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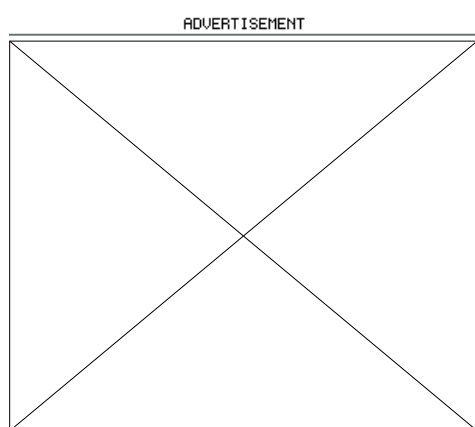
Friday, 02/16/07

Know Your Stuff: The purpose of vessel's brackets leaves reader hanging

By CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT
 For Williamson A.M.

Dear Connie,

Do you know anything about this silver-plated vessel with an intricate butterfly detail on the lid? The bottom piece of the vessel has 12 hangers, but I have no idea what they are supposed to hold. One of them is broken, and the bottom is stamped with Middletown Plate Co., Middletown, Conn., a set of scales and the number 70.



Ginger

Franklin

Ginger,

The Middleton Plate Co. produced quadruple-plated hollow ware from 1864 to 1899. They were then sold to the International Silver Co. The brackets around the top of the piece held spoons. The butterfly is lovely. Nature motifs were all the rage in the late 1800s. Many people had moved from family farms into the crowded, dirty cities for job

opportunities, and they missed their connection to the land.

Wouldn't this sugar bowl be fun to see on the coffee buffet? The plating has worn away, but the value is still \$35.

Dear Mrs. Davenport,

This cabinet belonged to my grandmother, who recently died at the age of 97. She told me that this had belonged to her mother, who had gotten it "secondhand." I don't know if this helps or not. That's about all I know about it as far as the age might go.

It has a lot of sentimental value to me because it belonged to her. She and I were very close, and the Hoosier Cabinet reminds me of her, because she used to say "she rolled out a lot of pie crusts on that!"

My family and I are being assigned to Heidelberg, Germany, and need to insure our antiques properly.

Michelle

Fort Campbell, Ky.



A Hoosier cabinet with flour bin/sifter, above and top middle, is worth \$1,600, while the silver-plated sugar bowl with brackets for spoons, left and top left, would fetch \$35.

enlarge 

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

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Dear Michelle,

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Family history is the best place to start when determining the age of our heirlooms. I always want to hear about the owner's memories of first remembering the article and in whose home it lived.

From 1900 to 1940, numerous furniture companies made kitchen cabinets. They marketed them as a step-saver for the wife. She could store and prepare food at the same workspace. Amenities of the cabinet included a flour bin and sifter as well as labeled canister sets in wire racks and spice bottles. There were recipes and measurement conversions inside the doors on attractive cardboard plaques. The porcelain top was easy to clean and pulled out for an additional work area. A flour board was stored in the base and easy to reach. What more could a woman want?

Other companies making kitchen cabinets at this time include Sellers, Nappanee, McDougall, Kitchen Maid, and Wilson and Boone. Your kitchen cabinet with porcelain pullout work surface, flour bin/sifter, glass pulls, cutting board, wire racks in the bottom doors, and bounteous doors and drawers for storage is worth \$1,600. Pristine cabinets with glass doors and all of the original accoutrements can cost up to \$3,000!

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