



Valuable find leads students on voyage of discovery

Two antiques students from the University of Central Lancashire have already put their training to good use when they unearthed a treasure which may have come from the wreckage of one of the most famous ships in history.

A White Star Line deckchair, possibly salvaged from RMS Titanic has been gathering dust in the family home of Marcus Hilton, a student on the BA(Hons) Antiques and Design Studies course. As a child, Marcus was told a little of the chair's history and now both he and his wife Cathy are keen to gain authentication for their find.

"We have approached the Titanic Society to find out how to go about gaining some idea of the chair's history", says Marcus. "Unfortunately, it will cost a great deal of money to conduct research and obtain verification of its origins."

Should the chair be confirmed as coming from the Titanic, the difference in its value will increase from around £5,000 up to £40,000.

Studying for a qualification in Antiques and Design Studies has certainly stimulated Marcus and Cathy's imagination and encouraged them play an active role in the search for antiques and collectables. They are part of a group of ten students currently working towards a qualification on the only national course which specialises in antiques and which can boast the BBC's Antiques Road Show expert Eric Knowles as guest lecturer and advisor.

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19 August 2002
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