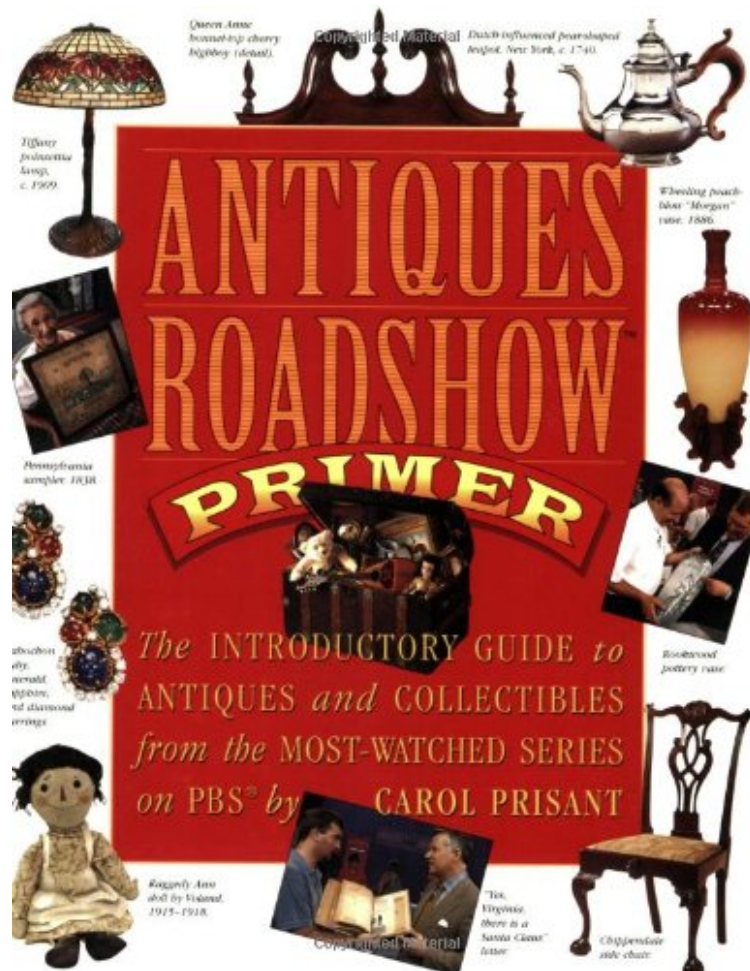


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Carol Prisant

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#510715 in Books 1999-12-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.18 x 1.22 x 7.341, 2.15 #File Name: 0761116249432 pages | File size: 70.Mb

Carol Prisant : Antiques Roadshow Primer: The Introductory Guide to Antiques and Collectibles from the Most-Watched Series on PBS before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Antiques Roadshow Primer: The Introductory Guide to Antiques and Collectibles from the Most-Watched Series on PBS:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By PorterHouseLove it!!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. THE Book for Selling and Valuing Antiques By Rick Warner I bought this for my wife and she loves it, treating it as the Bible of antique information. Sometimes I'll browse through it and I actually learn things I didn't know before. It's not only a great book, it's easy to read, well-organized, and informative. If I only browsed it

and gave it five stars I think my wife would give it ten.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Avoid some costly errors
By Chris Corner
An excellent book for the collector, both new or experienced. Newcomers will get most from this book, but there were useful tips even for old hands like myself. Covers major categories of antiques and collectibles in a very readable and informative way. Has useful tips on telling good from bad, old from new and which categories to avoid until you become more experienced. There are better books if you are looking to learn the history of a particular area of collecting, but as a primer to give you an appreciation of antiques and helping you avoid the sometimes costly and simple (yet common) mistakes it cannot be beaten in my view.

The national treasure hunt, *Antiques Roadshow* is, in its third season, the most popular show on PBS. Every week it draws millions and millions of viewers to the edge of their seats as independent dealers and specialists from the country's leading auction houses appraise family heirlooms and flea market finds alike. Now this knowledge, authority, and passion is distilled in the *Antiques Roadshow Primer*, an introductory guide to American Antiques and collectibles. *Antiques Roadshow* has taught us to look for fortunes in our attics--perhaps to find, as other lucky souls have, an Anna Poole Peale portrait miniature worth \$5,000 to \$7,000 or a Confederate sword worth \$35,000. Focusing on 11 major areas--including Furniture, Painting, Silver, Jewelry, Porcelain, and Toys--the primer addresses the essential things buyers and collectors need to know, covering vital details for each category, such as shapes, styles, and patterns, provenance, periods, and motifs. A 32-page full-color section amplifies each chapter by illustrating numerous examples of styles and techniques, and individual items are fully identified, often with their appraised value. Above all, it helps even first-timers to answer the two key questions every collector must face: Is it old? Is it valuable?

