Antique or Junque: Disney rug rolls a profit

by Anne McCollam

Q: This is a close-up of my Disney rug. It is decorated with the images of Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse and Pluto dancing to music with a boat and the sea in the background. The rug measures 40 inches by 22 inches, not including the 2-inch fringe on the ends. It is in mint condition. There are no markings on the front or back to identify it as a Disney product.

My grandfather acquired it in the early 1940s and we don't know where he got it.

DISNEY RUG - This Disney rug was made in the 1930s, and it may be worth as much as $400. CNS Photo.

HAVILAND CO. MARK - The Theodore Haviland company has made porcelain in Limoges, France, since 1892. CNS Illustration.

Is it an authentic Disney piece and what is its value?

A: Yes, it is the "real deal." It was made in the 1930s; it is collectible. A photo of the rug is included in "The Collector's Encyclopedia of Disneyana" by David Longest and Michael Stern.

The value of your rug would probably be $370 to $400.

Q: Thirty-five years ago I inherited a 12-set service of porcelain dinnerware from my great-grandmother. Enclosed is the mark on back of each dish. The dishes are decorated with pink flowers against a white background.

What can you tell me about the age and value of my dishes?

A: Theodore Haviland used the mark you provided. They have made porcelain in Limoges, France, since 1892. Your set was made around 1900 and would probably be worth $900 to $1,500.

Q: We have a stein that stands 18 inches tall. It is decorated with a tavern scene of men and a woman in medieval clothes. There is the figure of a squirrel on the lid. Marked on the bottom of the stein are a castle and the words "Mettlach - Ges. Gesch - 2205 - 08." Engraved on the lid is the date "Sept. 20 1908."

What can you tell me about the origin and value of our stein?

A: Villeroy and Boch Pottery made your stein. They have been making pottery and earthenware since 1813 in Mettlach, Germany.

The castle is an ancient abbey. The scene represents hunters and the goddess of the hunt, Diana, after a hunt.

"Ges Gesch" are German words for registered. The number "2205" is the design number and "08" are the last two digits of the year 1908.

Your stein was made in 1908 and would probably be worth $1,800 to $2,400.

Q: We have a cut glass pitcher that was passed to my mother when she married in 1936. We have been curious about its origin. It is unmarked.

We thought it might be a piece of Waterford but that proved incorrect. It has been suggested that it was made in France; however, we have nothing to prove it.

It stands 10 inches tall, has a notched opening and an applied handle. The overall shape is wide at the base, narrows at the middle and widens out at the top.

We hope you can tell us something about our pitcher.

A: A manufacturer's mark is a treasure trove of information. Without one it can often be impossible to identify the maker and origin of glassware, pottery and porcelain. A manufacturer's mark can help reveal the name of the maker, country and city of origin as well as an approximate date of manufacture. Without a mark, collectors are forced to rely on design and style to come up with an educated guess to the history of the antique.

Based on your description, your cut glass pitcher was made in the early 1900s in the United States. It would probably be worth $225 to $325.

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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