



Moriah Galleries
Moriah Artcraft Inc.



Mr. Michael Klein
US TOY CO.
1227 East 119th St.
Grandview, MO 64030-1117

2/28/96

Dear Michael,

Sorry I missed you the other day.

My father tells me that you liked the brass Synagogue Lamp with some reservations however.

Well, the following is an attempt to clear all questions concerning the lamp. First, I must say that its not too unusual for Sotheby's to commit errors in descriptions and on occasion glaring ones.

Had the lamp in question been the sole example to be offered in the sale, the comparisons would have been perhaps more difficult to establish without further research. Although to the informed eye the origin of the lamp at no time would have been vague or mysterious.

But it is astounding (truly a remarkable event) that no less than six lamps from what is considered to be the most prestigious provenance (namely Zagayski), have come up for sale at the same time.

If by no means other than by comparing the lamps in the catalogue and at the exhibition, one could reasonably conclude simply that most share more in common than in the difference. And some experience in metal techniques would also suggest that the age too is common, namely 18 century. The exception to this would be item # 52 and that lamp indeed is probably Dutch 18th century. Also # 57 is grossly miss identified. It is probably German , 18th and most likely 19th century, not 17th, and finally it is incomplete. Nos. 53, 54, 55, 56 are without question Polish 18th century with the lamp in question (#56) being the finest and the earliest. In fact in our research we have failed to find a better one.



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It is not Italian, nor is it late 19 century. There is no precedent what so ever for this lamp to be remotely resembling anything Italian. The source for these brass lamps was Poland, mostly from the "Wooden" Synagogues, to which Zagayski had ample access to before the war as well as after.

I have enclosed some material from a series of books on Polish Jewish Artifacts. The ones from "Polish Wooden Synagogues" typifies these lamps and their Synagogal surroundings.

There is a fine example in "Masterpieces of Jewish Art in Bronze", but again the present example is perhaps the finest and most elaborate.

An interesting note is that the lamp is clearly identified as item #2 in the affidavit documenting the items recovered from the Zagayski villa after World War II.

No finer Synagogue Lamp has been offered in 30 years.

Now on to something else.

Enclosed are photos of two lovely watercolors by Saul Raskin. The first titled "A Good Story" is simply a delight. It depicts three men in jovial "schmoosing" - \$2500. The other is \$1500, also very colorful.

Looking foreword to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Michael

Michael

PS: My father is working on flattening the Kiddush Levana. It will take a little while and we'll let you know as soon as it is ready.

INVENTORY NUMBER	OBJECT, FUNCTION	ORIGIN	DATE
	SYNAGOGUE LIGHT FIXTURE	POLAND	18 TH CENTURY
MEDIUM	NAME	SUBJECT	
MATERIAL BRASS	ARTIST/MAKER	MEASUREMENTS 28" DIAMETER 30" TALL	
HALLMARK/SIGNATURE	DATE OF ACQUISITION; PRICE/GIFT VALUE	PROVENANCE	
	3-11-96 12,000	MORRIS, NY	

DESCRIPTION

2 TIER, 12 LIGHTS, ELECTRIC LIGHTS
FROM ZAGAYSKI ESTATE

CONDITION/RESTORATION

REFERENCES/HISTORY/EXHIBITION



MORIAH GALLERIES

MORIAH ARTCRAFT, INC.

16 WEST 56th STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10019



DATE March 11 1996

SOLD TO

MR. MICHAEL KLEIN

1/0 USTOY CO. INC.

1227 E 119 ST GRANDVIEW MO 64030

2708

- BRASS SYNAGOGUE HANGING LAMP
COMPRISED OF TWO GRADUATED
TIERS, EACH SUPPORTING SIX
BRANCHED CANDLE HOLDERS.
THE UPPER TIER WITH ROSETTES,
THE WHOLE CAST IN OPEN SCROLL
MOTIF, WITH DOME KNOP BELOW.

FORMERLY IN THE ZAGAYSKI ESTATE
POLISH - 18 CENTURY

\$ 12,000 -

- ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR BY SAUL RASKIN
DEPICTING A "DISCUSSION"
"A DREAM STORY"

\$ 2500 -

- ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR BY SAUL RASKIN
DEPICTING A RABBI

\$ 1200 -

\$ 15,700 -