

## TREASURE SEARCH

## 'Silhouettes' not just paper doll cutouts



Dear Nancy and Frank:  
I found these framed things in my attic which look like paper doll cutouts. Can you explain?

Alice,  
Birmingham

Dear Alice:

What you have is a "silhouette," which is a portrait or image done in profile in one hue, normally black. They were usually done by following a shadow cast by candlelight on a sheet of paper. A great silhouette artist did truly amazing detail work, down to the hairline and eyelashes of his subjects. The technique was derisively named by the French nobility after Etienne de Silhouette (finance minister 1709-67), who was so unpopular that

his detractors said the outline portraits were symbolic of his empty head. At least he is remembered! If your silhouette is unsigned, it would have a retail value of approximately \$800. If it is signed by a known artist, it could have a value up to \$3,500.

Nancy and Frank Boos are with the Frank H. Boos Gallery, an appraisal firm and auction house at 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills that has been in the auction business for more than 30 years. Do you have an item you would like to know about? Send in a good photo of it, along with its description (including size, working parts, etc.) and any known provenance (history) to Treasure Search, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Include your name, community and phone number.



Shadowy figures: A great silhouette artist did amazing detail work, down to the hairline and eyelashes of his subjects.

## 'Alice Nizzy Nazy' is terrific

By SARAH NORDGREN  
AP NEW FEATURES

"Alice Nizzy Nazy" (Putnam, \$15.95) is a terrific title for a terrific little children's book. Tony Johnston is the author and Tomie dePaola the illustrator, a great combo for words that work and pictures that please.

Alice Nizzy Nazy lives in Santa Fe, N.M., and is so old and so mean, people say she's a witch. This evil creature, based on the Russian Baba Yaga, lives in an adobe hut that stands on skinny road runner feet inside a fence of prickly pear.

When Manuela loses her sheep, her path leads straight up to the witch's house (oh my). The little girl is put in a pot to boil but is saved temporarily when she recalls a place where the witch can find the rare flower that will keep her from aging.

But (oh my) the witch had her fingers

crossed when she promised Manuela to let her go and this time it is because Manuela tastes sour that she is released from the stew pot.

I confess to never having enjoyed, or been able to figure out if any children really enjoyed, the perennially popular Amelia Bedelia. Then my twins turned 6 and Amelia, at least to them, began to hold great appeal.

Herman Parish, the nephew of Amelia Bedelia's creator, Peggy Parish, has brought the wacky housekeeper with a penchant for unintentional puns back in "Good Driving, Amelia Bedelia" (Greenwillow Books, \$15).

In Herman Parish's story, Amelia takes her employer, Mr. Rogers, for a ride in the country. As in earlier Amelia stories, puns pepper page after page.

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