


**THE ANTIQUE
DETECTIVE**

Anne Gilbert



Sevres Porcelain, Its Look-A-Likes
How many times have you or a friend said, "I saw a vase just like mine on Antiques Road Show and it was worth thousands of dollars?"

This probably happens with porcelain items more than any other category. My reader mail often has letters from people who

have just discovered a piece that looks like valuable French Sevres porcelain...even the marks are similar. Unfortunately "similar" doesn't mean "is."

With prices for an 18th century plate sometimes worth more than \$10,000 it pays to do some research.

CLUES: Since the factory opened, originally in Vincennes,

France in 1738, the porcelain has been seriously collected. It has also been copied by other French factories as well as by other countries. Would-be collectors not only have to study Sevres marks but learn to distinguish between a hand-painted motif and a 19th and 20th-century transfer print. The marks also include a code system that identifies when they were made and who the painters and gilders were.

If it is authentic and made at the factory, it doesn't matter whether it dates 18th, 19th or even 20th century. Prices are still high for the finest examples. The problem is that in America sevres-style vases were made into lamps in the early part of the 20th century.

They still are. It is these pieces, with their bases mounted, hiding any marks, that lead many astray.

During its long, distinguished history, Sevres porcelain has come to be known not only for the quality of the porcelain but also the color of the decoration. Once you have seen an 18th century piece with the distinctive ground colors such as the brilliant pink, known as "Rose Pompadour" and "blue celeste" (turquoise) you can see why.

One of the Sevres techniques was to use several shades of one color on a single piece.

A clue to fakery would be a lid with a Sevres mark. They weren't marked. Many Sevres-type pieces were made by Emile Samson, beginning in 1871. He covered his own factory mark with an overglazed interlaced L mark that gave a raised look to it. If a piece of Sevres has two marks, that means that it was refired. Prices on such items have a fraction of the value.

Historically, King Louis XV kept the Sevres factory in Vincennes busy creating pieces for his mistress, Madame de Pompadour. It moved to Sevres in 1756.

During that time a variety of table services and decorative objects were made not only for royalty but private individuals, including clocks.

Hand painted scenes, flowers and birds decorate the white areas(reserves). But, it is the floral painting that was their speciality. Another characteristic of Sevres was the use of much gilding; often quite heavy. During the reign of Louis XV1 another technique was developed in the 1780s. Known as "jewelled," small drops of enamels were dotted over the gilding, or bits of

glass simulating precious stones were embedded in the painting.

These are among the costliest and rarest pieces of Sevres.


A late 19th century Sevres-style vase with a pseudo Sevres mark could still fetch \$2,000 or more at auction. A Sevres-style vase made by another porcelain factory could sell at auction for \$1,500.

In the late 19th century when cabinet plates, made for display, were popular, many were made and hand painted. They can cost \$500 or more at auction.

If you like the look but can't afford the real thing, there are plenty of 19th century look-alikes waiting to be discovered at estate sales. Don't pay too much.



Sevres vase made in Vincennes, 1755. Signed and marked by Charles Nicolas Dodin. Photo credit: Louvre Museum, France.



RESCHEDULED
(From President's Day)

PUBLIC AUCTION
ANTIQUES, TOYS
FURNITURE

MON. FEB. 24, 2003, 2:00 P.M.
Blizzard date Sat. March 1, 9 AM

Located at Shaffner Auction Gallery, 977 West Main Street, (Route #230) Mount Joy, PA 3 Miles from either Rheems or Manheim/Mount Joy exits of Route #283 midway between Lancaster & Harrisburg PA

