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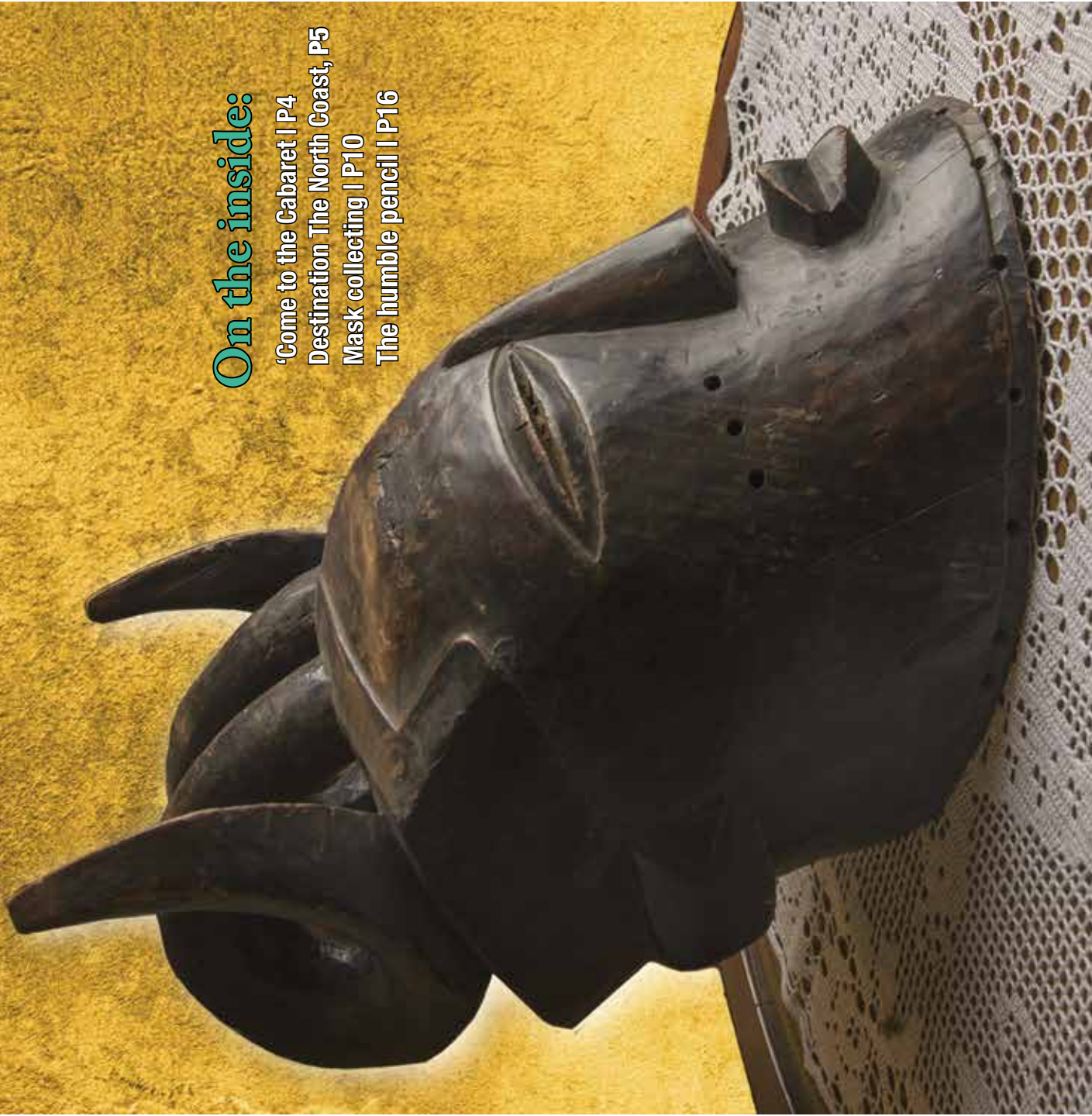
Old Stuff

May, June, July 2023

Vol 46 | Ed 2

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ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, HISTORY AND NOSTALGIA FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

BY RUSTY RAE
Associate Editor, OLD STUFF

Some days I wonder if spring and summer are ever going to arrive full-time. We’ve been teased with a day or two of sunshine that turns to a rainy, cold, wind-whipped day, chilling one’s bones to the core.

In this issue you’ll see a bit of that jeckyl-and-hyde weather on our destination story to the North Coast: Cannon Beach to the Long Beach Peninsula. While there were moments of sunshine we also found snow, sleet, and a bounty of rain this past March.

We are adding a regular feature to each OLD STUFF issue -- a store profile. We believe these stories will bring both the good news about interesting antique, vintage, and collectible emporiums to those of you seeking that special item.

Additionally, we hope these stories also inspire other owners with new operational ideas to make their stores more efficiently run, more customer-centric, which leads to improved profitability.

We love stories about special finds. Brooke Heikkila of **Junk Queen Antiques** in Westport, Washington brings us this story of a found treasure.

She was visiting her home town of Wishkah, which is located about 30 miles North of Westport in what she describes as the middle of nowhere in southwest Washington.

She notes she and her husband had purchased some items from a woman’s estate sale and asked if they could check out the garage.

“When we entered the garage, there was this case -- it was pretty ugly -- but that’s kind of what drew me to it.

“I really love rusty metal -- and the patina of the metal,” Heikkila said.



The medical cabinet the Booke Heikkila and her husband found in the middle of nowhere that they refinished are using in their Junk Queen Antiques shop in Westport, Washington.

The owner of the case said there had been several people who said they would buy the case, but who never returned to pick it up.

So she and her husband loaded it onto their truck and brought it home.

It took a little tender loving care to resurrect the cabinet.

“There wasn’t any glass so we had a car guy come and measure it up for glass. And we couldn’t find keys for any of the locks, so my husband removed the locks. But the paint and general shape of the case was pretty pristine,” she added.

The case is one of the prime display areas for the shop and draws significant attention from those who visit.

Heikkila said Junk Queen Antiques will host a flea market September 2. If you’re interested in participating contact Brooke at (360)-268-7122.

Soon, Brooke notes, Junk Queens will have a a food truck parked nearby featuring Fresh Catch, generally local seafood just off the boat..

As you are probably aware, the summer months are the time for flea markets and in the Pacific Northwest we are blessed to have these events in most corners of our areas.

Here are just a few that you may want to attend or perhaps become a vendor.

At the Yamhill County Fairgrounds in McMinnville, Oregon, June 23-25 the **Mac Flea** event will take place featuring hand-made crafts and antiques. For more information take a peak at www.macflea.com.

July 22 is the first of three **Junk Refunk** shows, this one in Reed-sport, Oregon. Two other shows will take place in August in Woodburn, Oregon and Oakland, Oregon. These shows showcase artisans who repurpose items and who take salvaged art to another level. Also featured are industrial, farmhouse, and rustic art.

For more information check out www.junkrefunkmarket.com.

At the National Guard Armory in

Portland, **Donny’s Pay-N-Pak’s** next event kicks off July 30. It features antiques, collectibles and vintage items. For more information give Donny a call at 503-919-6361.

The first of three **Country Chicks Markets** takes place Sept. 30 at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in Centrailia.

They’re calling their events Junkin’ Adventures. For more information email countrychicksllc@gmail.com.

Christine Coitex at **Likely Finds** is celebrating her second year in business with a move to downtown Tilla-mook.

Among the many items you’ll find in her shop are old color glass from the 1940s thru the 1970s and she notes, “Lamps that I don’t think anyone has seen before. They’re from the 1930s.”

But she’s also found a niche market for modern-day tiaras which she imports from Italy.

“It’s been a really fun item. Ladies come in and get them for their week-end wine tastings. And I had one old woman tell me she wanted to be buried in hers,” she said.

It should go without saying -- but we are emphasizizing it anyway -- if you have a story about antiques, collectibles, or a vintage item, we’d love to hear from you. We are always on the lookout for writers and photographers with a passion for old stuff.

If you have a cherry item that is a bit unusual, we’d love to hear about it, too. We can’t tell your story if you don’t contact us.

Shoot me an email at oldstuff-news@gmail.com, and I’ll get back to you.

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SPORTS CARDS, SAME AS IT EVER WAS

BY OSSIE BLADINE
Editor/Associate Publisher, Old Stuff

Walk around my house and just about every room you’re sure to find as least a small pile of sports cards. And enter the play room, on the shelf you’d find at least a dozen binders chock-full of football, basketball and soccer trading cards.

Yes, he’s gone sports card crazy, reminding me of, well, me, 30-some years ago, as I filled similar folders with Rickey Hendersons, Jerome Kerseys and so on.

The sports card industry is enjoying a resurgence, with many noting the pandemic led people to turn back to cards when live sports weren’t available. But the growth actually started in about 2015, according to an online article by Gold Card Auctions, which states market projections of 13% annual growth in the American sports card industry through 2032.

It seems like every week there is a headline about a record-breaking auction sale for a sports card.

Thus, many in the field are recommending sports cards as a smart addition to one’s investment portfolio. Beckett notes on it’s website that 36 cards went for more than \$1 million in 2022. Fifteen of them were either LeBron James or Tom

Brady. Much to my surprise, two of them were Justin Herbert (Go Ducks), and one was Joe Burrow. So it’s not just the classics from sports card Golden Age being highly coveted.

Of course, my son’s not thinking about his portfolio — not that he doesn’t enjoy finding out what his best cards are worth. (OK, I still enjoy it to: “Kingsley, that Tom Brady is worth \$35!)

The same went for me around the same age, particularly when my cousin, who worked at a card store, gifted me the 1991 Score Baseball 900 Card Complete Collector Set. To his chagrin, I immediately pulled the wrapping off and started pulling cards out. “What are you doing?” he scoffed. “That ruins the value!”

That box set can currently be purchased on eBay from anywhere between \$12 and \$28. Needless to say, the value didn’t quite hold like my cousin imagined it would.

Nostalgic Millennials and Gen Xers are playing a major part in sports card resurgence. But Generation Alpha is contributing as well, in the purest form. For Kingsley and his friends, it’s all about the thrill of unwrapping that pack and hoping for your favorite player.

That Christiano Ronaldo card he just found: About \$5. The look on his face: priceless.

ON THE COVER: A carved African ceremonial helmet mask from the eastern coastal country of Tanzania from the collection of Dayton Brownfield. This photo by associate OLD STUFF editor Rusty Rae was made at Victoria Sells in Puyallup. The background was added in post production. See the story starting on page 10.

KOVEL SAYS

COME TO THE CABARET — DINNERWARE THAT IS

By Terry and Kim Kovel

To attract western travelers to Japan, the government of Japan commissioned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) to design the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. Wright's all-encompassing designs for his buildings included almost every item, including dinnerware.

Known as the Cabaret pattern, this porcelain dinnerware was designed for the Cabaret Dining Room of the Imperial Hotel, which opened in 1923. The circular art-deco-inspired design was Wright's interpretation of champagne bubbles overflowing across the place settings. The strategically placed red on the cup's rim has been suggested to conceal lipstick prints from women drinking from the coffee cups.

