

Picnic Collectibles: Treasures of the Past

By Robert Reed The only two things American picnics ever truly needed were the

Truly needed were the great outdoors and a stay of nice weather. Fundamentally it could re-

quire no more than a blanket and an allotment of food. From there it could be upgraded to Grandma's picnic basket packed with goodies and utensils.

At the very top of the list might have been a manufactured picnic set completed with a thermos or two, perhaps porcelain teacups, and rattan-wrapped salt and pepper shakers.

A picnic of only one has always been possible. However, in American culture and elsewhere a picnic of two is often a pathway to romance. There were, of course, family picnics, church picnics, and even company employee picnics.

Civilization celebrated outdoor feasts of sorts for centuries. Some accounts suggest that in the 16th century, a picnic more or less involved people bringing their own wine to a restaurant. Following the French Revolution royal parks were open to the public and picnicking was fully permitted. Even then the emphasis was more on the pot luck aspect of the event where participants all had the opportunity to contribute to the fare of the meal.

Such a practice encouraged the use of baskets which sometime later would be known as picnic baskets. Early baskets for this purpose were typically made of wicker and supplied with sturdy handles for carrying. Often the interiors were lined with cloth or even corduroy, sometimes in a cheerful and colorful manner.

The specifics of a picnic did not appear in the English language until the middle of the 18th century. According to the Oxford English Dictionary the word "picnic" began to appear around 1748. It referred grandly to a "fashionable social entertainment in which each person contrib-

uted a share of provisions." It further suggested the event as "a pleasure party including an excursion to some



Traveling picnic set for four, made in England, with porcelain teacups, circa early 1900s.

spot in the country where all partake of a repast out of doors."

Research by Margaret Visser, author of the book The Rituals of Dinner, suggests some substantial changes began to take place in the social occasion by the 1860s. Before that time such picnics tended to be formal affairs involving regular tables and chairs simply transported outside, along with servants. "What was formal then made a trestle-table in the open country seem exhilaratingly abandoned," notes Visser.

At that stage, in the middle 19th century, the emphasis

was more on the meal itself being outdoors than to the "pot-luck" or formal aspects of the picnic.

In 1870 Charles Dickens wrote in his final novel of Miss Twinkleton the contribution of herself and a veal pie to a picnic in The Mystery of Edwin Drood. As early as the 1870s, picnic suggestions were helpfully included in some American cookbooks. By the 1890s, full picnic dinners were sometimes featured in American publications.

Grandma's picnic basket was even questioned by a more progressive crowd in 1908.

One publication brashly suggested doing away with the time honored picnic basket when "going by trolley or wheel to tramp the picnic ground....Things must be stored away in boxes instead of baskets, boxes that may be thrown away when the meal is finished..The new collapsible cups that now come for three or four cents apiece solve the question that was erstwhile a perplexing

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Picnic Collectibles: **Treasures of the Past**

Continued from page

one." It further suggested pa-per napkins and table cloths, that may be bought at ten cents for a set."

Was tradition doomed? Would Aunt Molly's canned dill pickles also be put aside in favor of a store-bought jar with a fancy label?

Thanks to, among other things, the automobile, both the picnic and the established gear did quite nicely early in the 20th century. In fact, some of the most elaborate picnic travel sets were produced between 1900 and 1910.

Leathered wooden travel picnic cases were manufactured by leading firms in England. They came with side lifting handles fitted to the interior with cutlery,

silver plated sand-wich boxes, and kettles on burners. Often there were also rattan-wrapped beakers and flasks, as well as rattan-wrapped salt and pepper shakers. Some even came with two thermos containers and porcelain tea cups.

Wicker of leath-er bound travel picnic sets of the early 1900s were typically fitted with settings for anywhere from two to eight people.

Still the lure of a paper picnic continued. In 1922, the Mont-

gomery Ward cata-log offered "finishing touches to picnics, parties, and socials'

consisting mostly of crepe paper napkins, paper cups, fiber spoons, and waterproof paper plates. The catalog stressed there was "no need to carry heavy glasses which must be carried home again" from the picnic. The alternative was heavy paper drink-ing cups which sold for 34 cents per dozen.

