

ALDERFER AUCTION

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Collector's Auction – Thursday, March 21st Featuring 15 Miniature Rooms from The Long Island Museum



The collection was created by Frederick B. Hicks (1895 – 1985) of Boston, Massachusetts and donated to The Long Island Museum where it was displayed from 1974 – 2014. The Collection of 15 Miniature Rooms illustrate periods of interior architecture and decorative arts from the 16th Century through early 20th Century. His canvas' included wood, metal, ceramics and textiles. The rooms include: Antique Shop, Elizabethan Room, Georgian Parlor, Library & Living Rooms, Nursery, Chinese Dining Rooms, 19th Century Dining Room, Samuel McIntire Room, Early American Bedroom, Federal Dining Room, Colonial Parlor, Colonial Bedroom, 17th Century Kitchen, and Moderne Room.

Frederick Hicks and the Miniature Rooms by The Long Island Museum

The craftsmanship, research, and taste evident in the Long Island Museum's miniature rooms lead one to considerable curiosity about the man who designed, made, and furnished them. In excerpts from his letters to the Museum, Frederick Hicks tells us:

"The rooms were made between 1936-1942... I saw Mrs. Thorne's rooms when in Chicago, and they are beautifully made. They spurred my interest and desire to try my hand at making some. The only requirements were time, patience and imagination, which in the end gave me a great deal of satisfaction...

"The rooms are made to a scale of one inch to one foot. To illustrate, tabletop, life size, would be about thirty inches from the floor but in the scale of the rooms, would be two and a half inches high. Keeping to this scale consistently is what gives the charm of reality...

"I could not find anyone who would work to such detail, so I had to fall back on my own efforts... for instance, small wing cutters used on a shaper to make the molding on windows, doors and paneling moldings were not available, and so I had to grind them to the correct shape myself. The carvings as on the Elizabethan rooms were done with a small high-speed grinder, at times using very small dentist burrs. Many operations had to be improved...

"The room I made myself and about 90% of the furniture... the red lacquer cabinets and screen, as well the Christmas breakfast room table, chairs, and secretary with books, the chest with rope legs and the cabinet were made by an Englishman who did extraordinary work..

"The many small things were picked up one at a time. You develop a sense of size, so an object would be at the right scale, and in doing so produce a realism, which seems to entrance most people...

"The miniature rooms were made while I lived in Brookline, Massachusetts. I had a small shop on Charles Street, Boston, in the rear of which I had the machinery and did work."

Frederick Hicks gave the miniature rooms to the Long Island Museum in 1965. (Frederick B. Hicks, 15 Miniature Rooms, Long Island Museum, Stony Brook, N.Y.).

The Miniature Rooms as Period Settings by The Long Island Museum

Books on scale miniatures often refer to Egyptian tomb miniatures and the minute replicas of prized objects on classical and oriental civilizations. Visitors to Germany, the Netherlands, and England love the historical detail of 17th through 19th century doll houses.

Full scale period rooms were the first used as educational exhibits at the end of the 19th century by the museums of Scandinavia and northern Europe. The 1876 Philadelphia Centennial is often cited as the beginning of interest in American decorative art and interior design. American museums installed period rooms with the space-saving advantages of miniaturization.

A lifelong collector of miniatures, Narcissa Thorne lived in Chicago where she employed full time craftsman to fabricate the rooms and furnishings from her research notes. In 1932, thirty of her rooms were displayed at the Chicago Historical Society and the following year a single building at the Chicago's World Fair was devoted to them. In 1942, Mrs. Thorne gave her collection to the Chicago Art Institute where sixty-eight rooms are permanently exhibited.

While there are similarities in specific rooms, there are two significant differences between the Thorne Rooms and the Hicks Rooms. Mr. Hicks made the rooms and the majority of the furnishings himself; Mrs. Thorne was responsible for the concept and research for each, but crafted only a few objects herself. The Thorne Rooms represent the external appearance of a room and its fittings in exacting and convincing detail. The Hicks Rooms exactly duplicate a room, and its furnishings in function as well as appearance: doors open, drawers slide, book are printed, a mechanical top spins.

