

Antique or Junque: Lamp owner seeks enlightenment

by Anne McCollam

Q: I have enclosed a picture of an art deco electric lamp once owned by my mother and that now belongs to me. I believe it is from the 1920-1930 era because that's when she and my dad were married. The base and the nude females are all metal and the globe is golden crackle glass. It still lights and the figures are in wonderful condition. The bottom is covered with green felt and I don't know who the manufacturer was.

ART DECO LAMP - This lamp is very similar to those made by Frankart Inc., which made lamps, ashtrays, and decorating accessories in the 1920s and 1930s. CNS Photo. BOHEMIA CERAMIC MARK - Bohemia Ceramic Works made porcelain in Czechoslovakia from 1921 to 1945. CNS Illustration. Can you give me more information on my art deco lamp?

A: Take another look at your lamp; there may be a manufacturer's mark. Your lamp is very similar to those made by Frankart Inc. The company was owned by Arthur Von Frankenberg and they made lamps, ashtrays and decorating accessories in the 1920s and 1930s. Most of his work was marked with the name Frankart Inc. or with the image of a ship. Judging from your photo, the figures and base were made of spelter or a lead composition that was finished with a bronze wash. Similar art deco lamps can be seen on eBay in the range of \$800 to \$1,200.

Q: This mark is on the bottom of a porcelain gravy/sauce dish with an attached under plate. The dish is decorated with pastel flowers and birds sitting on branches against a white background and is trimmed in gold.

Could you please provide the history of my gravy dish and also tell me its value?

A: Bohemia Ceramic Works made your gravy/sauce dish. They made porcelain in the former Czechoslovakia from 1921 to 1945.

The mark you provided was used from 1941 to 1945. Your dish would probably be worth \$35 to \$50.

Q: My mother gave me a telephone that was purchased by her husband's father in the 1930s. It is black, has a rotary dial, a cylinder shaped earpiece, and a separate mouthpiece. It still works and all the wires and parts are intact.

Could you possibly tell what it's worth?

A: Your telephone with the cylinder shaped earpiece is called a candlestick phone. They were made by several phone manufacturers around 1920 and are very popular collectibles.

Depending on the condition, your telephone would probably be worth \$250 to \$350.

Q: My husband bought an oval covered vegetable dish and matching platter at a flea market. He was told they are Flow Blue. Each piece is decorated with a cobalt blue design and in mint condition. Marked on the back are a crown and shield and also the words "Malvern - Semi-Porcelain - The Henry Alcock Pottery - Fenton - Stoke-on-Trent - England."

Please tell me what you think this set is worth and approximately how old it is.

A: "Malvern" is the name of a Flow Blue pattern. Henry Alcock and Co. was located in Staffordshire, England, from 1861 to 1910.

Your vegetable dish and platter were made around 1900 and the set would probably be worth \$300 to \$350.

Q: I have a glass vase that is decorated with a floral etched pattern and stands 10 inches tall. It is black, but when held up to the light appears amethyst. There is no manufacturer's mark that I could find.

What can you tell me about my vase?

A: Your vase is an example of black amethyst glass. At least a half-dozen American glass factories mass-produced black amethyst glass from the early to late 1900s.

The value of your vase would probably be \$75 to \$125.

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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