

# Cheap Gold and Silver

How to Find  
Amazing Deals on  
Gold and Silver



Vicki Priebe

# **CHEAP GOLD AND SILVER**

## ***How to Find Amazing Deals on Gold and Silver***

By Vicki Priebe

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# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1
Cheap Gold And Silver .....	1
Benefits: Make Money, Save Money, And Invest .....	1
Promises And Possibilities.....	3
Secrets Revealed.....	5
Hard Times Create Golden Opportunities.....	6
Knowledge Is King .....	6
Where To Use The Information.....	7
Now What .....	7
Before We Begin.....	7
CHAPTER 1: How It All Began .....	9
Today's Your Day .....	11
My Personal Beliefs: Law Of Attraction And Positive Thinking	12
Create A Wish List .....	12
Take Along Your Best Friends .....	13
CHAPTER 2: Educate Yourself On Precious Metals .....	15
Hallmark Education Is A Treasured Friend .....	19
"Hidden" Marks .....	24
Hidden Messages .....	28
Vintage Jewelry.....	29
Giving New Life To Old Pieces .....	30
Did You Know Precious Metals Are Junk? .....	31
Other Items Made From Precious Metals .....	34
Filler Material .....	38
Hollowware .....	39
Platinum Weighs More.....	41
White Gold Tarnishes? .....	42
Black Spots On Silver .....	42
Gold-plated Sterling Silver Base Metal (A.K.A. Vermeil) .....	43
Gold-plated Undisclosed Base Metals .....	44
Gold-filled And Rolled Gold Items.....	49
Silver-plated .....	50
No Silver Here.....	52
Scrapping Electronic Waste.....	54
CHAPTER 3: Places To Plunder .....	57
Offline Places.....	57
Thrift Stores.....	57
Yard Sales/Garage Sales.....	61
Directly From The Bank .....	62
Unconventional Methods.....	63
Online Places.....	64

Craigslist .....	64
EBay .....	65
Local Auction Companies - Their Online Web Sites .....	66
CHAPTER 4: Steals, Deals, And Techniques - Offline .....	69
Plan Your Route Ahead of Time .....	69
You Are Not First - So What? .....	70
Fast And Slow Wins This Race.....	73
Go Play In Bad Weather .....	73
Try A Little Kindness.....	75
Hold Your Tongue.....	77
Mind Your Manners.....	78
Open, Open, Open .....	79
Dig, Dig, Dig.....	84
Broken Items.....	86
Mix And Matching .....	88
Free Boxes .....	90
Children's Cheap Boxes .....	91
Look High, Low, Under, And Move .....	92
A Whale Of A Tale .....	95
CHAPTER 5: Steals, Deals, And Techniques - Online .....	99
Misspellings In Titles - eBay .....	99
Wrong Category - eBay .....	100
Multiple Items In One Listing - eBay .....	100
Advanced Searches - eBay .....	101
Completed Listings - eBay .....	108
Combination Of Keywords - eBay.....	110
No Early Bidding - eBay.....	110
EBay Sniping .....	111
Odd Number Maximums .....	113
Third Party Tools.....	113
Finding Popular Items - eBay.....	117
Warning About Precious Metal Terms .....	118
Warning About Precious Metal Weight Units .....	119
Warning About Shipping And Handling Charges .....	119
CHAPTER 6: What Is Your Loot Worth? .....	121
Spot Price .....	121
Determining The Precious Metal Content.....	122
Pricing For Resale .....	124
CHAPTER 7: Testing Your Loot: Is It Real Or Fake? .....	127
Testing For Silver Content .....	127
Testing For Gold Purity .....	130
Testing For Platinum.....	135

