

Antique or Junque: Enjoy drinking water from a valuable set

by *Anne_McCollam*

Q: The antique pitcher and matching tumblers have been in my family since around 1900. The glass is a dark purple and the scrolled pattern is embellished with gold. My mother told me the set was given to her grandmother for her wedding; it is in perfect condition.

The glass water set, created by McKee and Brothers, would probably be worth \$800 to \$900. Anything you can tell me about my set will be greatly appreciated.

A: You have a pressed-glass water set with the "Croesus" pattern. McKee and Brothers, located in Pittsburgh, made it around 1900. Croesus was available as a complete dinner table line in amethyst and green. Spoon holders, bowls, butter dishes, cake stands, cream pitchers, sugar bowls, water pitchers and tumblers are just some of the pieces.

"Croesus" was also made by Riverside Glass Works in Wellsburg, W.Va., only in clear glass. Your water set would probably be worth \$800 to \$900.

Q: We have a white covered dish with handles, which we have been using for mashed potatoes for over 30 years. My wife says it belonged to her grandmother. It is oval and about 14 inches long. I have enclosed a photo of the mark that is on the bottom of the dish.

How old is it and is it worth anything?

A: Edward Clarke Pottery made your covered dish. They were located in Tunstall, Staffordshire, England, from 1865 to 1877. Their dishes marked as "Opaque Porcelaine" were white granite; they were intended for the American market and to compete with French porcelain.

Your covered dish was made around 1865 and would probably be worth \$75 to \$125.

Q: I have a pair of Mies Van Der Rohe black side chairs with the model No. 256CS. Constructed of cantilevered shiny tubular steel with a leather back and seat, they do not have leather laces on the backs nor any indication that any were ever there. The chairs are in excellent condition.

What can you tell me about my chairs?

A: Mies Van Der Rohe designed a series of cantilevered chairs in 1931. Inspired by 19th-century curved Bentwood rockers, the chairs were given a fresh modern design. Leather was used for the seats and backs and the frames were tubular steel plated with shiny chrome. They were produced by Knoll Products. The series included chairs with and without arms as well as chaise lounges.

Mies Van Der Rohe was born in Germany. He began his career working for his father's masonry business, served as an apprentice with a Berlin architect, associated with the Deutscher Werkbund and became the Director of the Bauhaus. In 1938, Van Der Rohe immigrated to the United States where he established his business in Chicago and became a citizen. Knoll Products also made his famous "Barcelona Chair."

Your pair of chairs would probably be worth \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Q: I have inherited a complete service for 12 dinnerware that my mother bought 58 years ago. Each dish is decorated with blue and white Currier and Ives winter scenes. Made by Homer Laughlin China Co., the pattern is "Homesteader." Included with the mark are the letters and numbers: "A55N5."

The set has sentimental value to me and I would never part with it, but I would like to know its history.

A: Homer Laughlin China Co. has been located in East Liverpool, Ohio, since 1877. The number shows your dishes were made in January 1955 at plant 5.

The value of your set is in the range of \$300 to \$400.

(set image) amc021309-vis.jpg (end image) (set caption) The glass water set, created by McKee and Brothers, would probably be worth \$800 to \$900. (end caption)

(set image2) amc021309-gra.jpg (end image2) (set caption2) Edward Clarke Pottery produced items such as covered dishes. The company was located in Tunstall, Staffordshire, England, from 1865 to 1877. (end caption2)

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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