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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.

Bowl, cut glass, hobstars, alternating with divided diamonds, rayed stars, 4 x 9 inches, \$25.

Settee, Louis XV, cherry, serpentine back, two cushions, reeded arms, cabriole legs, 34 1/2 x 55 inches, \$185.

Vase, hexagonal, long neck, figures, landscape, multicolor, white, porcelain, Chinese, 11 1/2 x 3 5/8 inches, \$200.

Continued on page 2

Accent Furniture By Terry and Kim Kovel The major furniture styles used in
Sheraton and Hepplewhite, Chomas Sheraton and George Hepplewhite, Spanish and Arabian designs.

the United States have names, some for rovalty. others for talented designers and cabinetmakers. But by the 1900s, furniture was named for styles of art. Starting in the 1600s, there was Pilgrim, William and Mary (English King and Queen); Queen Anne (also English royalty); Chippendale (Thomas Chippendale, an English cabinetmaker): and American Federal, which included the American designs and pieces similar to

George Hepplewhite, English cabinetmakers). By the 1800s, furniture was designed and named for political changes, including Empire, Victorian and many revival styles that copied earlier ones. The 1900s had Mission (also called Arts and Crafts), Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Mid-Century Modern, and Modern (also called Contemporary). The United States had many other less important design influences. and these were named for the countries that inspired them: Japan, Egypt, the Shakers and even what is called Moorish style, a mixture of Turkish. Spanish and Arabian designs Decorators today like to have an "accent piece" in a plain contemporary room: something that is unique or at least very unfamiliar. Recently a pair of Moorish chairs were in an auction in New Orleans. They were made in the unfamiliar style and were carved, ebonized and had mother-of-pearl inlay. The backs were pierced with scrolled crests, and seat fronts that looked like small picket fences. The pair of unusual chairs were estimated at \$1,200 to \$1,800.



This unusual chair is one of a pair of Moorish chairs offered in a recent auction. The design was inspired by furniture from many countries and would make a good accent piece in a plain modern room.

Is the Internet Shaping the Antiques and Collectibles Vocabulary?

By Harry L. Rinker

Benjamin Martell is an anomaly. He is a young antiques dealer who has been involved in the antiques and collectibles trade for six years. Not only has he survived, he is intensely curious about how the trade functions. From time to time, he shares his thoughts with me.

A January 30, 2018, email contained the following paragraph: "I am not sure if you use 'Google Trends,' but it can offer some good insights to where the market was at and where it is going in the future. I want to highlight the change in terms 'antiques' and vintage over the last 10 plus years. "Antique' is still used a lot in the trade. Dealers should embrace 'vintage' instead of 'antique' to describe items...The use of the word 'vintage' has increased over the last 14 years while 'antique' has plummeted on Google. The base of searches is much larger now than in 2004 because a lot more people in the world are using the internet. Should the antiques trade start calling itself the 'Vintage Goods and Collectibles Trade'? I know this does not exactly roll off the tongue. Younger people are obviously using 'vintage' more than 'antique.' The trade might be well served embracing the term. I am 35. My initial impression of antiques when I first became involved in buying and selling was old glassware, Victorian furniture, formal dinnerware or extremely expensive items like those featured on the Antiques Roadshow that are out of the price range of 95% of the regular buying public."

Upon reading the above, my first reaction was to send Benjamin a

copy of my 2006 "Rinker on Collectibles" Column #1008 entitled "Defining Vintage." The column began:

began: "Mary Ann Weber's e-mail was a short one: "What do you consider as 'vintage'? I have had many different opinions, so I would like an opinion from an 'expert'". I have been pondering the same

question for over a year. As an eBay Continued on page 3





Scavanger Hunt at Grist Mill - May 30

The Grist Mill would like to say thanks to all the vendors and shoppers who made their April Flea Market a success! The next one will be in October, so mark your calendars as you won't want to miss all the great bargains to be had. The

store will be hosting a Scaven-ger Hunt on Wednesday, May 30. Lists will be given out at 5 p.m. and the person who finds the most items on the list by 8 p.m. will be awarded a great prize! Light refreshments will be served. Don't forget to go to the website - gristmillantiques.com - for information on weekly sales, special events and to view some of the great items for sale.