Mr. Hicks, in one of his letters, used the phrase: "the charm of reality." Though the charm captures us instantly, the Hicks rooms contain more reality than can ever be accurately be demonstrated... (Frederick B. Hicks, 15 Miniature Rooms, Long Island Museum, Stony Brook, N.Y.).



Lot 3128 - Antique Shop Miniature Room Box Scene

1930s - 32" width; 27 ½" depth; 17 ¼" height

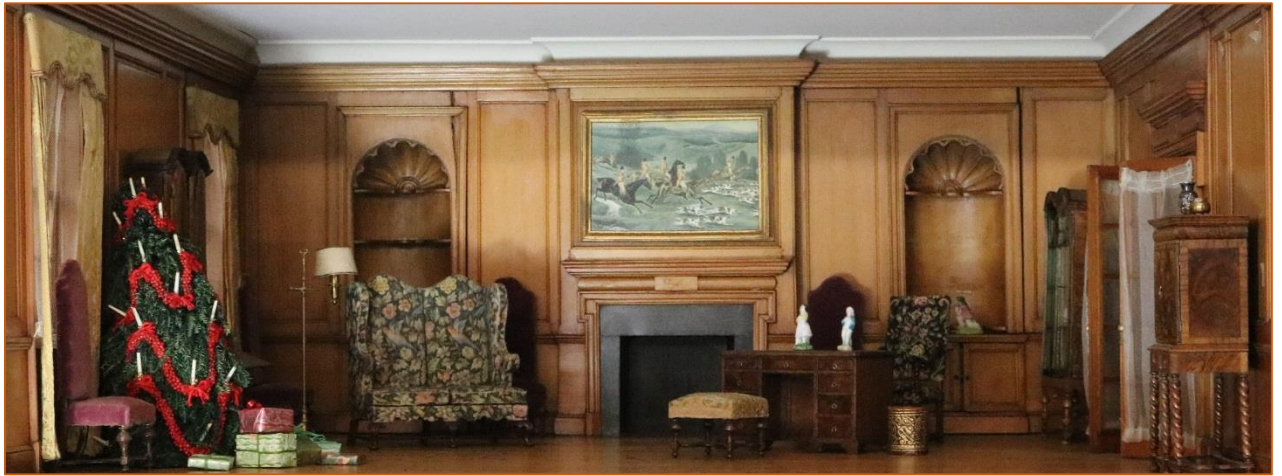
Scale: 1"=1'. This represents a 1930s antique shop along with a variety of sought after Colonial antiques to include furniture, Staffordshire porcelain, glassware, hook rugs, oriental rugs, embroidery, artwork, and more. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 17.25"h x 32"w x 27.5"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3129 - Elizabethan Room Miniature Room Box Scene

Representing the late 16th century - 36" width; 24" depth; 16" height

Scale: 1"=1'. An English room representing the end of the Tudor period of the late 16th century consists of paneled walls covered with symmetrical oak wainscot, furniture, tapestries, a Persian rug, a suit of armor, sculptures, fireback, andirons, and accessories. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 16"h x 36"w x 24"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3130 – Georgian Parlor Miniature Room Box Scene

Representing the first half of the 18th Century - 28" width; 22" depth; 13" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room represents the Palladian architecture of the first half of the 18th century. The room contains furniture, a fox hunt painting, tapestry curtains, books and accessories. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 13"h x 28"w x 22"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3131 – Georgian Library Miniature Room Box Scene

1930s - 30 1/8" width; 23" depth; 13" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room represents a 1930's Georgian Revival room with a dentil molded cornice with pine paneling, and four bookcase niches. The room consists of a Persian rug, period furniture, pleated drapes, flat valance, and accessories. Also included is a fireplace with overmantle molding and a framed centerpiece. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 13"h x 30"w x 13"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3132 – Georgian Living Room Miniature Room Box Scene

English or American, Early 20th Century

24" width; 24" depth; 15" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room depicts an early 20th century English or American living room. The architecture of the room consists of a carved and molded cornice, a fireplace with an ornate carved mantle and overmantel, and two arched open corner display cupboards. Other highlights of the room contain Chinese Chippendale furniture, a desk set. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 15"h x 24"w x 24"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3133 - Nursery Miniature Room Box Scene

