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Sale of poet's property will start today

Estate of Charles Edward Eaton to benefit museum

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CHAPEL HILL — Each morning, with a handful of carrot sticks, Charles Edward Eaton took a long walk through his neighborhood with his German shepherd.

Then it was back home for breakfast and the start of his workday — he wrote poetry in the home he shared with his wife, Pat.

Charles Edward Eaton died in March 2006, and Pat Eaton died in November 2007.

Before his death, some people considered Eaton to



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Alan Butler opens a draw containing a silver set at the home of the late Charles Edward Eaton at 808 Greenwood Road in Chapel Hill. The sale of the estate will benefit Ackland Art Museum.

be the greatest living poet in the United States. He wrote 18 books of poetry, short

stories, critical essays, a novel and a biography of the painter Karl Knaths.

Eaton worked with and was a friend of Robert Frost and William Carlos Williams, as well as artist Karl Knaths.

He taught creative writing at the universities of Missouri and North Carolina, and for four years served as the American vice consul in Rio de Janeiro.

The couple had settled in Chapel Hill, but throughout their lives they collected art. They donated their art collection to the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, and his personal papers have been donated to Wilson Library, but today and Sunday, the rest of the couple's belongings will be on sale at an estate sale at their home at 808 Greenwood Drive in Chapel Hill.

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A vintage Abercrombie & Fitch dart board (above) and stacks of six-packs of Charles Edward Eaton's poetry (left) are among the items to be sold at the estate sale that starts today.

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The belongings range from hundreds, if not thousands of books, rooms full of furniture — some of it antiques, vintage clothing, foxhound and hunting items, and even antique wooden benches that were used by farriers.

If nothing else, it will be a chance for the curious to walk through the Eaton's house and see some of the unique rooms, including an indoor swimming pool with a poolroom bar, a large gallery, a small gallery and the upstairs room that is decorated like an old English pub, complete with a bar, fireplace and game tables.

Butler and Associates is running the tag sale, and Alan Butler and his associate, Juan Alva, have been going through each item in the house, cleaning it up and putting a price tag on it.

The company has been amazed at some of the items it has found, including Charles Edward Eaton's clothing that he bought at Maurice Julian's Chapel Hill shop, and a tie that Alexander Julian reportedly designed while he was still in college.

There are many items, including napkins, art, sculptures, fireplace screens, china and delicate glassware with a foxhunting theme because Pat Eaton rode when she was

a young woman. Her silver riding trophies will also be sold.

Some of the more luxurious items include a silver Tiffany flatware set and sterling silver server set.

The items also includes about 15 partial sets of china, including one so rare that even the experts at Replacements Ltd., had never seen anything like it, Butler said.

Then there's the books. Nearly every room and hallway in the house has a bookcase or two in it, plus the house has a two-room library, whose walls are lined with bookcases full of books.

"It's just a bit of everything," Alva said.

A collection of Eaton's poetry books will also be sold in packets of six for \$10.

