Renninger's Celebrating Our 42nd Year ANTIQUE GUIDE

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 13

WWW.RENNINGERS.NET

JULY 20 - AUGUST 9, 2016



The pink, red, and green stripes probably represent a blanket wrapped around this wooden folk art doll. The 20-inchdoll sold for \$1,600 at a doll auction in Maryland.

Folk Art Dolls

By Terry and Kim Kovel

olls have been favored toys for centuries. Long before there were manufactured china, metal or plastic headed dolls, there were wooden, rag and even dried-apple heads. And often, where there was no available doll material, folk-art dolls were made with leather and beads, silk stockings, felt, carved stone and fur, knit socks, clothes pins, wishbones, corn cobs, acorns and pinecones - even old broomsticks. A 2016 doll auction sold a German carved wooden folk-art doll, made in about 1850 from a hollow wooden tube and other wood pieces, for \$1,600. It is 20 inches tall and is decorated with a painted geometric design. There are no arms or legs, but the paint suggests a bunting blanket used on babies. The auction catalog called it the "bed post doll" because the head looked like the top of a bed post and was, perhaps, made from a recycled bedpost. The original painted finish, age, size and originality all added to the value.

It Is Impossible to Purge Wrong Information

By Harry L. Rinker istorically, once misinformation appeared in print, it was extremely difficult to purge. Retractions and corrections are buried deep inside a newspaper. A correction in a second or subsequent edition or printing of a work often went unnoticed. The initial printing containing the inaccurate information remained on book shelves.

The 1980s publication explosion of antiques and collectibles titles was a boon to collecting. These titles provided collecting checklists and a wealth of background material. Antiques and collectibles publishing companies did not employ fact checkers to validate the information submitted by the authors. Few authors worked from original sources. Obsessed with their presumed expertise, some authors presented guesses and speculation as fact. The rush to publication by rival authors working on the same topic added to the problem.

Once inaccurate information appeared in print, it was perpetuated, primarily by individuals writing articles for trade periodicals and the news media. These writers blindly copy verbatim information in reference books.

I lost track of the number of instances when I found contradictory information while researching company histories and identifying and dating an object. Mistakes happen. I made some, the result of haste and a failure to follow my own standards of requiring a second and third source to verify the information.

The arrival of the Internet has accelerated the distribution of inaccurate information. The Internet is too expansive to police. It is far easier to trust than to question. In this age of instant gratification, no one is willing to invest the time to crosscheck anything. If the information on the Internet has the appearance of correctness, especially if it supports the preconceptions of its user, it is assumed to be valid.

I used to get upset when I read "Top Ten Things to Collect" articles in periodicals. I gained control of my seriod of the Internet has the potential to continue for decades.

trol of my temper by reminding myself that the periodical had a limited shelf/reader life, and most readers would forget what they read in three to four months.

Inaccurate information on the Internet persists far longer. It has the potential to continue for decades. Thanks to the sensationalism of Internet sound bite journalism, the more sensational the misinformation, the more likely it is to be remembered. I cringe every time I read another AOL or Huffington Post "Hidden Treasures in the Attic" article. There is a special place in the lower depths of the earth for those who author these pieces.

On February 25, 2015, CBS Channel 13 in Sacramento, California, aired a segment entitled "Vintage Toys Could Bring Big Cash Out of Your Attic" by Tony Lopez. It began: "It's becoming one of the fastest ways to make some cash—selling your vintage toys./A \$150 dress? / A \$1,000 Hot Wheels car? / A \$350 action figure? / A \$300 video game? / Vintage toys, games and action figures you might have in a box, closet, or toy chest could be worth some serious dough." I found the TV segment on the internet. How many individuals listened carefully to the words

" m i g h t have" or "could be?" What are the odds of a person finding one of these treasures – 250,000 to one? What

Lopez fails to mention is that 99 percent of those toys in the box, closet, or toy chest are worthless. Lopez deluded his viewers into thinking they "might be" rich.

