



Finders Keepers Antique Mall

Finding Vintage Fun

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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**Finders Keepers
Antique Mall**



501 E 4th Ave.

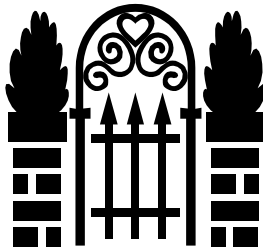
Olympia, WA 98501

Phone: 360-943-6454

Hours:

Mon-Sat 10:30-6:00

Sunday noon-5:00



Come on in to Finders Keepers!

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Northwest Beach Bonanza

Here in the Pacific Northwest we are the accidental recipients of a gift from the sea, glass floats. These wonderful collectibles may have been at sea for well over ten years before they washed ashore on our beaches. Ocean currents create a great big circle and the floats from fishing nets that are long gone bob and float and drift in this pattern until a big storm breaks the circle for a few days and some of them head for shore with the weather. Most fishing floats lost in the Pacific land up in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska and after major storms lucky finders just might come upon one on a sandy beach.



Floats come in many sizes

from the vast fishing fleets and their gigantic nets which could be over 50 miles long. The Japanese discovered glass floats about 1910 and learned to make them for their fishing industry.

Floats range in size from golf ball to soccer ball size and the colors range from aquamarines and greens to browns and more rarely, yellows. Floats that are bright reds or blues or vivid yellows are in most cases floats made as curios and not actually fishing floats. They are thinner and more polished looking than real working floats, where all that mattered was could they float and do their job? They are usually sealed with a blob called a button and if they are marked that's normally where you will find the mark.



Small floats at Finders

The first fishing floats were invented in the 1840s in Norway and credited to Christophe Faye who had the brilliant idea of replacing cork and wood floats with long lasting glass. The floats were made with 'cullet', old broken glass, and a lot of those we find here are the color they are because their origins are Japanese from old recycled sake bottles.

Who knew? Fishing floats are a great recycled collectible artifact. They were made in places all over the world, but best known to us are the Japanese floats

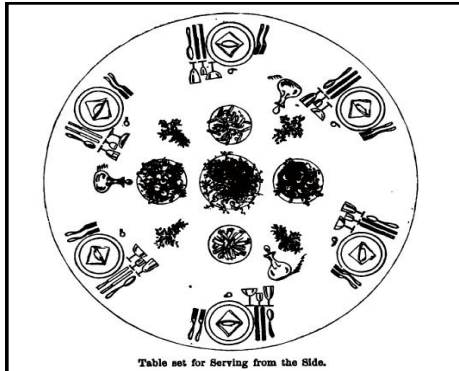


Uncommon Brown Floats

Con't on Page 2

Vintage Tablecloth Lovers Unite

We would like to thank our own expert on all things table linen, Teresa Stone, for sharing this article on the Vintage Table Cloth Lovers Club. If you love linens, check them out!



Victorian table setting diagram, so complicated hostesses needed a map.

In the summer of 2002, a group of linen obsessed folks formed "The Vintage Tablecloth Lovers Club" (VTLC). Founders were drawn together by their mutual love and appreciation for the vintage printed tablecloths of the 1930's through the 1960's. As they shared their collections, they also shared their knowledge and realized that if they pooled their resources an important part of American history would be preserved. The club was born and is still going strong today. Promoting the educa-

tion and appreciation of these textile treasures, we have a vibrant on-line club. We have fun sharing our unusual hobby and making friendships that will last a lifetime.

The VTLC provides numerous resources benefitting all types – from the casual hobbyist to the rabid collector. We share everything from pictures of our collections to sales trends in the marketplace to resources including articles researched and written by members. We sponsor on-line activities such as table setting contests and themed forum activities. The forum is the place to visit, share, ask questions and learn from each other. Our Tablecloth Identification Database is the only one of its kind, with nearly 1600 tablecloths. More are added all the time. Compiled for members, by members, this invaluable resource is great for identifying a new cloth or just browsing during a quiet moment. The club is not-for-profit, managed by volunteers and all fun. We would love to have you join us and look forward to meeting you. The membership fee goes to support our website which is our club meeting hall. Please visit us at

<http://vintagetableclothloversclub.com>

Beach Bonanza

con't. from pg. 1

Molds were used in the 1930s and 40s, when it was found that making them went even faster if they were put in a mold that made many at once. Net lines on floats are from the net actually wearing a pattern on the surface over an extended period of time. Some have a matte surface from rolling in sand and wearing the shiny part off.

Several American companies made floats including Owens, Illinois Glass and in Seattle, Northwestern Glass Company. Look for the NW on the sealing button for Northwestern floats.



Fishing floats were made in several forms including roller floats that look like little rolling pins and some odd ones with knobs on each end that are extremely rare. You will find affordable small round floats with prices going up by size, color and condition. Even if you can't get to the beach you can find beautiful floats for your collection. Check out Finders Keepers now, we have a lot of floats "bobbing around" just in time for summer beach style decorating.