In the large gallery room, where the Eatons apparently

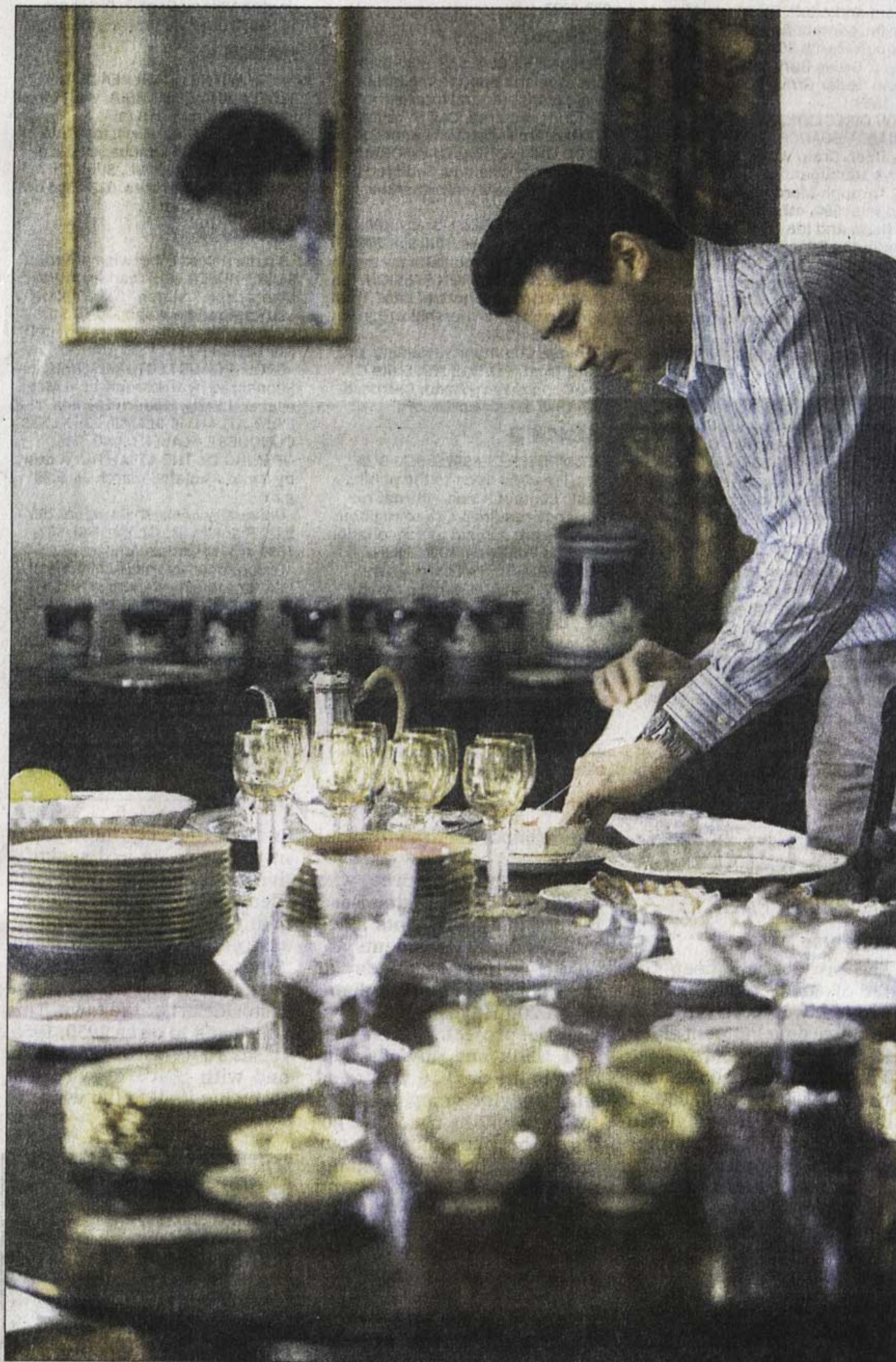
liked to entertain, there's an old Steinway piano that needs some work.

"It's kind of neat to see a Steinway from the Roaring '20s," Butler said.

After Butler and Associates takes its commission, the rest of the proceeds and proceeds from the eventual sale of the house, will go to the Ackland Art Museum to maintain and preserve the art collection the couple donated, Butler said.

The sale begins today at 9 a.m., and a limited number of people will be allowed to enter the house at a time. Numbers will be given out at 7:30 a.m. The Saturday sale ends at 4 p.m.

On Sunday, the sale continues at 1 p.m. and goes to 4 p.m. Prices will be reduced by 20 percent on Sunday.



Alan Butler (above) places china and tableware at the home of the late Charles Edward Eaton. The property will be sold at a tag sale starting today. A cut glass dresser set dating to the 1920s (left) is priced at \$650.