A June 10 2016 email from Jerry Klatt of Timberlake, Ohio, read: "I listen to Whatcha Got? every week on GCN. You warn us about eBay's prices unless they sell through. Here is an incredible example. Search eBay for Disney Black Dia-mond Classic VHS tapes. Some sellers are asking over \$17,000 for tapes worth \$5 in reality. Disney produced millions of these classics. [They] have very little value. I wish this was true, as I have a whole library of these tapes. What is going on?? Is this a giant scam or are all these sellers nuts?

The answer is threefold. Continued on page 6

Ohio Expo Center -Columbus, OH

800 - 1,200 Booths! 2016 SHOWS:

NOVEMBER 26 & 27

DECEMBER 17 & 18

★ Antique Extravaganzas ★ Washington Court House, OH 2016 SHOWS: 2017 SHOWS:

AUGUST 26, 27 & 28

APRIL 28, 29 & 30

SEPTEMBER 30, OCT. 1 & 2 JUNE 23, 24 & 25

Atlanta Expo Centers -Atlanta, GA 2nd Weekend of Every Month!

2016 SHOWS:

AUGUST 11, 12, 13 & 14 SEPTEMBER 8, 9, 10 & 11 OCTOBER 6, 7, 8 & 9



NUTZTOWN, PA Extravaganza APRIL 28-30 JUNE 23-25 SEPT. 22-24, 2016

KUTZTOWN, PA SEPT. 22-23-24
EXTRAVAGANZA SEPT. 22-23-24

MT. DORA, FL. Antique Fairs: August 20-21 Sept. 17-18

Delaware Antiques Show Cancelled

elvin L. Arion has announced that due to major construction at the Convention Center in downtown Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, the 20th annual Delaware Antiques Show & Sale will not be held this year

The popular event normally is the first weekend after Labor Day, this year September 10, 11, and 12.

Mr. Arion added: "We will be looking forward to holding the show again in September of 2017 and want to thank everyone for their understanding, patience, and support."
For more information

please visit their website: www.theoriginalyorkantiquesshow.com.

COMING UP

JULY

22-23 U.M. Church, Mountainhome, PA

23-24 Washington County Fairgrounds, Washington, PA....Glass

23-24 Dulles Expo Cntr., Chantilly, VA

23-24 Wash. County Fairgrounds, Washington, PA....

Duncan Glass 28-30 Fire House & Grounds

Pottersville, NJ 30-Aug. 7 Highlands Com.Col-

lege, Abingdon, VA 30-31 Stone High School, Waldorf, MD

AUGUST

5-7.....Convention Cntr., Virginia Beach, VA... Jewelry, Art

6-7 Wallenpaupack HS, Hawley, PA 7Viking Village, Barne-

gat Light, NJ 11-14 Expo Centers, At-

lanta, GA 13On The Streets, Somerset. PA

15-21.....Town Wide, Bouckville, NY

19-21 Lakewood 400, Cumming, GA 19-21 Madison-Bouckville

Big Field, Bouckville,

AUGUST

20-21 XL Center, Hartford, CT....Adv. 20-21.....Warren Cnty.Fairgrounds, Phillipsburg, NJ

26-28.....Fayette County Fairgrounds, Washington Court House, OH

27Lititz Springs Park, Lititz, PA....Free Adm.

SEPTEMBER

6-11 Sheltons, Brimfield,

6-11The Meadows, Brimfield, MA

7-11 New England Motel. Brimfield, MA

SEPTEMBER

8-10 Mays, Brimfield, MA 8-11 Expo Centers, Atlanta, GA

9-10J&J, Brimfield, MA 16-18Lakewood 400. Cumming, GA

17-18.....Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA

22-24..... Renningers Extravaganza, Kutztown, PA

23-24.....Pike Farm Road, Liberty, NC

23-25 York Expo Center. Memorial Hall East, York, PA

30-Oct.2 Fayette County Fairgrounds., Washington Court House, OH

CURRENT PRICES

Current prices are refrom antiques shows, flea markets, sales

46th Annual Somerset Antique Show

On The Streets of Somerset, PA

Saturday, August 13, 2016

Exit 110 of PA Turnpike, Somerset

Show 8 am to 4 pm - Rain or Shine!

