

GARAGE SALES

Unexpected Treasures

You may find all sorts of things when you're cleaning out your home for a garage sale. But there are some things you find that might be surprisingly valuable.

Keep an eye out for some of these treasures as you work through your clutter.

FIRST-EDITION BOOKS

Voracious readers may have built up a huge vocabulary, but they've also often got piles of books laying around. First-edition books, especially of older and now-famous authors, were printed in limited quantities. If you have one of those around, they could be worth big bucks.

An edition of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain in excellent condition might be worth as much as \$10,000.

TOYS

People nostalgic for the good old days, or those who simply have an affinity for the toys of yesteryear will pay top dollar for old toys in good condition. Good Housekeeping says that the old Garbage Pail



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Kids cards from the 1980s can go for thousands of dollars, especially if it's in its original packaging. An original Monopoly game from 1933 and owned by game inventor Charles Darrow sold for \$146,500 at Sotheby's in 2011. And a retired American Girl doll such as Molly, Felicity,

Samantha or Kristen could also fetch thousands.

VHS TAPES

We might not have the VCRs anymore, but we may still have a few of these old tapes laying around. Collectors are on the hunt for films that were released on

VHS but that aren't popular enough to make the leap to newer formats. A copy of Disney's "The Great Mouse Detective" sells for about \$50 on eBay while an original 1988 VHS copy of "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" can go for around \$70. Finally, a rare copy of 1984's "The Wild Life,"

a coming-of-age comedy starring Lea Thompson, Eric Stoltz and Christopher Penn, can go for almost \$100.

PERFUME BOTTLES AND OTHER GLASSWARE

Collectors will pay top dollar for collectible glassware such as Pyrex or Jadeite, but did you know that perfume bottles also fetch a pretty penny? One of the most valuable is a Galle French Cameo bottle from 1900, which can fetch \$17,000. It was made by Emile Galle, a French glass-maker, and is adorned with a butterfly. Bottles by Thomas Webb in natural shapes such as swan or featuring roses in cameo can go for more than \$10,000. Steuben paperweight bottles can go for more than \$5,000 each. Smells like payday.

BOY SCOUT MEMORABILIA

Badges and more from days gone by can fetch many times their original value. A vintage red wool coat from 1972-77 is listed on eBay for \$75. An official pedometer in its original box goes for \$11, and a set of four patches from the 1950s and 1960s goes for \$10. Individual patches are listed for up to \$10, while a 1930s sash with 18 badges goes for nearly \$10,000.

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SELLER’S TIP

Think It’s Valuable? Have It Appraised

If you have an item you suspect is worth hundreds of dollars, your garage sale isn’t the best place for it. The chance of it being damaged or, worse, walking off is pretty high. Instead, have a professional appraise it and list it for sale for you.

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