

## Pete's Repeats at Blue Peacock Antiques, Winchester, VA

By: Peter Rich

During the recent yard sale, I became aware that many of my Emanuel friends were not aware that I have been involved in reselling antiques and collectibles. It started innocently enough with friends at an antique mall in Columbus. While visiting one day, I saw the opportunity for the 3 of us to sell some of our duplicate collectibles. That was the start of what has become Pete's Repeats.

By 2012, my Ohio friends were not interested in this operation any longer. It came at an opportune time as another friend in Virginia had found a place for us in Winchester, VA. Winchester is about 90 minutes from my home in Arlington, but the rent for the space is cheaper and the types of things found in the shop are more like the things I would be selling. The original owners of the Winchester shop sold the business to the current owners who renamed the place Blue Peacock Antiques. So, I naturally made the transition under new management. Shortly after the operation changed hands, Scott & Tanya approached me and said we want to talk to you. We feel you have nice stuff, but it's not in a great location. So, after some reasonable negotiations and processing on my part, I moved into a larger 10 x 10 space with a window! That soon became 2 spaces and things were getting better, except for the pesky landlord who wouldn't fix things, including the leaky roof that dripped in about 50 places. So, after much deliberation, Scott & Tanya decided we would change locations. In 2017, we changed locations and moved to the historic pedestrian mall in downtown "Old Winchester". And we haven't looked back since! We just celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blue Peacock Antiques at the start of September. Our foot traffic has increased significantly and so have sales. What started out for me in a 10 x 10 booth in Columbus is now an 11 x 10 space, a 7 x 15 space and a display cabinet.

Items that I sell at BPA have to be from 1979 or older and range from vintage linens and glassware to vintage toys, games, jewelry and some smaller pieces of furniture. People often ask where I get my inventory. For the most part it started out more at thrift stores and yard sales and the occasional auction, either in person or online. In recent years, I've helped several friends sort out and process their various estates or downsizing situations. So yes, I came with donations for Emanuel's yard sale, but will be leaving with not quite as much as I brought, but some really cool pieces that I think will do well in my area.

If you are so inclined to see more pictures of the shop as the seasons change and things sell, just send me an email at [parichva@hotmail.com](mailto:parichva@hotmail.com) and I can add you to my email group that I send out pictures of the spaces from time to time, so my "followers" can see what progress I am making. If you're ever in DC Northern Virginia and want to meet or go to the shop, I'd be glad to join you!

Retirement has allowed me to spend more time preparing the inventory including researching as well as washing and pricing, and packing, because I have to drive it out there! I usually go out once or twice a month. We were closed for about 6 weeks on account of COVID but reopened just after Mother's Day 2020 and sales increased significantly. I had a hard time keeping up replacing sold inventory, but I did it. Now I have a little more time to revisit some of the pieces that have been around for a while and deciding what to do with them. Oddly enough, a friend of mine who comes along periodically to help, has a way of talking to certain items that gets them sold! I should note that this is an antique mall and that I don't have to be present for things to be sold. I just supply the inventory that is tagged with my vendor information so the folks at the register know how to code it. Here's the website if you'd like to see more: <https://bluepeacockantiquesva.com> .



Pictures from Peter's booths at Blue Peacock Antiques



Looking down the secondary aisle on the other side of the U-Shaped shop. One of my booths is the first one on the left in this picture.