

THE ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Anne Gilbert



Old Chinese Rugs Still Bargains

If it's antique and Chinese, usually price tags are high. An exception are Chinese rugs and carpets.

Compared to Oriental carpets from Iran and Turkey of the same vintage, Chinese examples are on the low side. If you bid at a recent Skinner auction of Oriental rugs and carpets, you could have walked away with a fine 10' 10" x 8' Chinese carpet for \$3,105. Although the rug and the others that were sold had slight wear, the rugs were in good shape.

Listed as 18th century, but with wear and repairs, a rug with a circular cloud medallion surrounded by colorful peony blossoms and butterflies (7' 9" x 5' 9") sold at \$690. Could be there was uncertainty about its age. Not many 18th century Chinese carpets are seen outside of museums. Most that come to market are from the turn-of-the-century to the 1930s — despite the fact that they are often dated earlier.

The oldest Chinese rugs still existing were probably woven near the end of the Ming period or during the first half of the 17th century. Some of those rugs were intended for the Imperial court or for wealthy mandarins. The rug had a pile of silk attached to the warp and weft of cotton. Others were made completely of silk. The most luxurious

were rugs of silk woven on a web of metal threads. The central medallion, surrounded by a diaper pattern is one of the earliest designs. However, many had all-over patterns of octagonal shapes. Another early pattern had a field completely covered with a swastika-fret and

Clues: Just as Oriental rugs from Iran and Turkey can usually be identified by regional designs, so can Chinese rugs. For example, Ninghsia rugs often used prayer squares, while Pao-tou designs included over-all patterns of small scale motifs. These range from fretwork and flower-heads to "rice-grain." This region is also known for pictorial rugs, which have stag, horse, and crane scenes. Rugs from Sinkiang, the westernmost province, combine designs from the Turkish and Muslim culture — along with Chinese symbolism. Pomegranate and vase patterns, along with Chinese type mythical objects are also typical.

After the 1920s, the traditional styles and colors disappeared. Color combinations are one way not only to identify the region, but also the age of Chinese rugs. From the 1920s to the 1940s, new color combinations were introduced. Among them were lime green, lilac, and pink.

market at regular intervals with diagonal rows of bats (a symbol of happiness). Other early motifs were dragons and flowers. Corners often contained simple scrolls.

Chinese rugs from the late 19th to early 20th century were mostly made at the inland Chinese weaving centers of Ninghsia, Pao-tou, and Sinkiang. These were in the wool-raising areas that extended through Inner Mongolia into Sinkiang. Their designs were influenced by the Turk and Muslim population.

At this time, another type of rug was introduced that used Art Deco stylized motifs and bold colors. Current interest in Art Deco furnishings has upped their price.

Another thing to consider, you may pay more for certain colors and designs in one section of the

country than in another. How else can I explain my purchase several years ago of a c.1920 Chinese carpet priced at \$250? It was leftover from a Florida estate sale. Nobody had wanted it because the ground color was amethyst, with an apple green border, and floral and bird motifs in turquoise and pinks. Yet at the same sale, a Chinese carpet with

a circular floral medallion, dark blue on ivory sold for several thousand dollars.

Fast forward to a couple of years ago when amethyst and purple were the new "in" colors. A visiting dealer friend from New York visited me in Florida. He offered to "take it off my hands for \$1,500. Wonderful colors," he said.



Listed as 18th century Chinese rug, this sold for \$690. Photo by Skinner Auctions. Bolton/Boston, Mass.

"Horst Auctioneers"

PUBLIC SALE

ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD
GOODS, COLLECTIBLES,
TOYS & TOOLS

WED., DEC. 20, 2000
AT 2 P.M.

Sale to be held at the Horst Auction Center, located at the corner of Rt. 322 & Durlach Rd. (Approx. 2 1/2 miles west of Ephrata), Ephrata, Lancaster Co., PA.

FURNITURE: Grained High Cupboard; Blanket Chest; Tilt Top Table; Spool Rope Bed; Eastlake Mirror; Spool Washstand; Plank Chairs; Stepback Cupboard; OAK - High Chest Of Drawers; Dresser Base; Refinished Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet; Wood Cigar Store Indian; MAHOGANY - Flip Top Card Table; Floor Model Victrola; Gateleg Table; Cloverleaf Table; Cedar Chest; Birds Eye Maple Dresser; DEPRESSION - Dining Room Furniture; Buffet Mirror; Wardrobe; Chest Of Drawers; Cane Rocker & Chairs; Trunk; Rock Maple Bedroom Set; Lg. Oak Hutch; MOD. PINE - 9 Pc. Dining Room Suite; Desk; Dry Sink; Bassett Bedroom Set; Lane Record Chest; Child's Rockers; Formica Breakfast Set; Wicker Chairs; Deco Breakfast Table; Filing Cabinet.

