Antique or Junque: 'Old' gift from friend worth thousands

by Anne McCollam

Q: I am wondering if you might have any information on the vase in this photo. A friend gave it to me in 1976. All she told me was that it was very old. It stands approximately 24 inches tall and is in mint condition. The AMPHORA - This vase was made by Amphora Porzellan of Austria in 1900 and would probably be worth $2,000 to $3,000. CNS Photo. SHELLEY POTTERIES MARK - Shelley Potteries Ltd. has made porcelain in Longton, England, since 1925. CNS Illustration. glaze is a gray matte, the raised jewels are a cobalt blue color, and the flowers are in relief. On the base is the word "Amphora."

A: Amphora Porzellan Fabrik made your vase. Rudolf Kessel, Edward Stellmacher, and the Riessner brothers, Carl and Hans, founded the factory in Turn-Teplitz, Bohemia, Austria, in 1892. The matte glaze, raised jewels, and flowers in relief are typical of their Art Nouveau designs.

Your vase was made around 1900 and would probably be worth $2,000 to $3,000.

Q: This mark is on the bottom of a porcelain cake plate that I have. The pattern is "Melody" and it is decorated with pink, blue, and yellow flowers against a green background and trimmed in gold. The plate is 10 inches in diameter. I would like to know its vintage and value.

A: Shelley Potteries Ltd. has made porcelain in Longton, Staffordshire, England, since 1925. "Melody" is the name of a chintz china pattern. Chintz patterns can be recognized by the overall floral patterns against pastel backgrounds. Their designs were inspired by chintz fabric, thus the name. Most of these charming patterns were produced by several English potteries from the late 1920s to the 1940s.

The value of your circa 1930 cake plate would probably be $200 to $225.

Q: I bought a pottery pitcher at an estate sale for $2 because it had our last name on the side. Later when

I got home I noticed it was marked with an incised square with lines in it. Below that are the words "Van Briggle - Colo Spgs." The pitcher stands 7 inches tall and is decorated with a matte blue glaze that drips down to a darker blue. The clay on the bottom is a beige color. Does my pitcher have any value?

A: Artus Van Briggle founded his pottery in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1900. The lines in the square are actually the letters A, which represent the first names of Van Briggle and Anne, his wife. The beige color clay on the bottom of your pitcher is an indication your pitcher was made no earlier than 1970. The value of your late 1900's pitcher would probably be $50 to $75.

Q: We have a set of 12 silver teaspoons from the 1939 World's Fair that was in New York. Each teaspoon represents a different exhibit in the fair. We are interested in learning the value of our set.

A: The New York World's Fair opened on April 30, 1939, which was 150 years after George Washington took office. It was titled "The World of Tomorrow" and was inspired by the link of the past, present, and the future. Peace and Freedom were the optimistic pre-World War II themes.

Your silver-plated teaspoons were made by Rogers Manufacturing Co. The set was offered in a wood box with the name and date of the fair in gold letters on the lid. A complete set of silver plate flatware was also available.

Your set of 12 teaspoons in the original box would have a value of $200 to $250.

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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