

GARAGE SALES

Valuable Garage Sale Finds

Most of us hit up garage sales hoping to find buried treasure, but these people really did find items that were incredibly valuable, if not irreplaceable.

THE BEAUVAIS MISSAL

Will Sideri went to a Maine estate sale in 2022 hoping to find a KitchenAid mixer. Instead, Sideri, who had taken a manuscripts class at Colby College, found something much more valuable. He noticed a framed Latin document hanging on the wall, decorated with musical notes and gold flourishes. It bore two markings: 1285 AD and a price tag of \$75.

Experts confirmed Sideri's find was The Beauvais Missal, used in Roman Catholic worship at the Beauvais Cathedral in France, Fox 8 reports. It could be worth as much as \$10,000. The full missal was once owned by William Randolph Hearst before being divided into individual pages and sold.

THE PORTOLAN CHART

Protolan charts are hand-drawn maps for seafarers of old, typically on animal skin, used for navigation between ports. They feature rhumb lines that radiate out from points in the ocean in the

direction of the wind or compass points to help navigators chart their courses. These charts also often feature drawings of compass roses, flags, sea monsters and other nautical features.

Map dealer Alex Clausen was perusing an estate sale for oil heir Gordon Getty and wife Ann when he spotted a portolan chart that looked older than it was portrayed. The sale said it was from between 1500 and 1525, but Clausen thought it was older.

It featured an anachronism with the flag for Granada, the last holdout of the Moorish kingdom. That meant the map was from, at the latest, the 15th century. It also featured the islands in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Mongols in eastern Europe. Experts have suggested that it may date from 1230-1420. It now has a price tag of \$7.5 million.

YONGLE BOWL

A Connecticut man bought a \$35 white-and-blue porcelain at a New Haven garage



CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

sale. Acting on a hunch, he contacted Sotheby's, the Associated Press reported. The auction house's experts identified it as coming from the 15th century.

The white bowl with blue flowers is from the early Ming dynasty, Sotheby's said, specifically under the Yongle emperor. Sotheby's says the Yongle Court developed a new style of porcelain ovens in the

city of Jingdezhen. Patterns inside the rim of the bowl and its depictions of flowers are hallmarks of the porcelains. It is estimated to be worth \$300,000 to \$500,000.

26.27-CARAT FIND

A garage sale shopper in England found what she thought was a piece of costume jewelry may actually be a \$500,000 diamond ring. She

bought it for about \$13 in West London and had it appraised after another jeweler thought it might have been real. Sotheby's of London verified the hunch.

The 26.27-carat, cushion-cut diamond was set in a heavy, antique-style mount that was heavily tarnished. The ring hails from the 19th century and was valued at as much as \$450,000.

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SELLER'S TIP

Getting an Appraisal

If you believe you have a rare treasure in your sale items, it's best to get it appraised by a licensed professional. It may cost some money, but the peace of mind is worth it.

AD SPACE