

1
Victorian novelty silver sentry box, enameled with a Guardsman, 2.25in, makers S Mordan & Co, 1890. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 01. HP: £3,000. ABP: £3,528.*



5
Edwardian novelty pin cushion, in the form of a motor car, reverse bearing a registration No. by Levi & Saloman, Birmingham 1909, length 2.25in. *Hy. Duke & Son, Dorchester. Aug 06. HP: £1,000. ABP: £1,176.*



10
George V novelty silver St Bernard pin cushion, Birmingham 1910, 2.25in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jun 00. HP: £640. ABP: £752.*



2
Mid Victorian novelty silver owl mustard pot, chased and engraved plumage, red glass eyes, hinged head with beak holding a mouse head spoon, makers Edward Barnard & Sons, London 1868, 3.5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 04. HP: £2,500. ABP: £2,940.*



6
Pair of Victorian novelty silver peppers, James Braham, London 1887, modelled as hunting horns, 12cm high, crested, and matching silver cigar lighter, James Braham, London 1889. (3) *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Feb 05. HP: £820. ABP: £964.*



11
Novelty continental silver elephant cream jug with hinged lid, marked for Berthold Muller and import marks for 1904, 17cm long. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Dec 03. HP: £620. ABP: £729.*



12
Edwardian novelty silver pin cushion, in the form of a parakeet, Birmingham 1904, 1.75in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Mar 05. HP: £620. ABP: £729.*



3
Victorian novelty silver condiment set by Asprey modelled as a street lamp and three boulders, 7.75in high, original case, London 1877. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Dec 99. HP: £1,750. ABP: £2,058.*



7
Pair of Continental silver novelty peppers modelled as kingfishers, maker Bernard Muller, import mark for 1912, 4in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Mar 02. HP: £750. ABP: £882.*



8
George V novelty silver and gilt metal clockwork table bell, modelled as a tortoise, 5.5in, retailed by Barrett and Sons, Piccadilly, Chester 1912. *Gorringes, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £680. ABP: £799.*



13
Edwardian silver novelty pepper caster in the form of a dachshund, London 1904, 10cm long. *Rupert Toovey & Co, Washington, Sussex. Jun 03. HP: £600. ABP: £705.*



4
Victorian silver novelty pepperette, in the form of a cockerel, maker E.H. Stockwell, London 1884, 4.25in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 05. HP: £1,250. ABP: £1,470.*



9
Edwardian Continental silver novelty inkwell modelled as Mr. Punch's head, import mark for 1898. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Mar 02. HP: £650. ABP: £764.*



14
Modern silver three piece novelty condiment set, modelled as mice, with large mustard with ear of corn spoon, 4.5in, and a similar salt and pepper, 2.5in, maker Robert Garrard, 1972/73. (14.5oz) *Gorringes, Lewes. Oct 02. HP: £600. ABP: £705.*

Investing in Novelty Silver

by John Ainsley

In our *Info News* section we always follow the bullion markets, showing the on-going rises and falls in the prices of scrap precious metals. You can check out the 2005/2006 movements on page 10. These do affect the value of the 'common or garden' silver which exists in ubiquitous amounts at almost every sale, being cutlery, flatware tea services, trays and the like. This functional silver is good value, generally of good quality and a far better investment than ever buying new. Take grape scissors, available new in most department stores or widely on the internet at about £200 or more. Nobody in their right mind should buy, when antique grape scissors, which will hold their value, can be bought, often for much less. Never buy modern silver! Antique silver prices start from the bottom end of the market at about £5-£7 an ounce, up to top quality rarer earlier silver at £20-£50 an ounce.

Novelty silver is another matter entirely where weight is almost irrelevant. Hundreds, even a thousand pounds an ounce is not untypical for the rare pieces. This is a collectors' market where the participants compete for famous makers, for design flair and for the imagery and the symbolism which attaches to well known forms. Examine the sheer novelty of the hunting horn peppers at No. 6, the street light and bollards at No. 3 or Mr Punch at No. 9. Cast your eyes over the masquerading animalia whose metamorphosis shows them to be mustard pots, condiments, pepperettes, pin cushions, vestas, snuffs, all kinds of tableware, even hat-pin stands and inkwells. Novelty silver seems to have been well underway by the mid Victorian period. Check out the wonderful quality of the owl mustard pot at No. 2 or the pepperette masquerading as a cockerel at No. 4. Manufacturing output appears to grow towards the end of the nineteenth century and culminates in an extravaganza of invention through the Edwardian period and through to the reign of George V. I haven't seen examples, nor would I expect any, from the First World War years nor the Second World War years of 1939-1945. The second half of the twentieth century is classed as modern and there is plenty of modern novelty silver about. It does not have the appeal of the older silver and the examples I have seen have an economy or a utility about their design, typical of modernity in many of its facets. The pair of modern penguins at No. 21 with their cabochon eyes prove the exception to every opinion. However the light-houses at No. 42 or the rabbits at No. 44 simply lack the appeal of the pepperette pig at No. 19 or the articulated teddy bear at No. 15. At anything up to £50 an ounce I would advise collectors to steer away from modern and seek out the wonderful engineering evident in the Edwardian swan pin cushion at No. 43.