The dinnerware was originally produced by Japan's Noritake company with reproductions made by Tiffany. The Imperial Hotel was demolished in 1968, but its entrance and lobby have been preserved and can be visited at Japan's Meiji-mura, an open-air architectural museum and park.

Q: Can I treat my grandmother's dinner dishes and silverware like my everyday pieces



A set of six cups of Cabaret dinnerware sold at a Palm Beach Modern auction for \$585. f

and put them in the microwave and dishwasher if I use them at a holiday dinner?

A: If you have a dishwasher that is less than 10 years old, it probably washes most things safely. Exceptions include vintage, hollow-handled dinner knives, which can be a problem because old ones are sometimes filled with a substance that

melts, and the knife blades loosen or turn. This also can happen to knives made with a stainless blade and different material for the handle. Don't wash your silver plate with any other metal tableware, or you can get a chemical reaction. Any dishes with metallic gold trim (it will spark) or metallic silver (the heat may turn the trim gray and poisonous) should not go in the microwave. Factory-made dishes should be OK; the decoration was put under clear glaze. But hand-painted trim could wash off. Most vintage and antique porcelain is safe. If you are not sure, test a piece. It's the heat that causes the problems. New dishwashers will clean dishes you haven't rinsed and save you time, but surface paint that is not under a glaze will come off with repeated use.

Q: I'd like to know the value of a set of two deck chairs (possibly teak) from the SS Oceanic. They have their original blue cushions with "Home Lines" and a logo in gold. What do you think they are worth?

A: Home Lines was an Italian company that operated cruise ships and ocean liners. The company was in business from 1946 to 1988, when it merged with Holland America Line. SS Oceanic was one of Home Lines' cruise ships from 1965 to 1985, when it was sold to Premier Cruise Line. Most deck chairs don't sell for high prices. Chairs by important makers or those with a connection to an important or historic event do sell for high prices. A deck chair from the Titanic, one of seven known and with a letter of authenticity, sold for almost \$150,000 in 2015. The value of your deck chairs depends on condition and the history of the boat. They sell for \$100 to \$1,000.

Q: I have a necklace made of clear faceted beads that I was told were crystal. Does this mean they are cut glass or rock crystal?

A: "Crystal" can be used for both rock crystal and cut glass. Some makers and collectors use the term for any colorless clear glass. To add to the confusion, both rock crystal and glass beads are found in antique and vintage jewelry.

Rock crystal is a clear, colorless quartz stone fashionable in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some 19th-century cut glass was made to resemble rock crystal until about 1860, when colored glass became popular. "Paste" stones, or glass stones that imitate precious gems, were invented around 1730 and have been used in costume jewelry since then. Glass jewelry was especially popular in the early 1900s. From about 1918 to the 1930s, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic and Slovakia) exported glass beads, faceted glass stones and finished jewelry all over the world. The necklaces are often marked "Czechoslovakia" on the clasp.

To tell whether your beads are stone or glass, hold them in your hand. Glass feels about room temperature and will grow warmer as you hold it. Stone is colder to the touch and takes longer to warm up. Natural rock crystal is more valuable than cut glass.

TIPS:

- Don't clean coins. Collectors want coins with the patina unchanged.

- Some experts say you should restrung pearls and other valuable beads every other year. Sooner or later, the stringing will break if the pearls are worn a lot.

- Your diamond or precious-stone jewelry -- antique or modern -- should be reappraised every other year for insurance value.

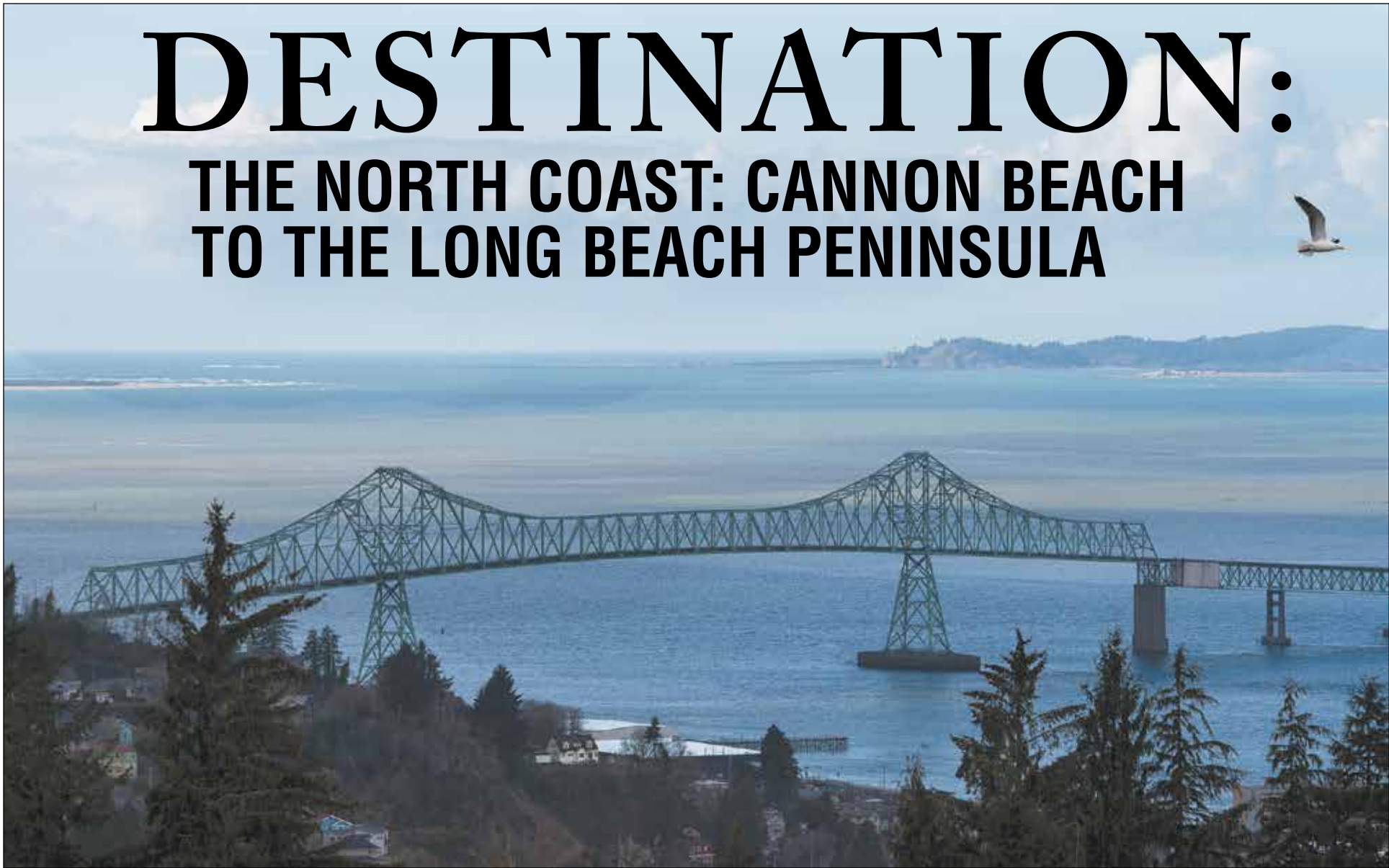
CURRENT PRICES

Decoy, swan, wooden head and neck, carved, canvas over wire body, wood base, painted, white, black beak, early 20th century, **\$250**.

Game box, opens to check-board, backgammon interior, papier-mache, black lacquer, mother-of-pearl inlay, gilt high-lights, storage compartment, ivory game pieces, red and white, four dice cups, Victorian, England, c. 1860, 3 1/4 x 16 1/4 x 8 3/4 inches, **\$563**.

Advertising clock, "Chrysler MoPar Parts Accessories," round, yellow center with red border, Arabic numerals, printed, milk glass, domed glass cover, chrome surround, pressed paper back, electric, 14 3/4 inches, **\$756**.

Looking to declutter, downsize or settle an estate? Kovel's Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide 2022 by Terry and Kim Kovel has the resources you're looking for.



BY RUSTY RAE

My father always told me that we went fishing to get away and if we caught fish that was a bonus. Hunting for that prized antique, vintage or collectible item can be a similar journey. So if you're on the hunt you might as well look in an area where you can enjoy your down time. Of course we never went fishing in an empty lake or stream. And that's the North Coast — from Cannon Beach, Oregon to the towns that dot the Long Beach peninsula — a treasure trove of shops chock-full of potential prize winning catches.

Before we dive into the world of antiques and collectibles along this roughly 60-mile stretch of Highway 101, it should be understood this segment of the Pacific Northwest is awash with places to stay, eateries and things to do outside the passion of hunting for that one item to complete a collection.

There are motels by the dozen at all price ranges, plentiful camping grounds and RV sites, and a beach where a simple walk can drain the day's stress in 15 minutes. Add to that between Cannon



Beach and Ocean Park there are numerous golf courses including the Links at Gearhart, the oldest course in Oregon that includes, like many of the courses along the North coast, a view of the Pacific Ocean. There are a multitude of other coastal recreational activities that one only has to Google to find.

We'd be remiss in not noting the area is also a hub for historians. Not only are there multiple museums along this stretch of the coast, but it's also the end point of the Lewis and Clark

expedition. For those of you interested in Pacific Northwest and U.S. history, the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park located in Astoria is well worth the time.

The center of the antiquing world on the North Coast is its largest city, Astoria, where there are no fewer than a dozen shops specializing in antiques, collectibles and vintage items just waiting to be found. Disclaimer: due to time constraints, and the fact that some of the shops weren't open during



our Spring visitation, not every Astoria shop is reviewed. Suffice to say, those we visited gave a solid sample of the quality of Astoria's antique, vintage and collectibles.

Phog Bounders is a first stop in Astoria as one of the largest antique emporiums in the heart of the North Coast. Run by Tom and Debbie Schmidt, it features 8,000 square feet with 55 vendors, many who focus on antiques.

Eclectic is a word you'll hear often when

talking to shop owners on the North Coast. At Phog Bounders Schmidt gets the first use, "We have a number of eclectic collections — really something for everyone." Phog Bounders has resided in its current location for past 16 years and in the Astoria for 20 years.

With two decades at the tip of the North Oregon Coast, Schmidt said he's a nautical collector and believes the store has an unusual collection of nautical antiques and collectibles that one doesn't

Above: The Astoria-Megler bridge is not only an Astoria landmark, but it is also the gateway to the Long Beach peninsula. Far Left: Massive Haystack Rock, at 235-feet in altitude dwarfs the Cannon Beach skyline. Pictured here at low tide where beach-combers find a variety of critters. Left: A model with working steam engine found at Phog Bounders in Astoria. Left Below: The gateway to the 28-mile long beach on the Long Beach Peninsula.

see in other stores. "I think our collection of nautical items is above average," he said.

Schmidt adds with a smile and a chuckle, "I think we are friendly and unique in our own way store — and not to brag — but we have a lot of actual antiques." One of the antiques that stood out was a cherry Victrola. Plus there were several intriguing nautical items, including a cherry model boat.

Though its population is nearing 12,000, the downtown area seems expansive and it's easy to get lost as you wind about the town in search of the next shop on your journey.

