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ANTIQUÉ GUIDE

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 20

WWW.RENNINGERS.NET

NOVEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 13, 2016



EXTRAVAGANZA DATES

MOUNT DORA, FL Jan. 20-22 • Feb. 17-19, 2017
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**Ohio Expo Center -
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2016 SHOWS:
DECEMBER 17 & 18
2017 SHOWS:
JANUARY 21 & 22

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 JUNE 23, 24 & 25 SEPTEMBER 29, 30 & OCTOBER 1

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Rare Doorstops



By Terry and Kim Kovel

Iron doorstops became a hot collectible with rising prices about 1990. A 1985 book picturing doorstops and several auctions, which included rare doorstops, sent collectors searching for examples of the 1930s and '40s collectible. They became so popular that thousands of copies were made, many from the original molds. Bright new paint identifies many recent doorstops, but some, with artificial wear and tear, are good enough to fool collectors today. It is almost impossible to break an iron figure, so many iron doorstops still are available with little damage. Top prices are paid for doorstops in great condition with almost all of the original paint. And, of course, rarity adds value. This original Uncle Sam doorstop has the words "For the Open Door" on the base. The words "For the Open Door" had a political meaning, and it was not just a statement about how the doorstop was used. A complicated "Open Door" policy was promoted by the U.S. in 1899. It suggested that all countries should allow China and other countries to trade with no tariffs, no special harbor charges, and with no interference or attempts to divide China. There was another Open Door political discussion in 1922, and this discussion probably is the one mentioned on the doorstop. China opened special investment zones in 1928. There were more international discussions and changes in 1978 concerned with China's industry, trade and foreign investment. The Uncle Sam doorstop is rare and desirable, and this one, with great paint, sold recently at auction for \$21,240. The 1985 value was \$250.

This Uncle Sam doorstop sold for \$21,240 in a New Jersey 2016 auction. It was listed as worth \$250 in 1985. Vintage doorstops have all gone up in value, especially those with the original paint.



No, the large turkey was not made as a Thanksgiving decoration. It is an antique part for a game of skittles that auctioned for over \$2,000. But, it would look great on the holiday dinner table.

Figural 'Packages'

By Terry and Kim Kovel

This 16-inch-high turkey made in 1907 is not a toy, but a "package" that held game parts. It is made of a composition material and has glass eyes and metal wheels. Stored inside the turkey are parts for a skittles game, a variety of bowling. Skittles is popular in many European countries and is played out or indoors and in England and in Ireland, indoors in a pub. The game uses 9 or 10 pins and, of course, a ball. The painted wooden pins often were made in fancy shapes. Soldiers, sailors, spelling blocks, clowns, penguins, vegetables, frogs, ducks and other figures were made. The figural "packages" online this year include a large frog, parrot, rabbit, vegetables, pumpkin, clown and many hens with chicks. There is even an airplane that held pilots. Modern skittles games often are made of plastic instead of wood. This turkey sold for \$2,124 at a Bertoia auction in New Jersey.

Déjà Vu

By Harry L. Rinker

The stage is set. The actor with sweat slowly trickling down from his hair to his neck, hands in endless motion, and body language expressing a mixture of nervousness and expectation, stands before a closed garage door. What waits behind the door? Cue the music. Not the "Storage Wars" theme, but rather the heart-beating, rapid pace music associated with the knock on the door in a horror movie scene. As the door opens, the actor's eyes enlarge and a gasp of "Oh, No," akin to a scream, is heard by sur-

rounding neighbors. Just when the actor thought the past was behind and the present organized, his worst nightmare returns with a vengeance.

The morals behind what follows are simple. Knowing what to do is not the same as doing it. Good intentions often succumb to reality. A true collector has no choice but to face the inevitable. Whether a collector is normal or abnormal is a matter of opinion.

