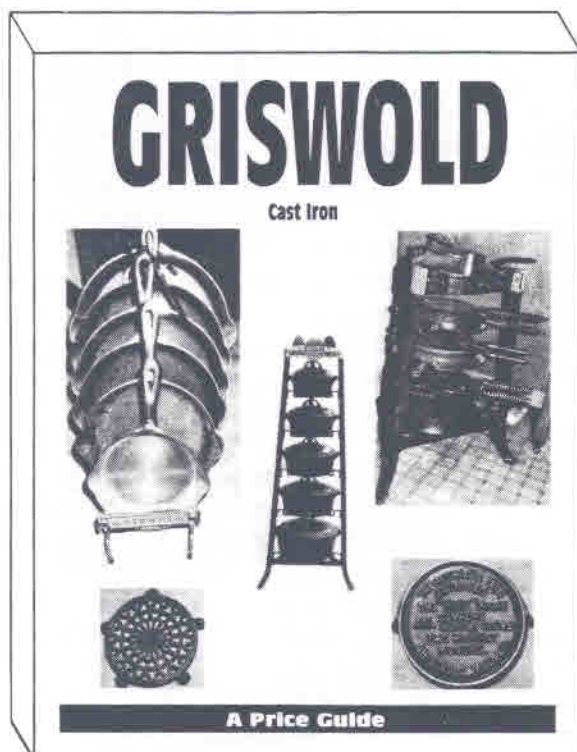


COOKWARE[®]

ENDORSED BY THE GRISWOLD & CAST IRON COOKWARE ASSOC.



A New Book GRISWOLD CAST IRON - A PRICE GUIDE

After years of waiting, a new book about Griswold has finally been published. The book, *Griswold Cast Iron - A Price Guide* is published by LW Book Sales of Gas City, Indiana, and is a compilation of photos and data submitted by several collectors throughout the country. Its main contributor however, was Steve

Stephens of California.

One would expect this book would have been received with accolades, however it actually arrived midst much controversy.

At first glance, the new *Griswold Cast Iron - A Price Guide* is impressive. It is a large eight by eleven inch format and it's soft cover is bright with clear sharp color photos. Inside, the paper is good quality, and the print is easy to read. The book continues to impress you with literally hundreds of clear, sharp photos of piece after piece of Griswold. The photos are definitely the strong point of this book! So often photos are dark and even indistinguishable. Not so here. It is a pleasure to see photos so clear to be able to identify markings, and to see such items as the interior patterns of early Seldon Griswold Waffle Irons. Compliments are certainly in order to the photographers. Cast iron cookware is very difficult to photograph.

As the reader continues to examine the book, its weaknesses become evident. First, there seems to be a lack of format which makes the book difficult to follow. For example, the Skillet Section begins on page 111, however the Skillet Chart is on page 6 & 7. The Muffin Pan Section begins on page 94; The Muffin Pan Chart is lost on page 9. Steve Stephens extensive research shows in the Skillet Chart and the Muffin Pan Chart, however, the most valuable column of the original muffin pan chart by Stephens has been omitted here: The Rarity Column, which rated the rarity of each pan from 1 to 10. I don't understand why this was left out.

Another weakness of this book is the inclusion of items which have no validation as Griswold pieces. One illustration shows a Rabbit Mold priced at \$275, and with it an "Outline Mold", p/n 1005, valued at \$600. Does the "1005" authenticate this piece as Griswold? I don't believe it does. There is absolutely no evidence anywhere that I am aware of to validate this piece as Griswold. In addition, this number is not

(continued on page 26)

FROM THE EDITOR—

Spring brings on a very busy season for me, antique shows, flea markets, vacation trips, lawn & property maintenance, etc., the same as it does for most of you. Adding to that hectic schedule were layout problems for the June issue of KnC. My apologies for its being a little later than you expected. I didn't realize that many of you so eagerly awaited its arrival. I really appreciate your enthusiasm!