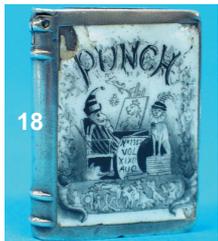
15 Edwardian novelty silver articulated teddy bear pin cushion, 2.5in, makers HVP and Co, Birmingham 1909. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £550. ABP: £646.



16 Edwardian silver novelty cow miniature pin cushion, Birmingham 1910 by Levi & Salaman, 5.8cm long. Bristol Auction Rooms, Bristol. Sep 03. HP: £540. ABP: £635.



17 Victorian novelty silver snuff box modelled as a hobby horse, wrigglework decoration, removable head with concealed spoon, maker Saunders & Shepherd, Chester 1900, RD No. 366450, 2in. Gorrings, Lewes. Dec 04. HP: £520. ABP: £611.



18 Victorian novelty silver book vesta case, enamelled as a copy of Punch, Birmingham 1886, 1.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jun 00. HP: £440. ABP: £517.



19 Victorian novelty pepperette modelled as a pig, 1894, 3in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £400. ABP: £470.



20 Novelty silver pepper pot in the form of a toy horse, maker Saunders and Shepherd, Chester 1901, 5.5cm high. Fellows & Sons, Hockley, Birmingham. Sep 03. HP: £380. ABP: £446.



21 Pair of modern silver novelty condiments, modelled as penguins, cabochon set eyes, makers Robert Garrard, 1971, 3in. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 02. HP: £380. ABP: £446.



22 Pair of Edwardian novelty silver pin cushions modelled as hedgehogs, Birmingham 1904, 1.25in. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 02. HP: £360. ABP: £423.



23 Edwardian novelty silver hedgehog pin cushion, 3in. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 00. HP: £320. ABP: £376.



24 Edwardian novelty silver vesta case modelled as Toby the dog, 2.25in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £320. ABP: £376.



25 Edwardian novelty silver seated teddy bear pin cushion Birmingham 1909, 1.5 in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jun 03. HP: £320. ABP: £376.



26 George V novelty silver hatpin stand, modelled as a caddy and two golf clubs, Chester 1913, 3.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jul 03. HP: £300. ABP: £352.



27 Edwardian novelty silver hedgehog pin cushion, makers W H W Birmingham 1903. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 00. HP: £270. ABP: £317.



28 Silver novelty pepper, modelled as a scroll with the face of Stanley Baldwin?, Sheffield 1912 and a pepper modelled as a penguin, London 1961, 7.5cm. (2) Rosebery's, London. Mar 06. HP: £270. ABP: £317.



29 Edwardian novelty silver hatching chick pin cushion, Chester 1910, 1.25in, with a matching smaller chick, 1in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £260. ABP: £305.



30 Edwardian novelty silver donkey pin cushion, Birmingham 1905, 3in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £260. ABP: £305.



31 Edwardian silver novelty frog pin cushion, B'ham 1910 by H Matthews, 6.2cm long. Bristol Auction Rooms, Bristol. Sep 03. HP: £240. ABP: £282.



32 Continental silver novelty trinket box, Sheffield 1900, bears import and various other marks, 3.5oz, 3in high. Amersham Auction Rooms, Bucks. Feb 02. HP: £220. ABP: £258.



33 George V novelty silver hedgehog pin cushion, Birmingham 1911, 2.25in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £220. ABP: £258.



34 19thC Dutch silver novelty pepper, modelled as a swan, 8cm long. Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Feb 05. HP: £200. ABP: £235.



35 Edwardian silver novelty pin cushion, modelled as a standing elephant, 2in wide, Birmingham 1905. Hartleys, Ilkley. Oct 06. HP: £180. ABP: £211.



36 Edwardian novelty silver chick pin cushion, 1.5in, and a Continental white metal bucket thimble holder. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 01. HP: £170. ABP: £199.



37 Edwardian novelty silver pin cushion modelled as a seated teddy bear, B'ham 1909, 1.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 02. HP: £160. ABP: £188.



38 George V novelty cast silver elephant paperweight, 1.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £160. ABP: £188.



39 Mappin & Webb silver plated novelty 'bee' honey jar. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 00. HP: £140. ABP: £164.



40 Edwardian novelty silver pig pin cushion, 2in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jun 00. HP: £120. ABP: £141.



41 Edwardian silver teddy bear rattle with 2 bells, lacks teeth. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 02. HP: £120. ABP: £141.



42 Pair of novelty pepperettes, modelled as lighthouses, 3.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jan 05. HP: £120. ABP: £141.



43 Edwardian silver swan pin cushion, B'ham 1907 by Adie & Lovekin Ltd, 7cm long. Bristol Auction Rooms, Bristol. Sep 03. HP: £110. ABP: £129.



44 Pair of silver plate novelty condiments in the form of rabbits, 2in wide. Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Mar 04. HP: £60. ABP: £70.