Eye on eBay

Getting Stung by The Green Hornet

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Look Honey, Isn't That Just the Bee's Knees?

By Doug Hopkinson

Hello everyone. Once again it's time to troll the deep blue waters of the ocean of items that is eBay.

Back in the early 1930's Fran Striker and George W. Trendle enjoyed great success when they invented The Lone Ranger. Around five years later they doubled up on another character that became just as popular and they called him, The Green Hornet. It is interesting to note that this superhero has essentially been popular for almost 80 years. From radio in the 1930's, movie serials and comic books in the 1940's, television in the 1960's and a major movie in 2011, this character has generated millions if not billions of dollars in merchandise over the decades. I thought I'd introduce you all to some of these Green Hornet collectibles in this issue.

Up first we have a 1938 Green Hornet membership card for the G-J-M (Golden Jersey Milk) club. It is unused so you could fill it out and put it in your wallet! At a cool \$700 you might want to put it in a bank vault instead. Kudos to the seller for free shipping and for not listing it at \$699.99. Very classy.

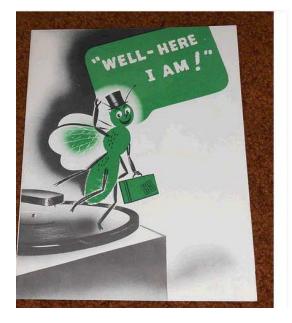


For those of you on a limited budget you may want to consider this next item which is a dvd containing 13 episodes of the original 1940's movie serial Green Hornet. At only \$4.99 (under 39 cents an episode!) and free shipping this is probably the best Green Hornet value going. Get yours today!





The next item has appeared in a previous Eye on eBay column but it's kinda cool and since it still hasn't sold, it's worth having another gander at it. It's a promotional folder for Green Hornet transcription discs from radio station WXYZ detailing the advantages of buying into the Green Hornet radio series on discs and broadcasting them in your own market. The seller is starting the bidding off at \$290 but you could end the auction by buying it now at only \$320 (plus \$10 shipping). I'm not going to say this is overvalued but it hasn't sold yet, probably because it's over-valued.





In 1966, the Green Hornet made its television debut starring Van Williams as Britt Reid and Bruce Lee as Kato. There was an immediate response with an explosion in Green Hornet merchandise. Our next couple items are artifacts from that era. Below is a 1966 Milton Bradley Green Hornet board game. Many MB games from the 1960's have hefty price tags today but this Green Hornet game may be the highest priced among them. Whether or not the price is driven by rarity of the game or the popularity of GH collecting or a combination of both is hard to say but not many people can afford to buy this for \$1495.00. Asking \$18.25 additional for shipping puts this seller into the too tacky for words column. It should be noted that there are other sellers listing this game and if you can tolerate touching a previously used game you might be able to buy one for under \$500.



In 1968, Corgi Toys made a replica of the Black Beauty which was the Green Hornet's fancy automobile. It was a popular toy for juveniles of the male persuasion back then. These days it's a sought after collectible for adult juveniles of the male persuasion who want to and can afford to buy back their childhood memories. At just \$650 you can own that precious memory and this seller won't charge you shipping. By shopping around for this Corgi toy you could save yourself a few hundred dollars as some memories are cheaper than others.



If you've purchased any of the items we've looked at so far you may want to consider bringing your own lunch to work for a while in which case this next item will come in handy, a 1967 Green Hornet lunchbox with thermos. At only \$199.99 (not \$200.00) you might feel like the guy at the end of the Green Hornet's fist as pictured on the lunchbox below. While very tacky, the \$12.99 (not \$13) shipping charge may allow you to take your lunch to work even sooner.



In 1967 a little boy wanted that lunchbox very badly. Twenty years earlier, that little boy's father, then a boy himself was anxious to get this next item. A 1947 Green Hornet ring! This ring was not only stylish, it had a secret compartment. At \$264.95 (not \$265) you can own one of your father's childhood memories as well! The \$7.50 shipping charge is well worth it in order to bring that memory home to you quickly.

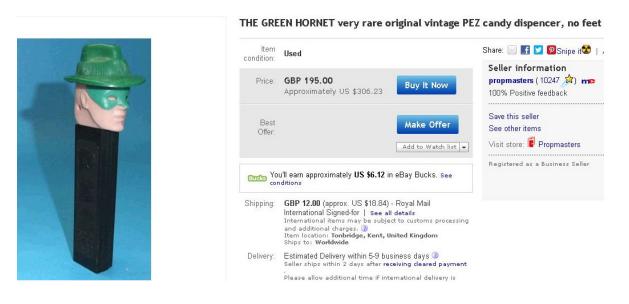




The penultimate item today is quite unique. It is a Green Hornet sting whistle! Huh? Well, it's green. It's in two pieces. The seller claims it's the rarest of the rare in Green Horn collectibles. The seller does not provide much information on this item. He says that he has an ad for it that will not go with the item but will be posted if he can find it. He says it was a General Mills cereal mail-in premium but does not provide a year or which cereal. A quick look on the internet shows anyone who bothers to research a bit, that this was indeed a mail-in premium but it was offered by Chicken of the Sea Tuna not General Mills. It was a 1966-1967 era premium. Somewhere on one of those plastic pieces there is stamped a Green Hornet logo. This or a different one sold last year for just over \$550 and it is considered to be rare. If you paid \$800 for a small plastic whistle some people might think you'd been stung in the brain by a hornet. A fellow collector however would be green with envy. Free shipping is always classy.



The last item is also a 1960's era collectible. If you're like me, nothing screams "buy me" like a Pez dispenser does. That's what we have here, a 1966 Green Hornet Pez dispenser. This particular one is priced at what at first looks to be \$195.00 but a closer inspection reveals that this item is in the U.K. and that price is in pounds and not dollars. The equivalent in U.S. dollars is \$306.23!! There is also an additional hefty shipping charge.



This appears to be the only one of its kind being offered at present, a truly rare collectible. It is always advisable to shop around before buying any collectible, after all, you don't want to get stung.

See you next time.