Even in the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930s America was singing about picnics. In this case was "The Teddy Bears Picnic", which was finally giv-en lyrics in 1932. For decades it had been merely the instrumental "Teddy Bear Two Step", but adding words about little bears picnicking



Vintage wooden picnic basket from the 1920s

years afterward.

Sears and Roebuck of-

fered a one gallon "easy

pour" jug for picnickers in

1937. A two-tone blue ver-

sion promised to keep

liquids hot or cold for

which kept the "home-

A best-selling chil-

cade ended was Little

Pig's Picnic and Other

Stories by Margaret

Wise Brown. Its illus-

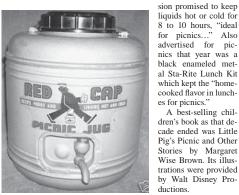
wooden picnic bas-

kets were featured in

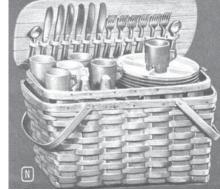
Three

different

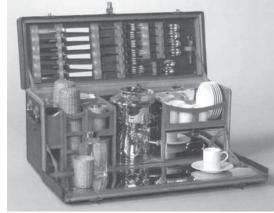
in the woods made it a million seller record. It resurged again in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and remained on children's records a hit



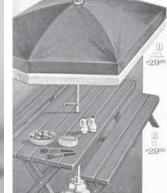
This Red Cap picnic jug, popular in the 1950s, kept liquids hot or cold.



Wooden full-service picnic basket offered in 1950 by Montgomery Ward.



Early 1900s Drew and Sons picnic set for six. Made in England.



Summer of 1965 Sears picnic sets

	AUGUSI
ast	16-18 Lakewood 400, Cumming, GA
the spring and summer cata-	24Historic Town Center, New Berlin, PA
log of Montgomery Ward in 1950. The largest of the trio held service for six includ-	24 XL Center, Hartford, CT Papermania
ing stainless steel cutlery strapped to the lid. Cups with grooved bottoms fit over the center of the plates, and salt	24-25 Warren County Fairgrounds, Phillipsburg, NJ
and pepper shakers came in "gay assorted colors." The price for the 32-piece	31-Sept. 1 Stormville Airpor Stormville, NY

picnic outfit in a strong stained oak splint basket was \$8.95. Smaller outfits were priced at \$5.95 and \$3.69.

America's love of a community picnic was further en-hanced in 1955 with a popular move entitled, Picnic. In Technicolor, it starred William Holden and Kim Novak within the background of summer in a small American town. At stores, picnic accessories ranged from the Red Cap picnic jug for keep-ing liquids hot or cold, to the modernistic metal picnic basket in green and white plaid with a red plastic handle. The summer of 1965 saw

retailers offering various zip bag types of picnic kits. An example in the Sears and Roebuck catalog included a tartan layered vinyl bag, sandwich box, and two one-quart vacuum bottles for \$8.85.

Another choice in the latter 1960s was the Ted Wil-liams 48-quart aluminum cooler for the picnic crowd. It needed no ice, the consumer simply had to fill two removable cooling cells with water and freeze them overnight. Complete with the endorsement of one of the country's most famous baseball players, the retail price was \$25. The Williams name was also represented on various insulated jugs and a steel ice chest.

Starting more fully with that decade, folks could keep the picnic at home. Sears offered "massive picnic sets" in 1965, meaning round or square redwood tables and benches. The entire outfit complete with bright green umbrella ranged from \$29.95 to \$52.95.

"Picnics are personal," observes The Food Timeline edited by Lynne Olver. "A celebration of human spirit, culinary diversity, and adventure. We choose the foods we serve, our dining partners, and the venue.

ounds, sburg, NJ /ille Airport, ville, NY... F/M SEPTEMBER 3-8 The Meadows, Brimfield, MA 3-8 Shelton's, Brimfield, MA 4-8 New England 5-7 ..

6-7 ...