Treasure Alley at Pier 11 offers vintage, collectibles, home decor, jewelry, knives, and glass floats. It's located, as the name suggests, right on the river with a nice view of the Asto-

Continued ON next page

Oregon's First National Historic District

AURORA, OREGON

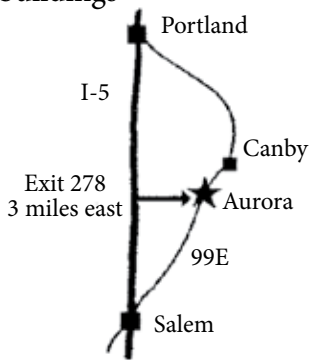
ANTIQUES CAPITAL OF OREGON

Aurora has made the TOP TEN of Best Antiquing Towns in the US by four online sources, MSN.com, the TravelChannel.com, HouseBeautiful.com and CountryLiving.com.

Our wide variety of antique and vintage shops, boutiques, art galleries, restaurants and wineries make this a fun destination for all.

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ria-Megler Bridge. Nearby is Astoria Vintage Hardware which offers architectural salvage items, home furnishings, and a 10,000-square-foot showroom. Another shop specializing in restoration is North Coast Fix. They're dedicated to the restoration of fine interior furnishings and specialize in older homes. Reclamation Market Place, also in the downtown core, offers a variety of antique and vintage items. Posey-Reed has an artful selection of collectables, antiques, decor, furniture, vintage clothing, and art work. If vintage clothing is on your list, Posey-Reed may be the best thing in Astoria, with a diverse selection and a surprising low price.

Your downtown hunt should also include Michael's Antiques, Persona Vintage Clothing and Antiques, Commercial Street Antiques and Wesrose and Tokugawa Antiques. Away from the downtown area: Southeast and across the picturesque Warrenton-Astoria Highway and the Old Young's Bay Bridge is Farmhouse Funk where owner Denise Ness says, "The name says it all—we've got something for everyone." What you will find is a great selection of antique furniture and classic vintage and antique jewelry along with just about anything else you might

imagine — up to an including the kitchen sink — if it's funky enough. Ness, who has been in the business for 23 years, has seen the store move four times, most recently from the downtown core across Young's Bay, which she says has improved business. Once you've spent a day or two meandering through the many shops of Astoria, the decision is whether to go north of the Long Beach peninsula or south to Gearhart, Seaside, and Cannon Beach. For us, the massive Megler Bridge leads us to the Long Beach Peninsula and the towns of Ilwaco, Long Beach, and Ocean Park. The 20 minute drive to Ilwaco takes you across the Columbia River and on a pleasant drive into the State of Washington. As you head north, your first encounter with collectible heaven is Shipwreck Cove, located in Chinook, a small berg just seven miles south of Ilwaco.

Richard Vincent at "The Cove" notes, "We've got very nice collectible items — many which you can actually use on a daily basis in your home. "And I think we are extremely competitive on prices. We've set the store up as a picker store and we have six vendors who are very active — plus I'm personally out there buying, too. I've been doing it since I was a

Above Left: Hobo Junction just south of downtown Long Beach, Washington is a treat to the eyes and offers a wide range of maritime salvage, including glass floats, buoys, and assorted hardware. **Right Above:** One the big surprises of the North Coast is the Seaview Dollar Store and Antique Store. Among the items in its upstairs antique area is this old pay phone. **Right Below:** This wood float with Kanji characters and glass floats is a part of the many nautical items at Shipwreck Cove. **Bottom:** These items are found at the most northern point of our journey. The Grow Dammit Nursery and Antique Shop represent the eclectic nature of the shop, with vintage signage and a steer's head.

kid — I know a bargain when I see one — and I love to pass those on to customers," he adds. Ilwaco, settled in 1851, was named after Lower Chinook leader Elwahko Jim. The city is well known for its fishing fleet, which takes a variety of anglers deep sea fishing. If you're interested in deep sea salmon fishing, Ilwaco is your go-to place. However, if you're looking to catch that antique of your dreams,

collection is tops on North Coast. "We also have boxes and boxes of tools and a good selection of collector art. I don't think you'd be able to leave here without finding something to buy," he added. As your heading north on 101 toward Long Beach, you'll not be able to miss the North Coast Antique Mall in Seaview. It's massive — as owner Martin Martinez dead pans when you ask how



don't miss the Antique Gallery in Ilwaco. Larry Hamilton has been steering the gallery for the last 17 years and his collection of red glass is one of the standout items. But, he adds, "We have 16 tenants and 300 consignees so we've got a lot of everything — though I think our glass

many square feet does the building contain, he says, "Oh, about half an acre." The building is a former lumber and hardware store — think big box hardware store in the 1980s. Martinez has owned the building for the last 18 years and said he has 50-100 vendors and that the

store gets a good turnover of items. "Everything in the store belongs to someone else and it's not an overstatement to say that we have something for everyone," he added. It's another eclectic experience on the North coast, but one you don't want to miss

(and really can't) just based on the largesse of the store. But, if you know what you're looking for, and are willing to soldier through the multitude of vendors spread across the store, like little city states, there are treasures to be found. It's possible to dismiss the dollar store which is right across the street from Martinez's building; the actual name is The Seaview Dollar Store and Antique Store. However, there is a cornucopia of eateries and if you're there, you might as well take a walk on the beach or boardwalk. Fifteen minutes on the beach or boardwalk will clear your head for the final push north to a couple of wondrous (and eclectic) shops to visit.



well curated items, including a wonderful Carol Channing doll, a dial telephone from a phone booth (remember those?), and an Edison phonograph. As you leave Seaview, Highway 101 turns east and then northeast as it winds north towards South Bend and the Olympic Peninsula. Jump on Highway 103 for the rest of your peninsula journey.

Just before you get to downtown Long Beach, you'll see the wonderful and somewhat wacky Hobo Junction, which is worth the visit just to see the collection of nautical items Dan and Yvonne Lee have assembled.

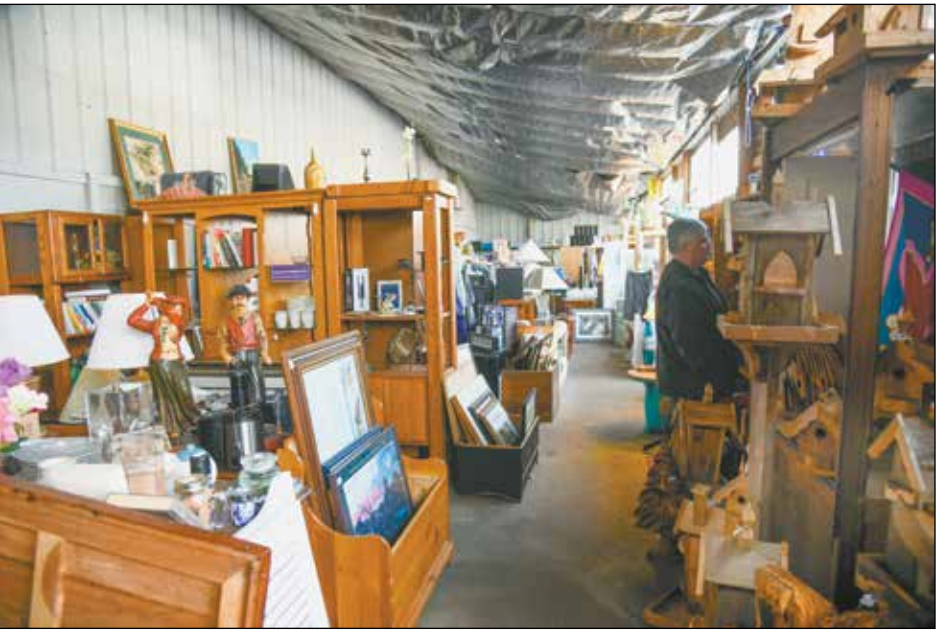
Dan is clear about the contents of the shop, noting, "We are a nautical salvage shop with lots of found art and a nice selection of items my wife and I make."

Those items include a number of lamps the couple creates and a selection of Futurama Robots that Don has assembled. "Metal art is my real passion, but for those who are looking for crab pots, glass floats, or ship remnants, we're the place to come," he said.

While Long Beach is the center of the peninsula, sadly there are no antique, vintage or collectible stores in the downtown area. However, there is a cornucopia of eateries and if you're there, you might as well take a walk on the beach or boardwalk. Fifteen minutes on the beach or boardwalk will clear your head for the final push north to a couple of wondrous (and eclectic) shops to visit.

Upstairs I found a regular collection of

Above Left: In downtown Astoria, Reclamation Market Place offers a variety of antique and vintage items, including this lamp and a selection of clothes. **Right Above:** Perhaps the largest antique mall on the North Coast, the North Coast Antique Mall in Seaview, Washington offers more than a half-acre of space and 100 vendors. **Below:** Brenda Hill's Long Beach Peninsula Trading Post offers searchers around 10,000 square feet of pieces with everything from nautical items to western art, including a pair Remington sculptures.



Ten miles up Highway 103 you'll find the community of Ocean Park and 86-year-old Brenda Hill's Long Beach Trading Post, a two-story, approximately 10,000 square foot antique and vintage emporium that contains only items from Hill's personal collection. It's a bit difficult to put into words the quantity and quality of items one can find at the Trading Post. Hill has been collecting these items for more than a quarter century. She is highly invested into the history of the peninsula and said she loves finding Native American items. To that end she has her own personal museum in the shop in which none of the items are for sale, but help to tell the story of the area. Hill carries items

from local artists and amazingly had a pair of Remington sculptures on the floor, too. Perhaps the leader in the world of eclectic shops on the North Coast, if you take a vote, would be Judy Leonard and her Grow Damit Nursery and Collectibles shop. Getting there is a bit of a challenge, because the nursery and shop are a bit off the beaten path. Located on Joe John's Road off of Highway 103, it's a couple of miles as the crow flies north of the Trading Post. Leonard is a 20-year veteran of antique and vintage collecting and has been in the current location for the last 12 years. "We seem to have more stuff than the store really needs — but I like it that way. The more stuff we have

the more interesting the shop is — if I find something I haven't seen in a long time, I collect it," she said. Leonard, a former taxidermist, also notes she likes animal skulls and mounted heads. "I know it seems strange, but I found taxidermy very interesting and so you'll see that represented in the store." While you're this far north on the peninsula, you owe it to yourself to at least go the next five miles and see historic Oysterville, a five mile drive from Leonard's shop. There are a number of historic buildings located there. While you're there, if you have a hankering for oysters, there are several shops where you can purchase fresh oysters for the trip home. Before heading to points south, you can

stay and play for a day, either on the Long Beach peninsula or in Astoria. There is much to do regardless of your choice, though my choice is Long Beach where a long walk on the beach does wonders to clear one's head, though some will find Astoria's downtown environment more to their liking. Nevertheless, once we are southbound, Gearhart is a short drive from Astoria. While there is only one shop, Pacific Crest Cottage where Joyce Sigler says she only buys things that make her smile. "And if it makes somebody else smile, then yay!," she adds. She's been the only show in town since 1996 and said, "The core of inventory is antiques — but not everyone wants to

collect antiques so I pad the inventory with items that you can really use at home — soaps, lotions, high end cleaning products, textiles and cards." She makes a regular trip to the United Kingdom to bring back a variety of antique and collectible items. Twenty minutes south on the 101 you'll arrive at one of two jewels on our North Coast journey, Seaside. For more than 100-years, Oregonians have travelled to the Promenade at Seaside, a 1.5-mile boardwalk that parallels the ocean front. In addition to the many activities found in this coastal burg, the town also boasts a small cadre of antique and vintage shops. Hidden away on a side street off the 101



Above Left: In Gearhart, Oregon you'll find Pacific Crest Cottage where Joyce Sigler makes regular trips to the United Kingdom, bringing back items such as these. **Above:** At the Butler Did It in Cannon Beach, Oregon, you will find a shop much larger on the inside than it appears from the outside and a broad range of antique items, such as this toy airplane from the 1930s. **Left Below:** In Seaside, Cottage and Castle, housed in a former house of worship, offers the opportunity to browse among many items such as this porcelain head from yesteryear.

is Cottage and Castle, which is housed in a former church and boasts one of the best selections of vintage and antique items on the coast.

