

## Sourcing Treasure to Sell in Your Booth

One of the reasons many of us like selling antique and vintage items is the thrill of the hunt—finding a bargain and then selling it at a higher price. There's nothing like the adrenaline rush!

Of course, you can find great items at auctions and estate sales and genuine finds at thrift stores, flea markets, and junk stores. You might even have a resource with a specific type of item in your home. Friends and family could also be supplying you with some great items to sell. But what are some other ideas of where to source items to sell in your booth at Early Owego?

### *Local Businesses and Institutions*

- **Consignment/Pawn Shops:** Many consignment shops accept various items, including antiques.
- **Local Businesses:** businesses, like restaurants or hotels, might have antique items they're willing to sell or donate.
- **Educational Institutions:** Colleges and universities sometimes have surplus items, including antiques, that they sell or donate.
- **Other Antique Dealers:** While this might seem obvious, contacting other antique dealers can lead to unexpected finds. They may want to move an item, and you could do that for them.

### *Your Travels*

When traveling to far-off lands, find those out-of-the-way shops, or visit street markets and bazaars where you might be lucky and find some great items you can sell back home. (Just make sure you have enough room in your suitcase!)

For example, this writer was in the Czech Republic soon after the wall went down and I was in a shop that had thousands of gorgeous antique and vintage buttons. In a bohemian coffee shop, I saw some of the most amazing artistic portraits for sale. These gorgeous items were at a price I thought I was stealing them almost, but at the time my dollars were good money for the owners. It was a great day treasure hunting!

Same can be said for small towns across America—great little shops everywhere with amazing treasure to be found! You never know what you'll find until you find it. And your customers will be the better for it!

### *Online Communities and Forums*

- **Facebook Groups:** There are numerous Facebook groups dedicated to antiques and collectibles. These groups can be a great source of leads and potential purchases.
- **Online Marketplaces:** Websites like eBay and Etsy can be treasure troves for antique and vintage items.
- **Forums and Message Boards:** Online forums dedicated to specific collectibles can connect you with other collectors and potential sellers.

### *Local Residents*

- **Door-to-door:** Visit neighbors and ask if they have any antiques or vintage items they want to sell.
- **Word of Mouth:** Let people know you're looking for antiques and ask them to look for potential items. Put flyers in public spaces asking folks to contact you if they have antique or vintage items for sale or forgotten treasures from their basements and attics.

### *Unexpected Places*

- **Storage Units:** Check the paper or call area storage unit businesses and ask when its next abandoned storage unit auction will take place. If you win, you have to take everything, and it could be mainly junk, but you never know!
- **Barn Sales:** These sales often feature a variety of items, including antiques and vintage collectibles.
- **Junk Yards:** People sometimes dump things in junkyards without knowing what they have—fun time to go exploring, especially if the weather is nice.

Sourcing items to sell in your booth can be time-consuming and take up many hours on the weekends and evenings.

Exploring unusual sources can create unique and exciting items to set your antique booth apart. Remember, patience, persistence, and open-mindedness are the keys to success. Good luck on your hunt for treasure!

If you were able to source some great items in an unusual location, let us know by dropping an email to [communications@earlyowego.com](mailto:communications@earlyowego.com).