.com The simple but brilliant attraction of the popular PBS series is that deep down inside, everyone wonders if that family heirloom or flea-market antique in the corner of the living room has any real value. *Antiques Roadshow Primer* can help you answer that question. Carol Prisant, who writes about antiques and collectibles for *Martha Stewart Living*, *House Beautiful*, and *New York*, quickly notes in her introduction, however, that this is a primer--an introduction to the basics of antiques--and does not presume to make the reader an instant expert. In that vein, the focus is on the bread and butter of the antique world: silver, glass, pottery, porcelain, books, paintings, jewelry, rugs, clocks, and furniture. These are the items that are not trendy (Barbie dolls, 1920s beaded bags) and subject to massive fluctuations in price and value. Instead, Prisant points out, they are the types of items that are good for the long haul and, she notes, the front hall. So how do you determine if an heirloom is worth something? The following tips are offered when inspecting furniture: run your fingers underneath or over the back of the piece--very sharp edges and corners indicate recent manufacture. Remove one screw in some inconspicuous spot. An old, handmade screw will have irregular widths between the spirals, running the whole length of the shaft. The slot in the head may be off-center. Look for the distinctive curved pattern left in sawn wood by the teeth of a circular saw--it is one important sign of manufacture after 1840. Prisant also reveals tricks of the trade for inspecting diamonds: place the gem against your upper lip, she advises. If it's glass--the oldest imitator of a diamond--it will not feel cold at all, while a real diamond will. Definitions are also offered for "antique furniture" (any object 100 years old or older, according to the U.S. government), "used furniture" (secondhand furniture less than 100 years old), and "period furniture" (made when its design was first popular and new; generally the most valuable of antique furniture). At its best, *Antiques Roadshow Primer* instills a sense of genuine interest and enthusiasm, much like the PBS show, by making the antiques and collectibles world less of a stuffy discussion about an untouchable item behind lock and key and more about drawing connections to the heirloom in the corner. --John Russell
From Booklist
Lines snaking around every major and minor U.S. metropolitan civic center are the hallmarks of PBS' wildly popular *Antiques Roadshow* and may soon queue at library doors. Why? Appraiser-dealer Prisant, with a lot of help from marketing-savvy Workman Publishing, has extracted some of the best finds and tips and data from the TV series, and has added selected background information. Photographs and illustrations are prolific throughout the 10 chapters; either solo or within a chart, all pictures include annotations as well as narrative "crib sheets." From furniture to books and manuscripts, each section features a broad overview of manufacturing and techniques, makers, "discoveries" from the show, distinguishing characteristics, and clues that will reveal the rarity of the object. Easy on the eyes--and the wallet--as well as the best place to begin serious antiques. Barbara Jacobs
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From the Inside Flap
Through its traveling events and enormously popular series on PBS, *Antiques Roadshow* has taught us to look for hidden treasures in our attics--perhaps to find, as other lucky souls have, a Baltimore album quilt worth \$50,000 or a Seymour card table like the one picked up at a garage sale for \$25 and subsequently appraised at \$200,000. Now beginning collectors, antiques lovers, auction-goers, and flea-market mavens can extend their knowledge and hone their instincts with the *Antiques Roadshow Primer*. A take-you-by-the-hand introductory guide, the primer focuses on traditional categories of antiques and collectibles, including jewelry, silver, paintings, furniture, dolls, toys, metalwork, and porcelain. Not only each chapter but each lively page is brimming with information, providing an introductory overview that will help transform the enthusiast into a connoisseur. Take "Furniture," for example. It explains how our own craftsmen interpreted and "Americanized" a melting pot of styles like Chippendale and French Empire. How to

identify the four categories of old furniture: antique, used, reproduction, and, best of all, period. How to distinguish between old and new veneer and find the distinct pattern of a circular saw, indicating a piece made after 1840. And all of this comes just in the first five pages. Along the way extensive illustrations, photographs, and charts show both classic and quirky examples, highlighting important visual details, tracing the history of artists and styles, and capturing pertinent Roadshow discoveries. Experts in the field contribute their own tips, sharing such secrets as how to use a scratch test to tell if a stone is Imperial jade or nephrite, and why ill-defined fingers on a bronze statue mean it's a reproduction. Every collector asks two questions about a piece: Is it old? Is it valuable? And every page of the *Antiques Roadshow Primer* helps to supply the answer.