I begin with the backstory. When I lived at The School [the former 14,000 square foot Vera Cruz (PA) elementary school], it served as a

depository for whatever I decided to buy. Over the course of the 19 years I owned The School, I acquired dozens of boxes of material that I never opened. I kind of, sort of had an idea what was in them, albeit most only had a two or three-word notation on the front to indicate the contents. Mystery is an essential part of a collector's mindset.

When it became evident in 2009 that Linda and I would not be returning to Vera Cruz, I made the decision to sell The School. I was naïve in thinking that moving my things once The School sold would

not present a problem. The problem was selling The School. The School did not sell until the fifth buyer secured the funds to fulfill the sales agreement.

After the first sale contract was signed, I panicked. It provided 60 days for me to vacate The School and move my collections. The buyer was not open to my moving my things to the auditorium and renting it until I developed a disposal plan. I breathed a sigh of relief when the buyer backed out.

In early 2010, Dana Morykan, my webmaster, proofreader, and close

friend, had a nephew looking to earn extra income. Realizing that I had to start downsizing sooner rather than later, I let Dana take what I remember as a dozen or so boxes of paper ephemera to her nephew to sell on eBay. After taking a quick look, I assumed the boxes contained nothing I would miss. The nephew quickly lost interest. The boxes were relegated to Dana's and her husband Ray's garage.

Since moving to Michigan, Dana reminded me on occasion about the boxes that occupied a table in her
Continued on page 3

COMING UP

NOVEMBER

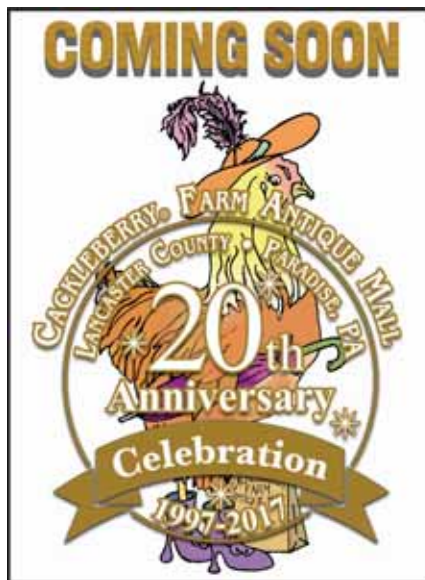
- 18-19... Expo Center, Carlisle, PA
- 18-20... Lakewood 400, Cumming, GA
- 18-20... Renningers Extravaganza, Mt. Dora, FL
- 19-20... Fire Halls, Fairgrounds, Kimberton, PA
- 19-20... AG Expo Center, Franklin, TN
- 25-27... Washington College, Chestertown, MD
- 26-27... Expo Center, Columbus, OH
- 26-27... NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY
- 27 Bethlehem Catholic H.S., Bethlehem, PA... Bottle
- 27 Mem.Hall, Expo Center, York, PA.... Toy

DECEMBER

- 2-4 Lakewood 400, Cumming, GA
- 4 Timonium Fairgrounds, Lutherville (Balto), MD... Toy
- 3-4 Fire Hall, Vincentown, NJ
- 8-11..... Expo Centers, Atlanta, GA
- 17-18... Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, OH
- 31 Timonium Fairgrounds, Lutherville (Balto), MD

JANUARY

- 7-8 Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA
- 7-8 XL Center, Hartford, CT... Paper/Adv.
- 7-8 Community Center, Venice, FL
- 12-15 .. Expo Centers, Atlanta, GA
- 13-15... Coliseum, St. Petersburg, FL
- 14-15... Stark County Fairgrounds, Canton, OH
- 20-22... Lakewood 400, Cumming, GA
- 20-22... Renningers Extravaganza, Mt. Dora, FL
- 21-22... Progress Bldg. Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY
- 21-22 .. Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, OH
- 28-29... Civic Center, Sanford, FL... Dep. Glass



IN MEMORIAM

Jill Lukesh of Townsend, MA, passed away on November 6, due to complications from a recent heart attack.