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Antique & Classic Car Show Noon - 2pm

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and auctions throughout the United States, Prices vary in different locations

because of local economic conditions. Punch Cup, moon and star,

ruby flash, Tiffin, 2 1/4 inches, \$15. Fire extinguisher, Hero can, red and white, Canada,

1940s, 5 inches, \$30. Davenport, teapot, woman milking cow, cobalt blue and white, child's, c. 1800, 5 3/4

inches, \$85. Political print, Abraham Lincoln portrait, vignettes, Sangamo Insurance Co., paper, 1865, 10 x 13 inches, \$180.

Bakelite charm bracelet, three hot dogs on buns, 4 footballs, 4 beer bottles, chain, 7 inches, \$370.

Bottle, blueberry serves, amber glass, cylindrical with fluted shoulder and double collar, 11 3/8 inches,

Toy, sand shovel, Mickey and Minnie on beach, Dis-neyana, tin lithograph, wood handle, Ohio Art, 1930s, 6 x Continued on page 3

Antique Show & Sale

46th Annual Historic



Saturday August 27, 2016

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FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING Event Info: NewBerlinPA.com

W & SALE



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Sat. August 27, 2016

Lititz Springs Park Lititz, PA

Saturday 9am-4pm FREE ADMISSION

Food Vendors on Site



Lititz Springs Park is a private park overseen by the churches of Lititz and sustained by donations & fundraising.

Interested vendors contact Millie Eby 717-626-5727

(by August 17th) jimeby@dezazzd.com

Advertise Your Antique Shows /Sales Shops / Flea Markets / Auctions



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2016

JAN. 13; FEB. 3, 17; MARCH 2, 16; APRIL 6, 20; MAY 4, 18; JUNE 8, 22; JULY 6, 20; AUG. 10, 24; SEPT. 7, 21; OCT. 5, 19; NOV. 16; DEC. 14

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PA. ANTIQUE MARKET INFORMATION Sat. 610-683-6848 Sun. 717-336-2177

www.renningersflorida.com Forward future dates for Free listing In "Coming Up" column

Wedding Cups

By Terry and Kim Kovel

egend says the two-part bridal cup was created in the 1700s to win a bride. A nobleman in Germany was upset when his daughter refused her rich suitors because she wanted to marry a goldsmith. Her father imprisoned the goldsmith and his daughter became ill because she was denied her true love. The nobleman thought he could trick the daughter by agreeing to the marriage if the goldsmith could do an impossible task - make a cup that two people can drink from at the same time without spilling a drop. But the clever and talented goldsmith made a silver figure of the girl. Her skirt was hollow so it could be used as a cup. Her raised arms held a small swinging cup. Both of the lovers could drink from the cups at the same time.

Today, the wedding cup symbolizes love, faithfulness and good luck for the bridal couple that drinks from it. An antique German cup marked with a British import mark for 1908 was sold recently for \$522. To get a cup for a bride to use today, check antique shows, sales and shops. A number are sold each year and there are even new ones available.

An antique wedding cup is thought to bring good luck and love to a bride. This German cup sold for \$522.



TIP: If you collect the decorated glasses from fast-food restaurants, never wash them in the dishwasher. The heat and detergent will change the coloring and lower the value.

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CURRENT PRICES

Continued from page 2 7 x 21 inches, \$595.

Needlework, embroidered silk textile, classical scene with servant pouring water, c. 1810, 21 x 17 inches, \$800.

Cellarette, Georgian style, mahogany & brass with tole liner, eight-sided, 27 x 19 inches, \$1,220.

