



Dusting off New Trends

by Evan Stern

AH, THE BITTERSWEET foibles of “finding”! The bleary-eyed early-bird romps through muddied barns and byres, the peevish haggling of Parisian marketeers, and that most delicious of moments: brushing off some sooty ephemera to better gaze upon the treasure underneath. Whether it’s the highbrow French stuff or rusticated colonial finery that sends your heart aflutter, we all have a bit of that obscurantist compulsion to seek out and preserve certain articles of antiquity. For

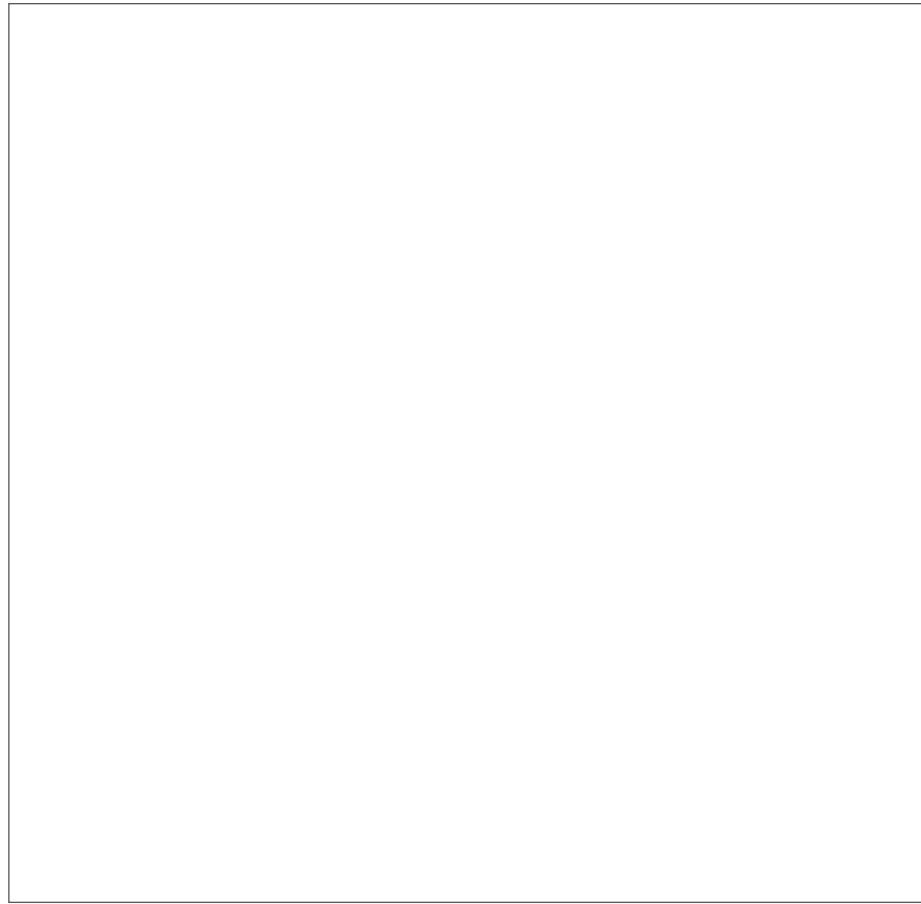
CHRISTOPHER CLARKE ANTIQUES

some of us, it starts with items inherited, and for others, a happenstance love affair within the crowded stalls of some far-off bazaar, but either way, the passion dances along as markets crescendo and crumple.