This multi-dealer shop is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS By Terry and Kim Kovel

Q: In the early 1950s, I paid 25 cents each for small boxes of playing cards that have only been printed on the picture side. They are blank on the other. I traded them with other girls. I still have many of the cards. I just took them to a licensed appraiser and he had never seen any before. I need the value. Can you help? A: You and I are smarter

than the appraiser. Trading cards were a popular pastime in the 1940s and '50s just as sports cards are today. I remember getting the jokers from all the decks of cards used by my mother's bridge game to trade with other girls. Since there is little to no interest in this activity today, there is almost no one to buy the cards. There are several playing-card clubs that meet, have printed publications and collect old playing cards, some going back 100 years. Members might be interested, but it depends on what the printed side looks

Q: Help me find information on my mother's dishes. The name of the company is Vanity Fair Dinnerware, the pattern is Nancy Lee. The dishes have pink and blue flowers on the edge and gold trim. My parents were married in 1938 and these were a wedding gift. I'd like to fill in the set. Can you help?

A: The maker of your dishes is hard to find, although the dishes in Nancy Lee pattern are available online from matching servic-es and shops that advertise on the major shopping sites. One site suggests they were made by Canonsburg Pottery in Pennsylvania, which was open from 1909 to 1978. We found a vegetable bowl with imperfections marked down 50 percent to \$16. Vanity Fair maybe a name used on dishes made for a special customer like a store to sell or to use as a promotion gift.

O: My son bought a Knights of Pythias ceremonial sword and scabbard at an estate sale several years ago and gave it to me in the 1970s. The handle is black leather with some gold wrap. A helmeted head with a lion on top is at the end of the hand. The shield has "U" and "R" with a lily between them. "FCB" is on the blade cover with a figure of Hercules below it. The blade is in beauti-ful condition, silver with gilt paint designs. It says "The E.R. Armstrong Co., Detroit, Mich." near the hilt. It's 39 inches long. I'm downsizing, and I wonder if it has any value.

A: The Order of Knights of Pythias is a fraternal organization founded in 1864 in Washington, D.C. It was the first fraternal organization chartered by Congress. The letters "FCB" stand for "Friendship, Charity, Benevolence," the motto of the Knights of Pythias. "U" stand for "Uniand "R" form Rank," a uniformed group that was formed in 1878 and marched in parades and processions. The lily was the symbol of the Uniformed Rank. The U.R. was removed as an official branch of the Knights of Pythias after 1950. There were different swords for different ranks. The end with a knight's head and a lion on top (the pommel) indicates you have a sword for a Sir Knight E.A. Armstrong Co. was a manufacturer of military equipment and regalia for fraternal organizations in Detroit. The value of the sword is \$250.

Q: I bought a Roseville pedestal in the Moss pattern for \$8 at a Goodwill store and I'm trying to get an idea of its worth.

A: Roseville Pottery Company was in business from 1890 to 1954. It started in Roseville, Ohio. Another plant was opened in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1898. Moss pattern was introduced in 1936 and was made in Coral, Russet and Sapphire. A Moss pedestal with matching jardiniere would sell for about \$800 to \$1,000. Pedestals without the jardiniere Continued on page 7

COMING UP UINE JUNE

IMAT	JUNE
18-19 Schwenkfelder	7-10 Expo Centers,
Library,	Atlanta, GA
Pennsburg, PA	8-10 Center Bldg.,
18-20 Lakewood 400,	Moundsville,
Cumming, GA	WVFostoria
18-20 Shenandoah	9 Fairgrounds,
Expo,	Mullica Hill, NJ
Fishersville, VA	9-10 Agricultural
26-27 Stormville	Fairgrounds,
Airport,	Allentown, PA
Stormville, NY	14-16 Reese Ice
.F/M	Arena, Newark
26-27 Chenango Cnty	OHHeisey
Fairgrounds,	15-19 Lakewood 400
Norwich, NY	Cumming, GA
26-28 Brandywine River Museum Chadds Ford, PA	
JUNE	STOR

1-3 Cider House Show Field,

Bouckville, NY 1-3 Pinebrick Show Field, Bouckville, NY

CURRENT PRICES

Continued from page 1 R.S. Prussia bowl, scalloped and beaded rim, ship, mast, dock, orange, purple, green, blue, 10 1/2 inches, \$265.

Cluthra vase, blue, green white, footed, Durand, 11 1/2 inches, \$500.

Rug, needlepoint, blocks, animals, linen fold border, brown, 7 ft. 3 in. x 9 ft. 2 inches, \$660.