Recently I have become interested in Civil War Reenactments, not only the military phase, but also the civilian reenactors, and particularly the method of food preparation. I attended a reenactment last year and, of course, paid particular attention to the cooking fires. Out of about 15 cooking fires I found only two pieces of cookware that were authentic to the period (1859-65). The rest were much more modern: Griswold, Wagner, Lodge, and yes, Taiwan. This surprised me, being reenactors are so particular in regard to authenticity. I decided to set up a booth with authentic period pieces. I dug into the archives of my inventory and came up with about fifty pieces.

During the past month I participated in two events as a Sutler (dealer). I enjoyed the pageantry and also made a few sales. Two sets of circumstances surprised me.

I know that those of you that worship at the Altar of Griswold are going to find this beyond comprehension, but, during the first two day setup, the word Griswold was not mentioned, either by reenactors or by spectators. Not until the second day of the second event did one person mention Griswold. At a time when Griswold seems synonymous with cast iron cookware, I found this quite incredible.

The second circumstance was even more surprising. A primary concern of collectors is the reproduction market and the fear of being stuck with a repro. We detest repros! Civil War Reenactors completely outfit themselves with reproductions: rifles, clothing, tin cups, leather goods, tents, etc. If it weren't for reproductions, they couldn't outfit themselves. They expect to buy reproductions. All of the Sutlers at reenactments sell reproductions. In my booth, I presented over fifty pieces of antique, authentic, period cookware, all of which were completely cleaned, restored, and seasoned. The majority of the people entering my booth thought my wares were reproductions, and in fact, expected them to be! One couple, after purchasing an early two quart covered kettle, asked me where it was made. I explained that I didn't know because there were literally thousands of foundries during that period. They responded that, "You mean this is old"? In my response that the piece was absolutely authentic, she exclaimed, "Oh my, this is wonderful!"

In addition to thoroughly enjoying the events, I derived the great satisfaction of getting a couple of Taiwan pieces off the field and replaced by period pieces. If you ever have the opportunity to attend a reenactment, you really should try to make it. It's like being in a time warp. It's great!

-Sutler Dave

Griswold & Cast Iron Cookware Association

Hi G&CICA Members,

I hope you are enjoying the various Antique Shows, Flea Markets and Yard Sales now that the summer season is in full swing -and- experiencing success in expanding your collections.

In the Antique/Collectable arena our greeting should be - "What's Old?" Now, however, many of you are probably concerned with - "What's New?"; GRISWOLD CAST IRON-A Price Guide - the latest Griswold book. Because a "price guide" can affect collectors and dealers alike, I feel compelled to provide a cursory overview of this new book:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| PRO | -good pictures
-significant list of Pattern Numbers
-matrix of skillets by size & markings |
| CON | -total lack of format
-erroneous references
-major price differences, both high and low
-obvious omission of comprehensive information
eg: list all sizes of a given item.
-contradictory prices of same item in different pictures |

I have received numerous telephone calls from members expressing concern with the price guide and, as a result, I have contacted the club officers, Board of Directors, and members of the various committees requesting a critique of the book covering the different categories such as, prices deemed significantly out of line, errors, etc. The objective is to assimilate all the pricing data and generate a statistical average of the selected prices. After completion of the pricing area, add the other comments and generate an addendum to be sent to all G&CICA members for inclusion in their books. Any club member wishing to participate should send their input to me by September 1, 1993.

Happy Hunting,
Larry

Dick Reichel, Chairman of the G&CICA Logo Committee, reports he has obtained authorization from the General Housewares Corp. to use the Griswold Trademark in the G&CICA Logo. General Housewares owns the rights to both Griswold and Wagner.

PRICE GUIDES-

By D.G. Smith

As collectors and dealers seek to find current values of antiques & collectibles, it is natural to refer to price guides. If you are researching prices for cast iron cookware, which one is best?

I purchased eight current price guides and reviewed them regarding their content of cast iron cookware. I judged them in four basic categories: 1) Number of items listed, 2) Listing in special category, 3) Ease of locating them in an index, 4) Accuracy of pricing in the current market.