She was born in Springfield, MA and grew up in Brimfield, MA, the daughter of Gordon Reid, an auctioneer, and his wife Madelyn. Jill graduated from Framingham State and taught middle school for several years until, in 1975, together with her sister Judy, they operated the J & J Promotions Outdoor Antique Show, originally started by their late father in 1959, at their field, Auction Acres, in Brimfield.

Mrs. Lukesh leaves her husband of 49 years, Pete, as well as their pug, Nemo and tabby cat, Einstein. Per her wishes, there will be no calling hours or service. Jill will be cremated.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in her name to a local animal rescue organization.

CURRENT PRICES

Current prices are recorded from antiques shows, flea markets, sales and auctions throughout the United States. Prices vary in different locations because of local economic conditions.

Sandwich press, rectangular, square side handles and front top handle, flat plates, footed, 1930s, \$10.

Brass button, embossed, steam train, railroad, "Hollandsche Spoorweg-Maats Chappij," c. 1890, 1 inch, \$75.

Ballot box, wooden, turned handle, 2 compartments, lift lids, scroll metal latches, sloped front, 3 1/2 x

Continued on page 4

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Forward future dates for
Free listing in "Coming Up" column

Déjà Vu

Continued from page 1
garage. I promised her that I would set aside time during a visit to eastern Pennsylvania to sort through the material. Pennsylvania visits during the past five year were filled with dealing with the items left behind at The School and visiting friends and grandchildren. On more than one occasion, I suggested that Ray should just take the material to auction and get rid of it. It is far easier to part with something if you do not remember what it is.

In early October 2016, I finally had a free morning following a trip to Washington, DC, to attend a Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee Meeting and conducting an appraisal clinic for the Heltzertown Historical Society. I met Ray around 10:30 AM at the aforementioned garage door.

When I looked inside, there was not a dozen boxes piled on the table. There were dozens. My two immediate thoughts were to strike a match or tell Ray to just get rid of it. I was afraid the moment I opened one box I would be hooked.

Author's Aside: While driving from Phoenixville, where I was staying with friends Jane and Robert Kahn, to Spring Valley where Dana and Ray live, I remembered a few of the items I had sent for sale – a Steelcraft

Zeppelin toy and some early manuscript material relating to the Caribbean. Realizing that extra space in Linda's and my Kentwood home was non-existent, I made a firm resolution to take home no more than two boxes of material. The Pennsylvania Germans have a saying: Dumb is as dumb does. I should have known such a pledge was dumber than (you fill in the missing word).

I opened the first box. It was loaded with paper ephemera. When asked about my love of antiques and collectibles, my standard reply is: "I have never met an antique or collectible I have not loved." The assertion is not completely true. I should use "liked" instead of "loved." I like all the items in my collections. My love is more restricted.

Of all the general collecting categories, I love paper ephemera more than all the others. Each scrap represents a story, a story that was transient in nature but somehow survived via the paper object that remained behind. Besides calling out to touch, hold, and feel, each paper object whispers "research me," "find out more about me," and "put me in the hands of someone or some institution who will love me as much as you do."

Paper ephemera has a mystique and enchantment that is

difficult to explain. Paper can feel old, immediately transporting the holder into the distant past. Paper has a historic aroma, a smell of antiquity that is difficult to explain to those who have not experienced it. Paper ephemera is the history of common people, a chronicle of daily life. It is information preserved on a hit or miss basis by historic societies, libraries, museums, and similar institutions. The true preservers are the local and regional collectors scattered across America.

Upon arriving in Spring Valley, I had set a limit of two hours to go through everything. I was hoping the time limit would encourage me to take a "sell it Ray" approach more often than a "put it in my car trunk so I can sort it in Michigan" decision. As soon as I made a request to put the first box I examined into my car trunk, I knew the battle was lost.

It took an hour and one-half to do a quick review of all the material on the table. When Ray and I passed the three-quarter of the box pile mark, my trunk was filled as was the length of the back seat. It made the "leave behind decision" easier but did nothing to relieve the angst from making it.