APPLIANCES: Freezer; Auto. Washer & Dryer; Microwave; Antique Porcelain Gas Stove; Cookware; Lamps; Exercise Equipment; Pewter; Silver Plated Pcs.

CHINA & GLASSWARE: Late Adam's; Soft Paste; Transfer & Blue Willow China; China Bowls; Set Of Christmas China; Old Florentine Set Of China; Pottery Bowls; Redware; Mod. Set Of Stoneware Dishes; COLLECTION OF HUMMEL FIGURINES & PLATES; Hummel Collector Club Pcs.; Anri Plates; Pressed & Pattern Glassware; Ruby Glass Ovenware Bowls; Kerosene Lamps.

LINENS: Coverlet; Baskets; Butter Paddles; Chippendale Mirror.

TOYS: LIONEL & AMERICAN FLYER ENGINES & CARS; Lionel & American Flyer Accessories; Complete Set Of Plasticville Buildings; Novelty Train Sets; Buddy L Trucks; G.I. Joe Collectibles; Collector Farm Tractors & Implements; Hubley Tractor; Sensenich Bros. Propeller; Theorem Painting; Prints R. Atkinson Fox Print.

TOOLS: WINCO 8KW GENERATOR; Alum. Ext. Ladder; Hand Tools; Old Wrenches; Hay Hook; Tobacco Shears; Wooden Barrels; Nail Keg; Wood Boxes; Sprinkling Can; (2) SANDSTONE MILLSTONES; Wood Shutters; Antique Porch Post.

No Out Of State Checks Without Prior Approval.

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AUCTION

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10 AM

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Hundreds Of Pieces Of Fine Porcelain, Primarily Royal Worcester. Large, Profusely Decorated Figures, Urns, Vases, Bowes And Other Decorative forms. Royal Doulton Toby Mugs. Lots Of Fancy Dinner Ware. Plenty Of Other Well Known Manufacturers, As Well. Mettlach. Royal Copenhagen. A Few Hummels. Parian Ware. Orientalia. Art Glass. Contemporary Art.

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Preview: Friday, Dec. 29th 6-9 PM And Saturday Dec 30th 8-10 AM. Please Direct Phone Inquiries During Preview Hours To: 610-495-5504.

Directions: From PA Tpk Exit 23 (Downingtown) Go North On Rt. 100, Then East On Rt. 23. Three Miles To Fire Hall On Right.

Terms: Cash Or PA Check w/Photo I.D. 10% Buyer's Premium. E-Mail Photos Available For Select Items Only.

Kathy Maurer
Auctioneer And Gemologist
(AU003006-L)
610-970-7588



Question And Answer

A narrow, four drawer French chest, on cabriole legs was a wedding gift to my cousins in 1930 from a Chicago antique dealer. It has a white marble top and inlaid parquetry sides and gilt metal trim. It is stamped "France." Any idea of value?

S.P.-Naples, Fla.

The "France" stamp shows it was made after 1870. Similar pieces sell at auction for \$3,000 or more.

I recently found an old iron Christmas tree holder from the 1920s-'30s in our mother's attic. What could it sell for?

L.Z.-Chicago, Ill.

I have seen some priced from \$45 to \$75 at antique shows.

COIN AUCTION!

TUESDAY, DEC. 19, 2000
6:00 PM

RENTZELS AUCTION BARN

LOCATED: 1-1/10 MILE N. OF MANCHESTER, ALONG RT. 181, (N. GEORGE ST. EXT'D.), IN YORK COUNTY PA, TURN RIGHT AT GRAY ROCK, AUCTION BARN SIGN.

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OVER 300 LOTS OF COINS FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION. HUNDREDS OF MORGAN & PEACE DOLLARS. INDIAN CENTS, LIBERTY NICKELS (INCLUDING 1912 S), BUFFALO NICKELS AND MERCURY DIMES, BULK LOTS OF SILVER DIMES, QUARTERS, HALVES AND OTHERS. MANY MINT & PROOF SETS FROM 1953-1982. SILVER CERTIFICATES AND OTHER CURRENCY. UNC. ROLLS OF COINS, AND MUCH MORE.

PREVIEW: 4:00 - 6:00 PM DAY OF SALE

TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK

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