

2025 Tea Leaf Club Convention Auction Format

The 2025 Convention Auction will be divided into two segments:

Non-Catalog (Box Lot) Auction

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

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.**

Non-Catalog (Box Lot) Auction:

A lot will consist of one flat box. **The flat boxes will be provided, no other flat boxes will be accepted.**
Flat size will be 12" x 15".

On the convention registration form, each membership household will be allowed to reserve a **maximum of 10 flat boxes @ \$5.00 per box**. No description of auction items needs to be included with registration. The total fee for all reserved flat boxes must be included with the convention registration form.

The Auction Committee will notify the households which have reserved and paid in advance for flat boxes, the time they are to report for auction check-in. 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).** Consignors may include a description of box contents in their flat if they so desire. During the auction preview, **attendees may inspect items the same as in the traditional catalogued auction.** Attendees must take care not to move any items to another box.

After the convention, the Tea Leaf Club Treasurer will calculate payment due and mail payment to the sellers.

Proceeds will be calculated as follows:

Payment for box lots that sell for \$0 - \$50 will be equal to the amount of the sale.

Payment for box lots that sell for \$51 or more will be \$50 plus 90% of the amount over \$50. (10% commission).

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 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 (Box Lot) 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 TLCL's website, Facebook Group, and email to current Club members. 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. During the auction check-in, the items will be reviewed by the auction check-in team to confirm the items were properly identified. No additional damage or absence of damage will be noted. 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 total amount their lot(s) sold for minus the commission(s) (10% for lots that sell over \$50, \$5 flat fee for lots that sell under \$50). More details are provided in the auction consignment document attached.

Auction Format Pros and Cons

Non-Catalog (Box Lot) 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 the convention. Last minute items are 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 that are 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 are 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.

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.

