

Buried Treasure by Pinkney Gage

Grace Kelly Figures To Up Monaco Stamp Value

"I predict," Jack, my stamp collector friend, said, "that Grace Kelly's impact on the philatelic world will be considerable."

Here's his explanation. The Principality of Monaco during the past 20 years or so has frequently used portraits of Monagasque princesses on its stamps.

My niece Judith gasped admiringly as she reached swiftly forward. "Imagine," she said wonderingly as she set the piece on the table before me.

I felt the same way, but without the awe. What she had found was something I was not prepared for. It was of glass, 13 inches high as measured, and it looked like either a replica of some kind of trumpet, or else like a crazed artist's attempt to duplicate the Old Moulmein Pagoda in miniature.

The base was an almost flat, doughnut-shaped piece about six inches in diameter. An inverted, tapering cone rose from it to pass through five doughnut shapes of decreasing diameter, the whole business terminating in a tapered stem topped by a button about as big as a quarter.

"These aren't doughnut shapes, Uncle Pinkney. And these are ball knobs," said my niece gently. "And they are perfectly lovely. See, each one has a strawberry design on it."

PUBLISHING DATE A GOOD GUIDE TO WORTH OF BOOK

There wasn't a customer in the book store when I entered, but George, the proprietor, looked pleased as punch. There was a stack of books in front of him, obviously secondhand, and he was pricing them.

I bent forward for a closer look and saw at a glance they were cook books.

"There doesn't seem to be anything exciting there," I said after a second look at the titles.

"That's what I thought," George replied. "A dizzy little blond brought them in about an hour ago and said she wanted a modern, up-to-the-minute cook book and would I kindly take this junk off her hands."

"Well, it was obvious she was a very recent bride, so when she insisted that she didn't want these, I gave her the book she wanted, and that was that. What I didn't know was that one of the books she gave me was this one."

The book George handed me had the staid title, "Family Recipes." It was by an H. L. Barnum, and it had been rebound in a good cloth binding.

I opened it to say that this was "practical guide for the Husbandman & Housewife," offering "a great variety of valuable recipes," plus important advice on gardening, cookery and "various branches of rural economy."

But the most important point was the one found at the bottom of the information that this had been published in Cincinnati in 1831.

"You'd think people would know by this time that a book with a date like that is one of the rarer items," George said, opening the cover and taking out a pencil.

I asked how much the book was worth. "I'm pricing it at \$40," he said, "and that's definitely on the bargain side."

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Grange

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Bob Elson was given the first and second degrees by past master Ted Fredenburg.

Roscoe Arent was appointed youth chairman; Mr. and Mrs. Elga were appointed to the ways and means and social committee.

The next HEC meeting will be Feb. 15 at the home of Lucy Smith, at 1 p.m. All members please note the change of time and are urged to attend.

Refreshments were served by Mr. and Mrs. Abbott and Ted Fredenburg.

The next serving committee will be Mr. and Mrs. Roy Green and Mr. and Mrs. Les Casey.

The next Grange meeting will be March 4. Plans for the social evening will be announced later.

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