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## Know Your Stuff: Quimper pottery still popular hundreds of years after start

BY **CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT** • FOR WILLIAMSON A.M. • MARCH 14, 2008

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*Editor's note: Connie Sue Davenport's Antiques column will now appear every other week in Williamson A.M.'s real estate section.*

Dear Ms. Davenport,

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This ceramic belonged to my husband's mother. We have been curious about it and would appreciate your evaluation of it. — **Thank you, Carlene, Franklin**

Dear Carlene,

Henrick Quimper is the name of a tin-glazed pottery company in Quimper, France, that began in the late 1600s. After decades of merging, the company is now in Stonington, Conn. The mark on your bagpipe-shaped vase indicates it was made between 1922 and 1925. Similar vases sell for just under \$500.

After 300 years of production, the company still specializes in charmingly pastoral figures, usually a young man and woman, walking along a gorse and heather path in traditional Celtic clothing, and often playing a bagpipe and flute. They are beloved Breton peasants enjoying the sea and its countryside without a care in the world. The colors are pastel, dominated with dark blue and gold. The pinkish hue seen in the base of your vase, along with the easily dated marks indicates its age and maker. This is a popular, functional and colorful dinnerware



This Quimper bagpipe vase dates between 1922 and 1925.

(SUBMITTED)

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and decorative art item to collect.

**Dear Connie Sue,**

We do so enjoy reading your articles. (By we, I mean, I read your article, clip it and send it to my mom in Indiana. She makes a copy and then sends the copy to my sister in Texas.)

I am enclosing two pictures of my mom's chairs (she has four). When she bought them over 35 years ago at an antique auction house, she was told they were Louis XV. These were her first "expensive" furniture pieces, and she has been VERY protective of them over the years (although they are quite sturdy, she did not allow people to sit on them, and this became a real family joke). She has recently moved from her house to a condo and does not have room for these chairs, and she would now like to sell them. She did have them re-covered when she bought them because the upholstery was terribly stained and dirty. We do realize this has diminished the value. Other than that they are in perfect condition.

Could you please help us? — **Thanks so much, Cass, Gallatin, and Sara, Indiana**

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**Dear All,**

You are correct; the style of this set of chairs is Louis VX. There are two Louis' that were popular furniture styles of the Victorian era, Louis the 15th and Louis the 16th. This is how I remember the difference. Louis the 15th is written XV — the lines of the legs have a soft, cabriole, and curve from the knee of the leg. The numerals XV appear soft to me. Louis the 16th, written XVI, has straight legs so I use the "I" at the end of the Roman numeral to remind me of the straight leg . . . XVI.

I suspect this set of chairs was made in the early 1900s. They are from the Colonial Revival period because the earlier Victorian examples usually have straight back legs with the cabriole legs used on the front.

Although some handwork was utilized in the work of these early production pieces, the hands were strictly governed by mass production, speed and quality assurance. This date can be further confirmed by examining the underside where more modern tacks, screws and construction will be evident. I would begin the negotiations at \$600 for the set and end where you must.

Although this doesn't really apply to you, coiled springs were first used in side chairs like this around 1830.

**Contact Connie Sue Davenport with questions about your antiques and collectibles, as well as photos, and we'll discuss them here. Send to [curios@conniesueinc.com](mailto:curios@conniesueinc.com) or by mail in care of Williamson A.M.**

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