12-15

14-15

20-22

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Motel,	Centers, Atlanta,
Brimfield, MA	GA
May's, Brimfield,	11-12 Expoland,
MA	Fishersville, VA
Auction Acres,	12-13 Dutchess County
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Center,	Fairgrounds,
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ТΧ

4-5 Lebanon Valley

5-6 Agricultural Hall,

10-13.. Atlanta Expo

Expo Center,

Lebanon, PA

Fairgrounds,

Allentown, PA

27

OCTOBER

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Extravaganza,

Kutztown, PA

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Court House, OH

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Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall Labor Day Weekend Sale August 31 - September 2

he Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall will be hosting their annual Labor Day Weekend Sale from Saturday, August 31 through Monday, September 2. You do not want to miss this incredible savings event!

Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall is located at 3371 Lincoln Highway East, Paradise, Pennsylvania, on Route 30, four miles west of Route 41 and only six miles east of Rockvale Square Outlet Mall. They are only minutes away from everywhere and everything Lancaster County has to offer. It's Not Just an Antique Mall - It's Your Destination!

They will be offering Huge Savings Store Wide on almost everything, in Over Five Million 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, clocks, advertising, jewelry, fine china, toys, books, postcards, trains, Christmas, pottery, linens, primitives, kitchenware & much, much more! It is impossible to list everything they have to offer.

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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.

McCoy jardiniere and pedestal, slip decorated yel-low daffodils, shaded brown ground, 31 x 13 1/2 inches, \$235

Teplitz bust, woman, red hair, plumed hat, flowers, ruffled collar, green bodice, wide pink lapels, 15 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches, \$350.

Dough Box, stand, burl wood, carved, women, holding hands, field, shaped apron,

35 1/2 x 39 inches, \$390. Fraternal Order Whisky Bottle, Elk, Central medallion, cut-fluted mouth, enamel, multicolor, 11 1/2 x 9 1/4 inches, \$590.

Silver sugar basket, George III, oval, reeded swing handle, leafy scrolls, raised foot, Peter & Ann Bateman, England, 1792, 6 1/2 inches, \$690.

Sewing box, coromandel wood, inlaid, leaves, flowers, central medallion, c. 1810, \$760.

Perfume bottle, "Multi Flora," Charles Lotton, multicolor iridescent, inlaid flowers, ribbon rim, teardrop stopper, 1992, 9 1/2 x 3 3/4 inches, \$770

Beatles, bracelet, presentation, plate engraved "ognir rats," roman lettering, chain link, 14K gold, 1978, 7 inches, \$1.280.

Polia Pillin bowl, seated nude woman, blue hair, tree, blue bird, brown, cream, 6 x 11 inches, \$1,300. Mechanical Bank, organ

grinder, bear, brick house, white fence, cast iron. Kyser & Rex, c. 1890, 5 3/8 x 4 3/4 inches, \$4,980.

Webb peachblow vase, flowers, dragonfly, white, cam-

Tub chair, mahogany, carved, rounded back, scrolled arms, leafy uprights, flared legs, brass cuffs, casters, 36 x

Occupied Japan toy, dancing couple, windup, celluloid, pink, blue, original box, 5 inches, \$50.

740.569.2800

eo, 1875, 5 inches, \$1,370.

Ruskin vase, purple, white, green, 6 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches, \$1,690.

24 inches, \$7,040.

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2019 Shows

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3

Seaside Vintage Featured at Grist Mill Antiques

he Grist Mill Antiques Center is on a beach holiday! Their seasonal display is all about the shore featuring vintage seaside photographs, antique oyster plates, shore town postcards and Atlantic City memorabilia. Sand pails, sunglasses, sand toys and beach badges are reminiscent of days spent enjoying the surf and sand.

OYSTER PLATES! An elegant collectible, the oyster plate dates to the Victorian Era. The shape was designed for oysters to be served with-out the shell. Today these plates are highly sought after

for their various styles, color and decorative appeal. Dealers have brought in a fine se lection including a set of 8 Majolica oyster plates, two of which are seen in the photo-

graph. SHOP DISCOUNT: All merchandise priced \$6 or more is 20% off every day!

