December 17, 2015

**For immediate release**

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**Note**: Phone interviews are available with *Chesapeake Collectibles* Producer Susanne Stahley.

**Sixth season of MPT’s *Chesapeake Collectibles* premieres in January**

***Series features memorabilia from collectors throughout the Chesapeake Bay region***

**OWINGS MILLS, MD –** Maryland Public Television’s (MPT) popular original series *Chesapeake Collectibles* premieres for its sixth season with new episodes airing Thursdays at 8 p.m. on MPT-HD starting on January 7. Rhea Feikin returns as series host.

The January 7 premiere episode showcases a Marquis diamond ring worth at least five times what its owner paid. Viewers also will see an elaborately illustrated map of the world from the 1600s – with most of North America missing – and a prized skeleton called “Plain Jane.”

*Chesapeake Collectibles* is among MPT’s most successful flagship series. Memorabilia from all over the world are brought to the set by collectors from the Chesapeake Bay region, an area rich in American history and culture. More than 20 certified appraisers evaluate the market values of the heirlooms presented for assessment. Season six once again features an “Appraiser Highlights” segment with insider tips on collecting and market trends.

Local appraisers play a key role in *Chesapeake Collectibles*. During the January 7 episode, Pikesville-based appraiser Ross Kelbaugh (owner of Historic Graphics and author of the book *Maryland’s Civil War Photographs*) evaluates a limited-edition model of an Apollo lunar landing module, while Allan Stypeck (owner of Second Story Books, located in Rockville and Washington, DC) analyzes a rare baseball signed by two Hall of Fame legends.

In addition, MPT crews go on location to explore the collections of private and institutional collectors. Season six features include one of the world’s largest robot collections; Japanese and French Baroque heirlooms; a motley collection of surprising items left at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport’s Transportation Security Administration security checkpoints; and a golf pro who fixes antique clocks.

Other season six episode highlights include art works signed by Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Norman Rockwell, Margaret Mitchell and Irving Berlin; a museum-quality Japanese wedding kimono; a cannon-like Chesapeake Bay punt gun; a Civil War diary; turquoise Native American necklaces; and crème de la crème coin silver spoons.

The series airs on Thursdays at 8 p.m. on MPT-HD and is rebroadcast on Fridays at 1:30 a.m. and Saturday at 10 p.m. Each episode also airs on MPT2, on Sundays on at 6 p.m. The production was shot on location for a second year at Turf Valley in Ellicott City.

[For](https://www.facebook.com/MarylandFarmHarvest) more information visit the *Chesapeake Collectibles* website page at [mpt.org/programs/chesapeakecollectibles](http://www.mpt.org/programs/chesapeakecollectibles/) and the [program’s Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/ChesapeakeCollectibles?ref=hl).

Major funding for season six of *Chesapeake Collectibles* is provided by Turf Valley, Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc. and Cosmetic & Advanced Dentistry.

**About MPT**

Launched in 1969 and headquartered in Owings Mills, MD, Maryland Public Television is a nonprofit, state-licensed public television network and member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). MPT’s six transmitters cover Maryland plus portions of contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards, MPT creates local, regional, and national television shows. Beyond broadcast, MPT’s commitment to professional educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through year-round instructional events and the super-website *Thinkport,* which garners in excess of 19 million page views annually. MPT’s community engagement connects viewers with local resources on significant health, education, and public interest topics through year-round outreach events, viewer forums, program screenings, and phone bank call-in opportunities.

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