Testing Diamonds .....	137
Testing Gemstones .....	139
Precious Metal Frauds And Fakes .....	141
CHAPTER 8: Selling Your Loot .....	145
Selling Your Loot.....	145
Different Places To Sell The Items .....	147
Garage Sales/Yard Sales .....	147
Private Individuals/Collectors.....	148
Local Jewelers .....	149
Pawnshops .....	149
Cash For Gold Businesses .....	150
Gold Buying Parties .....	151
Hotel Gold Buyers.....	152
Refineries.....	153
Research Gold Buying Businesses.....	154
My Selling Experiences.....	155
Replacements, Ltd. ....	162
CHAPTER 9: Keeping Your Loot.....	165
Keep It In Your Jewelry Box.....	165
Keep It As An Investment .....	166
CHAPTER 10: Giving Away Your Loot .....	167
Giving Gifts .....	167
Storage Auction Gift.....	168
Holidays During Hard Times .....	169
Almost Got Away .....	170
CHAPTER 11: Final Thoughts.....	173
Sell While Spot Prices Are High.....	173
Doomsday Forecast.....	174
Silver Is Rarer Than Gold .....	175
Exchanging Precious Metals.....	177
Ones That Got Away And The Regret That Follows .....	178
CONCLUSION .....	181
Conclusion For Both Sides .....	181
Total Values For The Season .....	181
Real Treasures .....	183
Final Conclusion About Me .....	184
APPENDIX A: PDA Setup.....	187
Detailed Instructions .....	187
APPENDIX B: Manual Sniping.....	195
Detailed Instructions .....	195





# INTRODUCTION

## Cheap Gold And Silver

Let me start by answering the burning question in your mind; can you really find cheap gold and silver during these rough economic times? Not only yes but, “Heck yes” and this book explains how to do it. My actual stories and pictures are interwoven with all the useful information to prove this very point. By the time you’re half way through reading this book, you’re going to be so excited to get out there and find treasure that you might want to skip the rest of it. And that is exactly what I want you to do, get excited and obtain success. However, before the excitement completely takes a hold of you, let me issue the following warning: read the entire book. That way you won’t miss any important ideas and tips, since the book is full of them all the way through.

While reading this book, you may think that precious metal deals this good don’t exist, so they have to be fakes, frauds, and scams. Don’t let fear or doubt stop you from finding the phenomenal deals. They really do exist. Like the book’s title states, these are amazing deals on cheap gold and silver, so most of the time you are only risking a few dollars purchasing these items. And I’m sure you’re comfortable risking that amount without worrying about becoming a fraud victim. But in order to help protect you and your money, the book does cover some current scams and provides additional warnings. Furthermore, testing precious metal items is also discussed, so you aren’t ripped off when you want to sell them either. By the time you finish reading, your major fears should be quieted and you’ll be ready to capitalize on some fabulous deals.

## **Benefits: Make Money, Save Money, And Invest**

Is it really possible to make money by finding gold and silver in your spare time? The answer is yes. If I sold all the items I purchased,

I would average \$24 – \$73 per hour. Try finding another part time job that pays that well and is full of fun, excitement and the chance to be your own boss.

Selling some of these precious metal items has helped my family and me during these challenging economic times. This in turn has allowed us to pay for some unexpected expenses, which seemed to come all at once and at the worst possible time. I'm sure you're also familiar with these expenses such as doctor bills, dentist fees, veterinarian visits, and car repairs. This book explains how to and where to sell your items to obtain the best price. My experiences selling gold to the precious metal buying businesses are also shared in the book.

In addition, I wanted to invest in precious metals without affecting my family's budget. I couldn't imagine taking \$1,600 from my monthly income to buy one gold coin, but I could take five bucks to buy gold jewelry. While I don't make a living from buying and selling precious metals, there are people that do and you could be one of them. I mostly invest in precious metals; I don't flip (buy and quickly sell) them for an immediate profit. Almost all of my profits will come when my heirs or I sell the pieces in the future. While waiting to capitalize on my investments, I have the added benefit of wearing all the beautiful jewelry.

You may be asking, "Why don't I capitalize on my profits immediately with prices so high?" Experts predict the precious metal prices will explode in the next few years with gold exceeding \$2,500 a troy ounce and silver exceeding \$1,500 a troy ounce. Since I agree with the experts, I keep most of my finds as investments (picture 1). However, as with all predictions we could be wrong, so use your own judgment when selling your precious metals.

Capitalizing on these amazing deals not only allows me to make money and invest in precious metals, but I'm able to save money when buying gifts for my family, friends and myself. If I spend \$2 on a gold necklace and pendant that retails for \$100, I saved myself \$98. Now that is the smart way to keep up with the Joneses. I don't have to go

out and spend \$100 in order to wear an expensive necklace and pendant. Or if I give that necklace and pendant away as a gift, no one will ever know that I only spent \$2 on the present. Everyone will think I spent \$100. What a savings! Reading this book can save you a substantial amount of money on gifts for you and your loved ones.

Whether you want to make extra money, invest in precious metals, give unforgettable gifts, or wear amazing jewelry anything is possible using the tricks, tips and techniques covered in this book, so get ready to learn; I didn't hold anything back.



