



The Signevierist

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The Official Newsletter of the Fire Mark Circle of the Americas

2011 NASHVILLE CONVENTION

CONVENTIONEERS were greeted in the lobby of the Embassy Suites Nashville Airport by our hosts Barbara and John Eubank. It was a pleasure to put a face on John after corresponding with him for over a year. I'm still finding items from the bottomless goodie bag provided us. Later, while at the Welcome Reception and Hotel Managers Reception, we met with more members and made arrangements for dinner. After dinner at the Hospitality Room we had a chance to meet up with more old friends and preview the Silent Auction items.

John Eubank's idea of a tour on Nashville was outstanding. While on the bus tour we learned about and saw Nashville's music history and the current music scene. The identity of those who visited the hot spots later that night will remain a secret. The bus tour was just a prelude to lunch at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. The museum itself was fantastic. The fascinating music history was done with videos and displays in such a manner that held your interest. As a long time volunteer at a museum I was truly impressed and envious. I hated to leave because I didn't see everything.

The next stop was the Parthenon, not in Athens, Greece, but Nashville, Tennessee. The full scale building and the 42 foot statute of Athena was a jaw dropper. Don't take my word; just Google "Parthenon Nashville" to see it. After returning to the hotel we went our separate ways to dinner and a late visit to the Hospitality Room.

The Saturday business meeting was opened with a talk by Detective Howard of the Nashville Police Department, whose topic was credit card scams and how to protect yourself. The business meeting minutes are enclosed. After lunch in the hotel's Atrium Lobby we reviewed the live auction lots and made final bids on the Silent Auction. As usual Gabe Laubacher disposed of the 155 auction lots quickly and almost effortlessly. Sales for both auctions were \$24,520. See Ed Schlesinger's report on highlights of both auctions in this issue.

At the evening banquet President Dave Oldham, presented John and Barbara Eubank with a FMCA convention host plaque for their service. Dave also presented the Mort T. Werner award to Ted Lussem for his years of due diligence with the FMCA's money, filing with IRS and keeping our charter current. Tom Hewitt invited everyone to next year's convention in San Antonio, Texas on October 18-21, 2012. Door prizes, collected by John Eubank and our convention planners "Nashville Now" and Carol Norfleet, were given away and this year's convention came to an end.

Bob Shea, Editor

BULAU 90

THE New York City Fire Museum only has one mark identified as image 90 in *Footprints of Assurance* in its collection. That is, there are no other 90 or 90VAs in the collection. It is identified as 00.4121. The grass extends only 3/8" from the bottom of the hose. According to the Addendum for 90VA, the mark in *Footprints* has grass extending 5/8" from the hose and that the 3/8" grass is its variant. Since the Addendum misidentified the correct mark in *Footprints*, the enclosed "revised" Addendum page is issued. B90 in *Footprints of Assurance* has the 3/8" grass below the hose and the Addendum has the 5/8" grass.

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## REMEASURED BEVELED MARKS OF PHILADELPHIA'S UNITED FIREMEN'S

ON ONE of my visits to the New York City Fire Museum I had a chance to re-measure with a caliper the seven beveled marks of the United Firemen's of Philadelphia. While most of the differences are only in the hundredths of an inch, some have a quarter of an inch, and in one case, over half an inch. All my measurements are from the back and are arranged starting with the longest horizontal, left to right, at the top. This will enable members to see just where their own "UF" fits in.

| Bulau # | Length | Height | Weight             | Bulau's Measurement | Sprue      |
|---------|--------|--------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 314     | 12.020 | 9.316  | 3 lbs. / 13.9 ozs. | 12.0 x 9.250        | None       |
| 313     | 11.901 | 9.261  | 4 lbs. / 2.8 ozs.  | 11.875 x 9.1825     | None       |
| 310     | 11.714 | 9.100  | 3 lbs. / 13.6 ozs. | 11.75 x 9.0         | Diagonal   |
| 315     | 11.597 | 9.041  | 4 lbs. / 0.5 ozs.  | 11.5 x 9.0          | None       |
| 316     | 11.490 | 8.887  | 4 lbs. / 7.6 ozs.  | 11.5 x 9.5 (?)      | Diagonal   |
| 317     | 11.344 | 8.827  | 4 lbs. / 3.7 ozs.  | 11.375 x 8.8125     | Horizontal |
| 319     | 10.896 | 8.449  | 3 lbs. / 13.9 ozs. | 10.875 x 8.375      | Horizontal |

Bob Shea

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THIS AND THAT

THANKS to Howard Girdlestone for his donation of items In the Nashville Silent Auction .

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In 1864 the volunteer Fire Association of Philadelphia considered entering into a contract to furnish men and apparatus to fight fires in the city. The volunteers couldn't agree and, later, the city went to a paid department in 1871. In that same year of 1871 the volunteer "Fire Department Association" of Mobile, Alabama, entered into a two year contract to furnish men and apparatus to fight fires in the city.