Silver egg centerpiece, hinged lid with emu finial, ring handles, round ebonized foot, Australia, c. 1870, 7 x 5 inches, \$5,075.

Danish silver candelabrum, pomegranate, scroll arms, sterling, Georg Jensen, 1904, 9 x 7 inches, pair, \$11,070.

Venetian glass vase Continued on page 6



September 9 & 10

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday - \$5 Admission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday - Free Admission On-site Parking - \$8 No Pets, Please • Rain or Shine

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Memorable Paul Revere

aul Revere's name is known to every American school child because of his part in the Revolutionary War and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem with the memorable words, "Listen. my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere." But few voung students know that Revere was a military man, silversmith, engraver and an entrepreneur who made and sold iron castings of bells and canons, forged



Paul Revere, Jr. made this silver porringer with a cut-out handle about 1770. It sold at auction in Massachusetts for \$39,975.

rolled copper sheets. He was married twice and had 16 children. Eighteenth-century silversmiths were important. trusted citizens who turned silver coins into teapots and other objects for customers. Since there were no banks, these identifiable objects were safer forms than coins. It would have been easy to steal some of the silver. and a few silversmiths were caught and jailed for the crime. A porringer made by Paul Revere Jr. sold at auction for \$39,975. It

Revere and engraved "P/DB over BP." It matched another porringer, now in a Massachusetts museum, that originally belonged to David and Betiah Pearce. That one was engraved "MP" for Mary

Pearce, probably a sister of "BP." The family history plus the fame of Revere led to the high price.

Adamstown, PA

THEME WEEK SCHEDULE

Vintage Clothing & Accessories **July 30-31**

Postcards, Paper, Book, Comics, Superheroes & Film Aug. 6-7

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Fishing Creek Antique Trail Announced

487 in Northern Co-Llumbia County, Pennsylvania, have partnered to-gether to create The Fishing Creek Antique Trail, a twenty mile stretch of specialty retail shops beginning at Lavender and Old Lace just south of Interstate 80 in Bloomsburg and running as far north as The Red Rock Campground and Flea Market below Ricketts Glen State Park and other PA State Gamelands, Other participating businesses include: The Shops at Forever Green, four local wineries, antique malls, specialty stores, small shops, galleries and auctioneers

The Fishing Creek Antique Trail, which also encompasses wineries and specialty shops, is a unique alliance of area businesses working together to share resources, marketing and information. The goal of this alliance is to foster growth and promote local culture and heritage in the region via the creation of an appealing tourist attrac-The hope is that the trail will provide increased business and prosperity to the shops, restaurants, garages and wide range of businesses and communities in the Rt. 487 corridor.

The concept originally began as an effort by Benton retailers to create a shopping destination in Benton that included long time retailers:



Black Bear Pottery, Benton Coin and Jewelry, The Bakery Antique Company, Ol' Country Barn, Henny Penny's Country Store and Benton Antiques. With the addition of 487 Rustics last year and the arrival of Crafty Creations in May, the idea of creating a map and guide for the area took shape. Also in May, 487 Rustics moved south to The Shops at Forever Green to join Pickering Winery, Lightstreet Laser, and the Gift Shop at Forever Green.

As an added bonus, PA Farm Furniture took over the former 487 Rustics location and provides high quality "refurbished" antiques and unique home décor items.

Benton Mayor Jan Swan hopes to work with the retail businesses to expand the overall effort by including other Benton organizations and businesses in the hope

of building on the regional effort to attract people and business to the area.

The hope is to attract visitors from New York, New Jersey, suburban Philadelphia and the Lehigh Valley as well as increase traffic from the Back Mountain, Wilkes Barre and Scranton regions. The trail combines quality shopping and a rich natural beauty with outdoor activities such as fishing, golf, kayaking and hiking. Eighteen of the business-

es are concentrated in the Benton area. Beginning at Retherford's Farm, Produce and Antiques and on to PA Farm Furniture just south of Fishing Creek and the Benton Dam, 65 vendors share space in the area's largest antique co-op, Bakery Antiques Company and Benton Antiques. You can shop the local craft cooperative Crafty



Creations and visit Henny Penny's Country Store and N4Cs Gift Shop in the center of town. Ol' Country Barn anchors Benton's northern reach of the antique trail. A soon-to-be-published guide also includes other area antique shops like Norm's Antiques in Orangeville. Other shops include The Benton Coin Shop, Benton Tobacco and Cigar, and Thunder Ridge Outfitters.

