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Friday, 06/23/06

Know Your Stuff: Details, details set dining table from Holland apart

By CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT
For Williamson A.M.

Connie Sue,

Could you please take a look at these photos? Each of the dining room table legs is a different carved person. Each of the six chairs also has a different person carved into the back.

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We purchased this from an elderly Dutch couple while we were living in Holland. Can you give us some information on them?

Thank you,

— Chris

Chris,

Your table and six chairs are known as low-country pieces typical of the sturdy oak furnishings made in Holland in the late 1800s.

With a combination of handwork and early mass production, the figures carved into the table and chair legs represent the people in a pastoral village. They are almost wistfully recalled in woodwork as industrialization and



enlarge

Like the table legs, different figures are carved into the chair backs. (SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

modern times threatened simpler days.

Earlier low-country furniture had fewer turnings and straighter stretchers, standards and posts. Steam-powered lathes allowed your furniture's craftsmen to produce all the extras that add such interest and dimension.

The Victorian period was a time of "more of everything" because industrialization allowed for excesses in production. An early piece would show signs of wear around the simpler chair stretchers and rungs.

The seven pieces might be priced \$5,500 to \$7,000 in a shop selling antique European furniture.



[enlarge](#)

Early mass production techniques, such as steam-powered lathes, allowed craftsmen to include lavish detail. (SUBMITTED PHOTOS)



[enlarge](#)

This low-country Dutch dining set, made in the late 1800s, could be worth as much as \$7,000. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)



enlarge 

A different human figure adorns each leg of this Victorian-era low-country dining set. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

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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