Picture 1. Vicki Priebe with precious metal finds.

## Promises And Possibilities

*I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.*  
~ Thomas Jefferson ~

No, I'm not promising thousands of dollars in 10 minutes, but it is possible. It has happened to me. I paid \$5 for a gold whale pendant that retails for \$2,000. You can read more about this find in the Whale of a Tale section in Chapter 4. No doubt, you have read articles

about a person finding that one-of-a-kind comic book or original painting that resells for millions of dollars. In less than one minute, your life could change for the better. It can happen and here are some stories to illustrate this point. In 2001, an unidentified actor bought the Joseph Decker painting “Ripening Pears” from a garage sale for \$5. He sold the painting in 2004 to the National Gallery of Art for \$1 million. Another unidentified man bought a torn four dollar painting at a flea market for the frame. When he got home, he removed the painting and found an official copy of the Declaration of Independence. It sold at auction for \$2.4 million. While this has not happened to me yet, there is always tomorrow and I get as excited as a schoolgirl imagining the possibilities. You never know, your million-dollar treasure could be just around the corner too.

Different people will get different results. Just like the hit TV shows “American Pickers”, “Antiques Roadshow”, “Pawn Stars”, “Storage Wars”, “Gold Rush”, and “Bering Sea Gold”, you never know what you’ll encounter on your journey. You could find a ten-pound bar of solid silver at an estate sale mistakenly identified as an old lead doorstop. The unknown is part of the fun, the thrill of the hunt. It is exciting and exhilarating to think of the endless opportunities flooding your way. Opportunity does knock, but you have to open the door.

That is exactly what you have done by purchasing and committing your time to read this book; opportunity knocked and you opened the door. Did you take a huge risk buying this book? No. Here’s why. If you apply just one tip while searching for an item, then purchase and resell it for a profit. Or if you save more money than the book’s purchase price when buying an item, then the book has already paid for itself. In essence, all the additional information contained inside this book is free and you have all that knowledge to use repeatedly to make money, save money and acquire precious metals forever. How can you go wrong with a deal like that? What an opportunity!

## Secrets Revealed

This book reveals secrets the precious metal hunting insiders don't want me to expose; in fact, they may even write negative comments about it in an attempt to prevent you from buying it and applying its content. In this way, they hope this kind of valuable information won't spread and their secret source of treasure won't dry up. However, there is no need for them, or even you, to feel threatened. This is because not everyone will demonstrate your kind of intelligence and buy this book so the secret won't get out to everyone. In addition, most of the items I describe are only available for purchase locally. Competition for these items occurs between people in your specific region – not worldwide – and therefore occurs on a much smaller playing field. Furthermore, the chance of someone in your neighborhood buying and reading this book equates to being struck by lightning.

Here is an additional idea to ponder. What about the British television show “Antiques Roadshow”? Has it kept people from buying and selling valuables for bargain basement prices? Tough question, but I have to say, “No way.” It is all about knowledge and skill level. The more knowledgeable you become regarding a topic, the more treasures you'll find hiding in plain sight. Treasures continue to be bought, sold, and found every day regardless of the show. This popular show is broadcast even in Alaska on our public television station. (Yes, we have television up here. No, we don't live in igloos. Yes, we have pet reindeer – just kidding on this one, I wanted to make sure you were awake. So with your questions about Alaska out of the way, back to my reasoning.) The show is available for everyone to watch, yet I still find treasure in my area. If this television show does not dry up my stash of treasure, then why would this book take away your future opportunities? After all, this is only a book, not a well-known national public television show with millions of viewers. Therefore, rather than the secrets in this book wiping out all the opportunities, it will instead show you how to snap them up.

## Hard Times Create Golden Opportunities

*A rooster crows only when it sees the light. Put him in the dark and he'll never crow. I have seen the light and I'm crowing.*

~ Muhammad Ali ~

“The sky is falling, the sky is falling.” Do you remember this famous phrase from the story “Chicken Little”? This phrase illustrates the sentiments family, friends, and the media dish out during hard economic times. It can be either a good or a bad phrase depending on your point of view. There are individuals that prosper during hard economic times, while others sink like lead balloons. When you finish reading this book, “The sky is falling” will no longer be a scary phrase for you. Instead, it will be a phrase filled with a sense of excitement and opportunity. What exactly do I mean?

