Antique or Junque: Grandma's pitcher a pretty good catch

by Anne McCollam

Q: Enclosed is a photo of a pitcher that my grandmother had for years and I inherited when she died. It is in very good condition, stands approximately 10 inches tall, and the background shades from tan to brown. PITCHER PERFECT - The Warwick China Co. of Wheeling, W.Va., made this pitcher in the early 1900s. It would probably be worth from $275 to $325. CNS Photo. HULL POTTERY MARK - The Hull Pottery of Crooksville, Ohio, was in business from 1905 to 1986. CNS Illustration. On the bottom is the image of a knight in armor with crossed swords and the words "Ioga - Warwick." Also hand painted along with the mark are the numbers "1912.'

Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

A: Warwick China Co. made your pitcher. The factory was founded in 1887 in Wheeling, W.Va. They produced decorative and utilitarian ware as well as hotel, railroad, and restaurant dinnerware. Many pieces were either hand-painted or finished with decals. As a rule, hand-painted numbers referred to the type of finish. Warwick China went out of business in 1951.

Your pitcher was made in the early 1900s and would probably be worth $275 to $325.

Q: This mark is on the bottom of a vase that belonged to my parents. The vase stands over 9 inches tall and is in perfect condition. It is embossed with three different flowers against green leaves. The glaze is matte and shades from blue at the base to pink at the top. There are handles on either side of the vase. I think it was a wedding gift for my parents when they married in 1939.

What can you tell me about my vase?

A: Hull Pottery Co. made your art pottery vase. They were located in Crooksville, Ohio, from 1905 to 1986.

Judging from your description, your vase is an example of Hull's "Wildflower" line of art pottery that was introduced in 1946. Since that was seven years after your parents' wedding, it might have been an anniversary gift instead. "Wildflower" pattern was available on 22 different pieces and the embossed flowers were hand-painted. According to one of Hull's vintage advertisements, the flowers were trillium, bluebells and mission.

Wildflower pieces are popular with collectors and are in the range of $200 to $225.

Q: I have a platter that has been in my family for at least four generations. It measures 20 inches by 16 inches and features an Asian scene of buildings, trees and water. The border is decorated with scrolled lines and flowers. Both the scene and border are dark blue. Marked on the back is a phoenix rising from flames/ashes, the word "Ironstone" and another word has worn off and is illegible.

I would appreciate any information on the origin and value of my platter.

A: Thomas Forester and Sons used the phoenix mark you described. They made porcelain and ironstone in Staffordshire, England, from 1883 to 1959. The word that has worn off was most likely the name of the pattern.

Your platter was decorated with a transfer print and was made in the late 1800s. It would probably be worth $300 to $500.

Q: I purchased a beautiful, complete sick-call set at a charity sale. It has an oak cabinet that measures 15 inches by 12 inches and is dated Nov. 17, 1896. The pieces are all marked "Quadruple Silver-plate - Homan Silver-plate Co." and the interior is lined with purple fabric.

I would like to know the value of this set.

A: For the uninitiated, a sick-call set is used by a priest when called to the home to anoint the sick and give the final sacrament to the dying. Usually included in a set were a crucifix, holy water container, candles, candelabrum, chalice, holy oil cruet, two silver plates, a ciborium and linen cloth. Many devoted Catholic families kept a set in their homes in the late 1800s and early to mid-1900s. Homan Silverplate Co. was located in Cincinnati.

The value of your sick call set would probably be $100 to $175.

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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