

New 2021 Convention Auction Format

In 2019, we celebrated Tea Leaf Club International's 40th Anniversary.

In 2020, we paused for the Pandemic.

In 2021, to usher in a new era for the Club, we have decided to modify our convention auction format.

This new auction format is an experiment which may or may not continue in future years.

The 2021 Convention Auction will be divided into two segments:

Saturday Afternoon: 100 Lot Non-Catalog (New) Auction

Saturday Evening: 100 Lot Catalog (Traditional) Auction

This document will provide a high-level description of each auction format and will conclude with comments regarding the pros and cons of each format.

General guidelines for both auctions

As in the past, only Tea Leaf Club members may sell items in the convention auction(s). Individuals who are not currently members are welcome to join the Club so they can sell items in the auction(s). Members may sell in both auctions. The seller does not have to attend the convention, but must arrange with the auction committee or another attendee for transportation of items to the convention. In the past, we have experienced items damaged in shipping. Any damage is the sole responsibility of the person shipping. Committee members will not be held responsible for items shipped to them for transport. **Shipping items directly to the convention hotel will not be permitted.**

Items for both auctions are limited to ironstone decorated with copper or gold lustre (no crafts, etc.)

Tea Leaf, Moss Rose, and other variants as documented in the TLCI Guide are acceptable.

Check-in for each auction will be separate. Please pack items for each auction separately. **DO NOT Co-Mingle.**

Saturday Afternoon Non-Catalog (New) Auction:

A lot will consist of one flat box. **The flat boxes will be provided, no other flat boxes will be accepted.**

Approximate flat size will be 12" x 15". Final flat size will be communicated prior to convention registration.

On the convention registration form, each membership household will be allowed to reserve a maximum of 5 flat boxes @ \$10 per box. No description of auction items needs to be included. The total fee for all reserved flat boxes must be included with the convention registration form.

The Auction Committee will notify the households that have reserved and paid in advance for flat boxes what time they are to report for auction check-in on Saturday morning. During the check-in process, the household representative will draw number(s) at random that will determine the sequence of their auction lot(s). The Auction Committee will record the lot number(s) and the name of the household for each lot. The seller then will proceed to the preview tables where they will load their designated flat box(s). **All contents for a lot must fit comfortably into the designated flat (no overflow).**

During the auction preview, tables will be roped off. Attendees may request items to inspect, but only select individuals will be allowed to remove and return items to the flats in order to assure that items are kept in their respective locations.

After the convention, the Tea Leaf Club Treasurer will mail payment to the sellers equal to the amount their flat box lot(s) sold for. No additional commission will be deducted.

Saturday Evening Catalog (Traditional) Auction:

The submission deadline for the Catalog auction remains July 1. You will find the consignment form attached. Consignments include a photo and detailed description, including damage. As in the past, the consignments will be reviewed by the auction committee and either accepted or rejected. The committee is willing to assist the consignor with their consignment as needed. The objective is to produce the best possible auction with as many unique and high-end items as possible. Rejected items **will be** eligible for the Non-Catalog (New) auction.

Accepted items will be sequenced by the auctioneer and an auction catalog will be produced capturing the photos and descriptions submitted by the consignor. The auction catalog will be made available for review prior to convention via the TLCI's website and Facebook Group. The auction catalog also will be included in the convention packet distributed to each attendee.

The Auction Committee will notify the Consignors of their auction check-in time on Saturday morning. During the auction check-in, the items will be reviewed by the auction check-in team to confirm the items match the catalog descriptions. The auction committee then will place the items on the preview tables.

After the convention, the Tea Leaf Club Treasurer will mail payment to the consignors equal to the amount their lot(s) sold for minus the commission (10% for lots that sell over \$50. \$5 fee for lots that sell under \$50).

More details are provided in the auction consignment document attached.

Auction Format Pros and Cons

Saturday Afternoon Non-Catalog (New) Auction:

Pros – Easy for the seller. No early submission required. No photos, description, or condition report required. Decision on number of flats to purchase is made at registration. Final decision for items to be auctioned can be made when packing for convention. Last minute items easy to include. Particularly helpful for individuals who do not know what they are selling or do not have time to research and document. Common items not acceptable for the Catalog Auction are acceptable for this auction. Prices may be lower for buyers.

Cons – More uncertainty for buyers. No photos, no descriptions, no club validation during check-in. Identification and condition is up to each buyer to determine. Damaged, repaired, or restored items may be included without warning. Therefore, buyers may be cautious and sale prices may not be top dollar for sellers.

Saturday Evening Catalog (Traditional) Auction:

Pros – Excellent format for consignors to highlight unique and high end items or items in pristine condition. Buyers are more assured that they know what they are bidding on, which may improve returns for sellers.

Cons – More work for sellers and the auction committee. Advanced preparation and documentation required. Eliminates opportunity to include last minute auction consignments.

Again. Members may consign to one or both auctions.