Antique or Junque: 'Lilly of the valley' vase piques curiosity

by Anne McCollam

Q: Can you tell me anything about my "lily of the valley" vase seen in this photo? My grandmother brought it with her when she emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland around 1910. It stands about 6 inches tall and is hand painted with lily of the valley flowers, as well as several other blossoms. Since I was born in May and lilies of the valley grew wild on our property, we always used the vase for the lilies. My mother told me it was handblown milk glass. There are no manufacturer's markings anywhere, just the pontil mark on the bottom.

BRISTOL GLASS VASE - This semi-opaque Bristol glass vase was made in the 1900s and would probably be worth $75 to $125. CNS Photo. ENOCH WEDGWOOD MARK - Enoch Wedgwood Ltd. of Staffordshire, England, has been in business since 1965 and are now part of the Wedgwood Group. CNS Illustration. I have researched this type of glass and have no information. I would appreciate anything you can tell me about the age, history, and value of my vase.

A: Your vase is an example of semi-opaque Bristol glass. It first was made in Bristol, England, in the 1600s and 1700s, thus the name. An abundance was also made in the late 1800s and early 1900s during the Victorian era in Europe and America. Typically, the glass was hand-decorated with enamels. Although both Bristol glass and milk glass often have an opaline appearance, the semi-opaque quality and thin, smooth body of mold-blown pieces distinguishes it from the more opaque milk glass.

Your early 1900s vase would probably be worth $75 to $125.

Q: This mark is on the bottom of a small ironstone pitcher that I bought at an antiques shop in England for $15. The pitcher is decorated with a red colored transfer print country scene.

When was it made and is it worth what I paid?

A: Enoch Wedgwood Ltd., has used the mark you provided from 1965 to the present day. They have been located in Staffordshire, England, since 1965 and are now part of the Wedgwood Group. "Woodland" is the name of the pattern.

Your pitcher is not even close to being an antique, but it is worth the $15 you paid.

Q: I have a cut glass decanter that was made by H. P. Sinclaire. It is in perfect condition, holds a quart of liquid and is the gooseberry pattern.

Can you please tell what the current value is?

A: H. P. Sinclaire and Co. made cut glass in Corning, N.Y., from 1904 to 1929. Sinclaire marked their glass with an "S" in a wreath. If your decanter is not marked, its value would probably be $150 to $175. A marked piece raises the value. Add $100 to $200 if it has the Sinclaire mark.

Q: I have a service for eight set of semi-porcelain dinnerware that was made in the early 1950s. Each piece is decorated with white bamboo against a sea blue background. It is in perfect condition and includes serving dishes. Marked on the bottom of each piece are the words "Winfield China Pottery - Blue Pacific."

What is its value?

A: Winfield China Pottery was located in Pasadena, Calif., from 1929 to 1962. "Blue Pacific" is the name of the pattern, which was introduced in the 1940s. The pattern was hand-painted and was inspired by Asian designs. In 1962 Winfield China Pottery closed. They couldn't compete with the large influx of inexpensive Japanese imports.

The value of your set of dinnerware would probably be $400 to $500.

Address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Items of a general interest will be answered in this column. Due to the volume of inquiries, she cannot answer individual letters.

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