

## Art Deco Ocean Liner Plate



### Limoges Art Deco Plate for the SS Normandie

#### Description:

Art Deco Limoges porcelain plate from the 1st class dining room of the luxury liner SS Normandie. Designed by Jean Luce and 6 3/4" in diameter it was used for antipasto. Has 3 stamps on the back and was most likely a past passenger's souvenir that was slipped inside a dinner jacket to keep.

Winning Bid:

**\$316.00**

Ended: 8/06

History: 8 bids

Starting Bid: \$39.99 (\$89 reserve)

Winner: Oakville, Ontario

Viewed

000274 X

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### Sandra's Story (eBay ID: sandrabing)

I bought this plate after going to the same thrift store I was at the day before when asked by my stepdaughter to go with her. I was selling on eBay since attending eBay University in Charlotte, NC with Uncle Griff in January 2005. He showed me I could sell as well as buy on Ebay and presented it in his unique, informative style. Thanks, Uncle Griff!

As my stepdaughter was trying on clothes, I noticed a stack of small plates on a shelf right outside the dressing room. This one very white plate caught my eye. I pulled it from the middle and it looked in perfect condition, with a double ring of gold trim and the letters CGT in the Art Deco style as a logo. On the back were 3 ink marks, Limoges France, C. Ahrenfeldt and Jean Luce. I had read transportation china was highly collectible and knew I could do some research. My stepdaughter has become my bargain hunter partner and as a young adult has really sharpened her skills, but she was not sure about my feelings on this plate. We left, and I took my sole purchase of 50 cents and a good feeling I had an incredible find home with me.

A little research proved me out. Jean Luce was an Art Deco designer and had been commissioned by the CGT or Compagnie General Transatlantique who built the SS Normandie to create the tableware for this floating palace of the 1930's. My plate graced the tables of first class passengers such as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and Marlene Deitrich. Built as a showcase of French culture and Art Deco design it contained the work of the best, including Lalique glass. The Normandie was seized for

World War II duty in 1942 by the US, and burned in New York harbor when welding sparks caught a stack of mattresses on fire during the conversion. I even had a poster of the Normandie in my bathroom! Unbelievable!

I listed the plate for 10 days with a reserve of \$89. The bidding came down to two Canadian buyers vying for the souvenir. I came home from church to see it had sold for \$316! It was hard to keep my mind from wandering to Ebay and what would the bid amount be when we got home.

The winning bidder gave positive feedback and a rave review by email of how pleased he was with the plate. He is a collector of transportation memorabilia of the 1930s. I am sure now to always check out plates at a thrift store or garage sale. In the past I looked over them. This story made our local paper complete with pictures!

Thank you Lynn, your book helped me with the research on this plate.

