


THE ANTIQUE  
DETECTIVE

Anne Gilbert



**Old Inkwells Can Be Weird Or Wonderful**

Since they were first made several hundred years ago, inkwells have taken many forms and were made of a variety of materials.

Some are so beautiful they could be classified as works of art. Among them were those made of hand-painted German and French porcelain. Others took fanciful forms such as one pottery inkwell modeled as a phrenology head. Another shown in the Miller's International Antiques Professional Handbook was heart-shaped, painted with strawberries.

Long before computer e-mail, letter writing was an art. Good penmanship was considered the mark of a lady or gentleman. Every desk in the home of the 18th century gentry had an elegant inkwell and stand. They could be of sterling silver or porcelain.

One hundred years later, around the end of the 19th century, the wealthy in America and Europe displayed complete

writing sets made by Tiffany, or French figural bronzes combined with Baccarat crystal. When designed or sculpted by the finest craftsmen, many inkstands and wells could be considered miniature works of art. At that time they often came with several pieces of desk accessories such as letterholders and blotters.

Although the use of ink and early writing implements go back to the beginning of civilization, writing wasn't done by private individuals until the 16th century. The inkwell as a decorative object wasn't important.

There are a few surviving examples of Italian and Spanish majolica inkstands dating as early as the 1500s. By the early 16th century, France, Germany, and Holland were making inkstands and wells of a similar pottery that we know now as Delft and Delft-type.

Pottery and porcelain inkstands and wells, as well as those made of gold and silver became elaborate works of art in England and the continent by

the 18th century. The finest examples by important goldsmiths were given as gifts on special occasions and as presentation pieces.

They were also imported from China as custom painted, export porcelain.

CLUES: Style and shape as well as materials are ways to identify the age and country of early inkwells and inkstands. For example, 18th century inkstands were casket shape with an enclosed inkpot. There were also tray form stands with bullet feet.

By the mid-18th century, English silver followed the fashion for rococo style using scrolled and reeded rims. The French silversmiths during the same period also used this style.

In 18th century America, the silver stands were combined with cut glass (later pressed glass) inkpots. The final touch accessory was a tiny bell used to alert servants that the letters were ready to be sent off.

There are some reproductions of the English brass inkstands and wells, Bennington pottery-types, and sandwich glass-style wells.

Prices can vary widely. A Minton porcelain inkstand can sell for several thousand dollars at auction; a 19th century millifiori paperweight inkwell for \$600; a green well for \$200.

Until recently a complete set of Tiffany inkwell and accessories could be had for under a thousand dollars.

Many novelty inkwells were made in the early 20th century. They can range from a couple of hundred to over \$800 and are still available.

Most affordable and available are Victorian inkstands and glass wells.

Accessories such as pens, seals, traveling and lap desks can round out a collection.

The lap desks come with glass inkwells.



Some American 19th century sandwich glass inkwells can be classified as works of art. Photo credit Skinner Auctions, Boston, Mass.

# TWIN SALE BILL

**10 A.M. SAT., MARCH 15, 2003**

**RIDGE FIRE COMPANY**

**ALONG RT. 23, BETWEEN**

**PHOENIXVILLE, PA & RT. 100**

**EXHIBITION: 7-9 FRIDAY EVENING &**

**8-10 AUCTION DAY**

**In The Pavilion - UNCATALOGED** - An underground railroad. Can't tell you too much about it; it's dark down here! But there are trains everywhere - new ones, old ones, big ones, little ones and toys, too. Lots of material for a full day, that's why we are in the pavilion. Lionel post war & modern era, HO, kits, scenery. Estate of Kenneth Koller, Fleetwood, PA.

**In The Blue Room - A huge "G" gauge layout from West Virginia;** the owner gave it to the Shriners for the children's hospital, and the Shriners sent it to me for liquidation. Track & buildings also.

10% Buyer's Premium Will Be Applied.



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## Lancaster Farming *Antiques Center*

### Lebanon Valley Youth For Christ

# 17th Annual BIDS FOR KIDS Benefit Auction

New and used items including household items, appliances, sofas, desks, a hand-painted secretary's desk, lawn ornaments, bird feeders, cleaning supplies. Over 400 autographed sports items including football, baseball, basketball, hockey, golf, boxing, Nascar, NHRA, Longaberger baskets with a live demonstration on Friday evening, Winross & Penjoy trucks, quilts and crafts, over 100 themed gift baskets, jewelry, nursery, garden & lawn equipment including flowers, trees, shrubs, and mowers, framed artwork including works from Dan Christ, Robert L. Hunt, William C. Ressler, Steve Hanks and more, vacation packages, gift certificates, bicycles, automobiles, a '75 Mack dump truck, baked goods and much, much more!

