

Keep Calm & Restore On

Written by Editor

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A young man in love with old furniture, John Doig opens up shop in the Habersham Marketplace.

At 31 years old, sporting a "Keep Calm and Restore On" tee-shirt, New Jersey born and Connecticut raised John Doig does not look like someone you'd peg as an expert in the restoration and conservation of fine period antique furniture and decorative art. The recently rejuvenated "Keep Calm" slogan on his shirt, he explains, comes from a motivational poster made by the British in 1939, in order to raise the morale of the British public in the aftermath of widely predicted mass German air attacks.

John Doig has been a part of the antique world since birth. His parents, (Karen & John "Sandy" Doig) are active antique dealers and enthusiastic collectors. Doig grew up in an 18th century farmhouse surrounded by the furniture for which he would find a great passion early on.

At age 8, Doig could be found attending auctions and "picking" throughout New England with his father. Soon he found his way into the family's small restoration shop, and when he was old enough to start learning the trade, it was clear to many that he was a born natural.

"It was funny," he says, "seeing the looks on some of these guys' faces when a 13 year old kid is explaining to them why their 'American' card table is in fact from England, and that the supposedly white pine secondary wood is actually English spruce." He pauses, then laughs "....wow, looking back I'm surprised I survived!"

After completing a degree in History from the University of Connecticut (UConn), Doig felt the desire to take his passion to the next level. Upon several recommendations, he landed an apprenticeship at a well-regarded shop in Savannah, Georgia. Instead of enjoying his summer after graduation with his college buddies, Doig moved himself down to Savannah, GA to continue perfecting his trade. There, he began an extensive apprenticeship working closely under a master of period reproductions and restorations, as well as an expert in conservation.

"I couldn't believe the opportunity I was being given. While all my friends rented a summer cottage for one last hurrah, my car was packed and I was on my way south literally a week after receiving my diploma."

Eventually Doig combined the skills he had learned and practiced, and decided it was time to open his own studio back in Connecticut, to continue working in the antique world and rejoin his family.

In the fall of 2005, John Stanley Doig set up shop in Litchfield, Connecticut, and founded JS Doig

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