

Collection purchased

Elephants arrive... en masse

If, as many people believe, elephants bring good luck, then Julius Young of Bloomfield Hills is up to his ears in it.

Young, a Russian immigrant who founded and later sold the "Hot Sam" soft pretzel chain, recently bought one of the largest collections of elephants (the decorative kind) in the world.

The purchase of the 1,500-plus elephants dovetails perfectly with the opening in Birmingham of another Young enterprise, Iagnaitinsky Ltd., Antiques. Iagnaitinsky Ltd., shortened

to "I" Ltd. by some who prefer to avoid the tongue twister, carries Young's given name and brings to the forefront one additional interest of the man who is also responsible for "Jiffy Pop."

Young is a longtime antique collector—more particularly jade, cigar cutters, match boxes and Oriental artifacts. The large gallery at 114 S. Woodward on the east side just south of Maple, will have one large room used solely to house elephants.

The collection came from the estate of Tacoma, Wash., millionaire Ray Gamble, who collected them for most of his 86 years and never sold a single one.

JoAnn Carlson, gallery manager,

said Young flew to Tacoma when the collection was available, took a day to look it over, returned home and submitted an offer, which was accepted by Gamble's widow.

Ms. Carlson herself went out to supervise the packing and crating. The collection made the 2,400-mile trip in a 40-ton semi truck and the only things damaged were two inexpensive wooden stands.

The largest elephant, a 550-pound wooden one from Thailand, was the hardest to move, she said. Many of the elephants are tiny, and there is a complete size range in between.

Materials range from ivory, through bronze, amber, porcelain, pottery, lapis, jade, rose and other shades of

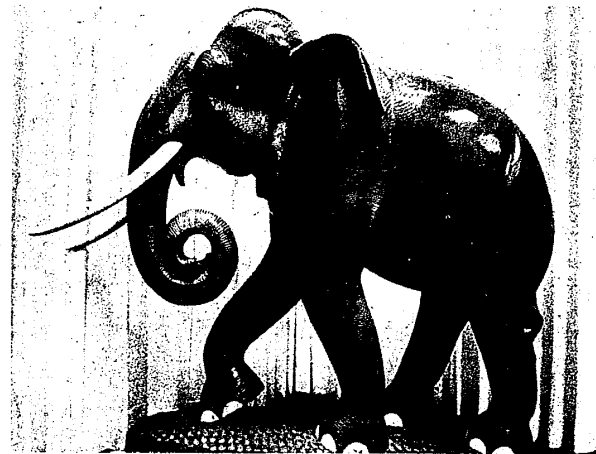
quartz, silver, various kinds of wood, alabaster (One of these was given to Gamble by Rudolph Valentino), gold and glass. For almost any material and size, there's an elephant in the collection to match. Many are encrusted with precious stones, and a lot of them have ivory tusks.

While the elephants are in one room, the other gallery areas are filled with Oriental antiques, fine cloisonne and ceramic pieces, furniture, jade, two vases of a rarely seen pique a jour (cloisonne on glass as opposed to the more common metal base), carousel horses and mechanical banks and pipes.

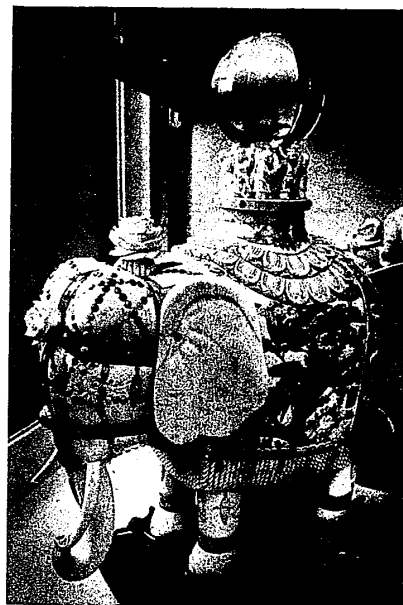
The formal opening of the gallery will be Friday, Sept. 23, 5-8 p.m.



A dozen elephants in graded sizes stand 79 inches high.



Largest in the Gamble collection, this 550-pound wooden one from Thailand is 50 inches tall and has 19-inch ivory tusks.



This jeweled ivory elephant is studded with cabochon coral, turquoise, jade and other precious stones. The crystal ball, one of the largest known, is over four inches high.

Belcours gets honors

Jo A. Belcours, daughter of James Belcours, 331715 Bernadine, Farmington, was included on

the dean's list at Michigan Technological University. She is one of 99

students who made the list. She is a junior majoring in forestry.

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