

“I Bought this Painting at a Yard Sale...”: Appraisal Resources

Resource List

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Finding an Appraiser

- American Society of Appraisers (ASA) – appraisers.org – International organization; represents all disciplines of appraisal specialists; “Find an Appraiser” referral system; Consumer Library has articles about collecting and antiques/collectibles.
- International Society of Appraisers (ISA) – isa-appraisers.org – International organization; focuses on antiques & residential contents, fine art, gemstones & jewelry, machinery & equipment; “Find an Appraiser” search available.
- Appraisers Association of America (AAA) – appraisersassoc.org – national organization; focuses on personal property and fine/decorative art; “Find an Appraiser” search available; “Expert’s Guide to Collecting” brochure available [here](#)
- Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) - <http://uspap.org/> - standards by which professional appraisers agree to adhere.
 - Brochure about USPAP: <http://www.appraisalfoundation.org/> - under “Free Brochures”, called “ASB & USPAP Brochure”

Web Resources

- AntiqueTrader.com – articles; links to other antique/collectibles websites; home of Antique Trader journal; message board may be useful but spam is common; links to collect.com, a free classified ad site for antiques/collectibles.
- Antique-Antiques.com – information site on antiques/collectibles; has article about how to get a good appraisal; articles have bibliographic & web citations.
- FindArtInfo.com – search for a piece of art to find the auction or estimated price; search by artist’s name; can also search for monograms and signatures for a fee.
- Country Living’s [“What is it? What’s it Worth?”](#) – information site about antiques/collectibles; offers possible free online appraisals if your submission is chosen.
- [The Art Appraiser](#) – blog where professional art appraiser gives advice about choosing an appraiser; also has monthly ART FIND, offering free online appraisal if your submission is chosen.
- [Crawford Direct Appraising](#) – helpful links to a variety of sites about appraising, antiques, and collectibles under “What’s This Worth?” section.
- [What’s It Worth to You?](#) – online appraisal service; charges a fee; different levels of appraisal available.

- Kovels.com – information site on antiques/collectibles; provides a free online price guide; free e-zine and directory under “free resources” tab; free forum available as well.
- GoAntiques.com – site for buying, selling, and trading antiques; free to browse, search, and find prices for items; free account set up for buying and selling items.
- Antiques Roadshow – official site of PBS show; can see bios and contact info for their appraisers; under “Resources” tab is an “Experts’ Library”, where recommended books are listed; can also watch archived shows and search for prices of featured items.
- Price It! Antiques & Collectibles – subscription database from Gale/Cengage Learning; a pricing database; millions of searchable images and over 41 million prices listed.

Print Resources

- Price Guides: encyclopedia of antiques and collectibles; give info on pieces like physical characteristics, photos/drawings, and company history; prices usually based on retail, not auction.
 - *Kovels’ Antiques and Collectibles Price Guide*
 - *Warman’s Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide*
 - *Schroeder’s Antiques Price Guide* (out of print)
 - *Antique Trader Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide*
 - *Miller’s Antiques Handbook & Price Guide*
- Trade Journals: bring you in touch with the larger world of antiques; generally for more serious collectors, but good for anyone who enjoys collecting; give prices and reproduction issues; list events like shows and flea markets; usually give educational information and have forums for asking questions; subscription usually for a fee.
 - “Antique Trader”
 - “Maine Antique Digest”
 - “Antiques and the Arts Weekly”
 - “The Upper Canadian Antique Showcase”
 - “Treasures: Antique to Modern Collecting”
 - “Antique Week”
 - “Southeastern Antiquing and Collecting Magazine”
 - “New York-Pennsylvania Collector”
 - “The Magazine ANTIQUES”

Programming Ideas

- Host an “Appraisal Program” at your library; the appraiser comes to your library and appraises one free item per patron (in good standing); or, charge a small fee to benefit

the library's Friends organization; limit attendance so as not to overwhelm the appraiser (Pike County Public Library has successful program every October).

- Invite an appraiser to the library to give a short presentation on a topic like collecting, buying, selling, caring for items, etc.
- Host an antiques fair at your library; have several appraisers available to each to one free item per patron (in good standing); have speakers during event; have antiques/collectibles show or sale with admission fee.

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