

TREASURE SEARCH

Old plate
is importNANCY AND
FRANK BOOS

Dear Nancy and Frank:

Enclosed are photographs of a very old, treasured plate. It is 13 3/4 inches in diameter. The colors in the photograph are very close to the actual plate, except that the gold leaf in the tendrils around the edges don't show.

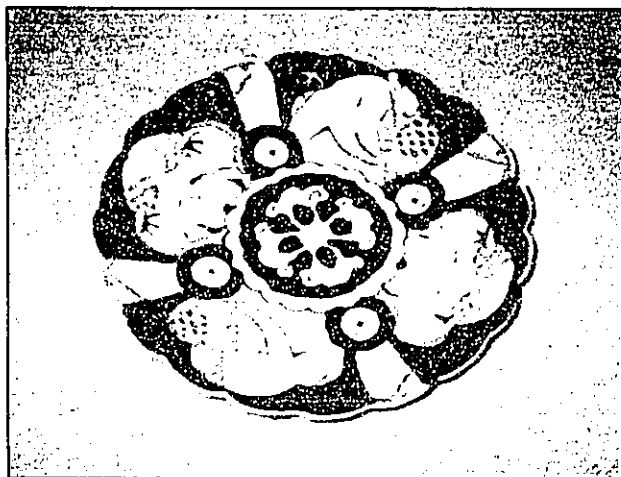
I am 60 years old and the plate originally belonged to my great-grandmother. My mother referred to it as the "Imari Plate" and believed it to be very valuable.

I would appreciate knowing the value of this plate. It is in perfect condition.

Mary,
Bloomfield Hills

Dear Mary:

What you have is in fact "Imari" ware, one of the major styles of Japa-



Vivid vessel: Imari ware decoration is identified by its symmetry and strong colors.

nese porcelain, from both the artistic and commercial viewpoints. It is believed to have been manufactured in and around Arita, Japan, since the mid-17th century and derives its name from

the port of Imari where the wares were sold.

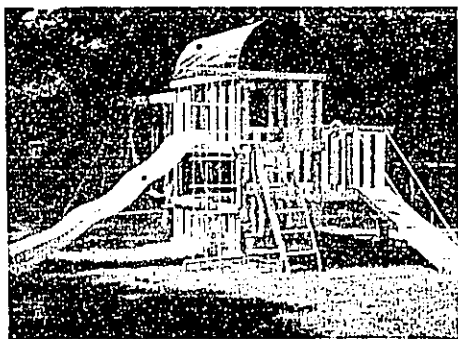
The ancient Japanese practice of wrapping jars and gifts in colorful fabrics gave way to the idea of copying the

textile designs and painting them directly onto the vessels. Imari ware decoration is identified by its symmetry, landscape designs and vivid colors. Typical, as in your plate, are strong blue and white underglaze motifs highlighted in gold, strong red outlines and bold blues and greens. Yellow, black and sometimes purple were also used.

This plate having belonged to your great-grandmother leads us to believe it is probably mid- to late-19th century, the time when Imari ware began to be heavily exported to the Western world. If your 13-inch plate is in excellent condition, the retail value would likely be around \$400-\$500; however, if it were a very large charger of 18 inches or more, the value could be as high as \$1,000-\$2,000 at retail.

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.

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