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## **A REVIEW of the NASHVILLE AUCTIONS**

LIVE and absentee bidding in both auctions was spirited at our 2011 Convention in Nashville.

Over 85% of the lots in the Live Auction sold, and almost 68% of the lots in the Silent Auction sold. These percentages are very close to the corresponding percentages of lots sold in the 2010 Live and Silent Auctions.

### **The Live Auction**

The Live Auction contained 148 lots [two lots were removed because the Auction Lot Verification Committee determined they were reproductions, and five other lots never reached Nashville] consisting of the following types of material:

- A. Fire marks:
  - 1. United States: 61;
  - 2. British Isles [United Kingdom and Ireland]: 25;
  - 3. Other countries: 9
- B. Signs: 26;
- C. Other insurance-related items [ledger markers, etc.]: 8; and
- D. Fire fighting material: 19.

126 of these lots sold, with some sales being made after the conclusion of the Live Auction for not less than the amounts reserved by the consignors.

Following the trend in our recent live auctions, nine of the ten lots realizing the highest prices were American fire marks. The one remaining "Top Ten" lot was a British fire mark. Of these "Top Ten" fire marks, six were composed of tin, two of cast iron and one each of lead and zinc.

The following is a list of the "Top Ten" Live Auction lots, ranked in the order of the price realized by each lot:

| <b><u>Lot No.</u></b> | <b><u>Bulau No.</u></b> | <b><u>Description</u></b>                             | <b><u>Price Realized</u></b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12                    | 166                     | Assoc. Firemen's Ins. Co., Baltimore, cast iron       | \$1,800                      |
| 21                    | 151-V-A                 | Litchfield Mutual Fire Ins. Co., Litchfield, CT., tin | 1,000                        |
| 39                    | 414-V-C                 | Watertown Fire Ins. Co., Watertown, NY, tin           | 900                          |
| 125                   | 38                      | Mutual Assurance Co. ["Green Tree"], Phila., tin      | 800                          |
| 7                     | US-WB-1                 | West Virginia Ins. Co., Wheeling, WV, tin             | 700                          |
| 115                   | US-PB-1                 | Peoria M&F Ins. Co., Peoria, IL, tin                  | 700                          |
| 128                   | 340-V-A                 | Indiana Central Ins. Co., Lafayette, IN, tin          | 625                          |
| 67                    | 432                     | Aurora F&M Ins. Co., Cincinnati, tin                  | 600                          |
| 77                    | 525                     | Hand-in-Hand Fire & Life Ins. Soc., London, lead      | 600                          |
| 69                    | 321/322                 | City Mutual Ins. Co., St. Louis, zinc                 | 525                          |

### The Silent Auction

There were 160 lots listed in the Silent Auction, but one lot did not reach Nashville. Of the 159 lots that were in Nashville, 108 of them sold.

Of the ten lots realizing the highest prices, six were reproductions of American fire marks, and two were auto tags.

Lot No. 107, a reproduction of a cast iron Eagle Ins. Co., Cincinnati, fire mark [BU 195], realized \$60.00. Lot No. 1, a reproduction of a cast iron Insurance Company of North America fire mark [BU 47], realized \$45.00.

The next eight lots realizing the highest prices were:

| <u>Lot No.</u> | <u>Description</u>                                                                         | <u>Price Realized</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 82             | Reproduction fire mark, INA [BU 51], sheet copper                                          | \$45                  |
| 101            | Reproduction fire mark, Eagle Fire Ins. Co., Boston, [BU 240] cast brass                   | 43                    |
| 139            | Auto tag, American Auto Ins. Assoc. Freeport, IL                                           | 41                    |
| 140            | Auto tag, Midwest Automobile Underwriters, Freeport, IL                                    | 35                    |
| 67             | Reproduction fire mark, Associated Firemen's Ins. Co., Baltimore [BU 166], cast iron       | 31                    |
| 115            | Statue of Peter Stuyvesant, Stuyvesant Ins. Co., cast metal                                | 30                    |
| 73             | Reproduction fire mark, United Firemen's Ins. Co., Philadelphia [BU 313 or 314], cast iron | 28                    |
| 30             | Book, Ralph W. Andrews, <u>Historic Fires of the West 1865-1915</u>                        | 27                    |

FMCA thanks all consignors and bidders who participated in both auctions for making them as successful as they were.

Thanks to the Auction Lot Verification Committee [Bob Shea, Chair, and members Peter Faber and Tom Hardy] for its excellent work in examining and authenticating all of the fire marks in the Live Auction.

Finally, thanks to Linda Anderberg, our Auction Chair, Gabe Laubacher, our auctioneer, and Tom Hardy, Jan Hardy, Ted Lussem, Sherrie Lussem, Logan Smith, Tom Hewitt, Pat Hewitt, Jane Cyva and Helen Slusher [Linda Anderberg's Mother] who assisted them in staging both auctions.

Ed Schlesinger

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