

GARAGE SALES

Finds that may be Worth a Mint

Sifting through garage sale piles always feels like a treasure hunt, but for some items, it may be just like uncovering an actual buried treasure. Here are some things that Country Living say might be worth a few times their weight in gold.

EQUESTRIAN PAINTINGS

Hunt scenes of galloping horses and hounds had their peak popularity in 19th-century England. Today, the artwork is still popular with enthusiasts and those trying to achieve the look of a certain Downton-esque era. Larger paintings with heavier frames will bring the highest dollar, but even more primitive paintings can fetch in the hundreds of dollars.

VIDEO GAMES

Everything old is new again, and that includes the rush of nostalgia for 1980s-era video games. Unopened cartridges can fetch an astonishing price and whole consoles even more. A PlayStation prototype



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sold for \$360,000 in 2020, Country Living says, and some individual games can bring in more than \$20,000.

‘MASTERING THE ART OF FRENCH COOKING’

Julia Child’s first cookbook in good condition — the 1961 edition — with the original jacket can get you thousands. That first edition was a two-volume set published by

Knopf and shouldn’t be confused with the 1970 edition by the same publisher.

BOARD GAMES

Milton Bradley was founded in 1869 with the classic “The Checkered Game of Life,” and the company went on to publish more than 1,000 games. Look for sealed, unopened boxes, the older the better. But just about any complete game

set is likely to be worth more than you paid at a garage sale. Country Living says to look for resale values of \$10 to up to \$800.

DUCK DECOYS

These specialty sports pieces are highly collectible, especially for those dated mid-20th century or earlier. Check out Grandpa’s hunting stash or keep an eye on garage and

estate sales. Country Living says these old birds can mean a healthy nest egg — up to \$650,000.

AMERICAN GIRL SAMANTHA DOLL

Samantha was one of the original American Girl dolls. If you have one still in good condition with her close and accessories, she could pocket you thousands of dollars.

Comic Books

Vintage comic books can earn up to millions of dollars for a rare copy or first edition, but even more mundane older titles can get you hundreds. Country Living says to capitalize on summer superhero blockbusters for the biggest bang for your buck.

LIONEL TRAIN SETS

Joshua Lionel Cowen launched his model train company in 1900 and slowly expanded his sets. You could grow your starter sets with cars and other accessories to build whole train-driven worlds. Whole sets or even individual accessories can get you hundreds of dollars.

LAMPS

Old lamps may be worth dusting off. Country Living says to look for makers like Handel, Pairpoint, Fulper and, of course, Tiffany. These could brighten up your bank account with up to \$45,000.

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SELLER'S TIP

Get It Appraised

If you've got anything in these categories, it may be worth your time to have it looked at by a professional appraiser before you toss it on your garage sale pile. Something worth thousands should be handled by the pros, not at your Saturday morning haggle session.

AD SPACE