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Friday, 01/04/08

Rocker similar to many 'downsizers' now selling

Dear Connie Sue,

I am enclosing a picture of a rocking chair that I inherited from my aunt. I have never seen another like it. It has been reupholstered, but I don't believe the wood has been refinished.

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Would you know the style and the year it was made, and perhaps the value of the chair?
 — Anita, Brentwood

Dear Anita,

The shape and balance of this



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Geobel birds sell from \$28 to \$50 each.

Contact Connie Sue Davenport with questions about 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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chair are characteristic of Colonial Revival furniture in America from 1900 to 1930. This rocker was more than likely part of a parlor set that included a settee, loveseat and side chairs. There are plethora of these sets and pieces of sets without the headrest on the

market right now. The people who bought them new are 75 to 90 years old and are in a downsizing frenzy. So if there are any headrest parlor pieces available, we would be seeing them now. Yours, however, is the first I've seen.

This may have seemed like a good idea on paper that was ignored by the consumer. Or the headrest may have been knocked loose and discarded. From now on I'll be looking for evidence of such. I would expect a \$175 to \$200 starting price at a private sale.

The first rockers, made by the Swiss, were attached by six legs. The earliest rockers used elongated skates to produce the "rock." Rocking chairs were first made for resell in England around 1740. American Windsor rockers became the model of choice for colonists by 1750. One type of Windsor chair had two rows of

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spindles on the back, called a comb-back Windsor. The top rung and spindles served as a headrest, in theory. Just like your Colonial Revival chair's headrest, the comb-back was fragile, too.

Hi Connie,

Your article in *The Tennessean* today prompted me to look at some birds we purchased 30 years ago in Germany. I have four very colorful birds about two-three inches high:

1. Gray with black head and tail marked Goebel with the V and W. Germany. It is also marked "CV72".
2. Red with gray face and black throat. Same markings and CV72.
3. Red with white face and gray throat. Goebel with V, W. Germany, "CV73".
4. Blue and Gray (like a Jaybird) with no Goebel or W. Germany but "CV74". It's identical to the others except no Goebel marking.

Are these collectable, and if so, what price range and where would I go to sell them? Thank you very much. — **Dale**

Dear Dale,

The CV72 through CV74, as they are called by enthusiastic Geobel bird collectors, are currently popular. The mark on your birds was used from 1972 to 1979. They sell from \$28 to \$50 each. Buyers

also try to sneak up on good bird buys at estate sales for \$10 or less.

The Goebel Company began production in central Germany in 1871. A range of dinnerware and decorative items were produced with the help of local artists, utilizing the fine clay deposits in the area. In 1900, the company employed 400 people. The founder's son returned from the United States in 1911 with a vision of economic success for the company. He had learned firsthand how the American market could benefit Goebel, by working at Marshall Fields.

In 1935 Goebel introduced their M. I. Hummel figurines, for which they are best known.

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