



ANTIQUES ROADSHOWTM INSIDER

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News, Trends, and Analysis from the World of Antiques and Collectibles

ON THE LOOKOUT



Photo courtesy of Sotheby's

AMERICA'S FATHER

A portrait of George Washington by Charles Peale Polk (1767–1822) sold for \$458,500 at Sotheby's. Polk, who trained under his uncle, Charles Willson Peale, created the 35½ x 27-inch oil on canvas in the early 1790s. It was one of a series of portraits he painted to depict Washington during the early years of his presidency.

CIGAR?

A bidder spent \$203,150 at Heritage Auction Galleries to acquire the cigar-store Indian shown at left. The 75½-inch-tall work, carved in the manner of Samuel Robb, entered the sale with an estimate of \$20,000–\$30,000. (See p. 3 for more.)



Photo courtesy of Heritage Auction Galleries

ON THE ROAD

Antiques Roadshow, after visiting San Diego on June 12 and Billings, Mont., on June 26, heads to Miami Beach, Fla. (July 10); Biloxi, Miss. (July 24); Des Moines, Iowa (Aug. 7); and our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. (Aug. 21).

ON THE INSIDE

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THE WAY WE WORE

Kick up your heels, fans of fashion: our *Antiques Roadshow* correspondent shows off a century's worth of shoes.



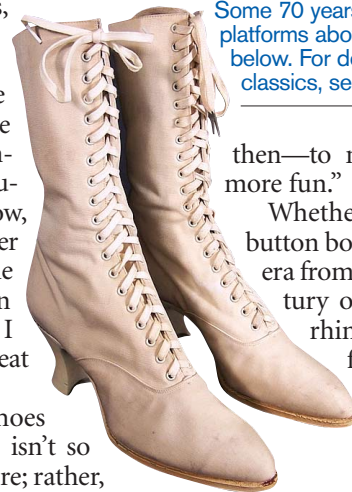
By Caroline Ashleigh

Photos courtesy of Warman's Shoes Field Guide

Like many young girls, my passion for shoes probably started when I began dressing my Barbie doll for a night out on the town with Ken. I had miniature Barbie shoes in virtually every color of the rainbow, but my favorite ones were her fluorescent hot pink sparkle stiletto pumps. Right then and there, I knew that when I grew up, I wanted to wear great shoes like Barbie.

Today, owning great shoes in various styles and colors isn't so much a sign of excess anymore; rather, it's a rite of passage for the American woman. The main character in the newly released *Sex and the City II* movie, Carrie Bradshaw (played by actress Sarah Jessica Parker), mused about her wicked shoe craving: "The fact is, sometimes it's hard to walk in a single woman's shoes. That's why we need really special ones and

Some 70 years separate the the colorful platforms above and the lace-up boots below. For details on these and other classics, see pp. 14 and 15.



then—to make the walk a little more fun."

Whether you're looking for button boots from the Edwardian era from the turn of the last century or hot pink leather and rhinestone studded platform mules from the turn of this century, take a guided tour of the shoes we wore...

Cont'd. on p. 14

Antiques Roadshow appraiser Caroline Ashleigh recently authored *Warman's Shoes Field Guide*. A certified member of the Appraisers Association of America, she's also an adjunct professor of New York University's Appraisal Studies Program.



Insider on the Internet: AntiquesRoadshowInsider.com

THE WAY WE WORE

Cont'd. from p. 1

1900s Women's boots and shoes were seldom seen in this era because hemlines were ankle-length. As a result, women selected shoes based on quality, not fashion. They wore high lace-up boots with low heels outdoors in all seasons; laced ankle boots were added to the summer wardrobe. The "Louis" heel was popular; it varied in height between 2 and 2½ inches.



The white canvas high-top lace-up boots date to the 1900s. The pair has a value of around \$150 today.

1910s During the First World War, women began working in factories, which gave them their own money to spend on shoes. More and more women began looking for shoes that were more comfortable and less restricting.



Pictured: brown suede shoes from c. 1910 now worth around \$100.

1920s After the war, the economy began to boom, the stock market and hemlines climbed, and people were in the mood to party. They danced the Charleston and the



These 1920s hand-embroidered T-strap black satin evening slippers with silver Louis heels are worth around \$800.

Black Bottom, and they wore shoes that became the focal point of fashion. There was an explosion of glamour and glitz in the 1920s, from gold lame and embroidered silks to bold rhinestone buckles.

1930s After the Wall Street crash and Great Depression swept the nation, opulence in footwear was out and serious, comfortable, and conservative footwear was in. Black was the color of choice, but navy and maroon were also popular.



Right: This pair of 1930s navy leather pumps with bow detail has a value of around \$150.



Current value of these 1940s black leather woven cage lace-up brogues is around \$200.-

1940s In a decade dominated by war, materials were rationed and fashions were regulated. The U.S. government conserved leather and limited the height of heels to 1 inch.

1950s World War II was over and women were desperate for a touch of glam after the drudgery of war. This decade is known for ushering

Left: These 1920-era gold leather T-strap evening sandals with amber rhinestone buckle and Louis heels are valued at around \$500 today.



These yellow and black plaid pumps with bow detail by LaRose, made c. 1955, have a retail value of around \$500.

in the stiletto. Pumps with cutaway sides, feminine, tapered heels, and matching bags were very au courant.

1960s The emphasis in the swingin' '60s was the Youth Revolution, which renounced the 1950s feminine ideal. Shoe styles turned away from pointy toes and stiletto heels and adopted low heels with square or rounded toes. The most copied shoe of this decade: Roger Vivier's Pilgrim pump with buckle detail.



