

Antique or Junque: Don't throw down these gauntlets

by Anne McCollam

Q: I have enclosed a photo of a pair of American Indian gauntlets that were passed down to me. They were authenticated by a curator of the Buffalo Bill Cody Museum in Cody, Wyo. The curator told me the gauntlets were made in the 1880s in the Great Lakes region and are in good condition. The embroidered design is made of extremely small stitches on fine leather rather than beadwork.

Can you give me an idea of their value?

A: Gauntlets are traditionally gloves with cuffs that cover the wrists. Native people inspired by gloves worn by soldiers and settlers adopted the style and created their own versions.

Typically, they were decorated with beadwork or embroidered floral or pictorial designs and included fringe flowing from the cuffs.

GAUNTLETS - These western-style museum-quality gauntlets are probably worth between \$600 to \$1,200. CNS Photo.

NIPPON MARK - 'Nippon' means Japan in Japanese and was used in trademarks from 1891 to around 1921. The letter 'M' represents the Morimura brothers, New York importers of porcelain from Japan. CNS Illustration.

Your museum-quality gauntlets would probably be worth \$600 to \$1,200.

Q: I have a porcelain hot chocolate set that has been in my possession for 50 years. The set is in perfect condition and consists of a hot chocolate pot, six cups and six saucers. They are decorated with pink flowers, green leaves, gold garlands and trim against a creamy white background. I have enclosed the mark that is seen on each piece.

I have been wondering about the history of my set and if it has any value.

A: "Nippon" means Japan in Japanese and was used in trademarks from 1891 to around 1921. The letter "M" represents the Morimura Brothers, New York importers of porcelain from Japan. Nippon porcelain pieces are very desirable antiques.

Your set would probably be worth \$400 to \$700.

Q: I have a sterling silver coffee service that was given to me approximately 60 years ago. The set consists of a coffee pot, cream pitcher, sugar bowl, and tray. It was made by Reed and Barton.

I would appreciate anything you can tell me about my set.

A: Reed and Barton has made silver hollowware in Taunton, Mass., since 1840. Similar coffee services are in the range of \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Q: I inherited a porcelain-footed bowl with 10 smaller matching bowls from my grandmother. They are decorated with pale pink peonies and green leaves. Marked on the bottom of each dish are a star and the letters "RIS" in a wreath above the words "Germany" and "Hand Painted."

What can you tell me about my dishes and especially their use?

A: You have a berry set, the large bowl is for serving and the smaller ones are individual bowls. Look again at the mark. What appears to be an "I" is actually a branch that is part of the wreath. The letters "R S" represent Reinhold Schlegelmilch. His porcelain factory was located in Tillowitz, Germany, from 1914 to 1945.

The value of your berry set would probably be \$800 to \$900.

BOOK REVIEW

"The Official Price Guide to Football Cards 2007" by James Beckett is the most comprehensive, accurate and current price guide on the market. Beckett's 26th edition is teeming with valuable information on the history of football cards, how to buy, sell and care for them. This trusted guide covers more than 125,000 full sets and individual cards, information on more than 40 card companies, and hundreds of photos for easy identification.

This guide will help collectors kick off the fall football season with a great game plan for building and maintaining their winning collection.

Published by House of Collectibles. It is available at bookstores for \$8.

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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