



**Fast Flourish**

For an easy fall arrangement, clip orange dahlias and mix them with red and yellow roses and calla lilies.

This tarnished basket now shines bright.



# Precious Metals

Style expert Eddie Ross gives new life to old serving pieces he found at an Atlanta flea market

**W**hen the weather turns chill, I love to polish up my silver for a stylish soup party in the dining room. But despite even the best intentions, antique serving pieces, whether found at a flea market or handed down from family, deteriorate with time. Silver can dull and surfaces can pit, often leaving heirloom-quality pieces bound for scrap. Sometimes, all they need is a good cleaning, but for items with more extensive damage, skilled craftspeople, trained in the art of restoration, can preserve cherished items and the memories they bring.

Take the collection pictured above, which I found at Scott Antique Markets in Atlanta. I loved the curled leaf shape of the basket, but the ↪

## Shop This Flea Market!

**WHAT:** Scott Antique Markets; [scottantique.com](http://scottantique.com)


**WHERE:** 366,000 square feet spread over two buildings (North and South) at the Atlanta Exposition Center

**WHEN:** second weekend of every month; next show is November 11-13

**WHAT YOU'LL FIND:** more than 3,000 dealers of furniture, lighting, rugs, jewelry, art, collectibles, and garden accessories

**DON'T MISS:** botanical and natural-history prints from dealer Ellen Afterman of Grey Heron Prints in the South Building. Dealer Patricia Vandiver-Williams in the North Building has a stunning collection of European copper cookware.

**INSIDER TIP:** High-end dealers in the North Building are known to shop for more affordable finds in the South Building and then mark them up. Arrive on Thursday with the dealers, and beat them to the punch.


 Get Eddie's behind-the-scenes tips and see more transformations: [southernliving.com/eddie-ross](http://southernliving.com/eddie-ross)



These chinoiserie transferware bowls inspired the party's blue-and-orange palette.

silver finish had worn through. The copper pot, which is Scottish, was corroded in parts and unusable for cooking. A coin silver ladle was wafer thin at the bowl. Three pairs of spoons (making a set of six) caught my eye, but their monograms were black with tarnish. I paid \$300 for all—not bad if you consider that new pieces would have cost hundreds more.

Antiques add character to your table or buffet, and thanks to the help of two restoration companies, mine have never looked better. Dan and Beth Walker of North Carolina's Oexning Silversmiths stripped the silver-plated pieces to their base metals; removed dents and pits; and then buffed, polished, and replated them. As for the pot, coppersmith Jim Hamann of East Coast Tinning retinned the lining so I could cook with it safely and then buffed and polished the exterior. Many metalsmiths will provide estimates from photographs. Restoration is an investment, but a prized piece or a family heirloom, treasured again, is priceless.

Once you have your pieces back looking new, take care to protect your investment. Gently wash silver-plated items in warm, sudsy water, dry immediately to avoid spots, and then store in anti-tarnish bags. Polish them regularly with a nonabrasive cleaner such as Weiman for silver and Peek for copper and brass. Lastly, remember that the more often you use your antique serving pieces, the brighter and more beautiful they'll stay. 

## NOTICE THE DETAILS

Here are some of the pieces Eddie had restored into beautiful treasures.



### SILVER-PLATED SPOONS

Silversmiths took extra care to ensure the spoons' decorative work and monograms remained true.



### COPPER POT

In addition to buffing and polishing this pot's exterior back to its intended shine, a coppersmith retinned the lining so it would be food-safe.



### COIN SILVER LADLE

A silversmith was able to repair the gash in the ladle's lip and bring back its original sparkle.



**E-mail us!** Tell Eddie about your favorite Southern flea market; e-mail him at [inwiththeold@eddieross.com](mailto:inwiththeold@eddieross.com). Up next: Eddie shops at the Nashville Flea Market and finds a festive new use for vintage brooches.