

#57 Baccarat Chandelier

Baccarat Chandelier #57

\$20.00
Paid

From: Charity rummage sale



Antique Baccarat Crystal Prism Chain Chandelier French!

Description:

Antique chandelier is amazing! 7-bulb 1920's large draped lamp fixture. This wonderful piece is signed in the center on a silver metal piece. It has crystal glass detail at the top and base. The all-over prisms and chains are mostly original! Very few of the original crystals have been replaced. It is entirely complete with 60 chains of crystals prisms around the base and another 60 at the top. It needs a cleaning. 34" from base to top.

Winning Bid:

\$2,284.00

Ended: 11/12/04

History: 24 bids

Starting Bid: \$249, \$1995 rsv

Winner: Japan

Viewed

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The Story

At that same charity sale, I spotted a lamp under a table. It was mainly prisms and marked \$20. I dragged it over to my pile behind the cashiers. It looked slightly bent, but any lamp with prisms is worth a shot. Remember, I sell new prisms for 99 cents each, and this one had hundreds on it. The lamp was quite large and heavy.

Once I had it in my pile, an antiques dealer came up to me and said, "I will give you \$100 for that lamp." "No way," I said. He said, "How about \$200?" "No, I really want it." Whenever anyone tries to buy something from you at a charity or garage sale, you know that you have something great! How exciting.

That lamp sat in my dining room for two weeks before I attempted to check it out; I knew getting it ready to sell would be a full day's project. When Maureen and I finally took it outside and started hooking on the prisms, I looked at the base and happened to spot a metal button with a signature. I said, "Oh, my gosh." Maureen said, "What—what is it?" I couldn't believe the name. Baccarat.

Maureen asked, "What is Baccarat?" Just one of the most important French crystal companies ever! Baccarat was founded as a glass works in 1764 in the village of Baccarat. In 1816 it produced its first crystal. Over the years, Baccarat has become famous for wonderful perfume bottles and stemware. What a score!

As soon as I saw the Baccarat signature, I raced to my computer to start my research. I couldn't find anything on eBay for "Baccarat chandelier," which meant that they were pretty

rare. I got on Google to do my research and found one that had sold in 1995 for \$3,680. It was quite similar, but was about ten inches bigger than mine and had twelve lights rather than seven. I estimated that \$2,000 would be a fair price. I got so caught up in the research that I forgot I had left Maureen outside holding the lamp. Oops!

I started the bidding at \$249 with a reserve of \$1,995. It reached its reserve after just three days. How awesome. With four minutes left, it was still at \$1,995. I kept refreshing my auction page; there was no change until it went to \$2,284 with four seconds remaining. Wow!

We quoted the buyer \$240 for airmail shipping to Japan. Can you believe that? I bubble-wrapped each and every prism—it took me about four hours. We shipped it in two boxes that cost \$211.30 at the post office. While I was packing it, my favorite cross got caught on the metal frame, and when I stood up the chain and the bale broke. The cross was a rose cut diamond piece of art from the 1840's that my grandmother had bought in Russia. Another job hazard.

I was really nervous waiting to see if the lamp arrived safely. I received an email from the buyer saying everything was great but there was a slight chip in the glass font. I knew that filing a claim with the post office would be fruitless, so I asked him what would make him happy. He wanted a partial refund of \$200. I quickly agreed and realized that it had sold for \$2,084 after my refund. Even after paying \$45 to have my cross and chain repaired, I still netted \$2K. What an awesome item! I wish these would come along a lot more often.