SALES & EVENTS! In addition to a shop discount, each week the Grist Mill has a 25% off sale on a selected theme. The August Scavenger Hunt will be held on Wednesday, August 28 from 5 PM to 8 PM. Refreshments are served and the winner receives a \$25 gift certificate good at the

Grist Mill or sister shop Haddon Heights Antiques Center. Follow on Facebook and Instagram or sign up for their weekly newsletter to receive updates on events and weekly sales. Send your request to: theplace@gristmillantiques. com

SHOPPING: ONLINE Shop with them on eBay where they have over 650 exclusive items listed including sterling silver, railroad china, American pottery, art glass, costume jewelry, Imari porcelain, original works of art, uranium glass, majolica, hand blown glass Christmas ornaments, etc., and they ship



Wednesday till 8 pm 10,000 sq. ft. on 2 floors 609-726-1588

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.gristmillantiques.com

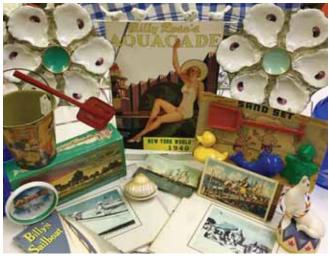


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Grist Mill continues to renovate and design space for new dealers. In July they welcomed Kay's Kreations specializing in Mid Century Modern bar ware, vintage purses and luggage. Interest-ed in becoming a Grist Mill Dealer? Spaces small and

large are available! Contact Barbara Lind at 609-726-1588 or via email at theplace@gristmillantiques. com.

The Grist Mill is a multidealer shop featuring 2 floors of over 10,000 SF of antiques and vintage, furniture, china, collectibles, pottery and more. Sets of fine china, MCM dishes, art pottery,

glassware, collectible dolls, lamps from every era, Pyrex and retro kitchen items abound

Grist Mill Antique Center is located at 127 Hanover Street (Route 616) in Pemberton, NJ 08068.

Open 7 days a week, 10 to 5, Wednesdays until 8. For more information visit at www.gristmill antiques.com.

TIP: To get rid of smoke smell, try boiling an onion for an hour or two. Make sure there is enough water so it stays covered while boiling.



4



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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS By Terry and Kim Kovel

O. I have my mother's autograph book from when she was in high school. She recently passed away at the age of 95. In this book are the signatures of Katharine Hepburn, Johnny Weiss-muller and a few other famous people. What is the value of these signatures?

6

A. Autographs of famous people in entertainment, sports or politics sell at auctions that specialize in autographs. Several things determine the value of an autograph, including the fame of the person signing it, rarity, condition and authen-

ticity. Autographs in an album generally don't sell for as much as those on a letter, important document or photograph. Look online to find auctions that sell autographs. Value of your autographs, about \$25 to \$50 each.

Q. My daughter has several pieces of Franciscan Apple pattern dinnerware. We'd like to know what the difference is between the Ameri-can and English backstamp. It appears all her pieces are marked before 1950, maybe 1940. She needs to sell these. so where would we go to find

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A. Franciscan is a trade-mark first used by Gladding, McBean and Company of Los Angeles, California. Apple patin 1979. The California plant closed, and production moved

to England. After changes in ownership, production moved to China in 2004. The backstamp helps date the piece. Apple pattern dishes were made in the United States from 1940 to 1979 and in England from 1979 to 2004 Dinnerware is hard to sell. You can contact a matching service like Replacements Ltd., but you will have to pack and ship the dishes, and you will get about half of what they sell them for because they have to make a profit too. It's easier to try to sell the dishes at a local consignment shop, or just donate them to a charity and take the tax deduction.

Q. I have 11 Imperial Glass Whirling Star Marigold Iridescent punch cups and have no idea how to price them. Can you help?

A. Imperial's Whirling Star pattern in Marigold was only made in punch sets. The com-pete set, including the punch bowl, base and 12 cups, sells for about \$300-\$450. A set with the punch bowl and six cups was offered for sale for \$95. Whirling Star punch cups in other colors sell for about \$5 or \$6. The set has been reproduced.

