


# THE ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Anne Gilbert



## Perfume Bottles Show Glassmaker Artistry

Since the 19th century, perfume bottles have been collected for their beauty, long after the last drop of fragrance has disappeared.

Today's collectors recently had an opportunity to buy some of the rarest 20th century designed perfume bottles. More than 150 bottles from a one-owner collection went up for bid at a recent Doyle New York auction. It wasn't just the designer names such as Salvador Dali, Rene' Lalique, that made the auction so special, but the designs themselves. They sold from a low \$632 for the Lubin Au Solei designed by Maurice D'Epinoix with a lifelike lizard looking at a fly on a stopper to a Lalique designed Bouchon Fleurs de Pommiers for \$8,625. Surprisingly selling under estimate was Le Roi Soleil, c.1946, designed by Salvador Dali, estimated at \$6,000. It sold for \$3,450. Made of Baccarat crystal in a three-dimensional seascape with enameled waves and gilded rocks.

What made the design so unique? The stopper's cover depicts the blazing sun rising over the horizon and black seagulls give the sun clearly defined facial features. It had historical importance as well. *Le Roy Soleil* perfume celebrated the Allied victory in Europe after World War II and was named after Louis XIV, who was known as the "Sun King."

Before there were perfume bottles and perfumes, their were scented oils and aromatics used in ancient Egypt. They were burned as incense to gods and ancestors.

The word "perfume" came from the Latin, "through smoke." Not until the technique for distilling alcohol was perfected around 1320 in Italy did perfumes come into being. And, the making of beautiful bottles to contain them began. By 1665, glass perfume bottles were being made in France.

With the introduction of porcelain to Europe in the 18th century, English factories such as Wedgwood and Chelsea began making perfume bottles. Among the most unusual were the figurals made by Chelsea and included cupids, musicians, and fashionable ladies.

By the 19th century, with help from Napoleon and Josephine, France became dominant in the perfume industry. Bohemian glass, renowned for fine engraving and gilt-enamel decoration made many perfume bottles, which found their way around the world. With the discovery of new ways to blend florals in the 1830s, followed by the development of synthetic scents, the perfume industry assumed new importance. Top designers and glassmakers such as Lalique and glasshouses like Baccarat, and companies like Tiffany and Company created beautiful perfume bottles for the newly rich. The elegant bottles were soon being collected.

Clues: Names from the 1920s, which collectors look for, include those designed by Julien Viard. He was the first to create

stoppers in the form of human figures.

During the 1930s, many of the perfume classics were created, along with designer bottles. Highly collectible is the Schiaparelli 1937 perfume, "Shocking," based on her favorite color shocking pink. The bottle, shaped like a woman's torso became an instant hit. Any of the many designer bottles made for Schiaparelli are very collectible.

In the post war era of the late 1940s, French couturier Nina Ricci introduced her new per-

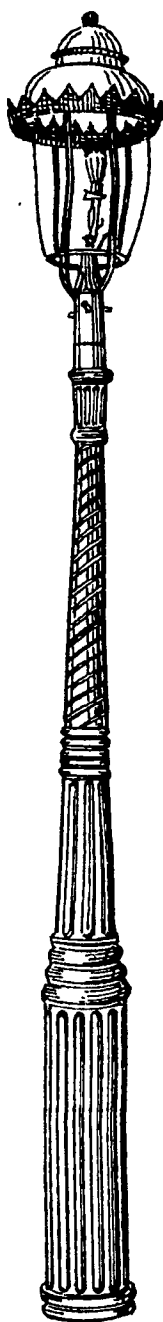
fume *L'Air du Temps*, a glass sculpture by Lalique. The top is crowned with two doves in flight, meeting in a kiss. Although it continues to be made, the first bottle should be marked on the bottom: "Lalique, France."

Now's the time for beginning collectors to look for perfume bottles from the 1980s and 1990s. They often turn up in estate sales and flea markets.

Be picky. Look for the most unusual shapes, figural stoppers or forms. Miniatures often given away as samples in department stores are another possibility.