The group hopes to combine the natural, outdoor appeal of the 487 corridor that culminates in the Pennsylvania Gamelands and Ricketts Glen State Park with the promise of quality shopping, winery tours, flea markets, outdoor sports, and some of the best fishing in Pennsylfitters and Archery Range of Benton serve as the outdoor centers of the Trail and offer travelers a unique outdoor outfitting experience.

In addition to established wineries such as Pickering Winery, Stoney Acres-Elk Mountain, Purple Cow, Colonel Rickett's Hard Cider and Three Dogs Vino, the recently announced Rohr McHenry Distilling Company has joined the other retailers with a promise of "coming soon."

For more information on the effort behind The Fishing Creek Antique Trail, feel free to contact Dave Stemrich with Bakery Antiques at 610-248-6569 or Mayor Jan Swan at 570-925-5292

For additional information about some of the members of the trail and about the area in general, contact the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau at 800-847-4810.

STORM AIRPORT

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It Is Impossible to Purge Wrong Information

Continued from page 1

First, several stories, including one on eBay, suggests that the earliest editions of some Disney Black Diamond Classic VHS tapes are rarities. The word "rarities" is a buzzword that should raise the hair on the back of the neck of any potential buyer. These tapes were mass produced. Rare is a meaningless term. [See: http://www. ebay.com/gds/Why-You-Should-Be-Collecting-Disney-Black-Diamond-VHSs-/10000000015531868/g.

html for the full text of the eBay article posted February 8, 2010.]

[Author's Aside: eBay assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the articles that appear on its website. Further, the article does not reflect the sell through values for these tapes since

Second, several eBay sellers listed Disney Black Dia-mond Classic VHS tapes with "Buy It Now" prices in the thousands of dollars. The phrase "one needing to Do not accept information provided about antiques and collectibles without question.

see it to believe it" applies. Individuals researching these tapes find these listings. Those researching the value of these tapes to sell them fall victim to the miracle that will make them rich.

Third, the sellers are nuts. America is a bandwagon nation. When a bandwagon rolls down the street, everyone wants to jump on. Individuals who jump on the bandwagon by buying these expensive tapes are speculating that the market will go even higher. It will not. They will lose. They stand to make a higher return if they invest in the penny

At five dollars each on the secondary market. Disney Black Diamond Classic VHS tapes are overpriced. VHS tapes have a limited lifetime. They will deteriorate, both in terms of color loss and tape disintegration. Nothing can prevent this. Mass produced VHS tapes were not manufactured with archival quality tape. VHS tape technology is rapidly becoming obsolete. Thirty years from now, few will own machines capable of playing these tapes. A possible renaissance such as that experienced by 33 1/3 rpm vinyl and hi-fi/stereo component systems will not happen. The landfill will be the final resting place for the VHS tape. Several Internet writers

have attempted to correct the inaccurate information about the value of Disney Black Diamond Classic VHS tapes. On June 2, 2016, Kim LaCapria writing on Snopes.com noted: "Several blog posts claim that 'Black Diamond Collection' Disney films on VHS are worth thousands of dollars, but the tapes are not rare nor selling for nearly that much... Such blogs made the common mistake of not noting the disparity between what sellers ask for such items and what buyers are actually willing to pay."

LaCapria went on to note that the misleading articles and posts cite only list (asking) prices and never question if any sold. LaCapria also punches holes in the argument that because Disney adds, edits, and alters tapes, the earliest versions of a title are worth more. This is not true. [See: http:// www.snopes.com/black-diamond-collection-disney/.]

