



August – Souvenir Search

By Marcia Harmon, Cottage Jewel

As the heat waves come and go, so do shoppers from in and out of town on a quest for the perfect souvenir from their summer travels. As one of the last antiques shops in the area it is common to have foreign visitors ask for old time Americana relics or old San Francisco items. Dated collector plates, post cards, ink wells, mugs and charm bracelets are long lasting favorites. It is no surprise that sea shells and

shell art are both particularly popular here in California, but the tradition of collecting souvenirs from seaside excursions goes back at least 150 years. One can still find shell encrusted hope chests, hand-etched or painted cowrie shells with bisque figures cemented inside, shell framed mirrors, bathing beauty postcards, woven shell necklaces and on occasion a German porcelain reclining nude or 1920's bathing beauty perched on a shell throne. Last summer I found a Victorian era set of clam shells that is woven together with a pale ribbon and filled with handmade paper pages displaying a collection of seaweed samples. This charming bit of Victoriana inspired local artisan Denise Juliani to assemble a series of similar mementos books for photos or poetry.

To compliment our year 'round beach theme, Denise created embellished starfish and a few domed Dreamscapes housing an aquatic wonderland of seahorses and sea grasses.

If the seaside treasures don't



float your boat, then dig through the sterling souvenir spoons from all over the world. Some of the most ornate sculptural handles and hand chased spoon bowls are from the Gilded Age, 1870-1910. Fine detailed enamel portrait miniatures and landmark scenes are added to some of the European spoons, but some of my favorites are the small town charmers from towns like Port Costa, Jamestown, Fresno, Lake Tahoe, etc. You could also collect either postcards or spoons by floral or animal theme, monogram, city, or country of origin.

No matter what you collect, plan ahead for a "trip back in time" and visit the Heartland Danville Antiques & Art Faire on Labor Day, Monday, September 6th. This fun local event has built-in entertainment, education, investment value and trinkets galore! With 70 plus specialty antiques merchants and local "altered art" crafters and artists there is sure to be something for every persons sense of style. In the meantime, visit Cottage Jewel located at 100 Prospect Ave. in downtown Danville for a daily "trip to paradise" with vintage bling and home accents including buttons, buckles, porcelains, silver notions, and small furnishing. (925) 837-2664 www.cottagejewel.com.

Advertorial

A Meaningful Month
August
Birthstone: Peridot
Flower: Gladiolus,
"A symbol of natural grace."