

KOVELS ON ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

VOL. 17, NO. 7

THE NEWSLETTER FOR DEALERS, COLLECTORS AND INVESTORS

MARCH 1991

• NEWS FLASH •

Hummel collectors: run to buy the 1990/1991 new releases with the "Goebel W. Germany" trademark. A new trademark has been designed for use only on Hummels. Pieces with the "W. Germany" mark (1979-1990) will be in limited supply and premium-priced on the secondary market. The newest mark, shown at left, includes the Crown and WG symbol first used in 1935.



Seen at the shows: a napkin ring specialist with sterling silver rings from \$100 up, plain plated rings \$50 and up, figural rings \$200 and up. We expected high prices for the figural rings, but were surprised at the suddenly popular and pricey plain sterling rings.

The average doll collector spends \$800 a year, according to *Giftware News*. There are over 630,000 adult doll collectors in the United States.

The most frequently counterfeited marks on pottery and porcelain seen by U.S. Customs are on flow blue, RS Prussia, Limoges, Nippon, and Meissen.

Build a collection of building blocks like Lincoln Logs, Tinkertoys, or Erector sets. An exhibition of these toys is now at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal, Canada.

Protect your house from burglars and damage with these suggestions from Chubb Insurance Company. The exterior door should be solid-core wood or metal. Locks should be dead bolt or jimmy-proof. A dead bolt should go at least one inch into the door frame. Door hinges should be on the inside of the house. If there is a glass panel or side lights, the door should have an interior key-controlled lock.

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STEEPED IN HISTORY

Fun, fantasy, and fame blend in the pricing of teapots. A bid of \$14,300 bought this Minton teapot by the important designer Christopher Dresser. This turquoise and yellow majolica pot with a cat and mouse was made in 1881. To get a handle on more of these shapely pots, see page 81.

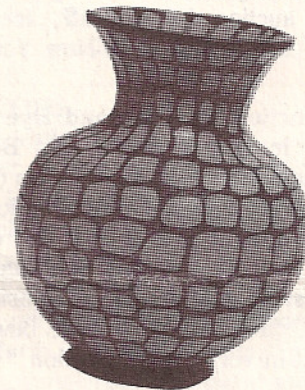
HOPPY HOLIDAYS

Easter gifts come in all prices. Top of the market are Russian eggs like this silver gilt and enamel egg by Grigory Sbitnev, made in Moscow about 1910. For other Easter eggs and rabbits, priced from \$25 to \$15,400, hop over to page 75.



CLASSY GLASS

You may not care about Italian glass made after 1930, but you should. It is a new, price-rising collectible. There are bargains to be found by those who learn to recognize 20th-century European glass of quality like this Barovier & Toso vase, which brought \$2,200. More about these Venetian treasures on page 78.



BEST FOR BOOKS

Collections require shelf space and antique bookcases are one answer. This William IV mahogany bookcase is over 12 feet long. It was made about 1840 and sold recently for \$9,900. For more, open to page 77.



Majolica teasers



"Oriental" teapot and cover, probably England, last quarter 19th c., rectangular with molded coastal village scenes, spout and handle with animal heads, oval cover with ring finial, (restored), 9 1/2 in., \$440.



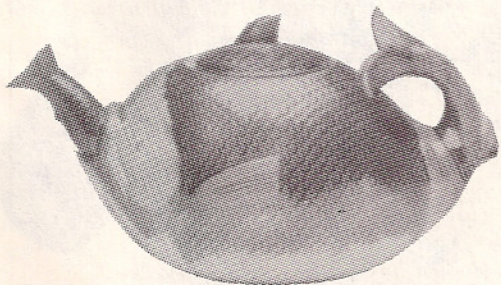
Teapot and cover, England, second half 19th c., molded branch handle and spout, acorn finial, (reglued at joint), yellow ground, central floral and leaf designs, 7 1/4 in., \$330.

Bidders pounced on a Minton cat and mouse teapot at Skinner's majolica auction. (See cover.) It had been expected to sell for \$5,000, but the final price roared to \$14,300. The design for the whimsical piece was attributed to Christopher Dresser, perhaps adding to the price.

None of the other figural teapots caused quite that much excitement, but they all sold well, including a Holdcroft Chinaman teapot and cover, \$1,210. Not much is known about Holdcroft, except that it was in business in London, England, from 1870 until the 1920s, and specialized in majolica.

Remaining copies of the majolica catalog #1358 with prices realized are \$12 from Skinner's, 357 Main St., Bolton, MA 01740. If you're interested in learning more about majolica, see *Majolica: A Complete History and Illustrated Survey* by Marilyn G. Karmason and Joan B. Stacke (Harry N. Abrams, NY, c1989). If you're looking for unusual teapots, see *The Eccentric Teapot* by Garth Clark (Abbeville, NY, c1989). If you want to brighten teatime by using a colorful teapot, visit your nearest housewares store. There are many charming new designs being made.

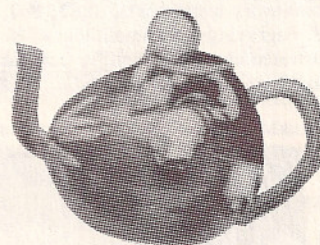
Note: prices include 10% buyer's premium.



Fish teapot, England, mid to late 19th c., modeled as fish swallowing smaller fish to form spout, looped tail as handle, (chips, hairline), 11 1/4 in., \$440.



Minton monkey teapot, England, 1874, modeled as monkey figure clenching about melon, his tail as handle, head as cover, impressed mark and date code, (minor chips), \$2,640.



Holdcroft Chinaman teapot, England, late 19th c., coconut-formed body with figure of Chinese boy on top, head mounted as finial, (chips and handle restored), 7 1/2 in., \$1,210.

PICTURED ON COVER

Minton cat and mouse teapot, possibly designed by Christopher Dresser, England, 1881, teapot in shape of an iron with cat crouching over looped handle, mouse holding carrot on cover finial, molded band design of mice surrounding center of pot, turquoise ground, yellow handle, white cat, gray mice, impressed mark and date code, 7 1/2 in. h., \$14,300.



Minton Chinaman teapot, England, c.1875, modeled as seated Oriental, hair in queue to form handle, head as cover, holding face mask with spout projecting from its mouth, (spout restored), 5 1/8 in., \$1,760.

HOTLINE • HOTLINE • HOTLINE • HOTLINE • HOTLINE • HOTLINE • HOTLINE • HOTLINE • HOTLINE

Tea Leaf ironstone collectors: a helpful leaflet has just been published. "White Ironstone Body Styles Part I: Copper and Gold Lustre Decorated 1840-1900" illustrates various "blanks" and identifies makers. It is available for \$5 from Tea Leaf Club International, P.O. Box 14133, Columbus, OH 43214.

Old radio prices are rising. *Classic Plastic Radios of the 1930s and 1940s* by John Sideli (E.P. Dutton, NY, c1990, \$19.95) is filled with color pictures and information. If your budget is limited, study *Collecting Transistor Novelty Radios* by Robert F. Breed (L-W Book Sales, c1990, \$24.95), a picture price list of less expensive radios.