

Pink Powder Jar



Ramses "Prima Donna" Pink Depression Glass Powder Jar

Description:

This lovely, hard-to-find piece entitled "Prima Donna" is described on page 39 in *Bedroom and Bathroom Glass of the Depression Years* by Whitmyer, as follows: "The 7" tall standing figure has her hands crossed, and she is clutching a bouquet of flowers to her chest...The base is marked "Ramses, Inc. - N.Y. - 411." An ad in an early 1930's Montgomery Ward catalog shows the jar was filled with powder and priced at \$.98." Our lovely lady has some issues, including a few small chips around the base of the lid and some stress fractures at the top of her legs.

Winning Bid:

\$149.50

Ended: 10/3/06

History: 14 bids

Starting Bid: \$19.99

Winner: Virginia

Viewed

000076 X

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Paula's Story (eBay ID: pickyoldfussbudget)

I am one of those notorious "early birds," and I normally don't go to garage sales unless I can be there at least a half hour before the starting time. The early bird usually does get the worm, but not always.

After hitting several lackluster sales one Friday morning, I decided to stop at one last one that had already been running a couple of hours. I nearly left as soon as I started looking around—new canning jars were priced at \$2 apiece! However, I saw a dealer acquaintance of mine with several interesting things in her hands, and decided there might be a few bargains left.

She had just picked up and set down a pink glass jar in the shape of a ballerina. As she turned away, I picked it up and began looking it over. She immediately turned back around and said, "Oh, hi! You don't want that—it has some chips and I don't think it's old. I always try to buy things that are in perfect condition!" The bowl of the jar formed a large round tutu, and there were a few small chips inside the edge of the lid, as well as some strange sort-of stress fractures in the surface of the glass at the tops of her legs. But it was obviously Depression glass, and when I looked at the bottom of the base, it was marked "RAMSES, INC. NY" in what appeared to be a very art-deco style. I figured for \$1.50 I couldn't go wrong, so I bought it.

We live in the country and cannot get high-speed Internet, which translates to dial-up. AARRGGHH!! I have two of Lynn's books, *The 100 Best Things I've Sold on eBay* and *eBay Money Making Madness* by my computer, and I treat myself to one or two stories while I'm waiting for a page to download, which can take well over a minute. It makes

waiting so much less frustrating, plus I've learned so much! One thing I have learned from her books is to do your homework! The more information you put into the title and description about the item you're listing, the better chance you have to sell it. People are looking for key words.

I did a search on Ramses glass, but could only find other similar jars. Some referred to a book called *Bedroom and Bathroom Glass of the Depression Years*. I found it online for less than \$10 with shipping. I figured it might come in handy in the future, so I ordered it. It was a good investment! Without that book I doubt I would ever have been able to identify her by name, Prima Donna, which was evidently what bidders were looking for. It gave me a lot of other interesting information about her origin that I put in the listing as well. The item sold for \$149.50—an almost 100x return on my \$1.50 investment!

Occasionally, I run an auction where the bidding goes so high that I panic and think, "Stop, people! This isn't worth that kind of money!" But another thing I've learned from Lynn is that "worth" is a relative term that can only be defined by the person bidding. I have never seen another Prima Donna listed, so I'm sure the buyer was delighted to find it at any cost!

