

# UPPERCASE



# 4

WINTER 2010

*a magazine for  
the creative and curious*



DIP IN

*found & fabulous*

**W**hile vintage perpetual calendars are not on pages of *Kovels' Antiques and Collectibles Price Guide*, they are quietly becoming a collector's favorite. Whether it's their eco-friendly nature, nostalgic appeal, or reusable cost-effectiveness, perpetual calendars are coming back en vogue.

Fortunately for collectors' pocketbooks, the popularity of perpetual calendars has not ventured onto the radar of "mainstream" antique enthusiasts and Antiques Roadshow fans. In fact, at a recent auction, an antique perpetual wooden calendar that was estimated to sell for \$2,000 to \$3,000 fetched a mere \$125 on the auction block. However, a Hermes-designed silver and brass perpetual calendar, which also featured a clock, thermometer, compass, and barometer no less, did generate \$1,600 in bids, even though its original estimate was only \$500.

Throughout the decades, perpetual calendars have changed with the fickle nature of the design world. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, round pocket perpetual calendars made of ivory and brass were all the rage. The Art Deco era created perpetual calendars that showed off inlaid wood patterns and sleek, smooth lines.

Of course, the 1950s brought about the mid-century modern influence, and designers like Enzo Mari and Dan Reisinger put their undeniable mark on the history of perpetual calendars. MCM perpetual calendars ran the gamut of acrylic, plastic, and wood materials—all tied together with the inspiration of the future. In the 1970s, mod plastic perpetual calendars graced groovy desks everywhere, especially as global trade took hold and "Made in Hong Kong" or Japan became commonplace.

As early as the 1910s, corporations began giving away hanging perpetual calendars featuring their logos and slogans. Made with tin, etched brass, and cardboard, these were certainly the precursors to the bevy of paper calendars that arrive on our modern doorstep each January from our real estate broker, banker, and insurance agent. In the 1940s and 1950s, cigarette manufacturers jumped on the subliminal advertising bandwagon, quick to capitalize upon the correlation between addiction and an ever-present desk accessory.

"But who today can be bothered to flip the perpetual calendar daily?" one asks. While a cell phone or the latest letterpress creation may serve as worthy calendars, perpetual calendars can still be a useful asset. As a nod to the nostalgic character of a vintage treasure, perpetual calendars can be used to display important dates, such as those anniversaries or birthdays one typically forgets.

Today, vintage perpetual calendars still remain a modest collector's item, but don't be surprised to see one coming to a future Antiques Roadshow near you!

## orphaned saucers turned into adopted treasures

The Frugal and Fancy aesthetic calls for the use of readily available objects turned into something newly useful and beautiful.



Granny's attic or the local thrift store will certainly contain a few lonely cups and plates, waiting to be rediscovered and made into something new.



Designer Paige Smith uses orphaned saucers, lamp bases and finials to create these beautiful jewellery holders.

[paigesmithdesigns.blogspot.com](http://paigesmithdesigns.blogspot.com)