

ranchdressing

House parts ...
midcentury collectibles ...
the inside scoop on
what's what
and where to get it

Q: I fell in love with this dining table and chairs the moment I saw them at my local thrift store with a price tag of \$99.99 for the set. I'm hoping you can help me identify the designer or maker. It looks as if the cane-back slipper chairs have been reupholstered and the unusual dining table is only 23" tall. I cannot find any identifying marks except for numbers underneath. If nothing more, this dining set has become a fun conversation piece!



Nancy Werlinger

A: "This is a game table," writes dealer Judy Engel of modernonthehudson.com. "The construction strongly suggests it to be American made. We like to call this type of furniture 'American Danish.' In the '50s and '60s, as Danish Modern furniture gained mainstream popularity here, many companies such as Broyhill, Drexel, American of Martinsville and Lane created fabulously constructed lines to mimic the popular Danish designs. One nifty thing about this table is that you don't really see game tables any longer. At \$99, you got a good deal. Fabulous!"

Q: I've researched online and can't seem to figure out if this is a real Blenko vase. I found it at Goodwill for \$1.99. I know that there are fakes that are being embellished with Blenko logos, especially the paper/silver logo that my piece has. If it is real, I'm also wondering what era it's from. Any input is appreciated!

Margaret Rogers

A: Steve Cohen, a collector whose home was featured in Fall 2013, replies: "I'm not a Blenko expert, but I do buy it whenever I can if the price is right. If you look closely on the bottom, sometimes 'BLENKO' is etched; otherwise, your 'silver hand' sticker was used from the 1930s to 1982. Further research identifies the shape as a '64-E' vase designed by Joel Myers in 1964.

"Here's a link to the Blenko catalogs: blenko.archive.org/blenko_catalogs.htm. The years 1962–1971 are not on the website but are in a Schiffer book. For \$1.99, I would have bought it in a second. Looks like the genuine deal to me; nice score!"

Cohen also sent a link to a matching vase that sold for \$22 on eBay in July 2013. That listing turned out to be from one of our advertisers, Debbie of atomicmobiles.com, who confirmed Steve's info. "I'm pretty sure Margaret's vase is Blenko, made sometime from 1964 to 1982, and designed



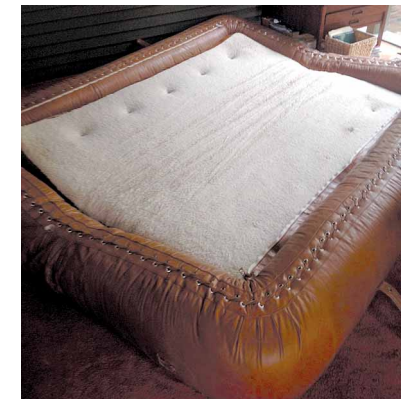
by Myers, who worked for Blenko from 1964 to 1970.

"I've never been too worried about those stickers being applied to non-Blenko; it's not that easy to find unused stickers. I definitely would have snapped it up for \$1.99 at Goodwill, that's for sure!"

Q: I have an interesting looking couch/sofa bed we inherited when we purchased our midcentury home. We are not sure if it is anything special that is worth keeping and having reupholstered. The design and functionality are very unique—the sitting area opens to become a sheepskin-covered bed—so we are curious about it.

IOS

A: Now, we would have said, No this isn't anything, but Hudson, N.Y., dealer Judy Engel knew better: "I love this piece! This is classic 1970s Italian Design at



its best—perfect for the '70s playboy as in, 'How about coming over to my apartment to sit on the couch/bed—wink, wink?' In any event, this is called the Anfibia sofa, designed by Alessandro Becchi and manufactured by Giovannetti. It has a steel frame, the exterior is leather and, as you mentioned, when the sofa is unfolded, the center reveals a funky bed that is covered in synthetic sheepskin. Very, very cool."



Q: This bowl has been in my family since the '50s or '60s, and I am happy to say it is now mine. It is incredibly heavy and measures a little over 14" square by 4 1/2" high. The bowl is a beautiful shade of blue and has vibrant gold specks scattered in the middle out to the sides. My mother says someone had told her that the glass is made from old telephone glass connectors. Could this be possible? It would be nice to know more about this bowl, including the value.

Rosemary LaBorde