After two hours, I took one last look at what remained and told Ray I was finished. I did not tell him I wish I had rented a van to drive east rather than use my 2002 Buick Park Avenue. We shook hands on a job well done and felt Dana

would be pleased with our efforts. If only I had walked out of the garage at that point and not looked back.

Instead, I turned around and looked at a metal shelf loaded with boxes. Assuming they held material belonging to Ray and Dana, I paid no attention to them and focused on the table. Unfortunately, they contained a numbering system I used for material stored at The School. There were over a dozen large size boxes. Ray and I looked at each other in defeat. The material would have to wait until I drove east again.

Meanwhile, I had a car trunk filled with boxes loaded with miscellaneous paper – programs from Allentown's Dorney Park Melody Ranch Theater, yard-long photographs (I did not take the time to unroll them), engravings of 17th and 18th century historical figures, autographed material, Gerald Ford for President campaign memorabilia, a Goldwater for President poster, well over 5,000 postcards, nineteenth century store ledgers, and who knows what else.

I left Spring Valley with much the same mindset when I moved from The School – what am I going to do with this stuff; it is too good to throw out. I love Linda too much to bring it into our Kentwood home. For the moment, it resides in the trunk of my car – a homeless refugee seeking shelter from the storm.

I have been home a week.

I have not opened the trunk. I am afraid. I know what will happen if I do. I will not be able to resist the urge to handle and sort. Perhaps the best solution is to leave the keys in the unopened car and hopes someone steals it. Linda has been after me for years to get rid of the "old heap."

Harry L. Rinker welcomes questions from readers about collectibles, those mass-produced items from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Selected letters will be answered in this column. Harry cannot provide personal answers. Photos and other material submitted cannot be re-

turned. Send your questions to: Rinker on Collectibles, 5955 Mill Point Court SE, Kentwood, MI 49512. You also can e-mail your questions to harryrinker@aol.com. Only e-mails containing a full name and mailing address will be considered.

You can listen and participate in WHATCHA GOT?, Harry's antiques and collectibles radio call-in show, on Sunday mornings between 8 AM and 10 AM Eastern Time. If you cannot find it on a station in your area, WHATCHA GOT? streams live on the Internet at www.gcnlive.com.

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CURRENT PRICES

Continued from page 2
9 x 5 inches, \$150.

Cranberry glass basket, enamel design, girl with flower, gilt wire twist upright handle, loop feet, 1800s, 6 x

4 inches, \$235.

Gunpowder flask, hammered goldtone metal, oval body, scalloped handles, beading, ivory panels and
Continued on page 6

36th Annual Christmas Antique Show



Mauricetown Fire Hall

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Holiday Time at Haddon Hts. Antiques Center

Turkey Time has arrived, so if you need some holiday decorating help, the Haddon Heights Antiques Center in Haddon Heights, New Jersey, is the place to be. The November special display is all about turkeys and autumn decorations. Pictured are just a few of the many antiques and collectibles you can find.

If you want your Thanksgiving table to make a unique and festive statement – or if you just enjoy browsing through two floors of antiques and collectibles – head over to Clements Bridge Road where Barrington and Haddon Heights meet at the railroad tracks, and you'll soon see why the Haddon Heights Antiques Center has remained an important destination for collectors for over twenty years. It's not too early to think about holiday gifts and vintage Christmas decorations either. The shop is open from 10 am to 5pm seven days a week with extended hours on Fridays. Call 856-546-0555 for directions or more information.

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ReOpen Wednesday, December 28th
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"The Chair," a famous and comfortable chair, sold for \$610.

'The Chairs'

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Danish modern chairs were offered in stores in the U. S. in the early 1950s. The Scandinavian designs were inspired by earlier furniture, the 18th-century English chair, a Chinese Ming dynasty chair, a Japanese director's chair. Many of the modern chairs were made of hand-carved curved wooden pieces joined with dovetails to make a comfortable back, arms, seat and sides. Teak, oak, rosewood and light-colored woods were used with fabric, leather or caned seats. Hans Wegner of Denmark created his most famous chair in 1949. It is now known as "The Chair." It was made and sold by Hansen/Knoll company for many years. "The Chairs" were chosen for John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon in the first-ever presidential televised debate in 1960. One of "The Chairs," made in about 1969 and featuring a leather seat, the Knoll label and Hansen stamps, sold in 2016 for \$610. Later versions of this iconic chair are available in shops and shows today.

Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall Holiday Sale November 25-28

The Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall will be hosting their Black Friday Holiday Sale from Friday, November 25 thru Monday, November 28. Their Annual Christmas Holiday Celebration Sale will be held on Saturday, December 17 thru Saturday, December 24. These incredible savings events are not to be missed!

The Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall is located at 3371 Lincoln Highway, East, Paradise, PA – on Route 30, four-miles west of Route 41 and only six-miles east of Rockvale Square Outlet Mall...minutes away from everywhere and everything Lancaster County has to offer. It's not just an Antique Mall – it's your destination!

During the sale, there will be huge savings storewide on almost everything in over Five Million Dollars of inventory. This large 26,000



sq. ft. facility offers a wide variety of Antiques and Collectibles, displayed by more than 125 dealers featuring fine items including furniture, glassware, sterling silver, clocks, advertising, jewelry, fine china, toys, books, postcards, trains, Christmas, pottery, linens, primitives, kitchenware and much more. The quality and selection is amazing!

In addition, housed inside the Antique Mall is an Old Time General Store, which takes you back in time to the Mom and Pop stores of the past. Also, convenient parking is available for over 100 vehicles, along with a spacious area for campers, trailers, and tour buses. It's always a pleasant experience shopping in this clean, climate-controlled, brightly

lit and carpeted mall – absolutely one of the best shopping experiences in Lancaster County!

Open year-round, Monday thru Saturday, 9:30am to 5pm, closed on Tuesdays. Visa/MasterCard/Discover/Debit Cards accepted. Gift Certificates, Layaway and Shipping available. For more information call 717/442-8805 during business hours or visit www.cackleberry-farmantiquemall.com.

They will be celebrating the holidays with families like most everyone, so please note these special dates: Closed Thanksgiving Day, November 24 – open Black Friday, November 25. Open Christmas Eve, December 24 from 9:30am to 2pm. Closed December 25, 26 and 27. Re-open Wednesday, December 28. Closed Saturday, December 31 and Sunday, January 1. Re-open Monday, January 2, 2017.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Q: I have a wooden table that is marked "Larkin Soap Company." Does that mean it was used in the company office or was it made by a soap company? How old is it?

A: John D. Larkin (1845-1926) worked for a soap factory in Buffalo in the 1860s. He became a partner and moved with the company to Chicago. He met and married a girl from Buffalo and they moved back to their home town in

1875. There he started his own company, John D. Larkin, and sold "Sweet Home" soap. By 1881, he had a full line of related products and gave a free colored picture card with each bar of soap. Cards were not enough, so he started giving better premiums including, handkerchiefs, towels, dishes and even furniture. The desk was the gift with ten dollars' worth of soap. Soap sales changed by the 1940s, premi-

Continued on page 7

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Enjoying the Holiday Season



The Holiday Season has arrived! Halloween has passed and Thanksgiving is knocking at the door. Before you know it, Christmas will be here and then the year will start anew. This is the time of family and friends – of fond memories of holiday's long gone and hopeful expectation for those yet to be. Gathering together on Thanksgiving Day is a cherished and time-honored event. One where everyone can put aside all the craziness of life to sit back and reflect on what is most important; and with grateful hearts, remember just how blessed they are.

