

Antique or Junque: Hummingbird box hovers between \$175 and \$275

by Anne_McCollam

Q: I purchased this covered dish thinking it was made by Fenton Glass Co. It is decorated with birds and roses in relief, measures 7 inches in diameter, and is in mint condition. I wrote to Fenton inquiring about its history only to learn it was not made by them. They told me it is a hummingbird puff box and it was made by Phoenix and Consolidated Art Glass.

PUFF PIECE - The Consolidated Lamp and Glass Co. of Corapolis, Pa., made this hummingbird puff box around 1925. It would probably be worth from \$175 to \$275. CNS Photo. FRANZ ANTON MEHLEM MARK - The Franz Anton Mehlem Earthenware Factory in Bonn, Germany, was in business from 1836 to 1920. CNS Illustration. Could you provide more information as well as the value of my dish?

A: Consolidated Lamp and Glass Co. made your hummingbird puff box. They were located in Corapolis, Pa., from 1895 to 1962. Phoenix Glass was also in Pennsylvania, and produced similar art glass, some from molds purchased from Consolidated. Your puff box was available in three sizes and in several colors. The hummingbird pattern was part of the "Martele" line that was introduced in 1925 and inspired by the designs of Rene Lalique.

Your puff box was made around 1925 and would probably be worth \$175 to \$275.

Q: I have sent you a drawing of the mark that is on the back of a porcelain antique clock. The clock has been in our family for quite some time. My father says he can remember it being in their house when he was growing up in the 1940s and that our grandmother had it long before that. It stands 12 inches tall and the scrolled case is decorated with yellow roses, green leaves, and gold trim. Also included with the mark are the words "La Marne." On the front of the porcelain dial is the letter "A" inside a square.

I would greatly appreciate any information on the origin, age, and value of our clock.

A: Franz Anton Mehlem Earthenware Factory made the porcelain case for your clock. They were located in Bonn, Germany, from 1836 to 1920 and used the mark you provided from 1888 to 1920.

Ansonia Clock Co. in New York made the clockworks. "LaMarne" is the name of the design of the case.

Your clock was made around 1900 and would probably be worth \$400 to \$600.

Q: Two years ago my husband and I purchased a fainting couch/chaise lounge for \$50. The person we bought it from told us it was made in the 1800s. It had been stored in a barn for a long time and was in rough condition. We had to throw away the original fabric and stuffing, all that is left are the springs and wood frame.

Do you have any advice on what to do with it and can you tell how old it is?

A: Fainting couches or chaise lounges were popular in the late 1800s. Assuming the frame is not in good condition and assuming you do not have restoration experience, you should have it refinished and reupholstered professionally.

Values for completely restored lounges are in the range of \$1,300 to \$1,800.

Q: I have a set of glassware my grandmother kept in a cabinet and when she died in 1961, it was given to me. The set includes a spoon holder, creamer, syrup pitcher, and sugar bowl. The top part of each piece is a ruby color and lower is clear glass. According to one of her daughters, my grandmother brought it with her to the United State when she emigrated from Ireland in 1887.

What can you tell me about my glassware?

A: Your set is an example of ruby flashed or stained glass that was made around 1900. The red color was applied to clear pressed glass and most pieces seen today were made in Pennsylvania. Each piece would probably be worth \$75, except for the syrup pitcher. Its value is around \$200.

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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