Allee Maning's June 10, 2016 article entitled "Calm Down: Your Disney VHS Tapes Aren't Worth \$9,000" on www.vocativ. com, chronicles the inaccurate reports that spread the false value rumor and traces

them back to the 2010 eBay article. Once again, inept news reporting by individuals who are more interested in sensationalizing versus reporting the true facts prevailed. See: http://www. vocativ.com/327061/calmdown-your-disney-vhs-tapes-arent-worth-9000/.]

The "hot news" aspect of Disney Black Diamond VHS tapes as gold in the attic or bookshelf will fade. However, it will not go away. Even if the ridiculous eBay price listings are removed, which they will not be as long as the seller is willing to pay to keep them on eBay, and the eBay article expunged, the story will persist.

The point of the above is

twofold. First, make certain information provided about antiques and collectibles to the general public or private individual is accurate. Check and double check facts. Second, do not accept information provided about antiques and collectibles without question. If the provider cannot provide indisputable proof (not believable speculation), be skeptical, polite but with a noticeable shake of the head, and quietly walk away.

Harry L. Rinker wel-

comes 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.

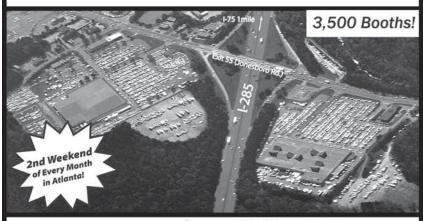
Photos and other material submitted cannot be returned. Send your questions to: Rinker on Collectibles, 5955 Mill Point Court SE, Kentwood, MI 49512. You also can e-mail your questions to harrylrinker@aol.com. Only e-mails containing a full name and mailing address will be considered.

You can listen and par-ticipate in WHATCHA GOT?, Harry's antiques and collectibles radio callin show, on Sunday mornings between 8 AM and 10 AM Eastern Time.

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CURRENT PRICES

Continued from page 3 handkerchief, amethyst, Fulvio Bianconi, c. 1950s, 11 x 13 1/2 inches,

Art pottery sculpture, satyr and woman, Pierre le Faquays, c. 1925, 10 3/4 inches, \$1,300.

Neave's Foods mirror, For Infants & Invalids, running boy, holding container, c. 1910, 2 inches, \$115

Schafer & Vater bottle, nip, pottery, Baseball player, multicolor, c. 1900, 4 1/2 inches,

Ivory group, father and son bald, sandals, 1900s, 5 1/2 x 2

1/2 inches, \$260. Star Wars Ewok staff, curved wood, prop, Caravan of Courage, An Ewok Adventure, 1984, 35 inches, \$605.

Screen, giltwood, silk brocade, wreath crest, fluted uprights, c. 1850, 41 x 26 inches,

Ruby Glass vase, Cornucopia shape, gilt scroll, hanging prisms, plinth, c. 1850, 10 x 11 inches, pair, \$810.

Alka-Seltzer sign, woman, holding stack of boxes, canvas, c. 1950, 33 x 29 inches, \$1,076.

Bronze sculpture, Wedding, Erte, multicolor, France, 1985, 16 x 17 inches, \$3,000.

Silver Sterling scrolled handle, footed, John Ball, Mass., U.S.A., c. 1752, 6 inches, \$4,955.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS By Terry and Kim Kovel

O: What can you tell me about furniture made by H. Sachs & Sons? They were in Brookline, Mass., in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

A: Almost no information is available on the company. A 1922 ad for the company included antique furniture, brass, and antique restoring. The company is known for its furniture designed by Paul McCobb in the early 1950s, and for its reproductions of antique furniture. It still was in business in 1983.

Q: We have an old cast-iron stove that reads "Wooddale Belknap Hdw. & Mfg. Co. Louisville, KY" on the front. It belongs to my mom and we want to sell it, but we need to know an asking range.

