

Connie Sue,

Can you tell me what I should ask for this fainting sofa/chaise? I also have the two matching chairs.

B

Nashville

Dear B,

Fainting sofa and chaise lounge both describe the same type of furniture, a long seat either with or without a back. The French called this type of sofa a long chair (*chaise longue*). But the term fainting couch was the favored term for the long chair beginning around 1830 in America. The frequent fainting of corseted 19<sup>th</sup> Century ladies created a need for a place to regain one's breath – fashionably, of course. There were even fainting rooms designated so that all the ladies of the house had a place to put their feet up for a bit together.

This set has elements of the Federal period of furniture made in Colonial America. But because your fainting couch is accompanied by two additional parlor chairs, it indicates the set was produced after the Industrial Revolution around 1890. The incised lines and simply turned furniture parts were fashioned with steam power, and mass assembled in an early production line. There may have been additional pieces of furniture available like a base rocker, armless side chairs and settee. The set appears to have been refinished and upholstered with a tasteful fabric, and might sell in the range of \$950 to \$1,400 in an antique mall.

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Dear Connie Sue,

About 25 years ago, my Aunt gave me a copper coffee service which includes an electric coffee urn, with the sugar, creamer and tray. The coffee urn has a brass spout and legs, and the sugar and creamer also have brass handles. Inscribed under the coffee urn is "Manf'd by the Buffalo MFG Co, Buffalo, N. Y. - LMP Pat Feb.6.06" A friend who is very knowledgeable about antiques told me she has never seen one similar to this service in antique shops, nor on E-Bay. My Aunt is deceased and, unfortunately, I failed to inquire about its history.

Also in the picture is a copper tea kettle, which has the inscription on the bottom "Revere Copper and Brass Incorporated Rome N.Y. 18 01 Revere Ware."

I would deeply appreciate any information you can provide about the history and value of this Service.

Nancy  
Brentwood, TN

Dear Nancy,

Electric appliances for the home were common place by the 1920's. Your little copper coffee service is an early model, circa 1930, of a percolator with matching creamer, sugar and tray. Although manufacturers were able to produce such items by 1900, the battle of AC versus DC currents of power delivered to the home prevented profitable production.

The coffee service set's black handles are celluloid or another plant based material that preceded plastics, and are a very positive feature. The mixture of brass and copper indicates the set may have been silver plated originally. In an antique mall the set would be priced around \$175.

Revere Ware is still a well known and productive cookware manufacturer. Nostalgia is increasing, though, for the maker of many baby boomers's first set of pots and pans. I have mine! Your teapot dates around 1940, and sells from \$22 to \$55.

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I must say 'thank you' to the over 100 people who brought treasures to be discussed and appraised at Hendersonville's Park Place Retirement Community last Friday. It was an intense and exciting two hours of family memories and great stories. Values ranged from \$22 for a treasured pressed glass vase and small prints that were a gift from Grandmother, to a little brown jug with cobalt blue decoration, and Roseville Pottery vase with foil label, both valued in the thousands of dollars. I always learn something from proud collectors at these events and hope that all participants expanded their knowledge of antiques, as well. Two brave collectors brought a pair of Victorian lustres, complete with all the dangling prisms, whose values range from \$800 to \$1,500 per pair.