Newcomb pitcher, blue glaze, green and white carved jonquil pattern rim, handle, Anna Francis Simpson, 4 x 5 inches, \$700. Meissen figurine, Cupid,

kneeling, heart on pillow, gilt, crossed swords mark, c. 1900, 6 1/4 inches, \$1,190.

Continued on page 3

Arena, Newark,Civil War OH....Heisey 30-July 1 Stormville Lakewood 400, Airport, Cumming, GA Stormville, NYF/M STORMVILLE AIRPORT **ANTIQUE SHOW** & FLEA MARKET **OVER 600 EXHIBITORS** May 26 & 27 June 30 & July 1 8 AM RAIN OR TO September 1 & 2 4 PM SHINE October 6 & 7 November 3 & 4 Free Admission & Parking • No Pets

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Complex,

Is the Internet Shaping the Vocabulary?

Continued from page 1 buyer, I encounter "vintage" on a regular basis—vintage this and vintage that. One thing is self-evident. Everyone uses the term differently. My initial conclusion is that "vintage" is a meaningless term when applied to antiques and collectibles."

Twelve years have passed since I wrote ROC #1008. The digital age still was in its adolescence in 2006. It is now mature, albeit still young, brash, and unpredictable but no longer an entity to be dismissed or ignored. The impact of the digital age is global. Its vocabulary is becoming the primary communication tool for the under 40 generations.

In 2006, Millennials were still in middle or high school. Today, they are young adults. Their vocabulary differs significantly from that of their parents and grandparents. They look forward not backward. They have no problem discarding older vocabularies whose meaning is lost to them.

Antique, collectible, and vintage have different meanings in 2018 than they did in 2006. Those committed to the old definitions are not realistic. If older collectors and dealers wish to communicate with younger generations, they need to agree on a new common vocabulary that is contemporary with the times.

Who shapes and defines the antiques and collectibles field is at the core of the issue. Throughout much of the 20th century, those involved in the antiques and collectibles trade determined its course and future. Individuals who came into the trade as appraisers, collectors, dealers, or in other areas were expected to accept the field's terminology as sacrosanct.

This changed in the 1980s and 1990s. Outside forces began to impact the direction in which the antiques and collectibles trade evolved. Lifestyle gurus like Martha Stewart, shifting decorating trends, and coverage by the mass media were in the first wave. eBay and the internet, world economic fluctuations, globalization, and generational changes followed. The antiques and collectibles trade lost its ability to dictate the future. Instead, the trade found itself responding to one change after another. Adaptation and assimilation became more difficult when multiple changes occurred simultaneously.

The antiques and collectibles trade never spoke with a unified voice. The laissez faire, individualist approach of its participants and the narrowness of many of its collectors prevented participants from identifying common concerns that could bind them together. The Depression Glass collector never felt he/she had anything in common with the Hopalong Cassidy collector. The antiques and collectibles trade is fragmentated. This will never change.

I did an eBay search for "vintage." At 9:30 PM on Sunday, May 6, I received 20,352,870 results. I next searched "rare," a pet peeve of mine when used to identify the status of an antique or collectible. I received 4,809,436 hits, only 23.63 percent of the number of vintage hit. While I find both sets of numbers astonishing, it is clear I need to pay more attention to the term vintage.

Before going further and for my own amusement, I did an eBay search for "antique." Antique had 5,062,574 hits, 24.874 percent of the vintage total. The point Benjamin raised appears to be well founded.

[Author's Aside: No attempt was made to check out each of the above listings to see how the terms antique, vintage, and rare were used. There is no need. Whether used correctly or incorrectly, the chances for error in all three cases are equal. The numbers speak for themselves.]

The first "Rinker on Collectibles" column was devoted to defining the terms antique and collectible. During the past 32 years, I have written several "Rinker on Collectibles" columns updating these definitions. The most recent was my 2013 Column #1400 entitled "An Antique is Anything Made Before 1980."

Since I wrote that column, the definition of what is and is not an antique has continued to deteriorate. More and more antiques show venues, even high-end ones, are admitting dealers who sell high-end contemporary furniture, ceramics, glass, and other studio crafted products. The implication is that the creation of antiques can be instantaneous. Gone is the concept that an antique has to stand a test of time.

The antiques and collectibles trade is in a state of confusion. Although the internet is not solely to blame, it plays a major part. The internet has no vocabulary police. Everyone is free to use whatever term makes sense. Most internet writers are followers rather than leaders. It is easier to adopt a universally used term than the correct one as defined by past usage.

