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Chalkware

Q: I have a figurine of a child sitting on a base. It is approximately 9 inches tall and has some chips and damage. I am enclosing a picture of it and hope you can help me find a buyer. — Carol, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

A: What you have is a piece of chalkware, probably from the 1920s or '30s. Chalkware is made of gypsum. Because of the wear and damage, I suspect it might sell in the \$20 to \$40 range. You might want to advertise it in your closest daily newspaper, since most have classified ads for antiques and collectibles.

Q: I have two artifacts that date back to 600 B.C. Where can I get them appraised? Please respond to me personally and do not publish my name in the paper. — Rita, Albuquerque, N.M.

A: I do not answer questions personally. Since I assume there is more than one Rita in Albuquerque, I will respond by giving you the name of a dealer who is an expert of pre-Columbian items and might be able to help you. Michael D. Higgins has been in business since 1972 and has an excellent reputation

throughout the American Southwest. His addresses are c/o Michael D. Higgins & Son, 4429 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ 85718; mdhiggins@earthlink.net; and www.mdhiggins.com.

Q: Several weeks ago you answered a question for me in your column. I wrote the expert you listed, but have not heard back from him. It has been more than three weeks. — Susan, Campbell, Calif.

A: Did you enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope? That is essential. Since many of the people I mention in my columns are nationally recognized experts, they get a great deal of mail. Be patient. After two or three months, send a reminder. If you still don't get a response after a reasonable amount of time, contact me again, and I'll search for another source.

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