

The Board of Library Directors has considered and investigated the question of whether items of historical value may have been sold at the public auction held Saturday, January 30th.

The Board did not intend to sell anything of historical significance and took all reasonable precautions to prevent this. Some months ago when the move to new quarters was contemplated the Macon County Museum and the Genealogical Society, at the request of the Library, took back their various Lincoln and historical documents and artifacts which had been on loan to the Library. Also, prior to the sale, the Macon County Historical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution were invited to, and did pick up their property held by the Library.

On Friday evening before the auction, Mr. A. Webber Borchers requested permission to go through the Library and see what was to be sold. This request was granted and Mr. Borchers, in the company of a library board member, spent about two hours examining the property to be auctioned. He raised no questions and made no objections about the sale of any of the property at that time.

On Saturday morning before the sale Mr. Borchers again saw the pictures and frames which were to be sold and stated they were of no historical value and he had no objection to their sale. He did state that two cardboard boxes contained historical items which should not be sold. These boxes had not been tagged for sale, and were never intended for sale. They had been left in the building

by mistake and should not have been in the sale area. When this was called to the attention of Mr. Dumas the boxes were immediately removed from the sale area and locked in a second floor room and have since been moved to the new Library. After these boxes had been removed from the sale area and assurances given that they would not be sold, Mr. Borchers expressed his complete satisfaction. Mr. Borchers was present during the entire auction and offered no further objection to the sale of any item.

In view of the fact that the various historical societies were advised of the sale and did pick up their Lincoln and historical documents and artifacts, and that Mr. A. Webber Borchers, prior to the sale, did examine the property to be auctioned and raised no objections to the sale of any of the property and was also present throughout the sale without objection, the Board is of the opinion that no items of historical significance were sold.

Because of the unfortunate clamor raised by a few individuals the Board wishes to publicly reaffirm that it has complete confidence in Mr. Dumas and is fully satisfied with his performance as City Librarian.

THE BOARD OF LIBRARY DIRECTORS

BY R. L. SCHUERMAN, PRESIDENT