Find Broadway Street — one of the main east-west streets of Seaside and you'll find a stash of three nifty shops, each with owns personality.

About five blocks up from the promenade is Random & Rare, a shop that boasts "The Best Stuff" and where you'll find an engaging staff and competitive prices.

A block east is Pacific Heirloom, which is run by Kay Kenny and her son Casey. Notes Kay, "While we have a great supply of glass floats and other nautical items, if you enjoy discovering the unexpected and understand the beauty that is both timeless and uncon-

ventional, you'll enjoy a visit to our shop."

Most of the items are sourced with by Kay or Casey and they have few vendors. In addition to the nautical items the store features cultural masks from Africa, Mexico, and other cultures and a dynamic collection of vintage books.

The final stop on Broadway is the Seaside Antique Mall where you'll find a vintage variety and collectible store that boasts more than 100 vendors. Owner Jodie Mathison has been involved with the shop for 10 years and owned the shop for the last seven.

With 10,000 square feet and 100 vendors, she says, "There really is something for everyone — if you can imagine it you can probably find it here."

The final stop on our North Coast journey is iconic Cannon

Beach, where you'll be mesmerized by massive Haystack Rock and the three shops serving antique and collective aficionados.

You'll find The Butler Did It Antiques, a full-fledge antique and vintage store that is larger than it appears from the outside, with three units combined to make the shop.

Liz Butler and her husband curate for the store. She says, "We are not a mall shop — we have a nice mix — a little of everything — including advertising items, vintage kitchen items, books and great selection of tools."

Butler adds, "We are not a vendor-driven store. What you'll find in our store is the stuff we love — and I think it's also true vintage."

Nearby The Butler Did It is Sesame + Lilies, which Grayson Kramer says is "Sorta a life style store — with a nice mix of antique and vintage pieces." You'll find a good selection of crystal, china, porcelain and baroque French mirrors there a wonderful selection of Chinese antiques Kramer said date back to the late

1800s or early 1900s.

Kramer believes items from his shop are a great way to show people that your house can be more interesting if you add in pieces that have a story behind them.

Last but not least on our Cannon Beach tour is the Tiger Lilly Boutique and Art Gallery where Lisa Pollard is the proprietor. She says the shop carries a large array of vintage and new clothes, crystal, and jewelry.

"We are a true boutique and art gallery and we only carry local artists. To some, I guess, it might seem like a real hodgepodge, but we think that's what makes the shop interesting — with something for everyone."

The North Coast appears to have the proverbial "Something for everyone" when it comes to collecting antique, vintage, and collectible items. But the bonus, as my dad would remind me often, is even if you don't find that special item, you'll have a great time just getting away.

A tale of the tape measure

BY OLD STUFF STAFF

Ah, the tape measure, a tool that we take for granted, today. It's always there (except when you forgot to put it back the last time you used it), ready to give you the numbers you need for your project — measuring for a new carpet, or a doorway to see if the new couch will fit, or any number of other important measuring tasks.

But tape measures haven't always been as ubiquitous as they are today. In fact they have a colorful history and have become quite collectible. That colorful history adds to the yen of collectors today.

The tape measure or measuring tape—a flexible ruler made of cloth, plastic, fiberglass, or metal—was developed long before the first modern tape-measure device was patented in the U.S. in 1868.

It is unknown when tape measures or "measuring tapes" as they were known in the day — first made their appearance. Most, such as those used in sewing, had crank-type mechanisms for winding the tape up, but there were always tinkers who sought to improve the design.

Measuring tapes used in sewing tend to be made of cloth, plastic, or fiber, while those intended for construction or carpentry are usually made of a curved metal strip that remains straight when extended but can coil into a small box.

By the height of the Victorian era, sewing tape measures were being manufactured in a variety of materials — including silver, mother-of-pearl, and celluloid — and designs. An interesting historical side note: documents show that a 22-year-old Englishman named Charles White was transported to the penal colony of Australia in 1838 for stealing a ribbon tape measure that spooled into a plain metal container and had a wooden ring at its end.



That may seem harsh by today's standards, but most collectors of these highly prized items would ask for the same punishment today if someone kiped their prized measuring tape.

Especially popular among collectors today are the plethora of lithographed containers bearing period advertisements and the figural designs resembling a variety of such things as animals, clocks, clowns, and little houses.

Prior to 1850, measuring tapes were marked in nails, rather than inches or centimeters. One nail is 2 ¼ inches. A HQ (half quarter) is 4 ½"; a half yard (H), 18"; the last, our familiar yard (Y), 36".

In England, in 1842, James Chesterman, working for a Sheffield steel factory, successfully repurposed the flat wire he had developed for crinoline skirts into a long steel tape measure with etched length markings.

As hooped skirts got slimmer and used less wire around 1865, Chesterman began to sell his invention to engineers and surveyors, who had been measuring land with heavy and awkward chains. These Steal Band Measuring Chains were sold in the U.S. in the late 1800s, too.

The origins of what we now think of as the modern spring tape measure goes back to December 6, 1864, when William H. Bangs Jr. received a patent for the first spring-return tape measure, which Nathaniel Bradley and Walter Hubbard put into production shortly thereafter.

In 1868, Alvin J. Fellows of New Haven, Connecticut, received a patent for enhancements to Bangs' already existing English measure. Fellows' idea resulted in a spring mechanism that allowed the extended tape to lock until released, and was the basis of the locking steel tape measures that are today the workhorses of the trades, do-it-yourselfers, and homemakers around the world.

Not long after, in 1871, the company Justus Roe & Sons, based in Long Island, started producing inexpensive steel tape measures, made with metal studs along lengths of wire. The patented Roe's Electric Reel was a best-seller, even though there was nothing electric about it.

Then, in 1895, Roe started offering etched steel-ribbon tape measures to keep up with its competitors. It wasn't until the early 20th century, though, that this retractable tape measure overtook the wooden folding carpenter's ruler. By 1960, Justus Roe company was producing tape measures for other companies like Stanley, for whom they made 1,500 measures a day.

Tape measures became common in the 19th century, primarily for use by milliners and seamstresses. Early tapes themselves were usually made of colored silk or linen, and sometimes had a pattern on the reverse side.

The tape holders took a variety of forms, including human and

See **TAPE**, 17

At Left: A pair of tape measures illustrating how they were used as promotional items early in their history;

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PORTRAYING STRENGTH & BEAUTY

BY RUSTY RAE
Old Stuff Associate Editor

By now you're probably tired of hearing about masks. I'm sure over the last three years of the pandemic collecting masks was the last thing on your bingo card. However, collecting African masks and the masks of indigenous people not only brings the beauty of these artifacts home, but also gives insights into the cultures of these peoples.

There are a bounty of masks one may collect, including Halloween masks and Mardi Gras masks, as well as tribal masks from Native Americans. Masks are found around the world in nearly every country and culture. However, for this article, we are going to stick with the general topic of African masks, like one found on the cover of this issue.

That mask belongs to Dayton Brownfield who displays it at Victoria Sells, one of the major antique stores in Puyallup, Washington. Brownfield also works at the 10,000 square foot store that features 100 vendors.

Brownfield, a retired social studies teacher, initially purchased the mask out of an estate sale by a reputable auction company. It is a carved African ceremonial helmet mask with horns. There are three types of masks: face mask, helmet mask and headdresses, which is the type of mask found on the cover.

This mask is carved from indigenous dark ebony tree hardwood, the holes around the base of the mask for a mane woven from Raffia Grass. According to Brownfield, the origin of the mask is from the Eastern most coastal area of Africa, known today as Tanzania, and the home of the Swahili, Jamhuri and Maasai peoples.

Masks have been a part of the African culture for centuries and are a part of ritual dances and religious ceremonies and obviously differ in their symbolic means depending on the region, tribe and specific ceremony.

Often, the art of mask carving and decoration is passed down from generation to generation.



The process of mask carving begins with the felling of a tree. To ensure the safety in this task, a chicken is sometimes sacrificed to the tree before it is downed. Additionally, the mask craftsman also makes an offering to the god

of iron. To do this he uses the blood of cock at a shrine near his work site.

Mask craftsmen use an adze to sculpt the wood. You'll also see that African adzes are also highly collectible.

With respect to the three types of masks,

the most common is the face mask, and like a Halloween mask, curves over the wearer's face stopping right before the ears. There are other face masks, flat pieces of wood, called plank masks. The helmet mask covers the entire head of the celebrant. The headdress mask rests on top of the wearer's head and often times, to assist in keeping masker's identity disguised, a costume is added.

The person wearing the mask is called a masker. The masker generally will also wear a costume and dresses in private. The costumes can be very complex, with hoops, padding,



Left: A Kpele Kpele Mask from the 19th century. The kpele kpele mask is worn at elders' funerals and as village entertainment. Baule Wood, reconstructed raffia collar. The William Hood Dunwoody Fund. Photo courtesy Minnesota Institute of Art. Above: An unknown Kom Kingdom artist Helmet Mask from late 19th century carved from iroko wood and kaolin. A part of The Paul and Clara Gebauer Collection of Cameroon Art; Gift of The Collins Foundation.

poles, and multiple layers of fabric and raffia, concealing their identity.

Their symbolic shapes and styles vary depending on the tribe and the ceremony. Stylized human masks represent the archetypal perfect human form focusing on strength and beauty.

Animals that are important symbols to the tribe are often formed into masks, specifically the elephant, antelope or hawk. Some masks merge human and animal forms. Wearing one of these masks combines the powers of each element represented in the mask.

A spirit inhabits the mask on creation for some tribes and when a man (or, seldomly, a woman) puts on the mask and the full regalia costume, they give up their own being and are infused by the spirit of the mask. While audiences recognize there's a human behind the mask, they accept that the spirit of the mask is present. Depending on the reason for the visitation of the spirit, they'll respond with fear or joy.

Collecting masks requires a combination of passion or love of the subject, the hard work of any collector in researching the fine points of acquiring masks, and the respect the cultural history

behind the object.

