

Frankoma Pottery Price Guide



Frankoma pottery price guide is an essential resource for collectors, enthusiasts, and anyone interested in the world of pottery. This unique American pottery, known for its beautiful glazes and distinctive designs, has been a sought-after item since its inception in the 1930s. Understanding the pricing of Frankoma pottery can help buyers make informed decisions, whether they are purchasing for personal enjoyment or as an investment. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the factors that influence Frankoma pottery prices, provide a range of estimated values for various pieces, and offer tips for collectors looking to buy, sell, or trade.

Understanding Frankoma Pottery

Frankoma pottery originated in 1933 when potter John Frank established the Frankoma Pottery Company in Oklahoma. The company quickly became known for its high-quality pottery, which often featured Native American themes, Western motifs, and the natural beauty of the American landscape. Frankoma pieces are characterized by their unique glazes, which are made from locally sourced materials, giving each item a distinct personality.

The Evolution of Frankoma Pottery

Over the decades, Frankoma pottery has undergone several changes in style and production methods. Here's an overview of its evolution:

1. Early Years (1933-1940s): The initial pieces were simple and utilitarian, often made for everyday use. These early items are highly sought after by collectors today.

2. Post-War Era (1950s-1960s): The designs became more intricate, reflecting the mid-century modern aesthetic. The introduction of vibrant glazes during this time contributed to the popularity of Frankoma pottery.
3. Decline and Resurgence (1970s-1990s): After a decline in popularity, Frankoma saw a resurgence in interest, particularly among collectors. Limited edition pieces and collaborations with artists helped revitalize the brand.
4. Modern Era (2000s-Present): While production has slowed, Frankoma remains a beloved name among pottery enthusiasts, with vintage pieces commanding high prices on the resale market.

Factors Influencing Frankoma Pottery Prices

When assessing the value of Frankoma pottery, several factors come into play:

1. Age and Rarity

- Early Production: Pieces from the 1930s and 1940s are generally more valuable due to their age and rarity.
- Limited Editions: Items produced in limited quantities often fetch higher prices among collectors.

2. Condition

- Mint Condition: Items that have no chips, cracks, or repairs are considered the most valuable.
- Wear and Tear: Pieces with significant damage will see a decrease in value.

3. Design and Color

- Popular Patterns: Certain patterns, such as the "Cherokee" or "Rose," are more desirable and can command higher prices.
- Glaze Variations: Unique glazes or color variations can significantly affect a piece's value.

4. Provenance

- Documentation: Items with a known history or documentation of their authenticity can sell for more.
- Previous Ownership: Provenance from notable collectors or exhibitions can add to the value.

Frankoma Pottery Price Ranges

Understanding the general price ranges for Frankoma pottery can help collectors gauge the market.

Below are estimated values for various categories of Frankoma pieces:

1. Dinnerware Sets

- Complete Sets: \$200 - \$600 (depending on rarity and condition)
- Individual Plates: \$10 - \$40 each

2. Vases and Decorative Items

- Common Vases: \$20 - \$100
- Rare or Unique Vases: \$100 - \$500

3. Figurines and Sculptures

- Standard Figurines: \$25 - \$150
- Limited Edition Figurines: \$150 - \$1,000+

4. Collectibles and Specialty Items

- Ashtrays, Wall Hangings, and Other Collectibles: \$10 - \$300
- Historical or Commemorative Pieces: \$100 - \$1,500

Where to Buy Frankoma Pottery

Finding Frankoma pottery can be an enjoyable treasure hunt. Here are some popular places to look:

1. Antique Shops and Flea Markets

Local antique shops and flea markets often have a selection of Frankoma pieces. It's worth visiting these places regularly, as inventory can change frequently.

2. Online Marketplaces

- eBay: A great platform for both buying and selling Frankoma pottery. Look for reputable sellers and read reviews before purchasing.
- Etsy: Many artisans and collectors sell Frankoma pieces on Etsy, often with unique finds.

3. Pottery Shows and Auctions

Attending pottery shows and auctions can provide opportunities to purchase rare pieces. Networking with other collectors can also lead to potential trades or sales.

4. Collector Clubs and Forums

Joining a Frankoma pottery collector club or online forum can be beneficial for learning more about the market, connecting with other enthusiasts, and finding pieces for sale.

Tips for Collectors

If you're new to collecting Frankoma pottery or looking to enhance your collection, consider the following tips:

1. Research Before You Buy

Understanding the market value of specific pieces will help you avoid overpaying. Utilize price guides, online resources, and collector groups for information.

2. Inspect Items Thoroughly

Always examine pieces closely for imperfections. Look for identifying marks, age, and signs of wear that may affect value.

3. Network with Other Collectors

Engaging with fellow collectors can provide insights into the market, upcoming sales, and opportunities to trade or purchase unique items.

4. Keep Detailed Records

Maintaining records of purchases, including prices and provenance, can help track the value of your collection over time.

Conclusion

A comprehensive **Frankoma pottery price guide** is essential for anyone interested in collecting this beautiful and historic pottery. By understanding the factors that influence pricing, knowing where to find pieces, and staying informed about market trends, collectors can make wise decisions that enhance their enjoyment and investment in Frankoma pottery. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just starting, the world of Frankoma offers endless opportunities for discovery and appreciation.

Frequently Asked Questions

What factors affect the price of Frankoma pottery?

The price of Frankoma pottery can be influenced by factors such as rarity, condition, age, and the specific design or pattern of the piece. Limited editions or items from popular collections tend to fetch higher prices.

Where can I find a Frankoma pottery price guide?

You can find a Frankoma pottery price guide in various places, including auction websites, antique shops, online marketplaces like eBay, and dedicated collector forums. Some books and publications also provide price guides specifically for Frankoma pottery.

What is the average price range for Frankoma pottery pieces?

The average price range for Frankoma pottery can vary widely, typically from \$10 for common pieces to over \$1,000 for rare or collectible items. Most mid-range pieces are generally priced between \$50 and \$200.

How do I determine the value of my Frankoma pottery?

To determine the value of your Frankoma pottery, you should consider its condition, rarity, and current market demand. Consulting recent sales data from auctions or price guides can provide a good estimate of its value.

Are there any specific Frankoma pottery pieces that are highly sought after?

Yes, certain Frankoma pottery pieces, such as the 'Cherokee' line and limited edition items from the 1930s and 1940s, are particularly sought after by collectors and can command higher prices.

How does the condition of Frankoma pottery impact its price?

The condition of Frankoma pottery significantly impacts its price. Pieces with chips, cracks, or significant wear will typically be valued much lower than those in excellent or mint condition.

Is there a seasonal trend in the pricing of Frankoma pottery?

Yes, there can be seasonal trends in the pricing of Frankoma pottery, with prices often peaking during holidays or special occasions when collectors are more active in buying and selling.

Can I sell my Frankoma pottery online, and how do I price it?

Yes, you can sell your Frankoma pottery online through platforms like eBay, Etsy, or specialty collector sites. To price it, research similar items that have sold recently to gauge the current market value.

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