Antique or Junque: Separating treasures from trash

by Anne McCollam

Q: The pitcher in this photo has been passed down to me from my husband's family. It is over seven inches tall and marked "Henriot Quimper - France." Although it can't be seen in this photo, on the side under the spout there is the image of a man wearing blue pantaloons, yellow stockings, black shoes, a green jacket and hat. The pitcher is also decorated with concentric blue and yellow bands. Other than a small chip on the edge, it is in perfect condition.

I would appreciate any information you can give me.

FAMILY PITCHER - This pitcher is an example of faience made by Henriot in Quimper, France around 1926. It would be worth between $100 to $125. CNS Photo. STEUBENVILLE POTTERY MARK - The Steubenville Pottery Co. in Steubenville, Ohio, made ironstone from 1879 to 1960. CNS Illustration. A: Your pitcher is an example of faience made by Henriot in Quimper, Brittany, France, around 1926. Faience is a tin-glazed pottery and has been produced since the 1600s in Quimper. The stylized leaves, flowers and Breton peasants involved in everyday life in the country, in addition to the concentric blue and yellow bands all characterize Quimper ware in the early 1900s.

Collectors prefer a piece in pristine condition and the small chip does diminish the value. All things considered, the value of your pitcher would probably be $100 to $125.

Q: This mark is on the back of an ironstone plate that my father gave me a few years ago. He believed it was one of many plates that were given to customers by a local merchant in Rocky Ridge, Ohio, in 1910. Around the rim of the plate are calendars for each month in 1910 along with scenes of the changing seasons. In the center is a portrait of a Gibson-type young woman and below her are the words "Compliments of C.F. Frese & Co."

Can you tell me any more about my plate and if it has any value?

A: You have a calendar plate. They were popular "giveaways" that provided merchants an opportunity to advertise their businesses. Most were made from around 1906 to the 1930s. The plates were often decorated with decals of young women in the center, the calendars for a specific year and the name of the advertiser. Plates can also be found decorated with animals, birds or flowers. Your plate was made by Steubenville Pottery Co. located in Steubenville, Ohio, around 1910. They made ironstone from 1879 to 1960. The value of your calendar plate would probably be $50 to $75.

Q: Sometime around 1960 we bought a thread cabinet from an old department store that was liquidating everything. It is made of oak, has six drawers each labeled with specific merchandise and brass pulls. Above the top drawer is the name "Willimantic."

Is my sewing cabinet collectible and what is it worth?

A: Thread cabinets are indeed collectible. Just about every general store in the late 1800s had at least one cabinet in their sewing department. Willimantic is a town in Connecticut that was home to textiles and thread manufacturers. At one time it was known as "Thread City."

Similar cabinets are seen in antiques shops in the range of $1,200 to $1,500.

Q: I have a washbowl and pitcher set that has been in our family for years. Each piece is white and trimmed with gold. They are marked on the bottom with a crown and the words "Doulton - Burslem - England.

I have no idea what they might be worth. What is your opinion?

A: Doulton and Co. located in Burslem, England, made your wash set. They have made porcelain, earthenware and stoneware since 1853. "Royal" was added to their mark in 1902.

Your set was made around 1891 and would probably be worth $300 to $325.

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