Antiques Appraisal Fair Coming to Central Montana

Think you might have a treasure hiding in plain sight? The Montana History Foundation and Fort Benton Museums invite you to bring your fine art, rare and valuable treasures, historic objects, and interesting items to the Montana Antiques Appraisal Fair on Saturday, September 22, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Montana Agricultural Center in Fort Benton.

Expert, celebrity appraisers Timothy Gordon, Grant Zahajko, and Allen Rodgers will provide verbal valuations. All three appraisers have appeared on PBS Antiques Roadshow and have extensive knowledge and experience appraising a variety of items. Items to bring could include a painting, sculpture, textile, rug, ceramic, photograph, Western and Native Americana, sports memorabilia, militaria, doll, or any other object or oddity. No firearms please.

According to Mr. Gordon, "what I find happens is people will bring something in and they'll have a general idea about what it is, but often times it's something different. Any given day something incredible can walk through the door and that's what the carrot is for the appraisers."

For $15 per item, the public is invited to bring up to three items per person or six items per couple to be appraised. General admission for spectators is $5 at the door. Purchase appraisal tickets online at www.mthistory.org/antiques-appraisal-fair. All proceeds from this fundraising event will benefit both The History Foundation and The Fort Benton Museums.

"Montana has its own unique flavor and history," Gordon says. "I maintain that it's a pretty fascinating place compared to other western states. I feel it's got a bigger story to tell than other places in the West."

Mr. Gordon and Mr. Zahajko are available for comment in addition to Montana History Foundation staff.
Tim Gordon appraises a porcelain dish.

Allen Rodgers appraises a Historic flag.