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Garage-sale find was made for 19th century mustachioed men

Question: My latest recent purchase at at garage sale was a bag of five tarnished yet supposedly antique sterling silver pieces. They were silver plate. One was this strangely shaped spoon. It is marked “JD&S, James Dixon, Sheffield.”



Anne Gilbert
Antique Detective

What do you think it is?

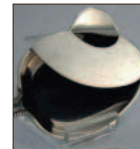
I paid \$10 for the bag.

Answer: From your photo, I'd say you have a mustache spoon. It was made around 1890-1900

when mustaches were popular and men's mustaches were curled. To keep them shaped, men applied large amounts of melted wax to their mustaches.

But the wax created a problem for the men when they tried to take a sip from a cup of hot coffee or tea and the steam

from the beverage melted the wax and dropped it into the cup.



The solution was the 1868 invention of the “mustache spoon.”

It contained a guard, so the mustache remained free and their drinks unsoiled.

The good news is that your spoon is Sheffield silver and was made between 1890 and 1900 in England.

It could sell in a retail setting for around \$100.

Do you have an antique item and need more information? For a personal reply send a photo, history, size and any signatures with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$25 to Anne Gilbert-Strawbridge, 1811 Renaissance Commons Blvd., #2319, Boynton Beach, FL 33426.

JTHS-MIAMI, a Division of the MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

Palm Beach County sets total home sales, total dollar volume records

Palm Beach County established all-time annual records for total home sales, total dollar volume, single-family home sales and condo transactions as December 2021 statistics pushed the year-end 2021 records to new heights, according to the MIAMI Association of Realtors (MIAMI) and the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) system.

Palm Beach County finished 2021 with 37,447 total home sales, which is 18.8% higher than last year and is 16.7% higher than Palm Beach's previous annual record of 32,083 transactions in 2015. Palm Beach also set new all-time annual marks for single-family home sales (19,495) and (17,952). Palm Beach total sales volume in 2021 was \$25.4 billion, which is 50.3% higher than last year.

Palm Beach County luxury sales jump in December 2021

Palm Beach County total home sales decreased 0.6% year-over-year in December 2021, from 3,079 sales to 3,062. Palm Beach single-family home transactions decreased 10.3%, from 1,784 to 1,601 because of lack of inventory and COVID-19 comps (stats are in comparison to major rebound demand last year). Palm Beach existing condo sales increased 12.8%, from 1,295 to 1,461.

Palm Beach single-family luxury (\$1-million-and-up) transactions rose

19.6% year-over-year to 281 sales in December 2021. Palm Beach existing condo luxury (\$1-million-and-up) sales increased 39.2% year-over-year to 110 transactions.

Palm Beach cash sales more than double national figure in December 2021

Cash sales represented 50.4% of Palm Beach closed sales in December 2021, compared to 42.2% in December 2020. About 23% of U.S. home sales are made in cash, according to the latest NAR statistics.

The high percentage of cash buyers reflects South Florida's top position as the preeminent American real estate market for foreign buyers, who tend to purchase with all cash as well as some moving from more expensive U.S. markets who can buy more with their profits from real estate sales.

JTHS-MIAMI, a Division of the MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

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