Q. I inherited two hanging Hummel rings, about 5 1/2 inches in diameter. One has a baby boy's face looking to the right at a figural bee. He's marked "Goebel, W. Germany." The other is a baby girl with an orange bow in her hair. She's looking left at a bee and is marked with a bee above the letter "V" over "Goebel, W. Germany."

to hang in a child's room or bathroom?

A. These are Hummel's Ba-Bee Rings, which were first made by the W. Goebel Porcelain Factory of Oeslau (now Rodental), Germany, in 1935. The early rings are rare, but they were made for several years after that. The marks on your rings show they were made in the 1970s. The bee and letter "V" over "Goebel, W. Germany" is known as the vee over gee" or "last bee" mark. It was used from 1972 until 1979, when the "missing bee" mark was introduced. They are safe to hang in a child's room as long as they are out of reach so the child can't chew on them. Value of your rings, about \$30.

O. How much is a barometer signed "J. Mangiacavalli, 1859, England" worth? It has a thermometer and hygrometer. The barometer is broken and doesn't work. A. Barometers measure

changes in atmospheric pres-

sure to forecast the weather. The thermometer measures the temperature, and the hvgrometer measures relative humidity. Antique barometers with elaborate wooden cases and brass trim are the most desirable. If the barometer is broken and can't be fixed, it isn't worth anything.

Q. I have a figurine that looks exactly like the Hum-mel figurine of St. Jude, but it's white. I can only find ones that are colored. Do I have a fake or a real one? A: Hummel figurines are

based on drawings by Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel, a nun in Germany. The figurines were first produced in 1935 by W. Goebel Porcelain Factory of Oeslau (now Rodental), Germany. They were extremely popular after WWII, and hundreds of figurines were made and collected. They made other figurines, but only those that are the children drawn by Sister Maria can be called Hummels. There have been changes in company name and ownership, but Hummel figurines are still being produced in Rodental, now by Hummel Manufaktur. The Hummel figure of St. Jude has him holding a staff in one hand and a holy relic in the other. This is a common image that has been made by other manufacturers. If your figurine is real, it will have a Hummel mark on the bottom. If it's not marked, it's a fake. All Hummels are now very low priced, and religious figures are not popular. Your figure is probably Goebel but not Hummel. It is worth about \$50.

Q. I found an old wardrobe steamer trunk in an attic and can't find any information on it. It has its key, four pull-out drawers, hangers and the pull-out closet rod as well as the original Continued on page 7



Show schedule Vendor Setup starts 12 noon Thursday Vendors only Thursday No Early Entry for Shoppers Show is open 7am to 4pm Friday & Saturday Free Parking and Free Admission



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a buyer?

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS By Terry and Kim Kovel

Continued from page 6

hardware. It was sold by Stewart & Co. in Baltimore. The tags on it say it belonged to a doctor. I'd like a value to **see if it's worth restoring.** A. Wardrobe trunks are

large upright trunks fitted with hangers, drawers and storage areas for shoes and other items so a traveler could take all the clothes needed for a long trip by steamship or train. They aren't popular with collectors today because they are too big and heavy to store or display easily. They are hard to sell unless by a famous maker. Stewart & Co. department store opened about 1900, so your trunk is from the turn of the century. If there is no maker's name, it is an ordinary trunk, probably not worth restoring unless you want to use it. Even restored, it would probably sell for less than \$100. A famous name-brand trunk sells for as much as \$10,000 (Vuitton) or \$1,500 (Bottega Veneta).

Q. I own an Arnart set of six saucers and five teacups with a courting scene on them. I found an identical set online made by Royal Vienna. Why and how did two different manufacturers make identical items? Is my Arnart set comparable in desirability, quality and price to the Royal Vienna set? Is it better to sell as a set of five each and sell the extra place separately, or to sell all six plates and five cups together?