Whether chasing employment or raising money to pay for living expenses, people constantly have garage sales, estate sales, etc. This is your golden opportunity to pounce on precious metals, providing you have the knowledge and skills to recognize them. You can find more gold and silver in one day than most recreational prospectors (treasure hunters) find in one year with very little investment, especially during times of economic uncertainty.

## Knowledge Is King

*Knowledge is the treasure of a wise man.*

~ William Penn ~

You may ask what knowledge you can use to identify precious metal items hidden in plain sight. Here’s an example, in the United States we are all familiar with the standard purity marks placed on our manufactured items indicating fineness, such as .925 or 14 K. Have you ever considered the purity marks used on items manufactured in other countries? After all America is a melting pot, so it is possible to find precious metal items manufactured in Great Britain, Russia and

other countries for sale in the United States. Therefore, it is important to become familiar with the marks used for items made in other countries too. We will cover this topic and many more in detail later in the book.

## Where To Use The Information

Are you wondering where you can use the information discussed in this book? While some information is meant to be used at a certain location, such as eBay, most of it can be used anywhere metal objects are found. This includes, but is not limited to garage sales, yard sales, thrift stores, pawnshops, flea markets, auctions, storage unit auctions, estate sales, Craigslist, your own jewelry box, and metal detecting. With this book's help, you'll find opportunities all around you. It doesn't matter if you live in a city, a rural area or if you prefer to use online or offline locations, the information contained in this book applies to it all.

## Now What

*Riches do not consist in the possession of treasures, but in the use made of them.*

~ Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) ~

Once you've found some precious metal items, it is time to decide what to do with them. Do you keep the item as an investment, give it away as a gift, or sell it? You'll be making this decision on a case-by-case basis with each item. The information to help you with this important task is covered in Chapters 8, 9 and 10.

## Before We Begin

*There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.*

~ Walt Disney ~

Here are a few things to keep in mind while reading this book. It does not explain how “stores” (garage sales, yard sales, thrift stores, pawnshops, flea markets, auctions, eBay, and Craigslist) work at their most basic level. There are other books devoted entirely to these basic details and you should consult them if you need help in this area.

In addition, when this book states gold or silver content value, it refers to the dollar value the gold or silver is worth when melted down and the precious metal recovered. All precious metal items are a mixture of the actual precious metal (gold, silver, or platinum) and a harder metal (nickel, copper, etc.) creating an alloy. When melted down, the metals are separated and the precious metal recovered for reuse.

The spot price is the current price a precious metal is purchased or sold for at a specific time; it is covered in more detail in Chapter 6. Since the precious metal spot prices change on a daily basis, only one spot price is used for gold, silver, and platinum in this book. Otherwise, I would be updating it with the most current spot price every day. The gold spot price used is \$1,600 per troy ounce. The platinum spot price used is \$1,450 per troy ounce. The silver spot price used is \$30 per troy ounce. The spot prices were fluctuating around these values on January 3, 2012. Keep in mind, a troy ounce is different from an ounce (1 troy ounce = 1.097 ounces). Troy ounces are used to express the mass of precious metals.

Finally, this book has not covered every single story about each item purchased otherwise it would be too long. Instead, only the important stories are told to illustrate the particular lesson. In the conclusion, the book reports the entire season’s treasure acquisition broken down into the weight and price totals per precious metal. Here is a word of caution. If you skip to the conclusion and only read this information, you’ll be doing yourself a true disservice. You won’t gain all the wonderful knowledge from the other chapters. After all that is why you bought this book – to gain knowledge so you can do this yourself. Enough said, let’s get started.



# CHAPTER 1: How It All Began

*Trust one who has gone through it.*  
~ Virgil (70 BC – 19 BC) ~

The treasure bug bit me early in life. I used to babysit on the weekends and where most kids blew their money; I took my hard-earned cash and bought gold charms, jewelry, and silver. As I rode my bike through our South Florida neighborhood, I constantly looked in the gutters for jewelry and coins. This paid off big one day when I found a 14 K gold ring lying in the gutter (picture 2). I have always loved finding things and this particular event is how the treasure hunter, buried deep in my soul, came out. Ever since then I have been chasing treasure in one form or another.