On that last point, keep in mind that mask collecting became popular in colonial adventures in Africa in the 1800s. These masks represent a living tradition dating back a millennium or more. One of the cautions to collecting of African cultural items is a 2017 report which indicated 90% of known African art is found outside Africa.

While there has been some effort to repatriate the items back to Africa, the process of returning art to its country of origin has been woefully slow.

It may sound as if the price for these exotic cultural items may be just as exotic – and certainly there's a large vein of truth with respect to that thought. However, if you're interested in becoming collectors, here are some hints to assist in the process.

First, like any other hobby, become knowledgeable about the subject matter. There is a

regular treasure trove of information on collecting masks online. Museums are a great place to find first-hand information as well.

Areas of understanding include typical styles of masks from specific tribes and the attributes of these masks. Often times a reproduction made for tourists lack the attention to detail and also have amalgamated several mask spirits into one mask.

Brownfield suggests, when there is consideration of budget, especially for a neophyte to mask collecting, buying a knock-off or reproduced mask may be appropriate. "A 'knock off' or 'reproduction' of a beautiful item (if legally done) is likely a purchase you can afford and enjoy, as long as you and the seller are honest about the origin of the item," he said.

He adds, "Please consider that many fine carved and painted 'tribal' items are still available by highly skilled artisan tribal

members (in many countries worldwide)... many are recognized for their work. A collector should consider those items as personal treasures as well. You may be able to meet the artist and enjoy his or her culture and country while you are traveling.

Reproductions are, to a certain extent, a two edged sword. With interest in collecting these items heightened, many commercial reproductions are made in China or are African forgeries from in-country workshops.

As Brownfield suggests, it's always a good idea to consult with a museum curator, art dealer, or gallery if there are questions

regarding the authenticity of an item.

And another area where you may find authentic masks are museums, where items are deaccessioned, giving you confidence that the mask is authentic.

Another element that helps to determine

authenticity of a mask is information regarding what specific area the mask is from. If that information isn't available, ask the seller how long the mask has been in their collection. This information can assist in determining the age of an item.

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SHOP PROFILE: MCMINNVILLE ANTIQUE MALL

By Rusty Rae
Associated Editor
Old Stuff

What does success look like in the antique, vintage and collectible business these days?

Amy Hall at the McMinnville Antique Mall in the heart of historic downtown McMinnville has gone from collector, to vendor, to owner-manager of this gem of an antique store. Along the way has learned a few lessons about what makes a successful vintage operation for shop owners, vendors and most importantly for customers.

Her journey began when she and her mother, Carolyn, began collecting, restoring, and decorating cedar boxes and selling them on Etsy. The mother-daughter team added a booth at the McMinnville Antique Mall about a year later, in 2014.

Hall, originally from Texas, moved to Scappoose, Oregon when she was 13. If you listen closely you can still hear a soft Texas drawl intertwined into her now dominant Oregon accent. She notes, "We initially only sold decorated boxes. Then we started seeing Italian rouge music boxes that might be a fit with what we sold. And other vintage items started trickling in and it just kinda exploded from there. Today we deal in just about everything you can of," she said.

The key for Hall and



Above: Amy Hall of McMinnville Antique Mall with one of a booth dedicated to the items she and her mother collect. **Below Left:** A ceramic pot the two found on one of their many shopping trips together. **Bottom Right:** A selection of vintage books that are special to Hall.

her mom is down-home simple, "If we think it is interesting we pick it up," though she admits that her personal passion are antique books and music.

She and her mom now have two booths at the shop in McMinnville, one of normal antiques, collectibles, and vintage items and another featuring antique books and vintage music — cassette tapes, LP records, and CDs.

More about that later. Hall learned a hard lesson in marketing and relationship building early on. That happened when she left the McMinnville shop for an artisan shop nearby.

"My experience there was not the same in selling. I thought we'd do better there because the boxes were kind of an artsy thing. It actually did better here in the vintage shop. People



appreciated the vintage cedar boxes and something done with them different."

When Hall returned to the shop in McMinnville she asked about volunteering in the shop with the owner of the time. "I volunteered as staff and got more and more involved in the day-to-day routines of running the business. When the former owner wanted to sell she asked me if I wanted to take it over."

That happened in 2018 and Hall and her husband, Luren, who owns the building, has been navigating the world of antique, vintage, and collectibles.

Hall came to business without a great deal of business background. I have a Bachelor's degree in General Social Science, "I just kind of trickled in to the world of the antique mall business," she noted.

However, for Hall, first rule for Hall and her associates at the McMinnville Antique Mall is, "Treat people like you want to be treated."

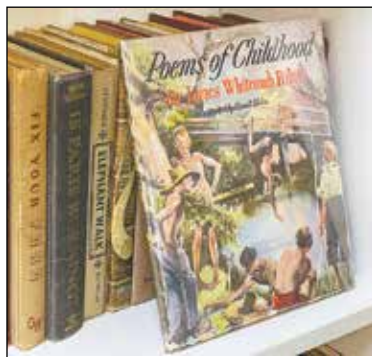
"We have a nice collection of people here — kinda a vendor family — pretty

connected. All the people who work here volunteer to help me out — so they want to be here and it shows in customer service. Customer service being number one — I always say 'You do what you can to please the customer — make them happy — but don't be pushy.'"

There has been a hidden benefit for those who volunteer for Hall. She notes, "Most vendors comment that there is no better education in our business than acting as staff at the mall."

If there is one key to her success, it's a simple mantra that she tries to live by each day. "When I had the opportunity to take over the store, I prayed about it and the answer was 'Yes, be a blessing. So my top priority is to be blessing to others and help everybody in here to succeed individually.'"

When Hall took over the McMinnville Antique Mall it was already a going concern, but she notes, "I wish I would have had a business plan. It sure would have helped me if I would have had a plan in place, but I kinda fell into this store — I



was grandfathered in to what has going on.

"I've changed a lot of things and improved a lot of things. We've grown organically thanks to what was already established and made incremental changes that seemed like what was best for the business," she said. One of the changes Hall made was the addition of computerization of the books, including the inventory of each of her vendors. She believes that the addition of this software has made a positive impact on the business.

"For this type of store the addition of a computer system is critical because not only does the customer get an itemized receipt of what they have purchased, so they know what they've spent on each thing, but it's important for the vendors to know exactly what sells every day because they get an email at the end of the day of what they've sold," she said.

This daily update of sales helps vendors know what sells, how to deal with inventory, and when they need to come in to update their

booth.

Hall also believes it's important to advertise.

The store consists of roughly 50 individual vendors and approximately 58 booths where one can find a diverse selection of items — the entire gamut of antiques, vintage and collectibles.

Hall and her mother have one booth in the store together that are somewhat representative of many of the booths in the store.

"My mom and I have been booth partners from the beginning. We go out shopping together and if we find something that's interesting to us, we pick it up. We aren't looking for a certain thing, but if it's interesting to us, we think it will be interesting to customers," she said.

In addition to a wonderful variety of glassware of all types, their booth also includes a classic Edison Victrola with disks.

But Hall adds, "My personal favorites are antique books and music."

Her booth has a collection of old books and music from 1940 to 1980, including a nice variety of LPs she said her husband turned her on to.

"I like to pass along the experience of a book that is 100-years-old — that's been in the hands of so many people over time reading that story and to know that other people over time have read that same story and turned those same pages," she said.

Of the LPs she says, "It's a real mix. I buy in bulk and then it's a treasure hunt as I go through each album. I check fair market price on each and then price below."

While she loves much of old rock and roll that comes in these treasure hunts, she added, "It was really exciting to sell a sealed Michael Jackson 'Thriller' album. It was exciting for me and for the buyer."

Collect your family ancestors — in antique paintings



At Left: The Westwood children, by Joshua Johnson. Photo courtesy The National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. **Below Left:** Painting of Afro-American, Mrs. Nancy Lawson by William Mathew Prior. Photo courtesy: Shelburne Museum. **Below right:** Two children in blue. By Mary B. Tucker. Photo courtesy Skinner Inc., Massachusetts.

CLUES: The portraits created in the naïve style were a status symbol even in the 18th and early 19th centuries when done for the upper and merchant American classes. During the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial thousands of "Colonial ancestor portraits" were created in oil and watercolors. Fast forward to the 1976 Bi-centennial, when once again folk art portraits became popular. A whole lot of faking as well as "fixing" was going on. Many fakes were made and sold as "in the

cracks were painted on in a dark color with a fine brush. A new product even came out that added a crackled look. Sometimes signatures were added to an old painting. Warts and crossed eyes were removed. Charming pets such as dogs and were added to increase the value. They still are being passed off as authentic. Get a certificate of authenticity before paying big bucks.

Prints of the most popular folk art portraits are bargain priced. Some as low as \$25.00.

Artists are still working in the folk art style if you would like family portraits done in the folk art style.

Authentic oldies can turn up anywhere since they were done by traveling artists.



BY ANNE GILBERT
THE ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Paintings and prints of family ancestors whether they are American, Chinese, English or other country origins continue to be popular collectibles. They can be formal or folk art style, done in oil, watercolor or pastels. Prints are also currently popular at bargain prices. Price can be determined if they are signed, unsigned or attributed to the artist.

Historically, ancestor portraits were created in the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) and the process continued into 1912 and beyond. In other countries royalty, military and important persons had their portraits painted by the formally trained artists of the era. Ever since they have been serious and expensive. When early examples, by documented artists come to auction they sell for thousands of dollars.

The portraits done by American itinerant artists, known as "folk artists" or "naïve" painters can also be priced for thousands of dollars. They worked usually in the Northeast moving from place to place. Many began their livelihood painting furniture and signs.

Folk art painters of the 18th and early 19th century created their own stylistic techniques that help identify many of their unsigned pieces.

Ammi Phillips (1788-1865),

Wm. Matthew Prior (1806-1873), Horace Bundy (1814-1883) and Rufus Hathaway (1770-1822) are among the most important documented. Prior is of special interest since he was an abolitionist who also painted portraits of afro-Americans. Hathaway was a physician. But what about Joshua Johnson (1763-1824)?

Johnson is one of the few documented Afro-American portrait folk artists of the late 18th to early 19th century. After he received his freedom in 1872 he was listed as a portrait painter or limner in Baltimore city directories beginning in 1796. Remaining examples are of white people. His painting of "The Westwood children" is part of the National Gallery collection. Eighty three of his paintings are recorded. Many in museums and private collections.

While many American women did folk art paintings at that time, their subjects were usually family and friends. They are mostly undocumented. An exception is Mary B. Tucker (1824-1898). She began doing water color profile portraits at age sixteen. By the 1840s.

One major difference in formal and folk portraits is the concentration on faces. Bodies, arms and hands seem misshapen in the folk portraits. Backgrounds for the most part were draperies, solid colors or window-framed landscapes.