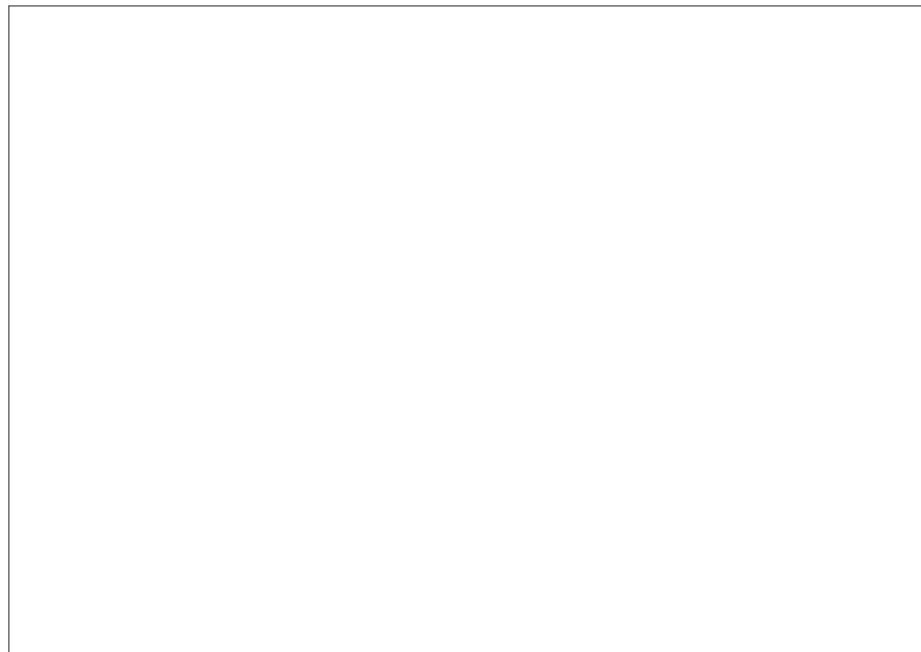
Those markets, of course, have proven a difficult bedfellow for some collectors and dealers to bear. Some fine things seem to have tumbled in value so drastically that a great number of dealers have simply locked them away in storehouses to “wait it out,” while others try their hands at disastrous margins; often to no

avail. Some things are unwavering: Louis the Umpteenth, the glittering chrome of Mid-Century Modern, space-age acrylics pressed into coffee tables. But when the markets start to slalom downhill, something else occurs: the trappings of decor that dominate your local dealer’s showroom are dictated more often according to aesthetic than to upside. This is a time for

Above: A heap of wartime relics at Christopher Clarke Antiques.

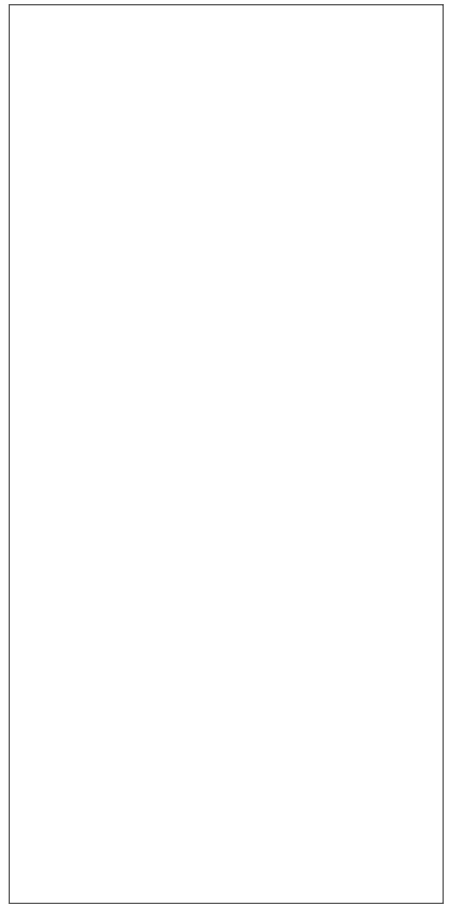


Rattan and Reed



The Drawers of War

Design de Chine



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“ Whether you’re furnishing a stately pile
or a seaside shack,
classical and faux bamboo furniture
is back in a big way. ”

Opposite Top: A Reedy bunch at Patricia’s Gallery
of West Palm Beach.

Opposite Bottom: Accoutrements of Glory;
Christopher Clarke Antiques.

Right: Rattan and Reed at Patricia’s Gallery of
West Palm Beach.

Below: Stylings of the East from Griffith and Wong.

