# enninger's Celebrating Our 42nd Year

**VOLUME 42, NUMBER 15** 

WWW.RENNINGERS.NET

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

MT. DORA, FL. Antique Fairs: Sept. 17-18 · Oct. 15-16

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2017 SHOWS: **APRIL** 28, 29 & 30

JUNE 23, 24 & 25

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# Antiques & Collectibles Summer Reads

White

Colander Crime

VICTORIA HAMILTON

"White Colander Crime"

by Victoria Hamilton

By Harry L. Rinker

spent the past three weeks reading 14 mysteries in which antiques and col-■ lectibles play a primary or peripheral role. Each year as I start my research for the "Read" columns, I am confident that I

have identified all the antiques and collectibles cozv mystery series and need only look for new titles in them. Once again, I was wrong. This year, I discovered several new series, including two as eBooks.

I was saddened not to see a new title in the Vintage Kitchen Mystery series written by Victoria Hamilton (pseudonym for Donna Lea Simpson). The hook in this series is that an antique or collectible is the actual murder weapon. The most recent, and I hope not the last title in the series, is "White Colander Crime," published by Berkley Prime Crime in

by Berkley Prime Crime in fall 2015. Other titles include 
"A Deadly Grind," "Bowled Over," "Freeze or I'll Shoot," and "No Mallets Intended." 
Traditionally, the cozy mystery genre, into

which most of the titles fit, requires a body and a single, female amateur sleuth who is dating a member of the local law enforce-

ment. This summer, bodies are missing in several of the series, wedded bliss has crept into the picture, and friends play a larger role than in the past in the search for clues.
"Antiques Fate," a Trash 'n' Treasures

Mystery, is the latest effort from Barbara

Allan (a pseudonym for Barbara and Max Allan Collins). It is the thirteenth title in the series, three of which are eBooks. The series focuses on the adventures of a mother daughter team - Vivian and Brandy Borne. The series is written in a first person narrative form, Although the daughter Brandy is the primary narrator, Vivian appears to be gaining in the number of chapters in her voice. As a Vivian fan, I am thrilled. The old gal's perspective is extremely appealing and funny. Maybe it is my age, but I understand how limited a child's appreciation of its parent's in-

sights can be. As "Antiques Swap," the previous title in the series, ended, Vivian and Brandy were about to start filming "Amateur Sleuths," the premise being "two amateur sleuths... who have solved a number of real-life mur-

Continued on page 3



**Little Red Riding** Hood is outsmarting the Big Bad Wolf by giving him some candy from a pail and rescue Grandma. Not the original story but a great way to sell candy. The Lovell & Covell lithographed tin pail sold for \$115 in 2015.

# Vintage Candy **Containers**

n attractive box can help sell a product, especially if it can be reused in a new way. Since the 19th century, candy containers have been made to attract buyers. Figural glass bottles were first made in the shape of the Liberty Bell in 1876. Papier-mache animals with removable heads and hollow stomachs, and lithographed tin boxes, pails and even figural tins were used later. All of these are collected today and some sell for hundreds of dollars. Canco is the name found on a series of lithographed tin pails that held candy by Lovell & Covell, a candy company in Fulton, Mass. The pails are decorated with nursery-rhyme figures. The Queen of Hearts, Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and Peter Cottontail are the easiest to find in the series. In excellent condition, they retail for over \$100. The Canco mark was used from 1910 to 1921 by the American Can Company, a 1901 firm. If vintage candy containers are not modern enough to be of interest, consider the most popular candy container collected now, the container and dispenser for Pez. The first ones were made in 1949 and thousands of different heads have been used on other Pez dispensers.

## COMING UP

#### **AUGUST**

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

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

27 ...... Historic Town Center, New Berlin, PA

#### **SEPTEMBER**

3-4..... Stormville Airport, Stormville, NY 6-11 ..... Sheltons, Brimfield, MA **SEPTEMBER** 

6-11 ..... The Meadows, Brimfield, MA 7-11 ..... New England Motel, Brimfield, MA

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

8-11..... Penn's Cave, Centre Hall, PA....Antique Machinery 11 ..... Rancocas Woods,