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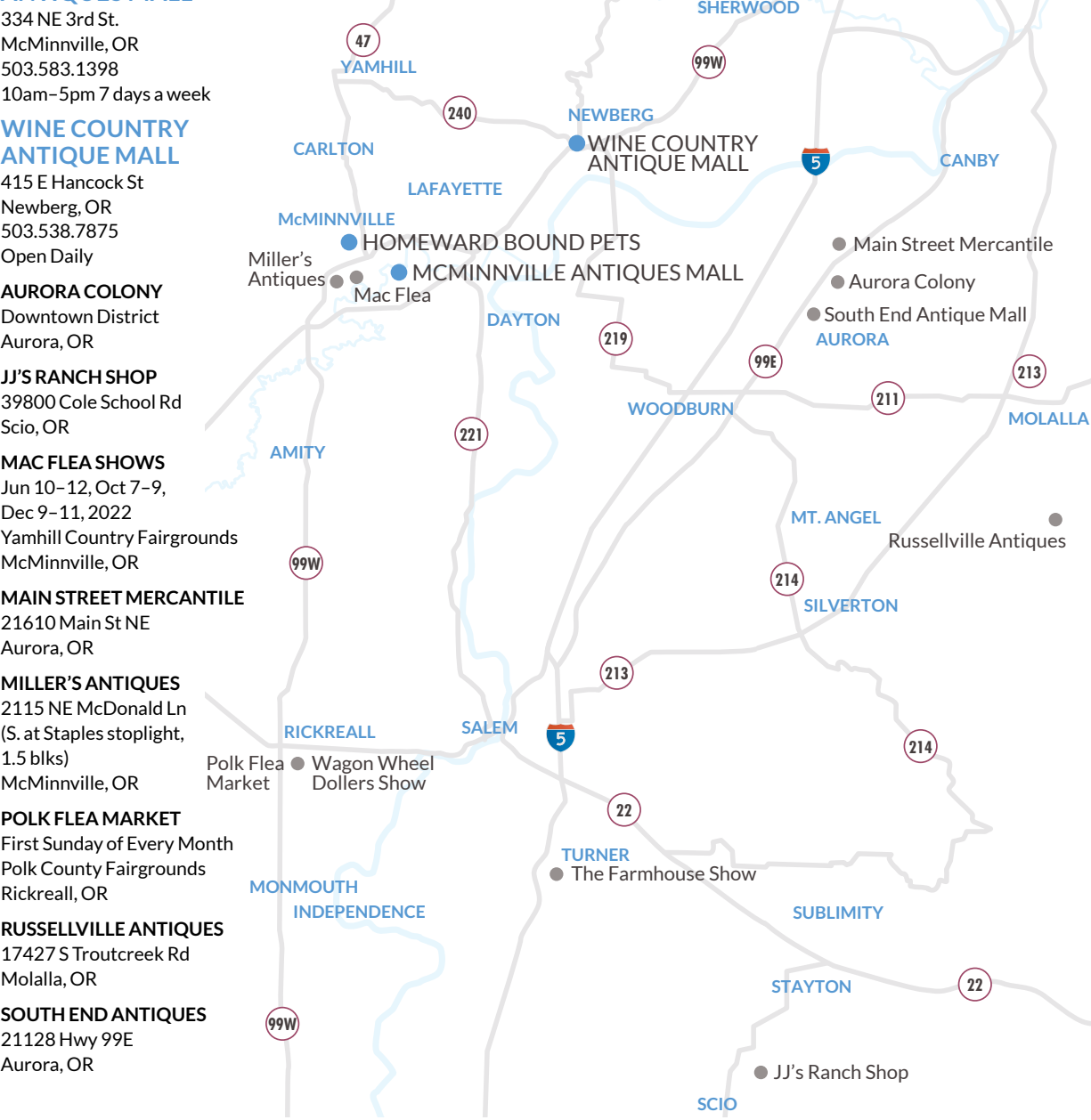
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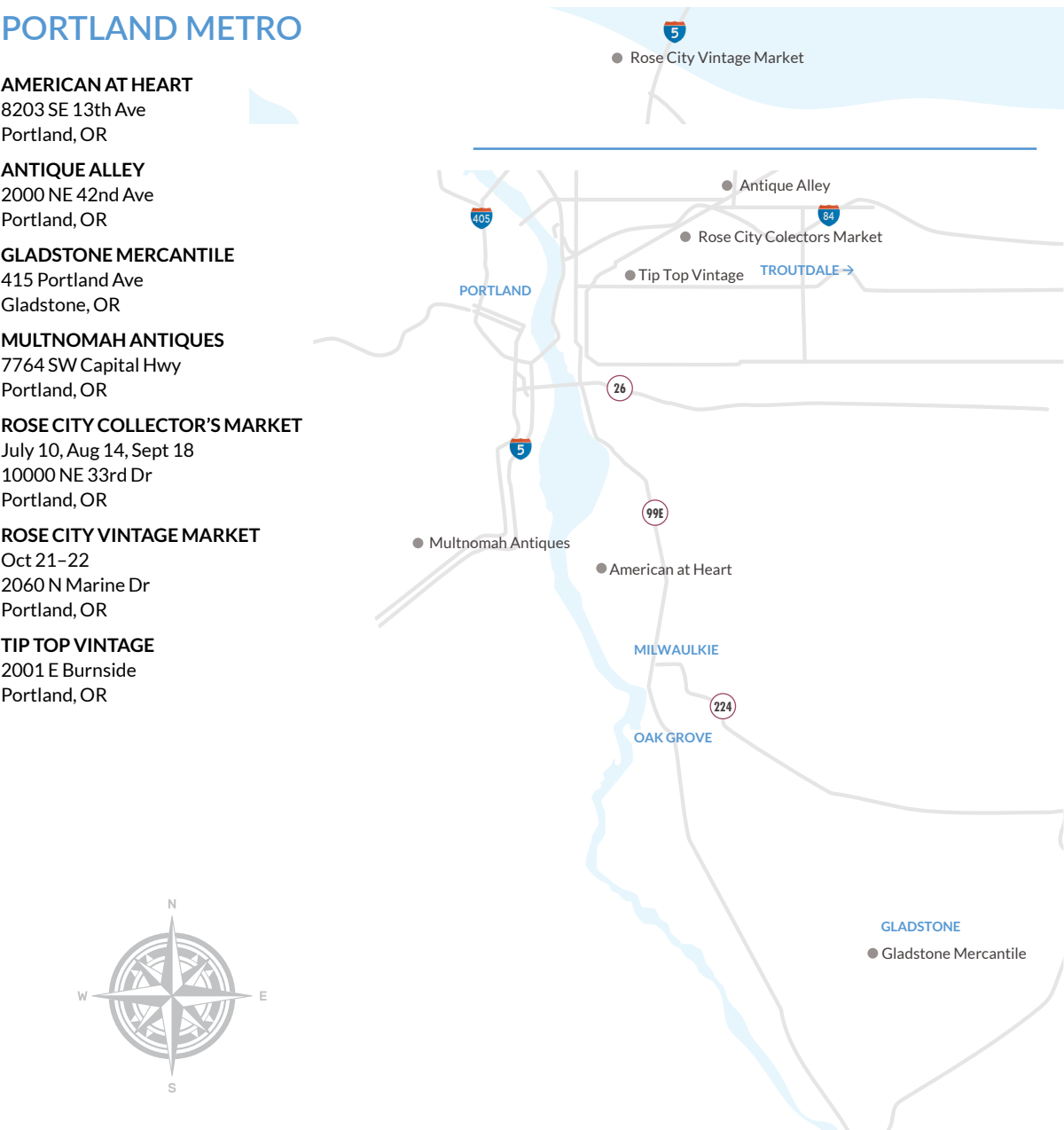
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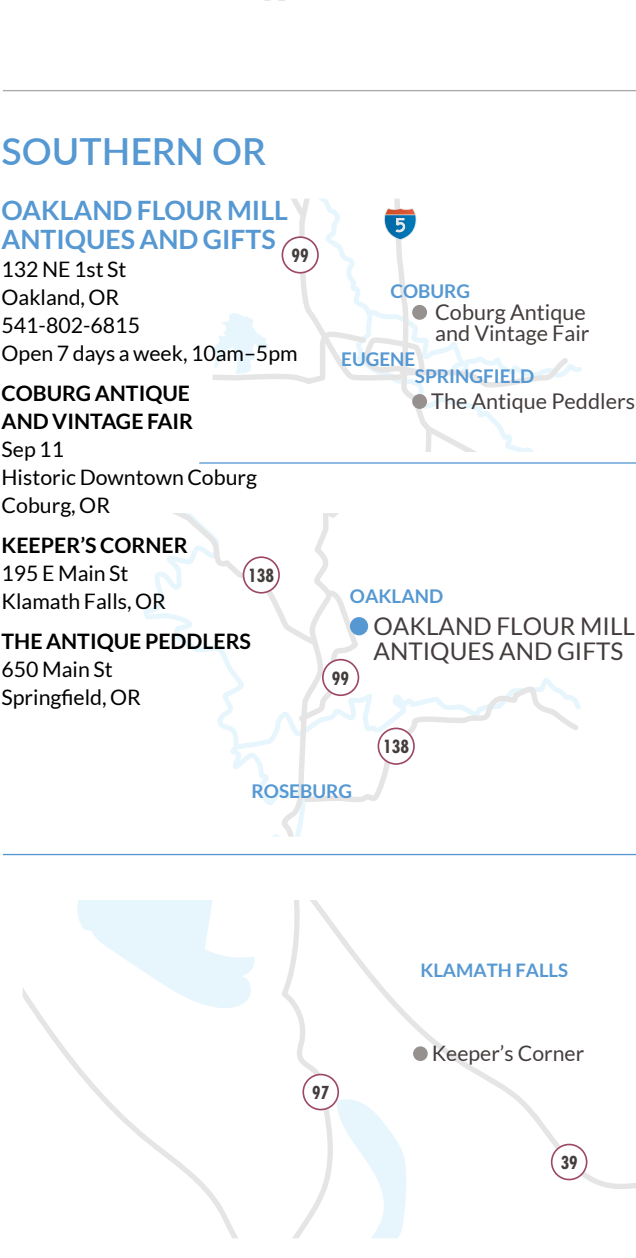
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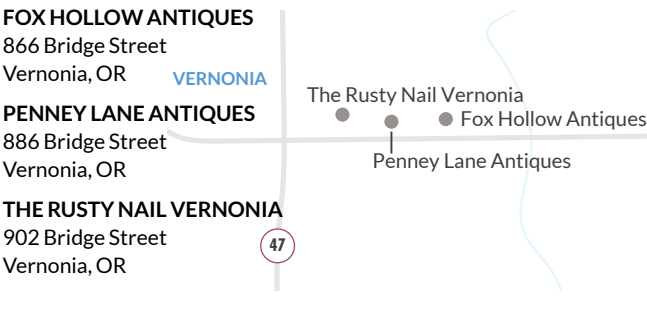
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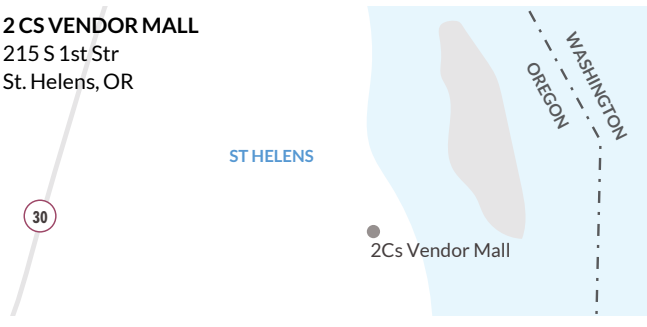
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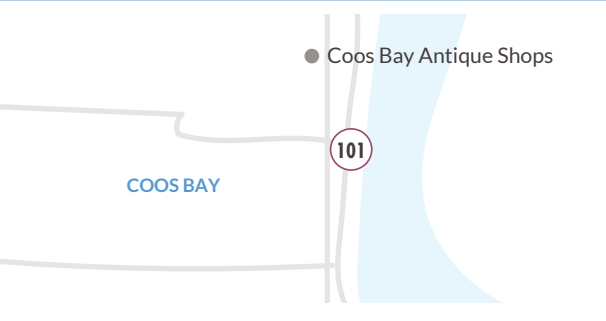
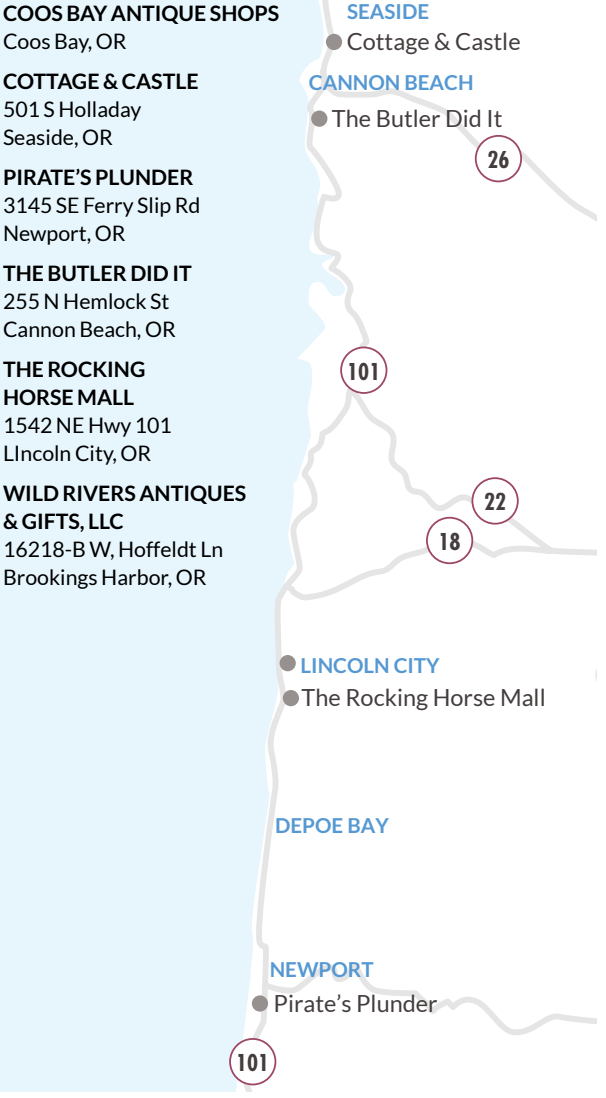
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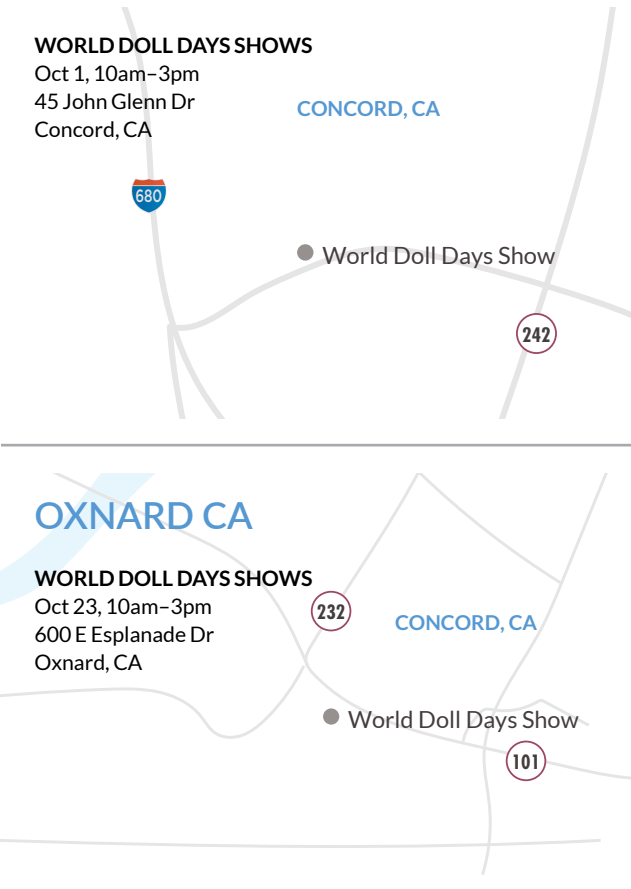
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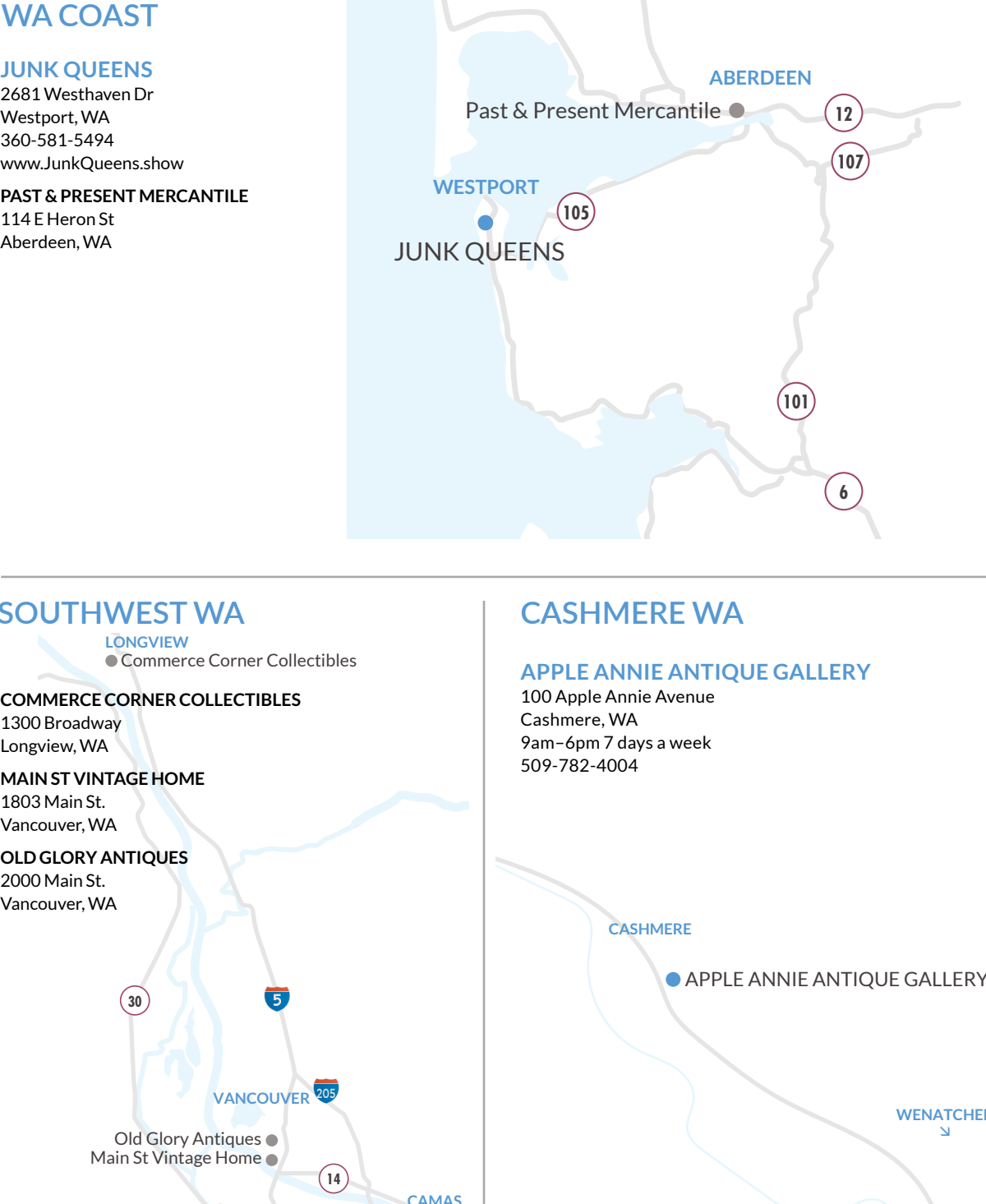
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HUMBLE PENCIL BRINGS HISTORY TO COLLECTORS

