

Eye on Ebay

Ringing in the New Year

By Doug Hopkinson

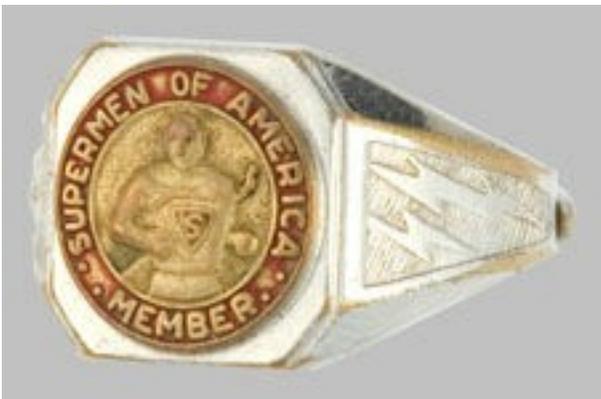
As a follow-up to my last article, I would once again direct your attention to the collector's paradise that is Ebay. I took a few minutes to search what was available today in the way of radio related premiums, specifically rings.



Almost a year ago, the Orphan Annie Altascope ring pictured here, sold for \$4000.00. I am here to tell you that there is another one up for auction that is starting out at the low, low price of only \$2900.00. As of the time this article is being written there are still 3 days remaining on this item.

The next ring up for consideration is the rare and beautiful 1940 Jack Armstrong Dragon's Eye ring. This fine example boasts a glowing green stone in excellent condition. It is said that in most examples of this ring, the stone is shrunken and indented in the middle with age.

This particular ring has been listed on ebay for several months without having sold. Its opening price has been \$750.00 although the seller does have a "make offer" option. Since July there have been 5 offers made but none accepted, the most recent being Dec 28, 2010. As of the time this article is being written this item is still being offered for sale.



The ring to the left is a verifiably rare one. It is a 1940 DC Comics issued Supermen of America Member ring. It had an opening price of \$3500.00. The seller claims there may be 20 known to exist. I was able to find of one selling at \$6300.00 a few years ago. It is interesting to note that the seller on this one had a very fuzzy picture in poor resolution, wanted cash only, and you would have to go to Louisville, KY to pick it up in person. This Ebay listing actually expired unsold as I was typing this article. Small wonder.



Another ring you might consider buying is this little number put out by Ovaltine in 1946. It is the Captain Midnight Mystic Sun God ring. The ruby red plastic stone slides off to reveal a secret hollow where you can hide secret messages Who can resist this? The current bid on this is at \$358.00. The reserve has not yet been met and there are 6 hours remaining until this auction ends. A quick look reveals that a similar example sold in 2007 for the low price of \$575.00.

There is a fantastic deal to be had on Ebay for the bauble to the right. It is a Green Hornet Glow in the Dark Secret Compartment ring distributed by General Mills in 1947. The brass front swivels to reveal the plastic hollow beneath which is what does the actual glowing. There are currently 2 of these up for auction on Ebay. One is a buy it now for \$650.00 (also has a make offer option). Three offers have been made since August. None were accepted. The second ring is sitting at an opening price of \$200.00. Both look to be in the same condition. A quick check shows that a similar ring sold recently for \$201.00. One wonders why seller number one's ring is worth so much more.



The next ring's I'd like to show you are a couple (of many many) Lone Ranger rings. The first of these is said to have been the all-time highest selling premium ring. It is a spintharoscope disguised as an atom bomb perched on a ring. Anyone not knowing what a spintharoscope is really ought to go look it up. We will all wait while you do. Quite fascinating but this article is about premium rings, not science. This ring was distributed by Kix cereal in 1947 for the price of 15 cents and one boxtop. It is of course known as the Lone Ranger Atom Bomb ring. There are currently 2 of these on Ebay. One is opening at a price of \$30.00 while the other is a buy it now for \$79.99. Research indicates the ring has sold for as much as \$250.00 when original packaging and instructions are included.



The other ring is known as the Lone Ranger Movie Viewing ring, for obvious reasons. It was distributed by General Mills in 1949. The ring itself is an adjustable brass band with a small aluminum tube that telescopes out 2". It has a lens in one end for magnification. One puts the included filmstrip through the endpiece, holds the ring up to a light source and peers through the small end of the telescope in order to view the filmstrip. The filmstrip is titled U.S. Marines and features military men in military scenes. There are currently no less than 8 of these featured on Ebay. Pricing ranges from \$24.00 all the way up to \$195.00. Only 3 of them have film included. Research shows that a ring like this in nice condition with film, original packaging and instructions has sold for as much as \$350.00.

The last ring I'd like to present is a most versatile one. It is a Sky King Magni-Glo Writing ring. Distributed by Peter Pan Peanut Butter in 1949 for 20 cents and a jar top liner, it is one of the more useful rings made. The metal ring has a red plastic compartment to which a hinged metal piece is attached on one side. In the center of the metal is a round domed magnifying glass. On the other end of the metal piece is a hinged piece of D-shaped, whitish plastic which is luminous. Embedded in the center of the plastic is a ball point pen which originally held red ink. Today it most likely holds nothing.



The sides of the ring are embossed with pictures of Sky King's airplane Flying Arrow and his horse Yellow Fury along with their names. The fun thing about this ring was the way it all folded up into a nice compact ring. There was even room enough in the secret compartment to keep tiny notes. When it was all folded up it just looked like a ring with a white stone. No one would ever suspect you had such tools at your disposal! This particular ring is presently going for a modest \$36.00 after 5 bids with 3 days remaining. It has been known to sell for as much as \$125.00.

There were many more rings listed that I may touch upon in future articles. I hope you've enjoyed reading about these. Now go get on Ebay and bid!