Rancocas, NJ **9-10** ..... J&J, Brimfield, MA

16-18 ... Lakewood 400, Cumming,

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

17-18.... Barn Annex @ Harmony Museum, Harmony, PA

18 ..... Viking Village, Barnegat Light, NJ

22-24.... Renningers Extravaganza,

Kutztown, PA

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

24-25 .... Tip Seaman Park & Tuckerton Seaport, Tuckerton, NJ

#### **SEPTEMBER**

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

24-25 .... Lakeview School, Edison, NJ....Dep.Glass

28-Oct. 2 North Side of Fairgrounds. Carlisle, PA

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

# **SCOTT ANTIQUE MARKETS**

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**OCTOBER** 6, 7, 8 & 9

**NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12 & 13** 

**DECEMBER 8, 9, 10 & 11** 

**2017 SHOWS:** 

JANUARY 12, 13, 14 & 15

- Show Hours: Thurs, 10:45am-6pm, Fri. & Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. 10am-4pm
- Directions: 3 miles East of Atlanta Airport, I-285 at Exit 55 (3650 & 3850 Jonesboro Rd, SE)

#### Ohio Expo Center -Columbus, OH 800 - 1200 Booths!

2016 SHOWS:

**2017 SHOWS:** 

**NOVEMBER** 26 & 27

**JANUARY 21 & 22** 

DECEMBER 17 & 18

**FEBRUARY 25 & 26** 

 Show Hours: Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. 10am-4pm

 Directions: I-71 Exit 111 (17th Ave.) to Ohio Expo Center



# **Antique** Extravaganzas Washington Court House, Ohio

#### **2016 SHOWS:**

SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1 & 2

**2017 SHOWS:** 

**APRIL 28, 29 & 30** JUNE 23, 24 & 25

• Hours: Fri & Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm

• Directions: I-71 to Exit 65, East on US 35, 12 miles to WCH. The awesome Fayette County Fairgrounds at the intersection of US 35, US 22 and US 62.

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# **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.

figural stein, glazed ceramic, church scene, flowers, loop handle, metal lid, Germany, 1950s, 1/8 liter, 5 inches, \$20.

Pince-Nez eyeglasses, rimless, plastic spectacle case, womens, Estonia, 1930s, 4 inches, \$55.

Cranberry glass bridal bas-ket, pillar flute pattern, brass frame and upright handle, three scroll feet, c. 1950, 8 x 8 inches, \$80.

Kentucky Derby program, 61st, winning horse Cavalcade and jockey, Churchill Downs, 10 cents, 100 pages, May 4, 1935, 13 x 10 inches, \$115.

Toy rocking horse, wooden, wool hair, mane, tail, harness, red stone eyes, metal es, \$130.

Vanity and caned bench, wood, blue chalk paint, arched trifold mirror, drawers, turned legs, 1920s, 65 x 47 inches \$595

Mickey Mouse watch, steel case, Mickey figure in dial, pin lever and manual wind, Ingersol, 1935, 2-inch diameter, \$650.

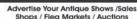
Doll, Kestner, bisque head & arms, blue sleep eyes, kid and cloth, jointed body, blonde mohair wig, 1880s, 19 inches, \$725.

Sterling-silver flask, dog show trophy, glass with leafy scroll overlay, engraved, c. 1910, 11 inches, \$1,625.

Royal Nymphenburg cane handle, man's head, wearing cap, beard, gilt trim, c. 1765, 2 1/2 inches, \$9,550. Dresser box, green cel-

luloid, textured marble look, marked, Amerith, 1930s, 5 x 3 1/2 inches, \$20.

Continued on page 4





Renninger's Antique Guide distributed throughout the Eastern United States. P.O. Box 495

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

# Antiques & Collectibles Summer Reads

Continued from page 1 der mysteries in the quaint hometown-uncover mysteries behind the strange and unusual antiques that are brought into their shop." Although most of the titles in the series are set in Serenity, Iowa, Vivian and Brandy's adventures have involved travel to New York City, Los Angeles, and elsewhere. "Antiques Fate" takes place in Old York, a Shakespearian theme town about an hour from Serenity.

Vivian and Brandy own an antiques shop. In addition, Vivian was bitten by the thespian bug early in life. Her amateur stock performances are legendary in

Vivian's delusion that she is talented. Apparently the delusion is shared by the Old Vic Theater in Old York which, in desperation for entertainment during the town's annual Shakespearian Fate, hired Vivian to do her one-person performance of Shakespeare's "Macbeth."

One can count on Allan for a body or two or three or more. Vivian and Brandy attract dead bodies like sugar water attracts flies. Old York is in the middle of a zoning battle, with the body count weighted toward the traditionalists who oppose additional commercial developtiques and collectibles is secondary - in the background rather than the front of the stage. The final scene takes place in the local history museum and does involve some of the artifacts in its collection

I chalk "Antiques Fate" up as character development in the series, remaining hopeful that future titles will return to a greater focus on objects. 'Antiques Fate" is published by Kensington Books. For a full list of titles in this and other cozy mystery series, check "The Cozy Mystery List Blog" at http://www. cozy-mystery.com/blog/antique-cozy-mysteries-antiquing-cozies.html.