Whether the antiques and collectibles trade, especially the old traditionalists, like it or not, vintage is the "in" term. Benjamin is correct in his assertion that if the antiques and collectibles trade wishes to es-

CURRENT PRICES

Continued from page 2 Cinnabar, horse head, patterned skin, turquoise beads, windblown mane, open mouth, 15 inches, \$1,190.

Marble carving, statue, Ariadne on the panther, after Johann Heinrich Dannecker. 24 x 19 1/2 inches, \$2,625. "Peanuts" Lucy cookie jar, yellow dress, 12 x 8 1/2 inches, \$15.

Coca-Cola cooler, airline, metal, side mount, bottle opener, red, 1950, 14 1/2 x 18 *Continued on page* 6 tablish a viable communication with the younger generations, it has to resort to using vintage.

The trade also has to accept another truth. It is impossible to define what vintage means. The meaning floats from person to person and object to object. More often than not, those who use vintage have no understanding of its meaning. Instead of increasing preciseness, the internet fosters ambiguity. The rise of vintage is the

tip of the iceberg. Words such as contemporary and modern are gaining a strong foothold. Modern and Modernism are two very different concepts within the trade. However, those who sell and buy on the internet see little difference.

When I taught writing, I constantly reminded my students to be precise and concise. The goal was to eliminate any confusion or misunderstanding. The internet is not academe. It is the new Wild West where everything goes. Law and order is in abeyance. The Indians not the chiefs are in charge.

Those who have followed

"Rinker on Collectibles" will read the above and think, this is more vintage Harry. Hopefully, they know what that means. I most certainly do not.

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. You can listen and par-

You can listen and participate in WHATCHA GOT?, Harry's antiques and collectibles radio callin show, on Sunday mornings between 8AM 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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3

Happy Vendors, Crowds Open Scott Antique **Markets WCH Season**



4

Customers browse through rows of booths during the Scott Antique Markets show in Washington Court House, Ohio.

By Jess Grimm

steady stream of customers browsed through the 50-acre Fayette County Fairgrounds looking for hidden treasures at the opening of the Scott Antique Markets season in Washington Court House April 27-29.

"The show's been really good," said Ronda Hollingshead, vendor at Scott Antique Markets. "Everybody that was coming through was buying so I was perfectly happy with that.'

Customers left weighed down with items ranging from home décor and collectibles to utilitarian items. Wagons full of farm equipment and tools, antique toys, baskets, comic books and more left the fairgrounds to be used or displayed in new homes. Flatbed golf carts carried beautiful antique furniture pieces and their new owners out of the gates to waiting vehicles.

The fairgrounds were covered with vendors from Scott Antique Markets and W.C. Flea, a new flea market organized by Scotts, giving shoppers more items to look through than ever before. A variety of chairs, tables and decorative urn planters lined the walkway on one side of the fairgrounds while books, bird feeders and unique pieces from local artists lined the other. A mounted bison head and a bobcat sat on display watching customers pass by. The Mahan Building was full of antiques including firearms, circus posters, toys from the late 1800s, vintage Bakelite and much more. The added flea market,

W.C. Flea, brought in a new set of customers over the weekend that enjoyed looking through all the booths to find new items. "It's been a nice mix," add-

ed Hollingshead. "I think for



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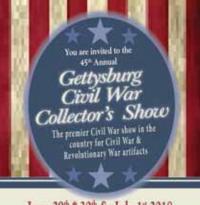


/endors at Scott Antique Markets had thousands of items for sale, including these displays of glass bottles and vintage drawers

com

the shoppers coming in they can find something at any price point which is nice."

Bargain hunters and antiquarians who missed the April show or want to come back for more have three more chances to find one-ofa-kind pieces for their homes this season. Show dates go throughout the summer and include June 22-24, August 24-26 and September 28-30. For more information visit www.scottantiquemarkets.



June 29th,* 30th & July 1st 2018

ALL-STAR SPORTS COMPLEX **EISENHOWER INN & CONFERENCE CENTER** 2634 Emmitsburg Rd, Gettysburg 717.334.8121 (3 mi south of Gettysburg on Rt 15) The show will open to the public on: Saturday, June 30th 10AM to 5PM 1 Sunday, July 1st 9AM to 2PM

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5

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Antique A

our Dest

Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall - Memorial Day Weekend Sale May 26 - May 28

Antique Mall will be hosting their annual Memorial Day Weekend Sale from Saturday, May 26 through Monday, May 28. You do not want to miss this incredible savings event! Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall is located at 3371 Lincoln Highway East, Paradise, Pennsylvania,



A wonderful selection of antiques, furniture, kitchenware, glassware and so much more!

