

## Test Your Antiques and Collectibles Common Sense

### COMMON SENSE AIN'T SO COMMON

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"Just use your common sense" my Dad always said. He's right! Common sense can save you from many costly errors in life. It can also help you to avoid making antiques and collectibles buying mistakes. Unfortunately, I am learning that common sense "just ain't so common." Knowing a little about American history and using your common sense can save you from buying non-genuine items. So here's a little quiz to test you common sense and knowledge of history. Some of the questions are pretty tricky, and some are fairly easy. You may have to do some research. All the answers to these questions are easily found in the encyclopedia.

The common sense antiques and collectibles quiz

- 1) A friend heard you were an were interested in antiques so she brings you a painting that she claims was painted in 1865. It is an oil painting on canvas. The frame is made of wood. The subject is a young woman in a white dress with a lace neck line. The details in the painting are very clear. She is seated on a chair near a window. In the background the is a painting of a ship on the wall. The details on the ship shows sails, rigging and an American flag. There is a lighted lamp tilted toward the picture, and the light bulb can be seen under the lamp shade. You call me and tell me all about it hoping to find out what it is worth. Based on the information provided I tell you it was not painted in 1865 and probably not genuine without even looking at it. How do I know that know that?
- 2) You and your friend are at the local flea market. She is looking for historical autographs. A dealer says he has a signed photograph of George Washington. As the dealer reaches into his trunk to pull it out, your friend says; "No thanks!" and begins to walk away before she even sees it. Why doesn't she want it?
- 3) Your cousin calls you on the telephone to tell you about the rare coin he just bought. He says he knows it is over 2000 years old because the date on it is; "52 B.C." Your cousin paid \$50.00. Was it a wise purchase?
- 4) A framed color print of a cruise ship hangs on an antique shop wall. In the lower right margin of the picture is the inscription; "It was my pleasure sailing with you, President Hoover, November 8, 1966." Could this be Herbert Hoover, President of the United States? Why or why not?

5) An airplane propeller is for sale at local auction. Since you and your friends need extra credit you and your classmates decide to buy it for the teacher that loves airplane and aviation collectibles, hoping it will soften him up. It comes with a letter certifying the authenticity of the propeller. The letter is written as follows: "I certify that this propeller was used on my aircraft during a test flight in 1935. Amelia Airhart, 5/7/36." Will this get you the extra credit points you need? Please explain.

**Here are the answers to the "Common Sense Quiz."**

1) The painting that was reported to be painted in 1865 had a light bulb in it. The light bulb was invented by Thomas A. Edison. He wasn't born until 1847. He invented the light bulb in 1879, so this picture could not have been painted in 1865.

2) The signed photograph of George Washington cannot be authentic because the camera was not invented until after George Washington's death.

3) The coin dated; "52 B.C." cannot be authentic, since there were no coins dated "B.C." How could anyone know when B.C. would become A.D.?

4) The signed cruise ship print signed; "President Hoover, November 8, 1966" cannot be Herbert Hoover the 31st President of the U.S. Herbert Hoover died in 1964.

5) The Amelia Earhart authentication letter of the propeller is a fake. Her last name is spelled EARHART, not AIRHART. The letter was dated 5/7/36. Many contestants stated that Earhart was reported missing prior to May 1936. This is incorrect. Her last "round-the-world" flight was in 1937. She disappeared during this flight.