

Antique or Junque: Pull toys hold up over the long haul

by Anne_McCollam

Q: The wooden pull toy seen in this photo is circa 1947. It is 8 inches long and 3 inches wide and is in very good condition. The top of the car and the four "passengers" can be removed. There is a round label on the car that is marked with three trees and the words "Holgate Toys - Made in U.S.A. - Sturdy - Educational - Safe."

TOY TRAIN - This wooden pull toy was made by the Holgate Toy Co. around 1947 and would be worth \$25 to \$50. CNS Photo. SAMPSON BRIDGWOOD MARK - Sampson Bridgwood and Son has produced porcelain and earthenware in Staffordshire, England, since 1805. CNS Illustration. I purchased the toy in the 1970s for \$10 and would greatly appreciate any information you can provide and would like to know its value.

A: Holgate Toy Co. can trace its origin to 1789. It was founded by Cornelius Holgate in Philadelphia. Over the years, they made wood products for industry, home and family.

In 1929, they were located in Kane, Pa., where they began making wooden preschool educational toys for children. One of Holgate's early designers was Jarvis Rockwell, the brother of Norman Rockwell. After World War II, their toys were designed to foster creativity, imagination and motor skills. Famous pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock was one of the leading child authorities who approved their educational toys. They are still in business in the same location and continue to make educational toys.

Your pull toy would probably be worth \$25 to \$50.

Q: This mark is on the bottom of a porcelain compote that belonged to my grandmother. The compote stands over 3 inches tall and is decorated with a cranberry border, a pierced edge, and trimmed in gold. On the inside of the compote is a scene of a lake in Scotland and a castle.

What can you tell me about the maker, vintage, and value of my compote?

A: Sampson Bridgwood and Son made your compote. They produced porcelain and earthenware in Staffordshire, England. Bridgwood bought out Anchor Pottery in 1805. Even though the name of the pottery was changed they use the anchor as part of their mark.

Your compote was made around 1885 and would probably be worth \$150 to \$200.

Q: I have a framed Masonic document that was given to me by my grandmother. The document is a Masonic Register for the Caledonia Lodge No. 798 in Gordon, Ala. It stated E. B. Darsey was entered as an apprentice in October 1884, achieved the degree of fellow craft in November 1884 and was raised to the sublime degree of master Mason on Dec. 13, 1884.

I have looked for information on this and have come up empty. Is it worth anything to anyone?

A: Fraternal organization memorabilia is collectible. Although some Masonic pieces can be worth in the thousands, most are in the range of \$25 to \$200.

Your framed document would probably be worth \$100 to \$150.

Q: My mother was given a necklace that was purchased overseas in the early 1900s. It was made of small seed beads in shades of orange. Many of the beads were woven together to form larger beads and there is a centerpiece with looped fringe. A friend said she saw one in a jewelry book and it was identified as "Turkish prisoner of war beadwork."

I would appreciate any information about the history, rarity and value of this necklace.

A: Turkish soldiers in British prison camps in the Middle East and in Britain during World War I passed the time making beaded jewelry. Turkish beadwork is a craft that began in the Ottoman Empire and has been handed down through the centuries. They made jewelry, belts, and purses. Most prized are the snake and lizard bracelets.

Turkish prisoner of war beadwork can be hard to find. Your necklace would probably be \$75 to \$125.

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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