*Picture 2. My first gold ring find!*

During college, I moved to Alaska and met my husband, a fellow treasure lunatic (oops, I mean treasure hunter). The adventures he dragged me on looking for gold I would not wish on anyone, not even my worst enemy. I have walked over slippery half submerged rocks to cross cold, raging rivers. I have fought through six-foot high devil's club taller than I am; a thorny plant that really deserves its name as it certainly brought my nightmares into reality. I have hiked through stinging nettles in the rain – without gloves. All I can say is, “Ouch, ouch, and ouch.” I have tripped my way through thick alder patches, while constantly checking over my shoulder for grizzly bears. I'm sure

I scared the whole world (bears included) by screaming profanities at the top of my lungs along the lines of, “This is the last time I go with you anywhere.” At the end of the day, we came home drenched from the rain, covered in thistles and thorns, battered and bruised from tripping and falling over the tangles of alders and deadfalls. All of this for a few miserable flakes of gold not even big enough to be called nuggets. I have questioned my sanity on several occasions. Then the treasure bug bites again, causing amnesia and we are off on our next treasure hunting adventure.

Then one day while we were out on another one of his adventures – thank goodness this one was in town and not up some creek without a paddle (I’ve been there too, but that’s another story) – we stumbled upon the mother load. We stopped at a yard sale because there was a welder, cutting torch and tools present. My husband could not decide if he wanted the welder or not. Twenty minutes later, we priced the welder and cutting torch in a store. He quickly changed his mind after seeing the retail price. I almost had a heart attack! Believe me; I did not want to pay the full retail price on either setup. We rushed back to the yard sale money in hand. Although we missed the welder deal, he did buy the cutting torch setup for a fabulous price. I learned my first lesson: educate yourself in advance. This way you know when you are getting a good deal and you can act quickly otherwise, someone else will jump on it.

After that, my husband sent me to yard sales and moving sales twice a week. Let me repeat that important point: my husband sent me to yard sales looking for tools. I bought him so many tools he has run out of space to put them; but at least I no longer hear the excuse, “I cannot fix that for you, I don’t have the right tool.” Now, every time I need something fixed, he is eager to use his tools. The best part is the tools cost me a fraction of the retail price. If you haven’t priced tools at the store, do yourself a favor and go look so you’ll know a great deal when you see it. It will save you serious money on tools. Did I mention he has four different welders now?

Why do I bother mentioning tools in a book about precious metals? Well because while I was out searching for tools I looked at everything else too. This is how I discovered people selling precious metals at rock-bottom prices. If you had told me this before I went, I would have called you a liar – no one in their right mind would sell precious metals at yard sales right? That is what I believed until I saw it with my own eyes and started to buy the items with my money, week after week.

While searching for precious metals, I wear many hats and you'll need to as well. I'm a detective, student, entrepreneur, treasure hunter, bargain hunter, savvy shopper, thrill seeker, dreamer, and a people person. My mission is to find the hidden everyday treasure, make money, save money, search for investments and most of all – have fun in everything I do. That was how this incredible journey all got started.

## Today's Your Day

*Today's the Day.*

~ Mel Fisher, Famous Treasure Hunter ~

Every morning for 17 years Mel Fisher would say, “Today's the day”, while searching for the *Nuestra Senora de Atocha* and the ship's 450 million dollar cache. Mel Fisher knew he was going to find his Spanish treasure chest someday and he did. During 1992, I visited his treasure museum in Key West, Florida and saw the amazing treasure firsthand. Words cannot begin to describe the spectacular treasure on display; holding one of the heavy gold bars was a dream come true for me. For a treasure hunter, this museum was the ultimate experience (unless you discover something equal to Mel Fisher's find). I'll never forget it! Mel Fisher's example also illustrates my belief in the Law of Attraction and positive thinking.

## **My Personal Beliefs: Law Of Attraction And Positive Thinking**

*The person who sends out positive thoughts activates the world around him positively and draws back to himself positive results.*

~ Norman Vincent Peale ~

I want to share two of my personal beliefs. I don't want to be accused of keeping secrets from you. While the concept of the Law of Attraction is difficult to explain completely in one paragraph, the concept of positive thinking is universally understood. According to the book "Ask and it is Given" by authors Esther and Jerry Hicks, the Law of Attraction is defined as "the essence of that which is like unto itself, is drawn." Here is a very simple example. If you want a gold whale charm, it will be drawn to you, and eventually you'll find it. There is more to it than this, but you get the idea. If you want to learn more details about the Law of Attraction, I suggest you read one of the many books by Esther and Jerry Hicks.

