

Antique or Junque: Marshmallow toaster a sweet novelty

by Anne McCollam

Q: This is a photo of an electric marshmallow toaster that was given to my mother in the early 1930s by a salesman when she worked in a wholesale grocery office in Portland, Ore. Marked on the toaster are the MARSHMALLOW TOASTER - This electric marshmallow toaster was made around 1930 and would probably be worth from \$25 to \$50. CNS Photo. SCHUMANN PORCELAIN FACTORY MARK - The Carl Schumann Porcelain Factory in Germany has made porcelain since 1881. CNS Illustration. words "Angelus - Campfire - Bar-B-Q - Marshmallow Toaster - Volts 115 - Watts 545 - Pat. Applied For." I believe it must have been a promotional item, but I am not sure. I contacted the Campfire Marshmallow Co., but they were not able to give me any information. I have not seen another one like it in antiques and collectibles shops, but did see one on a recent visit to the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. It was displayed in the early electric appliances exhibit.

I would appreciate any information you can provide about my toaster and also its value.

A: You are correct, it was a promotional item. It was made around 1930 by a marshmallow company to encourage consumers to buy their product.

The value of your toaster would probably be \$25 to \$50.

Q: This mark is on the back of a porcelain plate that was given to my mother 15 years ago. I inherited it in 1993. The plate is decorated with a European street scene and is in mint condition. Also on the back are the words "Der Alte Markt - Frankfurt."

What can you tell me about my plate?

A: Carl Schumann Porcelain Factory in Bavaria made your plate in the early 1900s. They have made

porcelain since 1881. The words "Der Alte Markt" are German for "The Old Market" and Frankfurt is a city in Germany. The scene on the plate represents an old market or shopping area in Frankfurt.

Your plate would probably be worth \$25 to \$50.

Q: I bought eight ironstone crescent-shaped plates for \$40. I plan to use several of them as soap dishes in my bathrooms and to give the rest to my daughters. Each one is decorated with a cobalt blue floral design and marked "La Belle China" on the back.

What were they used for, who made them, and how old are they?

A: You have eight bone plates. Each one curves around a dinner plate and was used as a place to set fish or meat bones. La Belle China was made by Wheeling Pottery Co. in Wheeling, W.Va. They made ironstone or semiporcelain from 1879 to 1910.

Your plates were made around 1893 and were a good buy. Many bone plates are seen in antiques shops in the range of \$10 to \$25 each.

Q: I am curious about the value of a Little Red Riding Hood cookie jar that I've had since the 1950s. She is wearing a bright red hood and is holding an open basket. There are gold stars on her dress with a border of brown and orange flowers at the hem, gold around her collar, and she has blue eyes. The overall height is approximately 13 inches. On the bottom are the words "967 - Hull Ware - Little Red Riding Hood - U.S.A."

What can you tell me about my cookie jar?

A: Hull Pottery Co. made your cookie jar in the 1950s.

They were in business in Crooksville, Ohio, from 1905 to 1986. Little Red Riding Hood cookie jars were introduced in 1943, and "add-ons" soon followed. There were several variations in the decorations on the cookie jars.

Depending on the condition, your cookie jar would probably be worth \$375 to \$425.

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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