A collector would pay around \$400 for a pair of these 1960s black patent Pilgrim pumps with buckle detail. Pictured at bottom of page is another popular '60s style: white leather boots with black geometric trim and peek-toe. Value: \$300.

1970s The '70s will always be remembered for iconic, outrageous platform shoes and boots. Color was important in that decade's footwear, and patchwork shoes of clashing colors were all the rage. Designers were also experimenting with new





Top: A pair of these 1970s multi-color patchwork platform shoes are valued at around \$325 today. See p. 1 for a better view of these memorable shoes. Also pictured: amber plastic sling-back platform sandals with cutout wedge heel (c. 1977; \$150).



Manolo Blahnik designed these 1990s animal-print pony hair strappy sandals (value: \$500).



The c. 1995 black canvas high-heel sneakers shown here would sell for \$100 today.

materials (like plastic) and exploring shoe structure (wedge heels).

1980s During the 1980s, the most important fashion accessory was the designer label. The era's top designers sold their name brands in



Here's an example of a 1980s standard: Andrea Pfister's Italian red, blue, yellow, and green pumps. A pair of these eye-grabbers go for around \$90 today.

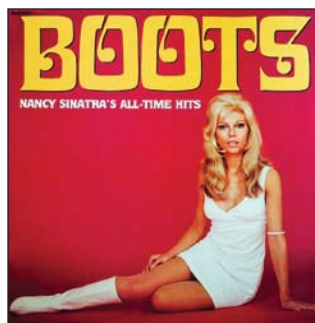
all of the most popular department stores across the nation. Professional women were working by day and living it up by night. Also, manufacturers of athletic shoes became prolific, sporting the latest technology along with the all-important designer label so crucial for street "cred."

1990s The '90s saw the rise of the couturier shoe designer and made Manolo Blahnik a household name. Pop diva Madonna sized him up with this memorable quote: "His shoes are wonderful, and they last longer than sex." By the mid-'90s, the fashion shoe combined with the sports shoe concept for a rather "unsporty" platform and heel.

2000s When Blahnik was asked what shoes would be worn in the new millennium, he replied: "A good pair of shoes and a good dress will always be a good pair of shoes and a good dress. People will always insist on three things—quality, quality, quality." ❁

LEAD DESIGNERS

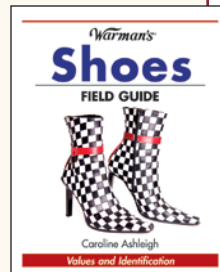
- **Roger Vivier** (1907–1998): French designer best known for creating stiletto heel. From 1953–1963, designed shoes for Christian Dior; also counted Ava Gardner and the Beatles as customers. See RogerVivier.com for more information on his work.
- **Salvatore Ferragamo** (1898–1960): Italian designer who spent time in 1920s creating shoes for Hollywood stars. See Ferragamo.com to see such innovations as his wedge heel design.
- **André Perugia** (1893–1977): Born in Nice, France of Italian parents. After training in his father's workshop, began selling his own handmade shoes from a shop he opened at age 16.
- **Herbert Levine** (1916–1991): Not a designer himself, but a journalist-turned-fashion executive who had a knack for attracting media attention. His company created such newsmakers as gilded wood platforms, Astroturf insoles, and money-covered slippers.
- **Beth Levine** (1914–2006): Herbert's wife; became known as "first lady of American shoe design" for influential work for 1950s, '60s, and '70s celebs. The Levines were instrumental in re-popularization of boots in the 1960s; in fact, those were Beth's iconic go-go boots Nancy Sinatra wore in photographs (see album cover at right) shot to support her 1966 hit "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'").



INSIDE INFO

SIZING UP THE MARKET

Where's the demand in the vintage shoe market? We asked appraiser Caroline Ashleigh, author of our lead story and of the new book *Warman's Shoes Field Guide* (pictured) for her take.



Q: Is there a typical buyer of vintage shoes?

A: Shoe lovers, collectors, or anyone with an interest in and a sense of fashion is the typical buyer of vintage shoes. There is a quite a lot of interest in shoe design today because it's an essential part of any contemporary outfit or ensemble.

Q: Do collectors of vintage shoes tend to buy them mainly to display?

A: There are vintage wearers and then there are wearer/collectors. I know collectors who are not wearers. I, for one, wear the shoes in my collection, but it's a "special wear" for special occasions. I may wear them to a party for a couple of hours, and then put them away for the next special occasion. For such an event, I decide what shoe I want to wear and then I pick the outfit.

Q: How important is condition when it comes to vintage shoes? And what are some common condition issues?

A: Age is an issue with shoes. If you buy things that are old, they're often made of fragile materials. If shoes don't fit absolutely perfectly, they may split in the first wearing. One must get the correct fit, because leather dries out and satin is thin and can shatter. Most collectors learn by trial and error. That said, certainly shoes in the 1950s and '60s will hold together fairly well if one takes good care of them.

Q: Where are the best places to find quality examples of vintage shoes? Do treasure-hunters who frequent antiques shops and malls or tag sales or shows like Brimfield (Mass.) have any kind of shot at good finds?

A: Wonderful examples of gorgeous vintage shoes for under \$100 can be found at vintage clothing and fashion shows, vintage stores and boutiques, and several auction houses that feature couture sales once or twice a year.

Q: Which era or eras of the 20th century are most popular among today's collectors?

A: For the past 20 years or less, the trend has been to collect by designer. Everyone wants a shoe that has a name associated with it. Currently people are collecting such designers as Vivier, Ferragamo, and Perugia—all pioneers of shoe design [see box at left]. There seems to be less interest in the American designers, with the exception of Herbert and Beth Levine.