Excelsior Mason mechanical bank, #14 cast iron Drummerboy bell toy w/original wooden box, Kenton cast iron log wagon w/Black rider, Hubley cast iron Santa & sleigh w/2 reindeer, Snow White composition doll, Schoenhut piano & xylophone, 1 cent "Brownie Pool" table top arcade game, Gibbs horse drawn cart, Marx vehicles, Lone Ranger guitar, tin litho windmill, Doepke pumper, Structo vehicles, Hubley dog base lamp, Hubley Wimpey paperweight, Roy Rogers lantern, Fisher Price toys, lunch boxes, Mrs. Beasley doll, building blocks, Buck Jones BB gun, Lionel #203 locomotive w/whistling tender, other toys & games, Imperial phonograph w/morning glory horn, ornate oak gingerbread clock, Bitters bottles, **GOOD'S DAIRY ROHRERSTOWN embossed milk bottle**, other bottles, sm wallpaper box, Cinco cigar tin, unusual wooden apple peeler, Harry Book oil on canvas, wicker child's rocker, cast iron footstool, quilts, German books, Bibles, Parrish print, Victorian prints, miniature Steiff-type bear, early tin fat lamp, oil lamps, victrola, cuckoo clock, unusual veg slicer, Keen Kutter food chopper, signed post hole axe, old radios, costume jewelry, 45+ pieces pink & green depression glass, Fire-King nesting bowls, German nesting bowls, Fiesta disk pitcher, Majolica creamer, Royal Vienna portrait bowl, Zippo lighters, old photos, ironstone tea set, lg. ironstone platter, Vaseline tumbler, carnival, pattern glass, crystal stemware, Lenox, German & Bavarian china, ruby souvenir glass, Stormy Weather Hummel figurine, Jadite bowls, Titanic books, metal Indian lamp, Cherry Boy & Girl figurines, lg. plaster figurine "Le Vin", early stuffed Scottie, Aunt Jemima pencil & paper holder, string holder, carnival chalk figures, Blue Willow, dec ironstone plates, opera glasses, PRR oil can, cast iron items, linens, **MORE!! FURNITURE (7-PM):** Walnut Victorian hall rack w/marble insert & double umbrella holder, unusual Victrola VV8-30, grained blanket chest, spinning wheel, marble top table, Victorian medallion back love seat, oak ext table w/5 boards, oak library table, spinet desk, lg gilt mirror, cedar chests, 3 pc twig set, bamboo/oak shelf, child's roll top desk, platform rocker, wicker fernery, iron bed & crib, saw buck table, depression china & buffet, high chest w/mirror, oak stands, walnut Eastlake mirror, 4 spindle back chairs, oak treadle sewing machine, other chairs, stands, etc Call 717-492-0004 or WWW.SHAFFNERAUCTION.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
COLLECTIBLES, FURNITURE

SAT. MARCH 1, 2003, 9:00 A.M.
Blizzard Date Mon. March 3, 2 PM

Located at Shaffner Auction Gallery, 977 West Main Street, (Route #230) Mount Joy, PA, 3 Miles from either Rheems or Manheim/Mount Joy exits of Route #283 midway between Lancaster & Harrisburg PA

Starting at 9 AM with 50+ table lots to include: glassware, china, kitchen & housewares, linens, prints & frames, tools, etc **MAIN SALES ROOM:** Packard Bell desk top computer w/printer, scanner, & software, Sharp copier, power & hand tools, collection of Cherished Teddies, 50+ pieces Ricker pewter, Fire-king, cookie jars, floor & table lamps, Large amount Fisher Price, Barbie, board games, & other toys & games (LIKE NEW), glassware, sets of china, variety of small antiques & collectibles, collector plates, costume jewelry, figurines, die cast cars & trucks, decorator items, paintings, prints & frames, linens, vacuums, **MORE!! FURNITURE (3PM):** 9 pc custom made whitewash dining room set w/inlaid ceramic tile table, PA House lighted curio, 4 pc PA House bedroom set, 5 pc bedroom set, sofas, lg oak platform rocker, wrought iron patio set, single & queen box spring & mattresses, bookcases, knee hole desks, color TV's, VCR's, kitchen & dinette sets, clean upholstered furniture, small safe, sm tables, lift-top chest, trunk, unfinished furniture, piano & bench, chifferobe, desk chairs, 4 drawer file, **MORE!!**

Preview 7:00 AM, 10% Buyers Premium, Visa/MC. **GOOD FOOD**
Can we work for you? At our location or yours?
Receiving hours at the Gallery are
Wed 2PM - 7 PM & Sat 9AM - Noon or call for a free confidential appointment to discuss how to get the most for your collection.
UPCOMING - See WWW.SHAFFNERAUCTION.COM for auction calendar & details.

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"We Treat Your Property As If It Were Our Own"
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COMING IN LIKE A LION!
A PAIR OF TAIL TWISTERS

10 A.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2003

RIDGE FIRE COMPANY
ALONG RT. 23, BETWEEN
PHOENIXVILLE, PA & RT. 100
EXHIBITION: 7-9 FRIDAY EVENING
AND 8-10 AUCTION DAY

The Pavilion will be forced to display 640 lots of trains that should be good enough to pry you out of the sofa cushions and propel you into our auction rooms. Expect excellent post war Lionel, 50 lots of fine flyer "S" gauge, super selection of standard gauge locos and cars, prime pre-war Lionel "O" gauge.

The Blue Room will hold table after table of high-quality hardbound books, framed RR art & advertising, station signs, RR china, lights, lamps & lanterns. Badges, uniform buttons, photos & slides, calendars, Conrail uniforms, stock certificates, memorabilia & souvenirs.

No buyer's premium in the Blue Room.

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