A: Belknap Hardware & Manufacturing Co. was established in 1840 by William Burke Belknap. Belknap made stoves, hot plates, dutch ovens skillets and waffle irons. The company name became Belknap, Inc., in 1968. It closed in 1985. Some stoves with the same mark as yours sell for \$250-\$300.

Q: After my mother-inlaw died, we discovered 83 pieces of Arcoroc Pink Swirl Rosaline glass dishes in her kitchen. We've never heard of Arcoroc or Pink Swirl glassware and hope you can tell us what we found. Is there a market for these dishes, or should

charity?

A: Arcoroc was the name used by Arc International Food Service, a company in Arques, Pas-de-Calais, France. The company was founded in 1825. The name became Verrerie Cristallerie d'Arques in 1892. The name "Arcoroc" was first used in 1958 for the company's tempered glass. The glassware was sold in U.S. department stores after a sales subsidiary was opened in the U.S. in 1966. Depression glass was popular in the 1980s and '90s, and Arcoroc's Rosaline was a popular pattern. The tempered glassware could be used in the microwave or freezer. The name of the company became Arc International in 2000. It currently makes dinnerware, glassware and stainless-steel flatware for restaurants, bars, and hotels. A cup and saucer sells for \$3 to \$6.

Q: When I married in 1954, my husband and I purchased 12 place settings of Eberthal china with serving pieces. We have dinand salad plates, cups and saucers and bowls. It was used infrequently, well stored, and is in excellent condition. Could you give us a value?

A: In 1901, brothers Johann and Christian Seltmann opened Porzellanfabrik Johann Seltmann in Altenstadt, Vohenstrauss, Germany.

factory in 1909. Johann died in 1921, leaving his business to his sons, Robert and Christian. During World War II, the company made items for the war effort like insulators, but factory buildings were damaged and the company closed, rebuilt, reopened and operated until about 2000. The Eberthal brand was introduced after the war in the early 1950s as a lessexpensive line of dishes and was made until the 1970s. It was similar to the regular Seltmann products, but the decorations were slightly different, ranging from tra-ditional flowers and scrolls to more abstract designs. Eberthal sets the size of yours have sold at auction from \$75 to \$360. It is difficult to sell a large set of dishes online because of the work and cost of packing and shipping. The most popular patterns today

Christian left to form his own

O: I have a fireman's home alarm that belonged to my uncle, who was a lieutenant in the Lewiston, Maine, fire department in the late 1930s to '50s. When the alarm rang in the station, it also rang in his home so he knew he had to go to the station. It has a metal tag on the front that says "The Gamewell Fire Alarm & Telegraph Co." and pat-

are different from those of the 1950s. If your set has an

abstract design, it might sell

for about \$150 to \$200.

ent dates of Jan. 6, 1880, and June 7, 1881. What can you tell me about it?

A: The Fire Alarm Telegraph was first used in the U.S. in 1852. Telegraph wires connected fire alarms or signal boxes in various part of the city to the fire station, setting off an alarm or gong at the station. Indicators showed where the alarm site was. Your uncle's home alarm used a similar connection to summon him to the fire station. John Nelson Gamewell (1822-1896) began producing fire alarms in 1859, after buy

ing the patents and rights to install them in several states. His company also made house gongs. The company became Gamewell name Fire Alarm & Telegraph Co. in 1879. A complete house alarm with a gong sold for about \$1,500 recently.

Q: Are old books of any value? I have a copy of "Aesop's Fables" translated from the Greek by the Rev. Geo. Fyler Townsend and published by George Routledge and Sons. The cover looks like leather and

has two color pictures of children and drawings of

A: Some old books are valuable, but it takes an expert to appraise them. The fables were first told about 600 b.c. and didn't appear in print until 1557. Several editions of the version translated by Reverend George Fyler Townsend (1814-1900) were published in the late 1800s. They sell online for about only \$12 and up. If you want to sell your copy, you can take it to a store that sells used books.



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