly for private individuals. A more affordable option may be <u>www.valuemystuff.com</u>, where, for a per-item fee, customers can supply images and receive an estimate)

www.ebay.com

www.abebooks.com/books/Sell/

**HISTORIANS** (may be consulted for vetting of family documents, diaries, and other material of potential historical significance, but not for questions or opinions about monetary value)

Gil Tauber 212-65-4084; gt.avb@verizon.net Kathleen Hulser 212-865-6061; kathleen.hulser@gmail.com

## OTHER

Materials for the Arts 33-00 Northern Blvd., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Long Island City, NY 11101 718-729-3001; <u>www.mfta.org</u> Donate fabric, notions, office supplies, frames, household items, for re-use by artists, educators