Antique or Junque: Jar celebrating victory still a winner

by Anne McCollam

Q: I inherited the covered jar seen in this photo. The lid is trimmed in red and the base in blue. On the lid is the image of U.S. Navy Adm. George Dewey and on the side of the jar is a coat of arms, the date May 1,1898, and the words "Steam Ahead and Follow Me." On the other side is Dewey's flagship, the cruiser Olympia. The overall height is 9 inches and the bottom is marked with a wreath and the words "The Wheeling Pottery Co."

COMMEMORATIVE JAR - This commemorative jar was made around 1900 by the Wheeling Pottery Co. of Wheeling, W.V., and would be worth from $125 to $175. CNS Photo. RED WING POTTERY - The Red Wing Pottery Co. of Red Wing, Minn., made dinnerware from 1878 to 1967. CNS Illustration. What can you tell me about my jar, especially its value?

A: In a surprise attack, Adm. George Dewey sailed his ship, the USS Olympia, into Manila Bay, Philippines on April 30, 1899. By the next morning he and his men had defeated the Spanish fleet. Your jar commemoratives the event. It was made by the Wheeling Pottery Co. located in Wheeling, W.Va., around 1900. They were in business from 1879 to 1909.

The value of your commemorative jar would probably be $125 to $175.

Q: This mark is on the back of six dinner plates that belonged to my grandmother. Each plate is decorated with yellow roses, small blue flowers, and green leaves against a white background and a yellow border. My mother told me the dishes were originally part of a service for eight.

I would like to know who made the set and if it has any value other than sentimental.

A: Red Wing Pottery made your dinner plates. They made pottery in Red Wing, Minn., from 1878 to 1967. Based on your description of the design on the plates, the pattern is Brittany, which is part of their Provincial

line of dinnerware. The patterns were hand painted and introduced in 1941. The names of the other three patterns in the Provincial line are Ardennes, Normandy, and Orleans. Your plates would probably be worth $20 to $30 each.

Q: While in Germany in 1957, I purchased a glass bud vase. It stands over 9 inches tall and is very heavy. There is a curving black line that can be seen inside the center of the vase. Etched on the bottom is "Kosta - LH1414."

I have no idea what I paid for it that long ago. Any information you can provide on the manufacturer and the value of my vase will be appreciated.

A: Kosta, located in Sweden, made your vase. The factory was founded in 1742 by Anders Koskull and George Bogislaus Stael von Holstein. Kosta is the blending of the first two letters of their names, Koskull and Stael. "LH" represents, Kosta artistic director, Vicke Lindstand, who hand-formed your vase; "1414" shows it was made in the late 1950s. The black line is a contour line. Take another close look; it could be a very dark amethyst. Kosta merged with the glass house, Orrefors, in the 1990s.

Your circa late 1950s vase would probably be worth $450 to $550.

Q: I have a very old coverlet that belonged to my grandparents. Woven into two corners are the words "Charles Meily, Wayne County, Ohio, 1844." It has interesting designs of dark blue and yellow floral medallions and birds and measures approximately 6 feet by 5 feet. The ends are fringed.

What can you tell me about my coverlet?

A: You have a woven jacquard coverlet. Charles Meily was the name of the weaver.

The value of your coverlet would probably be $350 to $450.

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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