I'm also a very positive person. I'm positive I'll find everything I want and more. If I don't find the item I want at one sale, I don't give up; I keep looking for it at future sales and eventually I find it. As you can tell, I believe in the power of positive thinking. For those of you familiar with Disney films, people have referred to me as Pollyanna; the optimistic girl who played the Glad Game.

### **Create A Wish List**

*You can have anything you want, if you will give up the belief, that you can't have it.*

~ Robert Anthony ~

I always start my journey knowing I'm going to find whatever I want. How do I know what I want to find? Sing with me; I'm making a list, checking it twice, trying to find out what I forgot to add. Oops, I changed the last words on you. All kidding aside, I create a list before

each yard sale season begins. I suggest you do the same. In essence, you are announcing – to the universe, God, or whatever you believe – what you want. Think of this action as a form of prayer.

I constantly hear people say, “I don’t know how you do it. Everything you want always appears.” They believe so much in my ability to draw items to myself, they give me their lists also. This way, their items show up as well. This isn’t strange if you know anything about the Law of Attraction. Otherwise, people just believe I have a talent for getting everything I want and more. I believe whatever you are meant to find will be there for you no matter what. It does not matter how many people have been there before you. Always think positive and know it is only a matter of time before your item turns up at a sale. It might surprise you how fast your item appears. I usually find an item within a week of thinking about it. This happens to me repeatedly during the entire season. I know some of you are probably wondering why I haven’t found or attracted extremely expensive stuff and turned a million dollar profit yet. Well if you are familiar with the Law of Attraction, you know you can set up mental roadblocks about certain things. Once, I get past my mental roadblocks with the million dollar finds, I’m sure I’ll attract them. Then I’ll update the book with the story. With my belief and positive attitude, it is only a matter of time before it happens to me, just as it did for my idol Mel Fisher.

## **Take Along Your Best Friends**

I’m not referring to your dog. Your new best friends are a jeweler’s loupe and a strong magnet.

You can buy a jeweler’s loupe at your local jewelry supply store or on eBay. The best loupe for viewing jewelry is a 10X triplet with a dark frame around the lens. This dark frame eliminates reflections on the object being viewed. You will be using the loupe to identify the tiny marks on the item.

The stronger the magnet the better, but you will want it to be a small one that is easy to carry. These strong little magnets can also be

purchased online or at your local hardware store. One of the best methods to quickly determine if the item is a pure precious metal is the magnet test. Precious metals (such as gold, silver and platinum) are not magnetic. You can use this to your advantage in order to separate the precious metal pieces easily. If the item is strongly attracted to the magnet, it isn't a pure precious metal, don't waste your time searching for a mark. The item may be plated with a precious metal on top, but the magnetic attraction means there is an underlying base metal and therefore, it isn't a pure precious metal.

I keep my loupe and magnet in my purse, in case they are needed. Keep in mind; I rarely use them at the sale since it draws too much attention. I usually wait until I'm in my vehicle or at home before using them. After all, the normal price I pay for an item is less than \$5, so I can take a chance at those low prices. However, I will use them at a sale if the item has a higher purchase price (like \$50), I don't take chances with higher sums of money. You'll learn in Chapter 7, just because it is marked gold doesn't mean it is pure gold; there are knockoff items out there. Using these two tools should help prevent you from making the mistake of purchasing a plated item at a pure item's price; truly time and money saving tricks.

## **CHAPTER 2: Educate Yourself On Precious Metals**

*One who gains mastery will create his own opportunities.*  
~ Chinese Proverb ~

On your mark, get set, LEARN! Do you know there are unusual symbols, letters and numbers that indicate precious metals? They are not only indicated by written words, abbreviations and common numbers such as sterling, ster, .925, 10 K, 14 K, etc. For instance, do you know that the lion passant (walking lion) in Britain indicates sterling silver (.925)? The Britannia indicates a higher silver content (.958) that was produced for a short period. The European countries use the metric system, where 1000 represents pure silver or gold, so the purity marks on their items are marked in thousandths. Silver is usually 800, 830, 900, 925, etc. Gold is usually 375, 417, 583, 750, 875, etc. Therefore, when you see these symbols or unusual numbers on an item, you know it indicates a precious metal. Everyone else will pass up the item, but you know to buy it. This happens more than you think. Do you know what KP stands for? Here is a hint; it isn't kitchen patrol (my duty as a kid – not fun). Do you know what ct, KY, KW, Pt, or Plat stand for? Keep reading and you'll find out.

**END OF SAMPLE**