

From Paul's Desk



by Paul Haig



HAIG'S 
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FINE JEWELRY
custom • classic • antique

ANTIQUÉ APPRAISING Part Two

As we mentioned in last week's article, there are different levels of appraisals. A verbal appraisal is a quick opinion of an item and can be free or up to hundreds of dollars depending on the credentials and reputation of the appraiser. An informal appraisal is generally a short written statement with a brief description and value. A formal appraisal is more involved and analyzes the item in depth. It may include photographs, test results, related pieces from museums or published collections, realized sale prices or comparisons to similar pieces.

Values may vary greatly over time based on many factors. For example amethyst was once set into the crowns of European royalty (Royal Purple), but when large deposits of amethyst were found in Brazil in the late 19th century, amethyst's value tumbled. Lastly, appraised values sometimes vary greatly due to the appraiser. Some appraisal figures are overstated - I call them "feel good appraisals" because the value is inflated, making the person feel that they got a great deal, but it costs them more for insuring the item.

At HAIG'S OF ROCHESTER FINE JEWELRY, we have educated and GIA-trained appraisers on staff who can appraise jewelry. We also appraise antique Asian, continental, and ethnographic items. For over 35 years, our customers have trusted HAIG'S OF ROCHESTER FINE JEWELRY to appraise and restore their valuable antique heirlooms. Free parking behind our store, open Monday through Saturday.

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