

KOVELS Antiques & Collecting

By Terry and Kim Kovel



When's the last time you saw a car like this on the road or needed an inkwell to write? Antiques can remind us of how much and how quickly styles and technology change.

Writing Antiques

Every antique tells a story. It's often one of change, sometimes over a relatively small amount of time. Look at the simple act of writing. Most of us probably have several ballpoint pens scattered throughout a desk - and most of our writing, whether it's a professional project, a school paper or just filling out a form, is done on the computer anyway.

It's only about a century ago - not that much time, in the world of antiques -- that you had to dip a nib pen into an inkwell to sign your name. Fountain pens, which use ink cartridges, were invented about 1880, but inkwells remained in use into the 20th century. They were often decorative and could be luxury items, made of precious metals, fine porcelain or cut glass. They could also be novelties, like this one, shaped like an early car and made of an inexpensive metal like pewter or spelter, which sold for \$82 at an auction by Morford's Antique Advertising Auctions at antiqueadvertising.com.

It would have been a useful and stylish item when it was made in the 1910s or 1920s, possibly a status symbol for the proud owner of a Model T. Now, it captures a moment in time when writing was done with a dip pen, instead of a cheap ballpoint or a computer screen, and cars were a new advance in technology instead of something in everyone's driveway.

Q: I bought an old king-size canopy bed, but I don't know which era

it is from. Can you please assist me?

A: Canopy beds were popular from the late 1700s to the early 1800s (often called the Federal period in American furniture), and again in the Colonial Revival of the 1930s. The easiest way to determine the era of an antique bed is to measure it. American bed sizes were standardized by the 1920s. A king-size bed is 76 inches wide by 80 inches long. If that is your bed's size, it was probably made in the 20th century. Beds made before 1900 are usually shorter and narrower than standard sizes, so it can be difficult to find a mattress that fits an antique bed. Before the mid-1800s, mattresses were held in place with ropes, which had to be tightened periodically. A bed from this period will have holes, sometimes pegs, in the side rails for the ropes. Wooden slats to support the mattress were introduced by the mid-1800s.

TIP: Clean a glass inkwell carefully. The old ink may cover a crack. Wash in warm water with mild

dishwashing liquid or soap, never dishwasher detergent. Don't use ammonia if the glass is decorated or iridescent.

CURRENT PRICES

♦ Advertising, figurine, Ward's Riverside, owl, with tire, wearing cap and goggles, gold tone, round base, Buy Wise, chalkware, 5 inches, \$60.

♦ Toy, truck, dump, red bed, battery-operated headlights, side decals, pressed steel, hard rubber tires, Buddy L, c. 1930, 21 inches, \$295.

♦ Pottery, midcentury, pot, San Ildefonso Pueblo, blackware, Avanyu water serpent, signed, Maria + Santana, Maria Martinez, c. 1950, 6 1/2 inches, \$1,145.

Super Crossword

Answers

1	STAFF	2	BLIND	3	ANGRY	4	YAT																									
5	NO	6	SEAS	7	THE	8	MOR	9	LEGA																							
10	AIR	11	PLAN	12	WOOD	13	TRIS	14	TAR																							
15	PLEA	16	IT	17	MAX	18	SKIRT																									
19	PET	20	ING	21	COM	22	MAS	23	IS																							
24	YDS	25	NEE	26	CON	27	FAP	28	IPA																							
29	AL	30	IRE	31	TEAM	32	ST	33	HAIN	34	NEH																					
35	TLA	36	COM	37	SAD	38	OME	39	EN	40	SVRC																					
41	FILE	42	ER	43	S	44	AV	45	GA	46	TION																					
47	HEAL	48	M	49	TROUPE	50	LE	51	NO	52	INTI																					
53	AS	54	SO	55	NA	56	OLA	57	FD	58	AM																					
59	ACO	60	PO	61	HUM	62	MAGE	63	S	64	SALEM																					
65	WAG	66	TEX	67	AS	68	RE	69	RA	70	HYCNA																					
71	AM	72	TRAK	73	LO	74	OMING	75	LI	76	AI	77	ISE																			
78	HEAL	79	MA	80	THE	81	BO	82	ES	83	TION																					
84	FR	85	MA	86	LE	87	AS	88	T	89	LA	90	SI																			
91	PA	92	LI	93	O	94	MA	95	H	96	K	97	AN	98	ION	99	Y	100	M													
101	HEAL	102	TH	103	S	104	AM	105	EL	106	UR	107	AT	108	TA																	
109	OS	110	CAR	111	LI	112	BB	113	EA	114	NS	115	EA	116	M																	
117	AS	118	IN	119	NE	120	L	121	UN	122	NEL	123	VI	124	EN	125	NA															
126	R	127	O	128	T	129	A	130	G	131	S	132	A	133	T	134	A	135	K	136	A	137	P	138	A	139	S	140	T	141	O	N

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