English or American, Early 20th Century
29" width; 24" depth; 13" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room represents the an English or American early 20th century nursery. This room features children's wallpaper and six room doll house. The room also features window seats with Christmas trees, presents, toys, furniture, and other accessories. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 13"h x 29"w x 24"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3134 – Chinese Dining Room Miniature Room Box Scene

An Early 20th Century Western Setting
22 ¼" width; 19" depth (including window); 12" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room represents an early 20th century Western Setting with a large bay window, Chinoiserie and lacquered furniture, Chinese wallpaper, jade vases, Chinese carpet, and export porcelain. The room also features two Bonsai trees. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 17.25"h x 32"w x 27.5"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3135 - 19th Century Dining Room Miniature Room Box Scene

Early 19th Century

24 ½" width; 19" depth; 11 ½" height; back wing 8"

Scale: 1"=1'. This represents the early 19th century with hand painted scenic wallpaper, Chippendale and Hepplewhite period furniture, Persian rug, silver, mirrors, urns, and other decorative accessories. The back having a staircase with newel post. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 8"h x 24.5"w x 19"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3136 – Samuel McIntire Room Miniature Room Box Scene

About 1800

28" width; 24" depth; 13" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room was dedicated to furniture maker and carver Samuel McIntire of Salem, Massachusetts around 1800. The room has a carved and molded cornice with a carved fireplace mantel and overmantle. The carvings above the door and fireplace jam are depicted works of McIntire. The furniture is Federal period with the Sheraton sofa being attributed to McIntire. The room also contains artwork, a Persian rug, and other accessories. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 13"h x 28"w x 24"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3137 – Early American Bedroom Miniature Room Box Scene

About 1900

24" width; 18" depth; 10" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room represents the Colonial Revival period at around 1900 and is an interpretation a pre-Revolutionary War bedroom. The room was influenced by furniture maker Wallace Nutting. The room includes a corner fireplace with andirons, furniture, artwork, a bed, a built -in bookcase, a braided rug, and other accessories. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 10"h x 24"w x 18"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3138 - Federal Dining Room Miniature Room Box Scene

Representing the Late 18th Century
27 ½" width; 22" depth; 14" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This dining room represents the late 18th century. The double pedestal dining table, shield back chairs and Hepplewhite sideboard are a few examples of Federal period furniture. The room also contains many other furniture pieces, scenic wallpaper, silver, oriental rug, and includes a hallway niche in the back along with accessories. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 14"h x 27.5"w x 22"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3139 – Colonial Parlor Miniature Room Box Scene

Representing the middle of the 18th Century
24" width; 20" depth; 10 5/8" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room depicts the middle of the 18th century. the room includes paneled walls and two niche cupboards with furniture including a shield back settee and a Lady's secretary, a cello and violin, curtains, artwork, chandelier, urns, a pillar and scroll clock over a carved fireplace mantle, and other accessories. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 11"h x 24"w x 20"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3140 – Colonial Bedroom Miniature Room Box Scene

Representing the Middle of the 18th Century
24" width; 18" depth; 10" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room represents the middle of the 18th century. The room has paneled walls, two closet doors, and a fireplace. The room is furnished with Chippendale furniture, two Persian rugs, and scenic wallpaper along with other accessories. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 10"h x 24"w x 18"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3141 – 17th Century Kitchen Miniature Room Box Scene

Representing the Early 17th Century
29" width; 24" depth; 11 ¾" height

Scale: 1"=1' This room is an Early American kitchen that resembles an English cottage. Some features include structural beams, a gateleg table and ladderback chairs, a spinning wheel, a fireplace, a hooked rug, and other accessories. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 11.75"h x 29"w x 24"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.



Lot 3142 – Moderne Room Miniature Room Box Scene

American, English or European, Early 1930s
32 ¼" width; 24" depth; 14" height

Scale: 1"=1'. This room depicts the transition period of Art Deco into Art Moderne of the 1930s. The wallpaper, furniture, and accessories are Chinese influenced with two Christmas trees and a rug. The room was framed and recessed into a wall for display. 14"h x 32.25"w x 24"d. This room is part of a 15 piece miniature collection that was created and designed by Frederick Hicks (1895-1985) of Brookline Massachusetts from 1936-1942. The rooms were later donated by Mr. Hicks to The Long Island Museum in 1965 where they were displayed from 1974-2014.