

Antique Silver - Adding Historic And Artistic Value To Your Collection

Contributed by JackMichaels
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The most common source of Antique Silver has to be the royal and noble families of yesteryears. Silverware was a staple in these families and today, exquisite silver articles such as plates, bowls, cutlery etc can be found for sale. Most of these showcase wonderful craftsmanship and are generally stamped with the family crest. Even though with the advent of electroplating technology silverware has become accessible to the common man today, such examples of old silver are still valued for their exclusivity.

For the new collector, starting in Antique Silver can be a daunting prospect. Because of the sheer amount of silver items available, it is very important to be able to judge the true collectibles from amongst the lot. While this requires experience in the field in most cases, looking out for stamps and signs on the silverware can guide you in the right direction as well.

The introduction of electroplating technology has made it possible for even average households to include silver crockery in their collection. So when you search for a piece of antique silver, it is likely that you are looking for sterling silver tableware or a silver flatware. The former is a bit difficult to find and it usually bears the name of its manufacturer and the place where it was made.

Are you wondering about how to distinguish antique silver from the usual ones? Well you can opt for an acid test by your jeweler that will cost you a small amount. In addition, there are certain tips to test silver. First of all do not use a touchstone, test the silver piece yourself. Scuff or lightly scratch a minute spot underneath and then you should apply Nitric Acid on that spot. If the color changes to cloudy grey then it is a sterling silver and if it turns to black then it is Coin silver. If it turns to green it indicates that the item is plated.

Antique silver ware and sterling silver pieces exhibit a couple of distinctive properties. The stored value of these objects attracts all those who are interested in collecting antique silver items. As a collector, you will not only enjoy the utility, beauty and aesthetics but also the financial dividends. It is a type of asset that benefits collectors and investors against currency devaluation and inflation.

Amongst antique silver, jewelry and silverware are extremely popular, especially amongst women. It can add a different charm to your appearance when worn as an ornament. Silver bracelets, especially 'silver charm bracelets' are available in a diverse sizes, colors, and designs and is a popular accessory amongst women.

Antique silver is also available in the form of antique coins. Coin collections have been a common hobby but a rare antique collection is nothing short of an achievement for all collectors. These include Roman coins, American antique coins, Chinese antique coins and other types too.

Just acquiring an antique silver piece for your collection is not sufficient. You need to take adequate care of them. Preserve them in a different place as they are vulnerable to corrosion, scratches and dents. It is necessary that you clean antique silver with a soft cloth to ensure prolonged use.

About the Author:

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