KOVELS ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES - 1993

Number of items listed - 40

Special Category - No, listed under Kitchen

Ease of locating - Fair - no index for Manufacturer or brand; Some items may be located by type, eg. Waffle Iron, however no listing for griddle, skillet, dutch oven, etc.

Pricing - Good - seems consistent with the present market although skillet values seem a bit high.

WARMANS ANTIQUES AND THEIR PRICES - 26TH EDITION

Number of Items Listed - 7

Special Category - No, listed under Kitchen

Ease of Locating - items listed only under Kitchen

Pricing - Good

WARMANS AMERICANA COLLECTIBLES

Number of Items Listed - 25

Special Category - No, listed under Kitchen

Ease of locating - poor - found under Kitchen Collectibles in the text but not included in the itemized list under Kitchen in the index

Pricing - Good - this price guide is safe to use although the waffle irons are priced high

WARMANS COUNTRY ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Number of items listed - 9

Special Category - No, listed under Kitchen

Ease of locating - 7 items listed under Kitchen 2 under Cast Iron

Pricing - Fair, items tend to be low, which I actually prefer. Novices won't be hurt that way.

THE ANTIQUE TRADER - ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

PRICE GUIDE - 1993

Number of Items Listed - 5

Special Category - No, listed under Metals

Ease of Locating - Poor

Pricing - Good

SCHROEDERS ANTIQUES PRICE GUIDE - 11TH EDITION

Number of Items Listed - 47 (most of any guide)

Special Category - Yes, Cast Kitchenware

Ease of Locating - Very Good

Pricing - Bizarre - Denise Harned is Schroeders advisor for this category, consequently values of some items are totally out of touch; eg. #273 Cornstick \$115 (current market value \$35), #3 (Oval) Roaster \$125 (current market value \$450), Loaf Pan \$85 (current market value \$350), #9 Round Griddle \$100 (current market value \$35). Rare pieces are generally low, and common pieces are very high.

FLEA MARKET TRADER - 8TH EDITION

Number of Items Listed - 27

Special Category - Yes

Ease of Locating - Very Good

Pricing - Poor - Some are very high, some are low, eg. #273 Cornstick \$115, Erie Fluter \$125 (current value \$250+)

ANTIQUE IRON - by Kathryn McNerney

Number of Items Listed - pages and pages, all with photos of varying quality. This book is not really a price guide, but all items are priced.

Special Category - Cookware is in its own section

Ease of locating - No index

Pricing - poor- Some low, some high, eg. Griswold Santa \$150-\$175 (current market \$550), Wagner Krusty Korn Kob Jr. \$125-\$150 (current market \$25-\$35). Despite its pricing, I like the book for its diversity and photos. As a price guide - be careful!



How many bureaucrats does it take to change a light bulb?

Seven - one to supervise, one to arrange for the electricity to be shut off, one to make sure that safety and quality standards are maintained, one to monitor compliance with local, state and Federal regulations, one to manage personnel relations, one to fill out the paperwork and one to screw the light bulb into the water faucet.



The Melting Pot

Dave: A friend of mine who collects Griswold recently found a brass #570 ashtray. It has all the correct marks and was clearly made by Griswold. I know I have read somewhere that they made certain pieces in brass. Can you elaborate? I have seen several pieces recently in brass that are unmarked, but of great quality. One which I bought was the smaller round coffee pot trivet. Others have all been the decorative trivets, primarily the Family Tree and the Floral patterns - Craig L.

Craig: As far as I know, Griswold made ashtrays and the sundial in brass or bronze. I don't know of any other pieces. Brass trivets are very common; Who knows what foundry made them. - ed.

To Editor: As a dealer, I'll respond to comment on Repros in June 1993 KnC. Please continue to make note of repros found in shop inventories. I would appreciate being informed. Collectors will usually know more about their "thing" than a dealer with many different items to keep up on and I welcome them sharing expertise. Repros not properly marked are an expensive problem to dealers who value their reputation and the customers good will. Thanks. - Shirley L.

