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Friday, 06/02/06

Know Your Stuff: Unique bottle turns out to be salt or sugar shaker

By CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT
For Williamson A.M.

Ms. Davenport:

I hope you can help me identify the bottle in the attached photo. I purchased it at an estate sale in Nashville last year because it was so unique looking.

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No one at the sale knew what kind of bottle it was.

I've never seen one like it, and have not been able to find anything similar on the Internet. The bottle is 6½ inches high and 3 inches in diameter on the bottom. The bottle looks almost like ropes of glass beading. There was no cap on the bottle, but it has threads that look like it might have had a screw-on top. I cannot see any marking on the bottle that would indicate the manufacturer.

I would just like to know what the bottle might have been used for, how old it might be, what the design is called and what the bottle's value might be.



enlarge

This beaded, pressed glass bottle is a salt or sugar shaker, circa 1890. It's likely worth between \$25 and \$40 to a collector. (SUBMITTED)

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

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Any information you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Joan Armstrong

Williamson A.M. reader

Dear Joan,

Your beaded, pressed glass bottle is a salt or sugar shaker. I would date it circa 1890.

Both salt and sugar were refined into granules and available to the Victorian homemakers of the time. Mason (the jar people) patented the threaded top jar in 1870. And the pressed glass producers offered hundreds of patterns of pressed glass containers with screw-on tops for

shaking on two of our favorite seasonings with ease.

Its value is \$25 to \$40 if you locate someone collecting this elusive pattern. I was unable to determine the pattern's name and I gave it over an hour of searching through my extensive library of patterns.

You can replace the lid at local antique malls and shops, with a "parts" supplier such as Van Dyke's Restorers (online) or at a good hardware store. They cost around \$3 each. You probably paid less than this for the bottle!

Nice job ...

While in Franklin's Factory last week, I visited The Flying Carpet Oriental rug shop, owned by Essy Khansari.

He proudly shared his mounds of predominately Persian rugs chosen and imported to satisfy the decorating needs of local homeowners. I was delighted by his enthusiasm and knowledge of both modern and antique examples. His best-sellers are modern, room-size rugs with current decorator color preferences.

And for those who want to invest in an antique rug, he offers breathtaking, massive pieces for around \$12,000, and smaller 3-by-6-foot rugs for \$500 to \$600. These smaller rugs he described as "teaching" rugs with various patterns and many colors.

I was delightfully surprised with the prices. Availability and demand have brought prices down in the last 15 years.

My rug appraisal clients often treasure most the rugs they "carried out" of the country themselves. But few of us travel to "rug countries" and having this source in our midst is just fabulous.

Khansari has been at The Factory, Suite 11-U, for eight years and has a loyal following of buyers. Phone 591-1117.

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