There are a ton of blogs and books on collecting glass floats. Here are a few, including one on Norway.

<https://www.glassbottlemarks.com/glass-fishing-net-floats/> <http://>

www.theglassmuseum.com/fishingfloats.htm<http://>

www.bestnorwegian.com/glass-fishing-floats.html

This month's peek backwards at our

Find it Keep it, Adventures in Vintage blog.

Simply copy the link in your browser to read:

The Kathy Kale Mystery

<https://hellotherevintage.blogspot.com/2015/10/the-mystery-of-kathy-kale.html>

Resources for Collectors and the Curious

At Finders Keepers we are often asked by our customers what a thing they own is worth. It could be a piece of Fenton glass, a Limoges plate, Grandma's silver, crystal or china, Grandpa's spurs or almost anything someone perceives as valuable.

Prices are always subjective and they fluctuate with what's in style or currently collected, and that changes often.

This article is about learning to use your computer as a tool to do your own research, which can be fun, frustrating and rewarding-all at the same time. Included are resources I use a lot as an antique and vintage dealer.

It takes a whole lot of homework and energy to become a subject matter expert and there are so many things to learn about in our business that most of us have become expert generalists. We know how to do research and hunt down what we need to know. I guarantee, all of the 40+ dealers at Finders Keepers know exactly what a tough but rewarding job it can be to unravel a mystery.

Here's my process, hopefully it can help you get started too. I'll use a little Gouda Pottery vase I recently acquired as an example.

I start by looking over a piece carefully, noting size, colors, condition and any maker's marks. On the base of this vase it said "Gouda Holland" and it had a symbol like a little house and some letters and numbers on the bottom. I knew that Gouda is beautiful Dutch pottery that is usually very bright art deco or art nouveau, but this piece didn't look like those so what was it and when was it made and what was it worth?

I started by simply using the internet [Google](#) search engine and typing in Gouda Holland pottery in the search bar and sorting the results by [image](#). There are often hundreds of images, and I was looking to find one that

was somewhat similar to my piece, in color and design.

When I didn't find the result I wanted, I sorted again choosing [All](#). This brings me everything, images and web pages which may contain the information nugget I need and some background information, which gives my piece context. Clicking on several web pages, I found there are there are a lot of experts writing about the history of Gouda. Finding the information you want can take a lot of reading and hunting, but this game is about patience and following the clues.

It's often useful to hunt by makers marks, or back stamps, as they are called in ceramics, in this case I typed in Gouda marks. If you have silver you can search out images of silver marks by country. Everything collectible seems to have its own on line library of information. If you can't find a topic by using one "search term", aka the words you use to find what you want, try rewording or changing the term. Google is an amazing resource, an encyclopedia of everything at your fingertips and it's free.

Also, if you run into an issue with a page of information that you need and it's in a foreign language, [Google Translate](#) is a wonder worth exploring.

After some poking around on a Gouda pottery information site, I found a picture of the little house logo, PZH Gouda, and I was able use that information to approximately date my piece based on that marking. But I still didn't know who the artist was or an exact age. The search went on...

When researching there are several sites worth a look for general and sometimes specific information. [Pinterest](#) is an excellent place to find collected photos of a specific group of similar items. It can be frustrating

because it will often not lead anywhere useful after you find a photo, but it's still a good reference tool because captions often give significant details.

Don't forget that [eBay](#) is great for valuation if you know what you have. Don't look at the current listings of things for sale for your research. Remember anyone can price anything any way they want on eBay. Instead use the button on the top right that says [Advanced](#).

Check the [Sold](#) box on that page to search for pieces like the one you are researching to see what things actually sold for to get a real world comparison.

[Etsy](#), the online vintage and craft marketplace, is also a great place to search for like objects. Etsy sellers have real world prices for the most part, making for good comparisons.

Don't forget to check [Kovels](#), the antique experts. They have a search function on their website, and you can get a free membership too. Using their search function, I found a very similar piece to my vase and the name of the artist, Mat Bloemen. With this, I was able to discover more of his pieces and comparative prices. I found my piece was made around 1910 and more about the artist too.

If you are reading this as a beginning collector I hope you are finding half the fun is doing the work to find what sort of 'magical unicorn' you have in your hand. Remember research work does take time, it took me about two hours to unravel my mystery.

[Facebook](#) can be a great resource too, there are groups who collect just about everything, and they are happy to share information. You may have to become part of the group to enjoy the privileges, but the Facebook groups I belong to have been invaluable to me for both learning and sharing.

Happy Hunting!



DEALER DEALS AND INFORMATION!

Social Media Connections

- Like us and follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/finderskeepersantiquemall>
- Follow us on Instagram at: @finderskeepersoly
- Tweet your favorite Finders finds and follow us at: @FindersOly
- Follow our Blog at: <https://hellotherevintage.blogspot.com/>
- Sign up for our email list in the front of the store and never miss a sale!
- Email us with questions and suggestions about our newsletter and social media at: finderskeepersoly@gmail.com

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