CURRENT PRICES

Continued from page 3 1/2 inches, \$200.

Box, dresser, Bolivian rosewood, white ash stripe, turned wood, Jerry Patrasso, 2 1/2 x 3 7/8 inches, \$260.

Cellarette, Sheraton, banded mahogany, satinwood, bellflowers, children, c. 1840, 21 3/8 x 22 inches, \$550.

Jade, vase, dark green, pagoda shaped lid, hanging bells, pierced cylinder, dragon heads, 23 x 13 inches, \$750. Russel Wright aluminum tea set, tea pot, sugar and creamer, tray, spun, wood handles, 4 pieces, \$780.

Typewriter, Caligraph No. 2, upstroke, full keyboard, two space bars, 1949, \$865. Lamp, 9-light, bronze, gilt,

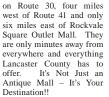
urn shape, acanthus swags, scrolling arms, bobeches, Greek key, 32 x 26 inches, \$1,185. Ohr inkwell, federal shield.

Ohr inkwell, federal shield, hearts, green glaze, crimpled, dimpled, c. 1895, 6 3/8 x 5 1/2 inches, \$3,200. Enamel, plaque, Chinese

warriors, traditional robes, Philip & Kevin Laverne, 65 x 24 inches, \$10,000. Doulton, vase, incised horse,

blue chalice band, blue scroll band, Lambeth, Hannah Barlow, 11 1/2 inches, pair, \$670. Tinware, coffeepot, wrig-

glework, potted flowers, interlacing bands, c. 1840, 11 inches, \$1,830.



They will be offering Huge Savings Store Wide on almost everything, in their Over Five Willion Dollars of Inventory! This huge 26,000 square foot facility houses a wide variety of antiques and collectibles, displayed by over 125 dealers featuring fine items such as: furniture, glassware, sterling silver,

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Housed inside the antique mall, is an Old Time General Store, which takes 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 such a pleasure to shop in this clean, climate-controlled, brightly lit and carpeted mall. It's absolutely one of The Best shopping experiences in Lancaster County !

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS By Terry and Kim Kovel

Continued from page 2 don't sell well and are worth under \$200.

Q: I have a McCoy pot-tery planter that reads "Rodeo" on the side. The Mc-Coy stamp on the bottom is backwards. Does that make any value difference?

A: This cowboy planter was first made in 1956. It was part of a line of Western theme planters and vases. All Rodeo planters evidently were made with the reverse McCoy mark. It doesn't seem that a corrected run was ever made. The value was about \$100.

Q: I have some blue-andwhite dishes my grandmother said she took from the dining car on a B & O Railroad trip years ago. I know stolen paintings, ancient rel-ics and other stolen items are confiscated and, if possible, returned to the original owners. Can I put my dishes in an auction?

A: Railroad dining cars and airplanes used to have special dishes made with their names and significant views or logos. And there have been "Railroad China" collectors for years. Some of the china was "liberated" by dinner guests, but much was sold at the railroad's gift shop. Most popular was the Centenary china first used in 1927 by the B & O Railroad for their 100th anniversary. It was so popular they continued to use it for over 50 years, and later, even made copies that were sold at the gift shop. The original, and most expensive for today's collectors, are Centenary pieces with the rectangular "Scammell's Lamberton China Patent Applied For" mark on the back. It was used from 1927 until 1930-31, when the mark was changed to read "Design Patented."

Q: I recently found two old dining room chairs in my attic that I remember using as a child 70 years ago in our dining room. They have an arched back, six turned spindles and a shaped seat. I remember them as having a shiny black finish, but they are very worn. I'm thinking of repainting them, but my son suggests that doing so might reduce their value. Can you tell me what their value is and whether repainting would make them more or less valuable?

A: Repainting or refinishing will lower the value of a piece of furniture if it is a valuable antique, made by a well-known craftsman or finished with a hand-painted technique like grain painting. Your chairs are not very old, probably from the early 1900s. They are worth about \$50. So, in your case, repainting them might bring them back to life and raise their decorative value.