The cozy mystery genre became more specialized as its sophistication grew. The

ic antiques and collectibles sub-category and focus on it. There now are series for antiquarian books, kitchen collectibles, needlework, quilts, sewing implements, and more. "The Marsh Madness" by Victoria Abbott (pseudonym for Mary Jane and Victoria Mafini) and "Thread and Gone" by Lea Wait are two examples.

"The Marsh Madness" is the fourth title in A Book Continued on page 6



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SHOW PHONES: **CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED** 

#### CURRENT PRICES

Continued from page 2

Humidor, carved hardstone and brass, phoenix and lotus, hinged lid, scroll feet, c. 1910, 2 x 12 inches, \$80.

Kitchen scale, American

Family Scale Co. Grand Union Tea co., black metal with silver stencils, 1800s, 6 x 10 inches, \$100.

Fountain pen, Namiki, 14K gold, black enamel with

multicolor flowers, marked, Japan, 5 x 1/2 inches, \$110. Cameo glass, vase, serpent, garden of eden, green, amber and plum, frosted, bulbous

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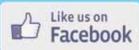
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will celebrate the good old days of education with vintage primers and textbooks, rulers and lunchboxes, pencils, notebooks, and yearbooks

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mall, is an Old Time General Store, which will take you back in time to the Mom & Pop stores of years ago. Also, they offer convenient parking for over 100 vehicles, with a spacious area for campers, trailers, and tour buses. You will find it a pleasure to shop in this clean, climate-controlled, brightly lit and carpeted mall. Absolutely one of The Best shopping experiences in Lancaster County!

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While visiting the antique mall, you will certainly want to visit the stores out in front of the mall. For example, Not Just Baskets of Cackleberry Farm is a unique gift shop filled with quilts, baskets, candy, gifts for your pet, candles, framed prints and all sorts of other great gift ideas!

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS By Terry and Kim Kovel

Q: I have an old kerosene lamp, only used when we had power outages, and not used for a long time. The oil burner needs to be removed to fill with the kerosene. The kerosene seems to have jelled and the burner can't be easily unscrewed. The glass bowl seems to have a brown stain inside. Any recommendations for solvent or cleaner to safely dissolve the jell and clean the interior?

A: Kerosene will leave a waxy residue if left too long in a lamp that isn't used frequently. You can use gasoline

to dissolve the "jelled" deposit, but first you have to be able to unscrew the burner. Try wiping the part where it connects to the font with a rag dipped in gasoline. Then fill the lamp with gasoline and leave it overnight. In the morning, swirl the gasoline around and empty it (Don't pour it down the sink drain. Put it in a closed container and take it to a place that does oil changes. They can dispose of it safely.) Make sure the lamp is dry before refilling it with kerosene. You may be able to clean the bowl by filling it with very hot water.

Q: Articles about men's latest styles say cufflinks are back. The shirt sleeves have button holes and there are a few cufflinks sold in the stores. How many years ago are the cufflinks back from? How old are the oldest. Any tips on buying some? I have an inexpensive pair shaped like tiny automobiles. They are marked "F & S."

A: Cufflinks were invented about 1700. The first ones were made like two "buttons" joined by a short link chain. A button went into the button hole on each side of the cuff.

By the 1800s, men were wearing plain, dark clothes so only a small, plain cufflink was acceptable. But by the 1840s and the Industrial Revolution, inexpensive cufflinks were machine-made and used by the average man, not just the rich. Cufflink designs followed the styles from Victorian, Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Mid-Century modern periods. Your cufflinks were made by Fenwick and Sailors, a Hollywood company that started after World War II. They made many silver figural cufflinks, including some like small Co-

ca-Cola bottles or TWA planes to be given as ads. They went out of business in the 1970s, as cufflinks slowly lost popularity until the early 2000s. Costume jewelry and curvy links are very inexpensive, often selling for about \$10. Gold and silver links made by famous jewelers can cost over \$1,000.

Q: My Ivorex plaque inscribed is "Poets corner, Westminster Abbey, Dicken's Grove." It's 7 by 9 inches. What is it worth?

A: Ivorex plaques were made by the Arthur B. Os-

borne Co. in Faversham, Kent, England. The company was in business from 1899 to 1965. The plaques were made of a material he called "sterine wax." Plaster of Paris was poured into clay molds to make three-dimensional pictures, which were hand-painted and dipped in wax to finish them. W.H. Bossons Ltd. bought the company in 1971 and made plaques from 1996, when that company closed. They are not popular with collectors in the U.S., but some sell in England. Prices, \$10-\$50.