With all the festivities just around the corner, now is the time to freshen up your holiday decorations. For November, the Grist Mill Antiques Center in Pemberton, NJ is showcasing Thanksgiving tabletop and décor. They invite you to come in for all your Thanksgiving shopping needs, whether you're looking to update your holiday

place settings, serving ware, carving sets or turkey platters, they're sure to have everything you need to make your table spectacular. There are Pilgrims and Indians; cornucopias, centerpieces, and candlesticks; coffee services, pie plates and candy dishes. There's no need to go anywhere else when you can find beautiful and unique vintage tableware all in one spot. With over 25,000 square feet filled with antiques and collectibles, you won't leave empty handed and chances are you'll find treasures you didn't even know you were looking for! Your Thanksgiving feast will be one remembered for years to come.

While you're at it, why not start your holiday shopping early? Christmas and Hanukkah will be here before you know it and with over 100 dealers, the Grist Mill has an eclectic and extensive inventory. If you're looking for it, you can probably find it there. The friendly and helpful dealers will be delighted

to assist you in making your shopping trip successful, so don't waste another minute – go see for yourself!

Grist Mill would like to thank everyone who came out for their Fall Flea Market. Be sure to save April 23, 2017 to join them for the Spring Flea Market. Dealers from both Grist Mill Antiques Center and Haddon Heights Antiques Center will be participating and there will certainly be some great bargains to be had.

On the last Wednesday of each month, the store holds a Scavenger Hunt, with a prize going to the person who finds the most items. Lists are given out at 5 p.m. and light refreshments are served. This multi-dealer shop is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Wednesday. For more information, please give them a call at (609) 726-1588 or check out the website: gristmillantiques.com where you can sign up for their weekly email.

CURRENT PRICES

Continued from page 4
red cabochons, 1800s, 9 x 6 inches, \$395.

Photograph, United States Marine Corps, infantry men battle for Okinawa, black and white, 1945, 3 1/2 x 4 inches, \$480.

Vanity, mahogany, brass ornolu mounts, shaped top,

three drawers, scroll apron, cabriole legs, Victorian, 30 x 36 inches, \$795.

Book, "The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle," Beatrix Potter, 1st edition, hardcover, F. Warne, 26 color illustrations, c. 1905, 5 1/2 inches, \$1,300.

Doll, Shirley Temple,

composition, blonde mo-hair ringlets, leather cowgirl outfit, hat, smiling, dimples, 1930s, 27 inches, \$2,495.

Engagement ring, pink sapphires and diamonds, cluster, platinum and 14k gold, faceted oval center stone, c. 1925, size 8, \$4,800.

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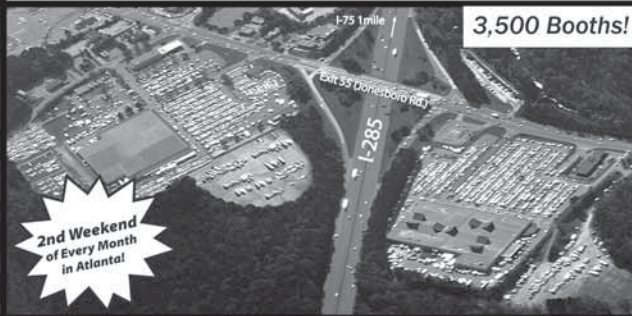


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COMING SOON



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS *By Terry and Kim Kovel*

Continued from page 5
 ums were no longer popular and the company closed in 1962. Your table was made from 1899 to 1904 when the company name matched the label on your table.

Q: We have a 10-inch antique plate and would like to know its value. It is by Sarreguemines, signed by L. Moux, and dated late 1800s. There are well dressed 19th century men and women in a room. Can you help?

A: Sarreguemines is the name of a French town that is used as part of a china mark. Utzschneider and Co., a porcelain factory, made ceramics in Sarreguemines, Lorraine, France, from about 1790. In the 19th century, the factory made majolica and transfer-printed wares picturing peasants. When a local innkeeper ordered a table service with local scenes, a local artist Henri Loux (1873-1907) designed a series of 56 illustrations that depicted the daily lives of the people of the Alsace region. Jugs, plates and other dishes were made using the designs starting in 1904. The dishes have come to be known as the Obernai series. Sarreguemines ceased production in 2007, and the factory no longer exists. A factory at Luneville-Saint-Clement still makes several of the designs that made Sarreguemines famous. The marks and scene on your plate suggest it was made about 1898. It probably pictures a scene from the 1898 comic play "Der Herr Mayor" by painter, writer, and creator of the Alsatian theater,

Gustave Stoskopf. It is worth about \$50.

