Antique or Junque: Clock's been in the family for some time

by Anne McCollam

Q: Could you tell me anything at all about the clock in this photo? It was given to my great-grandmother around 1910 and is in perfect condition, no chips or cracks. The overall measurements are approximately 14 inches by 11 inches. Marked on the back are a crown and a shield with the words "Royal Bonn - FM - Germany - La Roca."

A: The Royal Bonn mark was used by Franz Anton Mehlem Earthenware Factory in Bonn, Rhineland, Germany. They made earthenware and porcelain from 1836 to 1920. Mehlem made the case and the American clock manufacturer, Ansonia, made the clock works. Take another look at the face of your clock and you will see the Ansonia mark. "La Roca" is the name of the design.

GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S CLOCK - Franz Anton Mehlem Earthenware Factory in Bonn, Germany, made this clock. It would probably be worth from $600 to $800. CNS Photo.
Your clock would probably be worth $600 to $800.

Q: This mark is on the bottom of a small pitcher that has been in my family for generations. The pitcher stands over 4 inches tall, is in the shape of a bear, and his open mouth forms the spout. He is wearing a light green jacket with pockets that has a diagonal pattern and has his paws in a fur muff.

What can you tell me about the maker, age and value of my pitcher?

A: Schafer and Vater made your figural bear pitcher. They produced novelty pieces, dishes, tobacco jars and dolls in Thuringia, Germany, from 1890 to 1962. Schafer and Vater made their bear pitcher in several sizes. In the early 1970s, the East German government took over the factory building and allegedly destroyed all molds and records.

Your early 1900s pitcher would probably have a value of $200 to $250.

Q: While on vacation several years ago, my husband and I stopped at an antiques shop. He found a pastry blender that he thought was manufactured the year I was born, 1925. It was only $2, so we bought it. It has a wooden handle that was painted green, seven wires for blending, and in perfect condition. Marked on metal are the words "Androck - Made in U.S.A. - Patented 1-12-26 - N.J. 32 6." We were off by one year.

I use it all the time for making biscuits and piecrusts and am not interested in selling it, just curious about it. Anything you can tell us will be appreciated.

A: Vintage Androck cooking and kitchen utensils are collectible. A manufacturing date can't be determined by a patent date. For example, your blender has a 1-12-26 patent date and could have been produced several years later. Some of their early pastry blenders were made with Bakelite handles rather than wooden handles.

Your pastry blender would probably be worth $15 to $25.

Q: I have a cut glass pitcher that was given to my grandmother as a wedding gift in 1910. It is tall and narrow and its height is approximately 12 inches. There are notches on the handle. Cut into the base is a maple leaf. Can you tell who made it, when, and what it is worth?

A: The incised maple leaf mark was used by T. B. Clark and Co. They were in business from 1884 to 1930 in Honesdale, Pa. Your pitcher was made during the Brilliant Period of cut glass that lasted from around 1880 to 1910. A signed piece has more value than an unsigned and is a very desirable antique. The notched handle was applied to the body.

Your pitcher is circa 1910 and would probably be worth $800 to $1,200.

SCHAFER AND VATER MARK - Schafer and Vater made novelty pieces, dishes, tobacco jars, and dolls from 1890 to 1962. CNS Illustration.

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