**Thursday, March 13 - Preview 4-9 p.m.**

**Friday, March 14 - starting at 10 a.m.**

**Saturday, March 15 - starting at 8 a.m.**

at the

**Lebanon Expo & Fairgrounds**



For more info call 717.272.5106 x 301 or go to [www.lvyfc.com](http://www.lvyfc.com)

Auctioneer:  
**Harry Bachman**  
AU-000033L

Lebanon Valley Youth For Christ  
1691 Grace Avenue  
Lebanon, PA 17046



## PUBLIC AUCTION

**OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS, ANTIQUES, QUILTS, COINS 1991 GMC PICK-UP TRUCK & DIXON 3362 MOWER**

**SAT., MARCH 15, 2003**

**Sale at 9:00 A.M.**

**Truck & Mower at 1:00 P.M.**

**Quilts & Coins at 1:30 P.M.**

Located at 531 Central Manor Rd., Manor Twp., Lanc. Co., PA Turn off Rt 462 in Mountville on South Manor St. (Central Manor Rd.) 1 1/2 miles to sale across from Manor Brethren-In-Christ Church.

**ATTN: FURNITURE SOLD FIRST AT 9:0 A.M.**

**OAK ITEMS:** oak drop leaf extension table w/boards, 2 tiger oak bureaus, center table, pressed back chairs, rocker, cloth trees, square claw foot extension table, empire bureau w/tear drop pulls, granny rockers, Shaw Piano Co upright piano & bench, 6 Ebersol plank bottom fiddle back chairs, rope bed, 3 Ebersol chairs, kitchen table w/5 boards, bar chair, 2 ladder back rush bottom chairs, trestle table, library table, B/C church bench, 4 child's S S chairs, Habecker church bench, 2 butcher benches, deacon bench, 3 pc Depression living room suite, end tables, recliner, single & double beds complete, crib complete, 4 pc. patio set; glider, park bench, display cases 2 - 45"x50" & 2 - 50"x56" w/sliding glass doors and shelves, 20 mule team in glass case

**APPLIANCES:** 19 cu almond GE refrigerator w/ice maker, GE washer & dryer, dehumidifier, small appliances, floor & table lamps, pictures, 1954 Milton Denlinger painting, Hi Fi set w/cabinet, wing back chair, shelf clock, luggage, card table & chairs, ping pong table

**QUILTS, LINENS & BEDDING:** Old block quilt w/bar boarder, new quilts - Tree of Life, Living Rose, whole cloth off white, comforter, quilted wall hanging, 8'x10' area rug, sewing & craft items, old thimbles, buttons & button hooker

**TOYS:** J D spreader & drill; 1 H. drill, Farmall 350 & 560, Hess trucks, tin Low Boy truck, misc. toys, stuffed animals, toy chest, doll crib, metal high chair, Carom board.

**GLASSWARE:** Noritake (Fairmont Japan) dinner set service for 12, set of yellow Depression 12 plates, 2 veg dishes, platter, pitcher, sugar & creamer, green Dep console set, German & Bavarian fruit dishes, Fostoria pcs, 7 pc German berry set, carnival, pressed glass, Lustre pitcher, Nippon sugar & creamer, variety of glass baskets, sherbets; goblets, tumblers, 16 peanut butter glasses, individual salts, variety Czechoslovakia items; variety of plates, punch set, chicken on nest, amber medicine bottle, Freeman's dany creamers, dated jars, green jars w/glass lids, flatware - 12 knives & forks w/celluloid type green handles; 6 forks w/yellow handles, cooking utensils, tin ware, S S. items, iron nut cracker, banks & pig, Hubley elephant, brown jug, 4 gal jug w/cobalt decor; full Bible on cassette tapes, stereoscope viewer w/black & white cards, old post cards, old sample book w/name cards, small brass bucket, brass dipper, fireplace set, kerosene heater; coal oil light, 27" dove tailed copper kettle; 27" iron kettle; weight scales, wagon jack, chicken crate; 6 qt. white mt ice cream freezer; canes; hat collection, egg basket.

**COINS:** Silver dollars 1892, 1901, 21, 23 & 24, silver halves 1912, 43, quarters, Indian head pennies 1884, 89, 1891, 99, 1903, 1904; 1906, Anthony & gold dollars  
1991 GMC SIERRA w/cab. Auto, full powers, 4 cyl. V8, 41,000 miles, good condition, one owner.

**GARDEN TOOLS:** Dixon 3362 mower used 2 yrs.; portable compressor; portable air tank; Echo 3003 weed eater; Roto-Hoe, shop table, yard roller; 3 step ladders, and many other items too numerous to mention.

Terms by:

**Harvey M. & Mary L. Hostetter**

AUCTIONEERS:  
Robert E. Jeffrey R. & Michael L. Martin 656-7770  
Randall L. Ranck AU000580L

No Out of State Checks Lunch by Habecker Youth Group