





important, it has to be quality.

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from \$2,700 to \$3,400, while antique flatware goes for \$3,750 to \$9,500. Munves adds, "But we sell it piece by piece too and, in fact, like to. The person who buys one piece obviously must love it and is really giving up something to buy it."

Generally, prices at Robinson's range from \$20 to \$35,000. However, if you crave a matched eight-piece octagonal silver tea-and-coffee service from the Queen Anne-George I period — and Robinson's has one — it can add up to \$150,000.

Munves explains, "The octagonal is the most difficult to find, the rarest. It is the most sought-after because it is unique, and that's what collectors strive for."

Leaves thinks a lovely, usable — and he stresses "usable" piece of silver is a good way to start collecting things of quality. "I don't mean a lot of silver boxes. That's overdone," he says. "But a teapot or a tray, something you enjoy looking at and don't have to put away, becomes like a piece of sculpture.

"People tend to think of a coffeepot as holding coffee instead of thinking of it as a thing of beauty. It hasn't been called fine art in the last century."

Munves, who says that the "18th Century was the century of the silversmith," believes that Georgian silver is a good buy today. "I would think that when we come out of this economic recession, there will be another swing upward in silver prices." But he stresses it should be a quality piece. "so that if you want to resell it, yru're not on the defensive."

He continues, "You're getting more from Georgian silver than from any other form of art. It has a better track record g for centuries it has been considered the finest, and it will always be so."

-MARY MERRIS