# HISTORIC VIKING VILLAGE ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLE SHOWS

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# Summer Reads

Collector Mystery series published by Berkley Prime Crime. The first three titles in the series are "The Christie Curse," "The Sayers Swindle," and "The Wolf Widow." The stories focus around Vera Van Alst, a recluse book collector, and Jordan Bingham, the colBingham family uncles own an antiques enterprise whose dealings and ethics are questionable at best. Jordan is trying to break the mold and go straight, somewhat complicated by the fact that she is dating a police officer and loves her uncles, one of whose fingers are extremely sticky and works as the handyman (jack of all trades) for Vera Van Alst. Raised by her uncles and taught the mysteries of their profession early, Joran finds the temptation to return to her uncles' haunts for comfort and the tools of the trade irresistible.

"The Marsh Madness" involves Vera Van Alst's pas-sion for first edition mystery novels, in this case a collection of titles by Ngaio Marsh, a New Zealand author. Vera.

Jordan, and Uncle Vic are lured from the Van Alst mansion to the nearby Summer-lea, home of the Kauffman family. Summerlea becomes the stage about which the world is talking, especially after Chadwick Kauffman is found murdered within hours of a luncheon at Summerlea at which Vera buys a col-lection of Marsh's first editions. The past becomes the present before the murderer is brought to justice. "The Marsh Madness" is a delight for the antiquarian book collector as well as anyone who love a good read.

While waiting for the next instalment in Lea Wait's "Shadows" series, I read "Thread and Gone," the third title in her A Mainely Needlepoint Mystery series published by the Kensington Publishing Group. The titles focus on Angie Curtis, who has returned home to Haven Harbor, Maine, after a brief law enforcement career in Arizona. The setting "Thread and Gone" is the Fourth of July celebration. Gram, Angie's grandmother, who married the Reverend Tom is away on her honeymoon in Quebec. The mystery that engrosses Angie and the members of the Mainely Needlepointers is an embroidery entitled "A Byrd of America" reputed to be made by Mary Queen of Scots. Entrusted to a family lawyer for safe keeping, the adventure begins when the lawyer is found dead and the embroidery missing.

One body is a must but a second body adds to the mystery. A chase scene at the end increases the suspense. In the course of the story, Gram and Reverend Tom return to add their ex-

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pertise to the crime-solving The other two titles in this series are "Twisted Threads" and "Threads of Evidence." I recommend all three books in the series.

Antique Shop Mysteries, edited by Shari Lohner and published by CountrySampler, is one of the new series that I discovered. Currently, four titles are available: 'Stranger in the Looking Glass" by Jan Fields, "The Secret Letter" by Mary Blount Christian, "The Christmas Riddle" by Susan Sleeman, and "Pieces from the Past" by Elizabeth Penney. Since the last two titles are set in the winter months, I set them aside to be dis-cussed in my next "Winter Read" column.

The Antique Shop Mysteries series, which ultimately will consist of over a dozen Continued on page 7

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Continued from page 6 titles, has two interesting twists. While the central characters remain the same, each novel will be written by a different author. A dead body is not critical, although one does appear from time

to time. The stories focus on discovering the mystery, in this case the story, behind an object or objects. At first, I was concerned about the ability of independent authors to create a unified style. Having read all four titles, I see the fine hand of Ms. Lohner at work and have put my concern aside.

Maggie Watson, a widow, inherits Sedgwick Manor (a large 19th century Colonial Revival house) and Carriage House Antiques, located in

Somerset Harbor, Maine, from her aunt Evelyn Bradbury. She is aided in her quest for historical information about the artifacts that she finds in her aunt's collection as well as those brought to her by June Mc-Gillis, manager of Carriage House Antiques, members of the Somerset Harbor Historical (or hysterical) Society, and James Bennett, one of the local Aldermen who just happens to be single, close to Maggie's age, and works in historic preservation and conservation.

"Stranger in the Looking Glass" focuses on Maggie's arrival in Somerset Harbor

and the discovery of a photograph of her aunt and uncle on the back of a mirror. The photograph raises questions about the death of her uncle twenty years earlier. "The Secret Letter" involves the discovery of a secret letter found in a hidden compartment of a humpback trunk that Maggie plans to restore.

A long proponent of focusing on the stories antiques and collectibles can tell, I very much enjoyed reading the titles in the Antique Shop Mysteries series and look forward to reading more. For more information, go to: https://www.antiqueshopmysteries.com/home.php.

Harry L. Rinker welcomes questions from readers about collectibles, those mass-produced items from the twentieth and twentyfirst 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.

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