

*See Jimmy O'Connell
Remembered
Lover's on Elm*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1975

*Compare with picture in corner
lower left hand
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EXHIBITIONS

NEW YORK — "People tend to buy age and names, forgetting that poor things were made 200 years ago, just as now. The important thing is to buy beauty and quality."

Edward Munves Jr. thinks a lot about quality, particularly when it comes to antiques, which are what he's talking about and which are one reason why James Robinson Inc., the antique store he and his father own, has been in the neighborhood of Fifth Ave. and 57th St. for 50 years.

The window fronting this long, narrow shop invariably contains such intriguing objects as English wineglasses the color of green silk, Jasper-handled flatware, heavy gold chains, a handful of jeweled English seals, perhaps some French dinnerware.

Inside is more of the same. The store has lots of antique jewelry that elists discreetly in lighted cases — butterflyes encrusted with tiny rubies, emeralds and diamonds, jeweled Maltese crosses. There are necklaces literally dripping with peridots, topazes, garnets and amethysts — lavish and extravagant but, as Munves says, "the kind of thing you wouldn't get hit over the head for — the necklace itself is too easily spotted, and the stones pulled out would have insufficient value."

Robinson's sells a lot of \$200-to-\$700 "regard" rings and pins with the sentiment spelled out: Ruby, Emerald, Garnet, Amethyst, Ruby, Diamond.

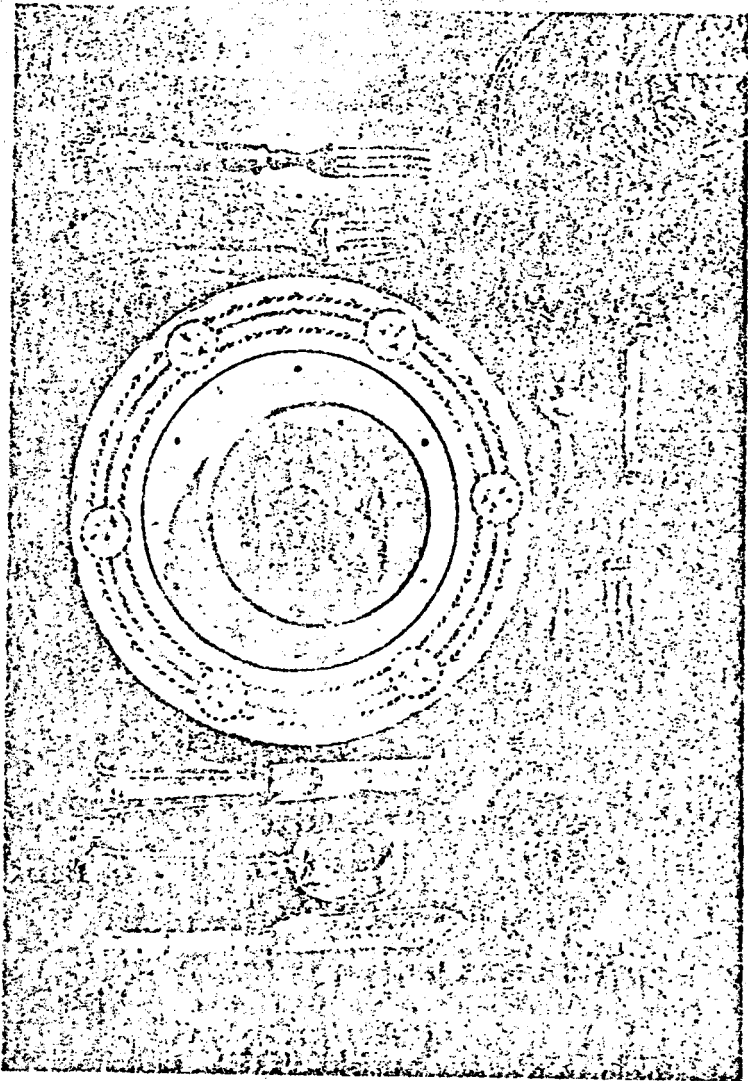
In between and around the jewelry, the antiques range from a monumental display of a Chinese export armorial dining service to a lineup of double-lip bows, which, Munves points out, are not, as is often thought, containers for rinsing wine glasses. "Sets of wine glasses came in the same time as the lipped bows, so why would you have to rinse between wines? Besides," he states with finality, "you can't wash glass in glass."

The store does a big business in flatware, including handmade reproductions. It has 30 people making 18 different patterns, largely 18th Century, and uses a workshop in England that went into business in 1711.



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ANTIQUARIAN POSSESSIONS



Left: Mixed flatware looks sterling silver knife, fork and spoon in Trifid, a 17th Century pattern, \$168; Jasper-handled dessert fork and spoon, \$525 each; Victorian foot knife and fork, \$25 a pair, all James Robinson.

Left and below: Composite of the 18th Century plates, which the French are using to eat on, not just for display, about \$300 each, de Hergain and other Left Bank antique shops. Feet (photographed in Stuvia de Hochamborn's dining room)