

Monstrous Dilemmas

By DiAnna Tindell

If you have an abnormally large object that is damaged, there may be much to consider before deciding whether or not to have it restored. First, there is the question of insurance. An insurance claim may not seem necessary because you don't anticipate that the cost of restoration will be exorbitant. Unfortunately, the restoration can be

costly due to the size of the damaged object. Such an object will often need to be transported to a restoration studio, which may require professional movers. The cost of moving it would be compounded by any insurance required for the delivery. And let's not forget the cost of a return delivery as well.

Maybe you might try to avoid a transport fee all together. You're thinking that if the restoration is done "on-site",

less cost would be involved. Unfortunately, the restoration specialist would need to transport herself, her equipment and supplies to your location. Plus, it may take more than one visit to complete the restoration because of curing time in the process.

Another downside to the work being done "on-site" is that your environment may not be conducive to a restoration project, given the odors, sanding, air-brush painting, draping, props, supports, equipment, etc. In addition, the work may take longer than usual because of the need to coordinate the on-site visits with your schedule. The mess and interruption caused by an on-site project may also be

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50% of the item may make it impossible to restore it to 80% of its resale value. The value of an item versus the cost of restoration is relative to many areas. Keep in mind that the more

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Restoring at home - a big disruption.



Large pieces, like these dragon dogs, can be a big problem to restore.

more than you bargained for.

To be worthwhile, a professional restoration should retain at least 80% of the market value for resale. Therefore, another factor to consider is whether a restoration will accomplish this goal. Initially, you should research the value of your piece based on information found in books and on the Internet and from inquiries to galleries, antique malls and auction houses. Can your object be easily replaced, or is it no longer available?

You should also consider the extent of the damage. Even if it can be restored to your satisfaction, damage to more than

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processes involved in the restoration—design work, variations of color, relief or sculpted work, enameling, the medium makeup, number of breakage areas, and the overall size—the greater the ultimate cost. A large object is going to demand more expensive specialty products for greater support in the reconstruction and more paints to apply to the broader surface areas. Some objects may be better suited for partial rather than complete restoration.

Sometimes, it may be possible to negotiate with a professional restorer to work in stages. This would be coupled with an option to submit the object for a complete restoration at a later date with the cost prorated accordingly.

Is time a consideration in your decision to restore? If an insurance claim is being contemplated, it is best to go ahead and request a cost analysis from the restoration studio to file for insurance. This is due to the fact that

insurance claims may be canceled if left pending for a long time. Be sure the cost analysis includes the restoration cost, the estimated value after the restore and the "loss" of value. The claim may pay the loss percentage as

well as the restore cost if prepared correctly. Depending on the level of damage, the restoration of your object may take six months or more to be completed.

Should the object be considered unrestorable or a total loss, keep in mind that it may retain some value for its parts. Some parts, such as figural areas, flowers, finials, leaves, etc., may be just what is needed on a similar object. Many restoration services will consider the purchase of those parts.

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Restoration completed on dragon dog.