BY ANNE GILBERT
The Antique Detective

As you will soon learn, humble pencils and pens have quite a history that is far from humble. Today there are hundreds of pencil and pen collectors around the world.

While doing my usual online morning auction scanning I came across an upcoming Garth's Gentleman's Auction Catalogue. Curious as to what it was all about I scrolled down and saw such items as animal taxidermy trophies, hides, firearms and fishing lures to antique novelty pencils and pens. The

pencils not only were sometimes in figural form but had mechanical actions. For example, one was

also a miniature telescope; another was in the shape of a mailbox. There was also an owl and a champagne bottle. Others were described as having a propelling motion. The lead was moved forward by a mechanical device. They were made of silver and gold.

Auction estimates

ranged from \$225.00 to \$500.00. Hallmarks were usually SMGR, standing for the maker Sampson Mordan (1790-1843), an Englishman. He was a silversmith and co-inventor of the first

patented mechanical pencil. Historically he and his co-inventor, John Issac Hawkins, filed the first patent in Great Britain for a metal pencil

with an internal mechanism for propelling the graphite "lead" shaft during use.

Hallmarks changed over the years. The Company continued as S. Mordan & Co. till 1941 when it was destroyed during a London Blitz.

Pens have a long history but they were far-removed from the way pens look today, or even 200 years ago. Historically reed pens were in use in Egypt in 3000 B.C. By the 6th century A.D. quill pens were created. They were made from swans and turkeys. They were dipped in ink and filled up in the shaft as a reservoir. For 12 centuries they were the only writing object.

In 1822 there was a big change when John Mitchell of Birmingham, England began making machine-made steel point pens. They were sturdier and cheaper than using

quills.

pen collectors around the world. To learn more or to join, contact the Pen Collectors Of America: Membership@pencollectorsofAmerica.com. CLUES: So when were the first pencils invented? Were they in the same form as materials we think of as pencils? We have come a long way from the ancient stylus used by Romans. It was a lead rod wrapped in a string to scratch marks on papyrus (an early form of paper.) Fast-forward to 1795 when Nicholas-Jacque Conte, (1755-1805) a French scientist created a form of the modern pencil. It was a mixture of powdered graphite with

1943 was a big change when the ballpoint pen was created.

Currently there are



clay, pressed between two-half cylinders of wood, Because lead was considered poison, graphite came into use, However, the term "lead pencil" continued.

