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Our main offices and two auction rooms are located in Stanhope Street, opposite the Liverpool Marina. There is free on-road parking. Visits to clients in Wirral, Chester and North Wales are made every week. Evening and weekend visits to clients homes can be made by prior arrangement.

To book your appointments simply telephone **John Crane** personally on either **0151 709 5559** or mobile **07836 209995**

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of an owl with a top hat being the sprung hinged cover and the one I prefer is brass in the shape of an ivory tusked elephant, again with a sprung hinged cover shown in the illustration.

Rectangular silver vesta cases are fairly commonplace and be acquired at auction for £30 to £50 but on the other hand, those cases depicting animals may carry a hefty premium and will probably hold their value well into the foreseeable future – of course, you could put several hundred into a small box as you travel the globe as your career dictates.

So miniaturisation now matters, as does 'high quality' and 'decorative'. Will your prized collection fit in your suitcase as you jet away to work in exotic destinations or will you have to fill your neighbour's garage or a relative's front room with several huge lumps of brown furniture until you return?

As with contemporary furnishings there are changes in tastes. Antique clocks are no exception. Only the finest of longcase clocks by good makers realise the best prices these



days. There is a change in the taste for mantel and bracket clocks. Here are four small illustrations of clocks for sale at the Birmingham fair; which one would you choose to own? One is particularly rare! But which one? I will leave that for you to find out...

Come and visit me at our Heswall office on Fridays – please contact me for an appointment on 0151 342 2321 – or I can visit you to see larger collections or to advise on downsizing or acquiring small desirable pieces. Prices are rising again in some auction houses where passion for antiques and giving a good service to people come before profit.

Cato Crane at 48, The Mount in Heswall Wirral.
Twitter @CatoCrane website CatoCrane.co.uk

Happy Hunting and a Very Happy Christmas to One and All.

