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Friday, 04/28/06

Know Your Stuff: Lucky yard-sale shoppers may find real Italian pottery

By CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT
For Williamson A.M.

Ms. Davenport,

I read your article on appraising items and have some pictures of a bowl that I would like you to look at.

It was a gift to my mother from a friend of hers. She gave me the bowl because I had admired it. I have no idea of its age or who made it. I've tried to find similar pieces to collect but haven't come across anything like it, as it seems more decorative than part of a set.

I would appreciate some information on its history and value. Thanks.

— **Tami Warren**

Dear Tami,

Your bowl is Italian, probably made after 1940. It may have had a paper label that has been washed away, that would have indicated the specific Italian maker. This type of pottery is quite popular right now and reproduction



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.

TODAY'S Sports STORIES:

- Titans expected to go for Young
- Game 5 remains on TV
- Marathon expects record field today
- On birthday, Cutler expects quite a present
- Late-inning flurry lifts Sounds by Zephyrs
- Preds think positive before possible finale

TODAY'S TOP STORIES:

- Titans expected to go for Young
- Marathon expects record field today
- Big leagues call up Sounds' 'faith nights'
- VA biopsies could have infected men
- Convention center backers drop sales tax plan
- Monday protest opponents urge counter-boycott



pieces are being sold in department stores, such as Target.

The Italians are well-known for their artistically influenced pottery. And interest is growing in their designs produced mid-20th century until today. Your bowl at a nice shop would bring \$65, but lucky yard-sale shoppers can still find them for under \$10.

Dear Connie,

How much do you think this 8-foot solid walnut bed might be worth? Is there a market for this kind of bed today?

— **Pamela Bowker, Franklin**

Dear Pamela,

This walnut bed was made around 1880-90. They were mass-produced in that more than one person helped build many beds. It is a typical late Victorian example of what is now referred to as a Lincoln bed. The vertical panels and curved footboard were quite stylish and reminded people of the bed Lincoln died in. That scene was depicted in newspapers and magazines of the day, and many Americans wanted to duplicate their beloved president's bedroom.

There may have been a crown at the top. Examine the piece for dowel holes (about the size of your little finger). These were often removed to make the beds fit into smaller rooms than originally intended.

Beds like yours often sell for use in children's rooms. The "standard" size is not large enough for most adults today. Expect to get about \$900.



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