Q: We own an 1800s free-blown glass flask embossed with a dancing sailor on one side and a banjo player sitting on a bench on the other. It's a half pint and is greenish-blue with an open pontil and sheered lip. It's in excellent condition with no marks or chips but it's dark in some areas as if something dried up in the bottle. How much is it worth and who might be interested in buying it? We are late in years and want to sell it as we don't want our children fighting over our riches (haha!).

A: Your sailor flask was made by the Maryland Glass Works of J.L. Chapman in Baltimore, sometime between 1849 and 1860. The flask is listed in catalogs as McKearin number GXIII-8. It can be looked up online or in libraries in the McKearin book. It was made in amber, aquamarine, golden amber, olive-amber, olive-green and yellow-tone green. Collectors are very concerned with the slight color differences. This sailor-banjo player flask is comparatively rare and has been selling at auctions. A yellow-olive sailor-banjo flask sold recently for \$527. Your flask probably will sell to an eager and knowledgeable bottle collector. You can contact a bottle auction or a dealer at a bottle show to sell your bottle. An auction might want to sell your bottle and you will be charged a commission, about 25 percent to 30 percent of the bidding price.

Q: Is it true that Benjamin Franklin invented the rocking chair? I know he invented bifocal glasses, but some say the rocking chair story is a myth.

A: The rocking chair story, like the one that claims Washington chopped down a cherry tree, is the result of an early book by an author who never gave a source for the information. Legendary figures, like the Founding Fathers, often were glorified in paintings and books created more than 100 years after they died. The earliest recorded rocking chairs date from the 17th century in New England and England. The rockers were added to chairs with thick legs. A 1928 book credited the idea of the rocking chair to America and Franklin, not an unknown Englishman. Ads show that chair makers were selling Windsor rocking chairs after 1776 or adding rockers to existing chairs. The famous Boston rocker with the large wooden seat and shaped back crest was first made about 1825. Although still popular, antique and vintage rockers that were made by unknown makers or companies are selling for \$100 to \$500, much less than they did 10 years ago.

Q: My copper teakettle got overheated on the stove, the water boiled away, and the spout came off. Is this something that can be repaired?

A: Yes, the spout can be soldered back on. It can be difficult, since copper spreads the heat and the spout must be held firmly in place until the

solder sets. Don't use lead-based solder, since the lead will leach into the boiling water when you use the kettle. A metalsmith will be able to repair the teakettle and can tell you how much it will cost in advance. If it is not a valuable antique, you may decide to just buy a new kettle.

Q: I have some china with a beehive mark. There is another mark with two faint intertwined letters that look like "PK" between "Karlsbad" and "Made in Czechoslovakia." The plates have a painted

classical scene with a gilt band, a cobalt blue border, gilt rim and handles. I have about 70 pieces in excellent condition. Someone told me they were made in the 1790s. Could this be true?

A: First, the "beehive" mark really is an upside-down shield. It was first used in 1744 by the Royal Porcelain Manufactory of Vienna, the firm that made Royal Vienna porcelains. The firm closed in 1864, and many companies have reproduced Royal Vienna wares and the beehive mark. Your dishes were made in Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia,

in the Royal Vienna style. Karlsbad was part of Bohemia until 1918 when it became part of Czechoslovakia. (Karlov Vary, Czech Republic.) Karlsbad was a center for china decorating and exported many products to the U.S. The initials "PK" imply they were made by Paul Kuchler, a small porcelain decorating studio. It was one of many operated in Karlsbad during the 1920s and 1930s. It's hard to price 70 pieces as a "set," but your two-handled cake plate could be worth about \$150, and a set of eight cups and saucers about \$225.

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