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Know Your Stuff: Lamp's missing shade makes value much less

BY CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT • FOR WILLIAMSON A.M. • FEBRUARY 15, 2008

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Dear Ms. Davenport,

Enclosed is a picture of a lamp that was given to me. It doesn't have any marks on it, and I was wondering if it's an antique, and what it's worth. It's very heavy and still works. Thanking you in advance. — **Sincerely, Jewel**

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Dear Jewel,

You have a 1930s, cast-metal lamp base with the wrong shade. The original, much larger shade would cover the light bulbs and extend down to the beginning of the decoration on the base.

The original shade was probably made of slag glass with stamped metal decoration. The light shows through the colored glass and makes a silhouette of the shaded frame. These shades had four, six or eight flat sides. The value of your lamp? \$45. With the original shade? More than \$200!

Around 1900, there were fine lamps with a base made of brass and copper mixtures with a dome-shaped shade. Often the elaborate, colorful shade is painted in reverse (on the underside of the glass). These sell for \$500 to \$2,000, depending upon the artist. These are usually of a pastoral scene.

An online reader from North Carolina sent the accompanying pictures for my examination and appraisal.



The letters USCG mean this is a United States Coast Guard sword, circa 1940.

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The letters USCG mean this is a United States Coast Guard sword, circa 1940. It was probably presented to a Coast Guard graduate to be worn with the dress uniform. The same sword in pristine condition sells for \$350. This sword, in fair condition,

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might bring \$100.

The three main parts of a sword are the hilt, the blade and the scabbard. The hilt includes the handle and its parts. The handle consists of a grip where a hand actually grasps the sword. A cross guard protects the front of the hand from oncoming blows. And the pommel is the finished end of the handle near the wrist.

The blade is obviously the blade, and the scabbard is its snug covering. All the parts have function but can be over-the-top decorated, too. More swords are displayed these days than wielded.

Civil War swords are a super find. They can bring thousands of dollars. There were swords made for veterans and their families to commemorate after the war worth hundreds of dollars. These "commemoratives" are often confused with authentic period swords. The reproductions carried by Civil War re-enactors further confuse buyers. Provenance is more than a good story. Papers, photos and definitive proof of ownership are important for war stories and the price of swords.

Mrs. Davenport,

I have an old brooch given to me by my aunt. She said it was bought in Vietnam in the late '50s. Would you know the value of this item? It has six pearls and six sapphires. — **Dolly**

Dear Dolly,

You must take the brooch to a jewelry appraiser. Although I can appraise costume jewelry, gemstones and fine work must be examined by a different appraiser. Jewelry appraisers can be found at jewelry stores. It isn't necessary to leave your jewelry at the shop. Just call to clarify when the appraiser will be available.

It's unusual and wispy. Very nice.

Contact **Connie Sue Davenport** with questions about your antiques and collectibles, and we'll discuss them here. Send to curios@conniesueinc.com or by mail in care of Williamson A.M.

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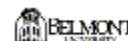


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