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Friday, 05/12/06

Know Your Stuff: Great lamps and lamp parts found in antique mall

By CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT
For Williamson A.M.

Antiques shops and malls are the perfect place to find stylish, reasonably priced lamps to enhance the warmth of your home.

The three lamps pictured on this page were purchased at local antiques malls. The Lucite clear-base lamp is one of a pair. Although the shades are new, the finial that steadies the shade on top is original, making this lamp much more valuable. (SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

This is important when shopping the secondary market (antiques shops, antiques malls, thrift stores and estate sales) for good used lamps. Look for complete, unbroken lamp bases. The shade and wiring can be easily replaced. Locally, I would expect to pay from \$200 to \$750 for the pair, but I have seen these sell at auction for \$1,750 a pair!



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While the shade on this lamp is new, the finial that steadies the shade is original, making this lamp much more valuable. (SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

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The marble-base lamp with the new red shade is also one of a pair and often seen in estate sales. These heavy, carved floral bases were popular in the late 1940s and early '50s. Finding lamps and bookends to match would be lovely. Expect to pay from \$20 to \$95 each.

And the small chrome light has an original chrome shade that casts a soft, directed light. I bought it at a local antique mall for \$8!

Last week I visited the Franklin Antique Mall



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If you know what to look for when shopping for antique lamps, you can avoid blowing a lot of money.

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where I became lost in numerous rooms and levels of the old icehouse at 251 Second Ave. S. in Franklin where I found a fully stocked booth of new lamp parts for old lamps and lighting fixtures. I was pleased and will have this source to share with clients harboring part-less lamps in their attics.

The Franklin Antique Mall sells furniture. Some of their dealers have been in this mall since its opening 26 years ago. And these seasoned dealers know where to find good furniture. There is a selection of fine furniture including Victorian, Colonial Revival, Empire, country, mission and just vintage. Fine case pieces, sturdy beds, chairs and tables are

plentiful. The entry has a classical theme with secretaries, and china cabinets full of blue-and-white china and transfer ware. In fact, owner Amanda Pitts agrees with the ladies, Merrill Galbraith and Alice Kelly, that transfer ware is the new big seller.

I was especially impressed with Booth 22 where I found fine art glass from Italy for under \$100 amid a selection of lamps and modern decorative arts. Booth 42 was full of "country antiques" so popular in the 1970s and '80s with a 20% off sign.


There were Gould prints of birds for \$22 and hatboxes for \$10 to \$20. And there are good country quilts all over the mall with prices from \$100 to \$500. It's spring and time to get out for a bit of junking!

I'll be teaching my "American Antiques" class, a continuing education course, at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin on Saturday, May 20. In its 28th year, the course will cover periods of American furniture, porcelain, pottery, glass, prints, books and collectibles. I will highlight the items most often found in estates including furniture, silver, glassware, books, linens, tools, clothing and memorabilia.


Registration for "American Antiques" can be made by phone at 615-230-3358. The cost is \$95. Students may bring as many items as they like for class discussion. Please don't hurt yourselves!

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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