

Antique or Junque: Candlesticks' maker remains a mystery

by Anne McCollam

Q: During a recent trip to England, I purchased the porcelain candlesticks seen in this photo at an antiques shop near Oxford. I was told the candlesticks were made by Royal Crown Derby and paid about \$100 for the pair. They are decorated with an Asian Imari pattern that is red, cobalt blue, green and gold against a white background. They do not have the usual crown mark on the bottom, just the number "7445" in red. Even though it wasn't clear to me if they were made by Royal Crown Derby or not, I bought the pair because I really liked them.

IMARI PATTERN - These candlesticks may have been made by the Royal Crown Derby Co. of England, which produced a variety of hand-painted Asian-inspired Imari patterns that have been extremely popular over the years. CNS Photo. BLOCH AND CO. MARK - Bloch and Co. of Eichwald, Czech Republic, made porcelain and earthenware from 1871 to 1945. CNS Illustration. Were my candlesticks actually made by Royal Crown Derby or was I misled?

A: Royal Crown Derby Co. Ltd., has made porcelain in England since 1890. They produced a variety of hand-painted Asian-inspired Imari patterns that have been extremely popular over the years. As a rule, they always marked their porcelain with their name and a crown. The red numbers are design numbers.

Judging from your information, you have a pair of Royal Crown Derby-style candlesticks. Without a manufacturer's mark it can sometimes be impossible to identify a maker. If you are happy with your purchase, you didn't go wrong. The price you paid for your candlesticks was not unreasonable.

Q: My mother-in-law gave me a porcelain vase that I would like to know more about. It is pink with raised, multicolored flowers on all four sides. Enclosed is the mark found on the bottom of the vase. Also included in the mark are the words "Made in Czechoslovakia."

I love the vase and have wondered about its history and value for a long time. Any information you can give me will be appreciated.

A: B. Block and Co., located in Eichwald, Bohemia, made your vase. They made porcelain and earthenware from 1871 to 1945. Objects marked "Czechoslovakia" were made from 1918, when the country was formed, to 1993, when it separated and became the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Your vase was made in the early 1900s and would probably be worth \$45 to \$65.

Q: I have a Lone Ranger and his horse, Silver, tin litho wind-up toy. When wound up, his hand that holds a gun moves and a lasso rotates over his head. Silver is white. Across his leg is a yellow banner with the words "The Lone Ranger - Hi-Yo Silver." Near the saddle is the Marx trademark and the copyright date "1938." The overall height is 10 inches. Both the toy and the original box are in mint condition.

Perhaps you can shed some light on my toy.

A: Louis Marx founded his toy company in New York in the 1920s. It became one of the leading toy manufacturers in the United States. The Lone Ranger, Tonto and Silver were featured in movies, TV, comics and books from the 1930s to the 1950s. A plethora of related toys were produced and are very collectible today.

Your Lone Ranger toy would probably be worth \$375 to \$425.

Q: Forty years ago I was given four prints all signed by Lionel Barrymore. They measure approximately 7 by 5 inches and have cardboard frames.

They are beautiful and in good condition.

Other than having sentimental value, are they worth anything?

A: Although Lionel Barrymore studied art in Paris from 1903 to 1907, he pursued a career in acting. Many of his lithograph, woodcuts, and paintings were created when he summered in Long Island in the early 1900s.

Most of his lithographs are in the range of \$10 to \$30.

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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