

Amherst College Mug



\$0.25
Paid

From: Thrift store

MUG - AMHERST COLLEGE MA xlg - MINT!

Description:

1974 Extra-large, draft-sized beer mug. 6" tall x 3.75" diameter at the top, 5.25" diameter bottom. Cream colored with burgundy crest. Mint condition. Name on reverse: Lindsey L. R. Echelbarger. Clean, bright, clear.

Winning Bid:

\$17.19

Ended: 10/7/02

History: 8 bids

Starting Bid: \$1.99

Winner: Bothell, WA

Viewed

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Lauralee's Story (eBay ID: manorbooks)

I was snooping around a thrift store in Logan, Utah, looking for 'treasures' to sell on eBay. This mug caught my eye because it was in such nice condition and name-branded. When I turned it over, I found that there was a name on the reverse, under the glaze, "Lindsey L. R. Echelbarger." I wondered why anyone would want to get rid of this beautiful mug, so I decided to list it and see what might happen.

A bidding frenzy broke out. I got several e-mails from different people asking me 'pointedly' where I got the mug. I just told the story as it happened.

The item sold for \$17.12. I e-mailed the winner and asked about the back-story. The winner, from Bothell, WA, was a son of the original owner. The mug has been stolen from his father's fraternity at Amherst College in 1974 and was never seen again. His father had been really upset about losing this precious memento from his halcyon days at Amherst.

But why was there more than usual interest in this mug? It turns out that Lindsey's former roommate at Amherst had also found my auction and was bidding, hoping to return the coveted mug to his friend. Then another of Lindsey's children was also bidding on the mug as a surprise for their father. I guess none of the bidders knew the other's eBay bidding name, and all were keeping the find a huge surprise, hence no one told that they had found the mug.

So how the mug got from Massachusetts to Utah is anyone's guess. Did the thief's conscience finally catch up with him, so he put the mug into the thrift store? I don't think we'll ever know the real story.

