

# Antiques/1991

BY RITA REIF

## Baseball Cards and Beyond. It Was That Kind of a Year In the Art Market.

**Core One for Reunification** The manuscript of most of Gustav Mahler's unfinished Symphony No. 10 escaped the auction block when the Austrian National Library bought it just one day before it was to be sold by Sotheby's. The library has long owned the rest of the manuscript.

upon his death the piece would return to Versailles.

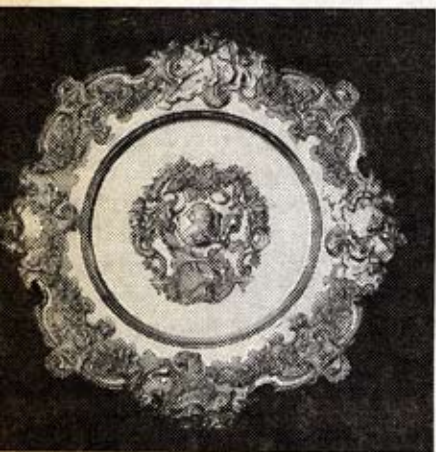
**Happy Ending** Determined to repatriate the three American Indian ceremonial masks she bought for \$39,050 at Sotheby's, Elizabeth Sackler returned two to the Hopi nation and one to the Navajo nation.

**Kwakiutl Treasures From the Attic** Stored for 90 years at the American Museum of Natural History, 120 masks, bowls and figures from its stunning collection of art from the Northwest Coast tribe were displayed at an acclaimed exhibition.

**A Fortune for Ephemera** A 1910 baseball card showing Honus Wagner, the Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop, became the costliest single collectible ever auctioned when it was sold for \$451,000 at Sotheby's to Wayne Gretzky, the Los Angeles Kings hockey superstar, and Bruce McNall, the club's owner.

**Ancient Mystery** Despite a three-year restoration, little new information was revealed about the witty Paracas tapestry of masked figures at the Brooklyn Museum, although the 2,000-year-old pre-Columbian work, depicting a glorious feast, remains one of the museum's most satisfying objects.

**Banner Year for Blobs** The biomorphic style of the mid-20th century — as seen in the amoeba-shaped tables of Isamu Noguchi, the curvy chairs of Charles and Ray Eames, and the chubby salt-and-pepper shakers of Eva Zeisel — took place of pride at three New York exhibitions: at the I.B.M. Gallery, the Museum of Modern Art and the Brooklyn Museum.



Christie's

Paul de Lamerie silver dish

**Recession-Proof Silver** A sterling silver coco dish by the 18th-century silversmith Paul de Lamerie was sold for \$6 million at Christie's, defying the downward trend in prices for most antiques.

**Pioneering Performance** Space-age masks proved as terrifying and magical as those from ancient and tribal cultures at the Museum of Modern Art's exhibition "Modern Masks and Helmets," a first on the subject.



A jewelry box made for Marie Antoinette, which fetched \$4.9 million at a sale in Paris