Perfume bottle "Le Roy Soleil," created by Salvador Dali for Schiaparelli. Photo by Doyle New York Belle Epoque Auction.



## PUBLIC SALE

### ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, QUILTS, BOOKS, COINS, CARRIAGE, TOOLS

#### SAT., APRIL 7, 2001

#### 9:00 A.M.

Located at 485 Wentzel Rd., East Earl, Lancaster Co., PA from Main Street in Terre Hill at Texaco Station turn onto Linden Street, proceed .3 mile turn right onto Wentzel Rd., go .5 mile to sale on left.

#### ANTIQUES - HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Oak hutch/glass doors; Slant top desk/glass door bookcase; Dry sink; Settee; 4 Pc. Embossed And Painted Bedroom Suite; Oak Embossed Double Bed/S-M; Side Board; Washstand; Grained Bureau And China Closet; Fainting Couch; Several Blanket Chests; 4-Oak Side Chairs; Walnut Chest Of Drawers; Dresser; Bureau; Several Livingroom Chairs; Single And Double Metal Beds/S-M; Parlor Stand; Swivel Chair; Sofa Bed; 4-Kitchen Chairs; Bookcase; 2-Double Wardrobe; Two Lid Wood Chest; 4-Old Trunks; Wooden Highchair; Coal Stove; Clothsrack; Maytag Wringer Washer; Kerosene Heater; Several Kerosene Lamps; Wall Mirror; Filing Cabinet; Magazine Rack; Suitcase; Cooler; 4 Qt. White Mt. Ice Cream Freezer; Wicker Baskets; Quilt Frame And Stands; Meat Bench; Wooden Toys; Several Dolls; Doll Coach; Braided Rugs; Rag Carpets; Misc. Material; Shawls, Lot Of Quilts and Comforters; Velvet Comforter! Quilts Sold At 12:00

**Kitchenware:** 16 Qt. Pressure Cooker; Meat Grinder; Agateware; Green Depression Glass; Homer Laughlin Veg. Bowls; Pattern Glass; Wooden Cake Saver; Flatware; Canning Jars, Plus More.

**Books:** German Martyrs Mirror; Several Family English And German Bibles; Josephus; Writings Of Menno Simons; German Song Books, Family Books; Lots Of Story, Religious, Reference Books, Scrap Books, Set Of Uncle Arthur's Books; Lot Of Hardcover And Children Books; Local Memorabilia; Old Post Cards; Valentines; 1920 Hunting License.

**Coins:** 1854 Dollar Gold Piece, 1858, 1862, 1887 One Cent Pieces; Several V Nickels, German Certificate, Plus More Coins Silver Pocket Watch

Coins Sold At 12:00

#### Single Seat Carriage And Complete Harness.

**Tools:** Snapper Reat Tine Tiller, Wheelbarrow; Wall Drill Press; Bench Vise; Garden Cart, Old Egg Basket, Sprinkling Can; Carpentry Tools; Misc Hand Tools; Rakes, Shovels, Hoes; Plus More Tools Not Listed.

**Sale Order:** Tools, Antiques, Household Goods, Coins And Quilts At 12:00

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To be held at REDDING AUCTION SERVICE - located taking Route 34, 1/2 mile North of Gettysburg, PA - bear right at Y (at car wash) & continue 2 miles on Table Rock Road to auction site on -

### SATURDAY, APRIL 7th - 9:30 A.M.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 8th - 9:30 A.M.

The undersigned, due to health, will sell his life-long personal collection and his complete gun shop inventory - (TYLER'S GUN SHOP).

**FINE SELECTION GUNS INCLUDE:** 60+ Winchesters Include: Early Models, Pre 64's, Commemoratives, Etc.; Several Kentucky Rifles (Cooley, Armstrong & Dickert) - Many Remingtons, Rugers, Savages, Marlins, S&W's and Many Other Manufacturers.

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Also Included In Auction: Small W.R.A. Co. 2-Wheel Cast Cannon; Remington & Winchester Advertising Signs, Posters, Store Displays, Etc.; Ammunition; Gun Cases; Scopes; Few Gun Parts and Many Other Related items.

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