Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Chinese porcelains of past centuries are selling for high prices today.

There are many types. Some we identify by the color - like celadon (pale-green glaze) or blue and white (blue decoration on white porcelain, including varieties called Canton or Nanking) or multicolored patterns named for their dominant color, including famille rose, rose medallion, rose mandarin or famille verte (green).

Another American name for some Chinese porcelain is "Chinese export porcelain." It was the made-to-order dinnerware manufactured in China but decorated in the European manner and sold to foreign countries in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Because the Chinese often copy old pieces, those who have not studied antique Chinese porcelains can't tell old from the new. Unrecognized bargains have been found in American homes. The properly identified pieces sell for thousands of dollars.

Look for flawless glazes without unintentional bumps or flaws. Turn a vase over. The bottom rim that touches the tabletop is usually unglazed if Chinese. European foot rims and bottoms of lids are glazed. Decorations should be carefully painted in light, pleasing colors. Twentieth-century Chinese wares sold to other countries are often decorated with large figures without much detail and with gold and other bright colors. A close look at a fine-quality famille rose vase would show a scene with many small people and animals in a woodland or interior setting.

Prices of Chinese porcelain vary with the quality of the work and the age. If you plan to buy an expensive piece, get expert advice. If you own any heirloom porcelains, take a close look at them. Many 18th-century and earlier pieces have been rediscovered in recent years. A decorative piece your grandma or great-grandma bought years ago could be a treasure.

Q: I own a British coronation mug dated Cryptoquip June 22, 1911. On the front, there's a picture of King George V and Queen Mary above the phrase "Urmston Coronation 1911." Is this of any value? My grandmother brought it to the United States from England.

A: Your coronation mug is 100 years old, mug made for the coronation celebration held in Urmston, a town outside of Manchester, England. The coronation of King George V (1865-1936) took place in London on June 22, 1911. He had actually risen to the throne the year before upon the death of his father, King Edward VII. Many souvenirs of King George V's coronation were made. A mug like yours auctioned last year for 10 British pounds, or a little more than \$15.

Tip: Don't mechanically buff silver. It will change the color and wear away bits of the silver.

Take advantage of a free listing for your group

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy does the squeaky squirrel voice a lot better than that, Daddy!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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Difficulty Level 🖈

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle.

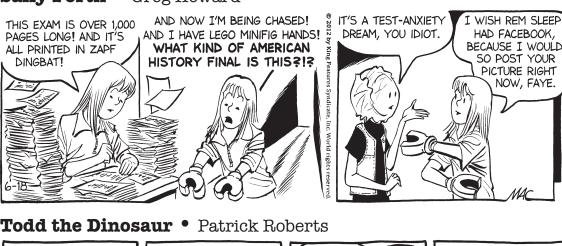
The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

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DETWOJH HXUP ZXTOVW ZUVV which qualifies it as an "antique." It's a souvenir ATE DUH JNHZ KXT EUNVVP VLCU KNVCLSM LS ZDNECVP ZHQAA: CLHHP MVLHHUE.

> Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHENEVER I DAMAGE SOMETHING IN A SHRUBBY WASTELAND, IT'S ALWAYS COVERED BY MY HEATH INSURANCE.

> > Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals I





Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



to announce events or to find antique shows and other events. Go to Kovels.com/calendar to find and plan your antiquing trips.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the 1990 world team 2 championship final between Germany and the United States. It arose early in the match and put 3 the Germans, who ultimately won the title, ahead for the first time.

When a German pair held the North-South cards, they stopped at a quiet three notrump, making seven with the aid of no opening spade lead and a couple of diamond finesses.

At the other table, where Charles Coon and Mike Moss of the U.S. sat North-South, the bidding went as shown. West's two-spade overcall was pre-emptive, leaving Moss awkwardly placed after Coon bid three hearts. He tried three notrump, which Coon raised to six.

Had West led a spade, South would have been down two before he could blink. However, West (Roland Rohowsky) did not lead a spade, seemingly handing declarer the slam. But Rohowsky's choice of a low diamond lead instead proved to have diabolical consequences.

From Moss' perspective, after dummy was tabled he could count 12 virtually ironclad tricks -- six hearts, five clubs and the ace of diamonds. It would therefore have been the height of folly to risk a diamond finesse, which, if it lost, would give the opponents a chance to cash their top spades.

So Moss put up dummy's ace and tried to run the hearts. But when West showed out on the first heart, Moss' six heart tricks quickly shrunk to five, and he finished down one for a team loss of 820 points and 13 IMPs to the Germans.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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