The shape has changed over the years from square to round.

An exciting development happened in 1879 when American, Joseph Hoffmann invented the push button clutch for pencils in 1879. It was used in the "Eagle Automatic pencil," made by the Eagle Pencil Company and became the first mechanical pencil.

Famed American author Henry David Thoreau contributed to Americas pencil history by creating a smear proof pencil.

Improvements in pencils and pens continued to be made over the years. Near the end of World War 11, the torpedo pencil was created. It duplicated in miniature the actual parts of a torpedo. When pressed the writing lead came out.

Serious collecting began in 1955 when professor Lester L. Taylor and his family became interested in writing instruments of all kinds. He began distributing a newsletter called "The Pencil Collector." Today there are hundreds of collector members of "The Pencil Collectors Society" around the world. Collections include unique pencils even made currently. The Society holds yearly conventions and prints a newsletter. Check the internet for up-to-date contact information.

Top: Owl, silver antique pencil. Photo Courtesy Garths Auctions, Columbus, OH. Top Left: A steel tipped pen with additional nibs. Left center: An original Quill pen. Photo courtesy History of Yesterday. Below: Torpedo pencil from WWII. Photo courtesy: Worthpoint

Tape

Continued from 9

animal figures, fruits, bottles, eggs and even lighthouses and wind-mills. They were also made of a variety of materials, such as silver, brass, pewter, bronze, pottery, porcelain, wood and celluloid.

Many tape measures were made as advertising giveaways in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and these make an interesting specialty area. They were usually round, with the tape on a coil inside, and made of inexpensive materials such as wood or celluloid.

During the late 19th century, two newspaper publishers and entrepreneurs in Coshocton, Ohio, came up with the brilliant idea to use their printing presses to put advertisements on every object imaginable, including book bags, horse blankets, yard sticks, shoe horns, pencils, and horse whips. While both companies were best know for their beautiful tin, lithographed advertising signs, Jasper

Freemon Meek of the Tuscarora Advertising Company and H.D Beach of the Standard Advertising Company changed product marketing forever when they put ads on measuring tapes.

Another area of interest is the group of tape measures that were made as tourist souvenirs and commemoratives of special events.

The appeal of a tape measure as a tool is that it can measure a significant length, and yet be carried in one's pocket. It can also measure curves and can wrap around corners and edges, so it is particular useful in sewing.

Some carpenter's tape measures are marked with small black diamonds every 1.92 inches—these "black truss" marks are used in roofing. Other marks occur every 16 inches, which is generally the distance between studs in a house.

By the turn of the 20th century, sewing tape measures were offered in celluloid containers, whose exte-

riors were printed with a wide variety of advertisements. These were used well into 1920s, when plastics like Bakelite and Catalin were introduced, and are hugely popular with collectors today.

The sewing tape measure container has long been a format for beautiful design, including figural shapes like animals, violins, and carriages. Each measure has a unique winding device. Some antique tape measure containers are made with precious metals or mother of pearl and and feature delicately designed filigree meant to appeal to Victorian ladies of the early 1800s. A few even have built-in clocks

Tape measures made of Bakelite, which was patented in 1907, are also highly prized by collectors, as are early and rare specimens made by specific companies like Stanley, Lufkin, and Zippo. (Introduced in 1960, the Zippo line of tape measures was discontinued in 2007.)

Prices vary greatly

with condition - is any paint or decoration intact? does it work? - playing a major factor. Simple advertising pieces vary from a few dollars up to \$50+, while examples of such rules as Stanley's Top Read #33-916 with original packaging regularly sell online for \$50 to \$65+.

Figurals appear to command the greatest range in prices. Many - like the 1958 Holt-Howard ceramic kitten tape and pin box that recently garnered a final online bid of \$45 - are fairly reasonably priced at under \$75, but some specimens, like an Austrian bronze spider tape and a 1930's celluloid Disney Minnie Mouse can fetch \$300 to \$500+.

Not bad for items that originally sold for just a few dollars or less, and that can still be Knowledge is power when comes to collecting any item and the following are a number resources one can use to get up to speed on the highlights of collecting tape measures.

Books:

Collecting Figural Tape Measures, by Elizabeth Arbittier, Douglas Arbittier, Janet Morphy, John Morphy; from Schiffer Publishing. It includes over 700 tape measures in brass, wood, celluloid and porcelain figural shapes, from the 1820s to the present.

Stanley Woodworking Tools: The Finest Years, by Walter H. Jacob

The Tape Measure Murder, by Agatha Christie (Just for fun)

Tape Measures, Advertising & Figural,

by L-W Book Sales

Websites:

Alvin J. Fellows - Tape Measure Patent 79,965 (todayinsci.com/F/Fellows_Alvin/FellowsTapeMeasure-Patent.htm) - «Vintage Tape Measure Collection (kozmicdreams.com/tapemeasures.htm): Nice photos of Kozmic Dreams' personal collection which includes a variety of advertisements from the day.

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CYCLISTS' NEEDS PAVED WAY FOR AUTO TRAVEL

Old Stuff Staff

Dramatic changes came to America when the great bicycling craze struck the nation in the Gay Nineties. It swept across the country, reaching its peak in 1895. For five years, the bicycle reigned supreme, bringing the first real outdoor exercise to thousands of enthusiasts.

Unrestrained bicycling fever bridged age, sex and economic station, bringing a revolution to transportation, to ladies' fashions, and to the nation's roadways.

Publicly-exposed ankles were seen as lady's hemlines rose to accommodate the new riding machines. And the male population became so entranced with the sport, they formed clubs which had all the characteristics of fraternities. Some even sported flags, yells and loyal colors.

To this end, the "League of American Wheelers" came into existence. And in 1897, a Northwest affiliate of the League produced the first edition of "The Road Book of Oregon." In the volume, the League outlined its objectives.

"The League of American Wheelers is an organization to promote the general interest of cycling; ascertain, defend and protect the rights of wheelmen (which are identical to those of horsemen); to encourage and facilitate touring; to promote the improve-



Young men and women with bicycles, Olympia, ca. 1900 / Washington State Historical Society

ment of the public highways and intelligent care and repair of the same, and to regulate the government of all sports connected with the use of the wheel."

Among the benefits of membership in the League were route maps guiding wheelers with distances of cycling tours, information on road materials, grade of roads and road conditions.

The League boasted sixty routes and 3,500 miles of interesting tours for Oregon wheelers. But it lamented the fact that not all sections of the state were covered by the route maps, even though the roads had been extensively explored.

Similar efforts were being made in Washington. An article on historylink.com titled "Cycling in Washinton State" (historylink.org/File/20810) recounts a meeting of the Queen City Good Roads Club held in 1896:

"If you think you have no place upon which to ride now, you

ought to have tried it five or six years ago," one attendee stated. "Honestly, it was a punishment bumping over broken plank and stones and roots and deep ruts ... What we want is a place to ride out of the city, away from the streetcars and teams, and if that bicycle path started, they may count upon me for a subscription of \$25 the moment the contract is signed for the work" ("A Path for Bikers). The club went on to raise \$2,951 to build a Lake Washington bike path.

While the League plotted routes and tours, bicycle manufacturers strained their workforce to meet the demand for more and better machines. By 1895, more than 300 manufacturers, not counting the many small assembly shops, were producing bicycles. One large manufacturer ran five factories, turning out one machine every minute.

It would seem that such a grand production scale would saturate the market for bicycles. Not so. Because at least four million people were caught up in the fad, the demand for more and better bicycles was great. And out of the new industry grew another — bicycle accessories.

The new sport called for new frills and new necessities. Among the frills were bells and whistles; pumps and parcel carriers; handlebar grips of cork or

leather; and mud and trouser guards. No frill, though, was the headlamp sold as an accessory. On of the first was an oil lamp attached to handlebars. It couldn't illuminate the road sufficiently, however, to be classified as more than a signal light.

In 1895, the invention of the carbide lamp, which produced acetylene gas, extended the bicycle's touring range. The lamp's beam cast a light strong enough to show ruts and holes in a road, adding immeasurable safety to night riders. With carbide lamps, the bicycle became a mode of transportation taking wheelers from one town to another at any time.

Classes instructing the novice in proper cycle handling sprang up in scores of cities and small towns. Dance halls, roller-skating rinks and armories became riding academies, teaching beginners the best way to carry the bicycle, walk it, mount it, dismount it and coast.

By the 1900s, the cycling fever began to cool as new modes of transportation attracted wheelers. The end of the phenomenal bicycling era was most likely caused by the development of interurban electric railways. And unbeknownst to wheelers of the 1890s, their diligent work towards road improvement paved the roadways of America for the ultimate in personal travel — the automobile.

JOHN ROGERS GROUPS ORDAINED LIVING ROOMS AT AFFORDABLE PRICE

Old Stuff Staff

An American home was hardly complete in the late 1800s without a Rogers group. These parlor ornaments, made from 1859 to the early 1900s, were the work of sculptor John Rogers.

He was born in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1829. After studying sculpture in Europe for a while, he came home discouraged.

However, his model "Checkers Players," made in 1859, was so well received that he continued with this type of work and eventually made 80 to 100 different designs.

The original sculpture was modeled in red clay and then case in bronze. These were not sold. What was sold were reproductions made of plaster of paris and painted a grayish-brown color, to resemble bronze. As many as 100,000 reproductions,

known as "the poor man's bronze," would be made, although 5,000 to 10,000 was more common. Prices originally were about \$5. Later works ranged from \$10 to \$20.

Rogers wrote, "You know that they are not intended for rich people's parlors, but for the more common houses in the country. ... As I want them popular, they must be priced low or else nobody but the rich will buy them."

His subjects were ones with which the middle class could identify and fell into one of five categories. There were Civil War subjects, domestic scenes, and literary, theatrical or historical figures.

Each piece tells a story. One of the largest is "Council of War," and portrays President Lincoln, General Grant and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stan-

ton. Some pieces were based on history, such as "John Alden and Priscilla"; others were sentimental, as "First Love."

The popularity of the Rogers groups disappeared almost as quickly as it had come. When the Victorian period ended, they were either relegated to the attic or tossed out. The plaster material was easily damaged, and relatively few pieces have survived totally undamaged.

Several others tried to imitate Rogers, duplicating his technique and subject matter. However, none of them were able to attain the same quality of work. One such company was Hennecke, which produced about 1,000 different groups.

Another was West Statuary, which marketed its statues by mail order. Children were popular subjects with this company, and such themes as "Playing Grandma" were used; other children's stories like "Little Red Riding Hood" were depicted.

Rogers' original bronze pieces are very valuable today. The plaster groups are more common. Chipping, flaking or other damage decreases their value, as does repainting. Some collectors will accept those that can be restored.

There have been waves of "knock offs" or "fakes" of the original plaster groups. A website dedicated to Rogers work, johnrogers.org, provides information on recognizing the different



John Rogers' "Taking the Oath and Drawing Rations" / WikiCommons

groups produced by Rogers, as well ways to tell if a piece is authentic of a mid-century knockoff.

Expect to pay several hundred dollars or more for a plaster Rogers group in excellent condition, or more than \$1,000 for larger pieces such as "Council of War."

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