

Antique Or Junque: Champagne-finish hutch still sparkles

by Anne McCollam

Q: My husband and I have owned the china hutch seen in this photo for years. It was made by Heywood Wakefield, has a champagne finish, and is in mint condition. The top is a separate piece from the base.

We are planning to downsize and would appreciate any information you can give us, especially its value.

A: The Heywood Wakefield Furniture Co. made furniture in Gardner, Mass., for over 100 years. Your two-part china hutch was part of their Modern Line. The champagne finish with a pink tone was similar to a champagne cocktail, thus the name. This popular finish was introduced in 1939 and used until 1966. The base without the hutch top can be used as a server.

HEYWOOD HUTCH - The Heywood Wakefield Furniture Co. of Gardner, Mass., made fine furniture for more than 100 years. This china hutch was made around 1952 and would probably be worth \$300 to \$400. CNS Photo.

GEORGE JONES & SONS MARK - George Jones & Sons of Staffordshire, England, made fine porcelain pieces, earthenware and majolica from 1861 to 1951. CNS Illustration.
Your china hutch was made around 1952 and would probably be worth \$300 to \$400.

Q: This mark is on the back of an old blue-and-white bowl. I found the bowl while cleaning a storeroom. It is decorated with the ruins of a church and is in very good condition. Even though the date 1790 is included in the mark, I don't believe the bowl is that old.

Could you tell me the approximate age and value of my bowl?

A: George Jones and Sons made your bowl. They produced porcelain, earthenware, and majolica in Staffordshire, England, from 1861 to 1951. "Abbey" is the name of a flow blue pattern. It is decorated with a transfer print design of the ruins of an ancient Gothic church.

Your bowl was made in the late 1800s and would probably be worth \$125 to \$150.

Q: We are planning to downsize and that will mean selling part of an extensive collection of books. There are over 2,000 books that include fiction, nonfiction, classics, Indiana writers, histories, biographies and some textbooks. Could you please provide some advice on how to sell my books?

A: A good reference for values of used or rare books is "American Book Prices Current." It is published annually and is available in most public libraries. As a rule, books especially textbooks and encyclopedias, are of very modest values. Prices are based on rarity, condition, uniqueness, authors, date of publication, and first editions. It may take some research, but finding a reputable appraiser, auction house, or book dealer is worth the effort. As long as you have done your homework, you might consider selling on the Internet.

Q: I am curious about a small woven Longaberger basket that I've had for at least 15 years. It is for holding keys and measures approximately 7 by 5 inches and has a leather strap on one side.

Is it a collectible and what is it worth today?

A: Dave Longaberger founded his basket-making company in Dresden, Ohio, in the early 1970s. The business has become a thriving direct-sales operation and over 40,000 independent home sales consultants throughout the United States are successfully selling his baskets. Company headquarters is located in Newark, Ohio, and sales include a variety of home accessories.

Although considered to be collectibles by many, some collectors of hand-rafter antique and vintage baskets disagree. All things considered, the old adage applies: "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

The value of your key basket would probably be in the \$10 to \$25 range.

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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