Q. My mother worked at Vernon Kilns in the early 1950s. My sister and I have inherited the Vernon 1860 dishes, including several serving platters, covered and uncovered bowls, a soup tucoffeepot, creamer, reen, sugar bowl, and salt and pepper shakers. Does anyone collect this? How can we contact an interested party?

A. Vernon Kilns made dinnerware in Vernon. California, from 1931 to 1953. When the company closed, Metlox bought the molds and contin-

ued to make some patterns. Vernon 1860 dinnerware was made from 1944 to 1954. It's usually listed online as part of Metlox Pottery's Poppy-trail line. Plates sell online for under \$20, depending on size. Serving pieces sell for higher prices. A Vernon 1860 serving platter was listed at \$85 and a tureen at \$240. If you want to sell the dishes, contact a site that offers Vernon 1860 for sale. They will buy it, but at about 30 percent of the retail price.

Q. Our family inherited a book of prints from my grandparents, "Thirty-Six Views of Mt. Fuji -- Hiroshige." I contacted a local museum and, while they won't give an appraisal, they said the prints look authentic. I thought about breaking up the book and framing several of the prints, but I have been advised to keep it intact. I'm looking for some more information about getting an appraisal.

Traditional Japanese А. woodblock prints are called "ukiyo-e," which means "pic-tures of the floating world." Early artists focused on geicourtesans, beautiful sha, women and Kabuki actors; later prints feature historical subjects, warrior portraits, landscapes and everyday activities. Ando Hiroshige (1797-1858) was a master famous for his landscape prints. He produced his "Thirty-Six Views of Fuji" in an unexpected vertical format in 1858, the year he died. The series was published in 1859 by Koyeido. You should contact a rare book dealer or an auction that has sold expensive prints and ask for an estimated price if they were to sell it. Prices of identical prints can vary widely; quality of color and condition influence price. Remember, you will pay about 25 percent commission, and perhaps other charges, to the auction house if you list it.

Q. I just bought a solid wood gun display case with working locks and skele-ton key. Inside the bottom drawer is a metal tag that says "IB Van Sciver Co." The craftmanship is beautiful. What is the value of this piece?

A. Joseph Bishop Van Sciv-er founded J.B. Van Sciver Furniture Co. in Camden, New Jersey, in 1881. The company made furniture, clocks, lamps, rugs and draperies. At its peak, it had stores in several cities. The company went bankrupt in 1983, and production stopped. The remaining stock was sold at a ware-house outlet in 1984. If you just bought your display case, it's worth what you paid for it.

O. I just found an old beer can that is decorated with Japanese and English words. It has "Sari Saurus Draft Beer" and a round logo in the center and some Asian writing in smaller words at the bottom of the front of the can. When do you think this might have been made?

A. Canadian beer was made and shipped to the Far East in the 1990s. There were many American brands and special brands with names that sounded Japanese. The Canadian beer wasn't shipped after the early 2000s. These cans are very rare because they all were made for export, but there may be some in the Far East where there are few beer can collecors



By Terry and Kim Kovel

f you never lived in Ohio you've probably never heard of Mitchell & Rammelsberg furniture. It was the largest furniture manufacturers of its time located in the Midwest, but not in Grand Rapids, where most of the furniture was made. (Lots of lumber and goods are transported from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and then to the ocean and overseas.) The company started in either 1836 or 1847 in Cincinnati. It made top quality Victorian furniture with hand carving and steam-driven woodworking machines mak-ing the parts. It became Robert



Mitchell Furniture Co. in 1881 and didn't close until 1940. Pieces often were marked "M & R," or inside of a drawer stamped "Mitchell & Rammelsberg." Only a few pieces of a bedroom set were marked, so many pieces are identified by the design and quality. The company worked in many styles, from Classical to Egyptian Revival. It also made dining sets, desks, sofas, occasional tables and other pieces. Buyers pay the most for mahogany and the least for walnut, but the design, carvings and trim also influence price. A mahogany bedroom suite with bed, table, chairs and dressers sells for thousands of dollars today, but they are scarce.

This Gothic Revival secretary bookcase made by Mitchell & Rammelsberg sold for \$1,320 at auction.



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