Q: I'm trying to find the thermos for a 1968 metal dome-top Snoopy lunch

box with "Have Lunch with Snoopy" on one side and "Go to School with Snoopy" on the other. I've seen them with different thermos bottles, so I'm assuming the sellers are just putting what they can find with them. Which is the correct ther-mos? I found a plastic one that looks exactly like the lunch box, details and all, but since it was plastic and not metal, I wasn't sure.

A: King-Seeley Thermos Company made this metal lunch box from 1968 to 1972. A vellow plastic version of the "Have Lunch with Snoopy" lunch box also was made. Some sources show the yellow plastic thermos with the metal dome-top lunch box, but most sources show the metal lunch box with a metal ther-mos bottle picturing Charlie Brown, Linus, Lucy, Schroeder and Snoopy playing baseball. The thermos bottle picturing the whole gang also has been shown with a matching square metal Peanuts lunch box. The metal dome-top lunch box with thermos is worth about \$100.

Q: I have a small clear vase with a "Kosta Sweden" blue label. It is very thin glass, has no etchings, is approximately 4 1/2 inches tall and has no other markings or color. Can you tell me any information about the maker?

A: Kosta has been in business in Sweden since 1742. The company name com-

bines the first few letters in the last names of the founders, Anders Koskull and Bogislaus Stael. Kosta made window glass, glass for light fixtures and drinking glasses until the late 1890s, when it hired its own designers and started making art glass. The name became Kosta Boda after Kosta merged with Boda and Afors in 1976. Your vase was made after 1891, when the country name was required on goods imported into the U.S., and before the 1976 merger. In 1989, Kosta Boda merged with Orrefors and was renamed Orrefors Kosta Boda. The company was sold to the New Wave Group in 2005. The Orrefors factory closed,

is used today. Q: I inherited an old teapot my parents said is from the 1800s. It's marked "James Dixon & Son" on the bottom. What is it worth?

and only the Kosta Boda label

A: James Dixon (1776-1852) began working in silver in Sheffield, England, in 1806. He worked in partnerships as Dixon & Smith in 1806, as Dixon & Son in 1823 and as James Dixon & Sons in 1835. At first, Dixon and his partner made silver spoons and buck-les for shoes. The company made electroplated Britannia, nickel silver and silverplated wares. By the 1870s, it was the largest manufacturer of Britannia metal. Britannia is a pewter alloy made from

about 92 percent tin, 6 percent antimony, and 2 percent copper. This name "James Dixon & Sons" was used as a mark beginning about 1851. A trumpet and banner were added to the mark in 1879. James Dixon & Sons became part of British Silverware about 1983 and production stopped in 1992. James Dixon & Sons teapots sell for \$30 to \$75.

Q: I'd like to know what my "Punch and Judy" bank is worth. The bottom is embossed "Made by Shephard Hardware Co., Buffalo, N.Y.-USA, Patd in U.S. July 15 84 and July 22nd 84, Rd in England." The "stage" is a gold color and the charac ters inside have reddish-gold hats. The back is black.

A: Mechanical banks became popular after the Civil War. Several hardware companies made cast-iron toys and banks. Shepard Hardware designed and made 15 different banks between 1882 and 1892. Their banks are heavy, well made, and were hand-painted. The "Punch and Judy" bank has two levers. One lever sets the figures in position. The second lever is pressed after putting a coin on the tray. Judy turns and deposits the coin in the bank, and Punch tries to hit her with a stick. Shepard sold its bank business to J. & E. Stevens Company in 1892. That company continued making three of the Shepard Hardware banks, but did not

make Punch and Judy. Reproductions have been made. The originals were not all gold in the front but were painted bright colors, usually yellow with red-orange trim and blue-gray curtains. The back was orange. In excellent condition, they can sell for \$1,500 or more. In fair condition, they sell for \$300 to \$750. Your bank seems to be a reproduction with modern gold paint. New replica banks still are being sold for about \$20.

Q: We have a framed poster from the movie "Mr. Holland's Opus." It's signed "Best Wishes, Richard Dreyfuss." We also have the movie script signed the same way and the music "An American Symphony," written by Michael Kamen and signed by him and Richard Dreyfuss. We're wondering what the value of this collection is and if we should add it to one of our insurance policies.

A: You can find out the value of your collection by contacting an auction house that specializes in movie memorabilia. If the value is high, you will need to pay for a written proper legal appraisal in order to add it to your insurance policy. Condition, framing, and proof of authenticity are needed to determine price. The movie "Mr. Holland's Opus" is of moderate interest but your collection should sell for \$1,000 or more



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