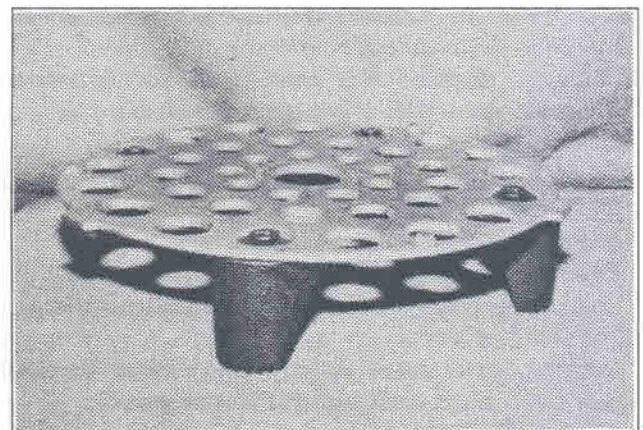
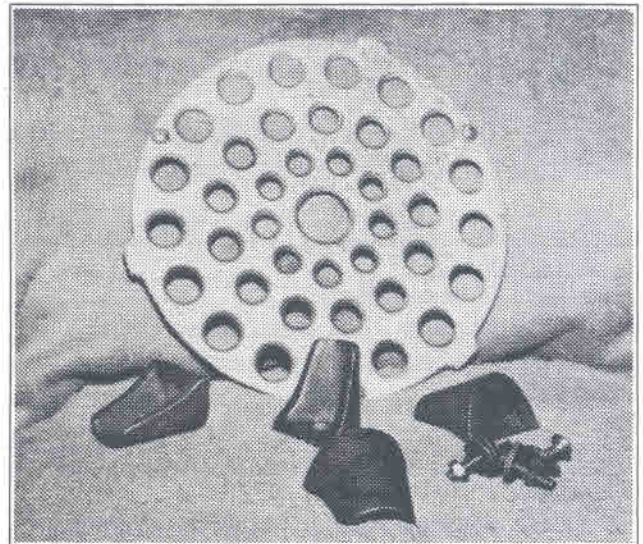
Shirley: Thanks for your response. I often wonder how dealers in general line of antiques can have sufficient knowledge in such a wide area to survive. I have trouble keeping up with iron. - ed.

Dave: Recently I wrote Neil Wood of L-W Book Sales about my concern with his new book, "Griswold - A Price Guide". My major problem with the book was just that -Price-, questioning how Steve Stephens, and whoever, arrived at the \$ figure on Rare and Very Rare pieces. To date, I haven't heard any response from Neil, which leads me to question his integrity as a publisher and a person. I can only assume that he has no intention of correcting any of the serious price misinformation or acknowledge mistakes exist. The whole thing stinks of profiteering, and is yet another greedy person taking advantage of a group of collectors hungry for factual information about their interest.

Given the date (1985) and the resources available at that time, Neil's book by comparison, has no format, lacks text, and has many more mistakes than Harned's

book, Griswold Cast Collectibles - History & Values. - Mac

Dave: I recently bought a #9 Tite Top Dutch Oven... which was no great find except that it has a package still in the original wrapper inside. In it are 4 small cast iron feet with screws & washers to raise the trivet off the bottom about 1½" . (?) -Craig L.



Craig: My research indicates that the feet are not Griswold, but were made by the American Brass & Iron Co., San Francisco, for their Dutch Oven Trivet. - ed.

(continued on next page)

Mr. Smith: Enjoyed your comment about writing "repro" on tags of dealers...for some time I have done this, both on cast iron items and others, and I agree, most dealers have a fit if you tell them something is a repro. So I just write on the tags, or confront them, or both. It is obvious that in this neck of the woods (Albuquerque, NM - ed.) none of us (or most of us) have never seen some of the more exotic cast iron items, even just to look at, much less buy...I have never seen a Filley pan of any type, for example. Several friends and I began about 4 years ago looking for Griswold items, and for a while found the more common items quite easily...Since then, things have dried up considerably, and it is very hard to find ANY Griswold at all, other than an occasional no. 8 skillet... I am sure that I am already about priced out of the market now, but will still enjoy looking, and learning, and hoping for the "bundt pan at the garage sale for \$3.00" find... and do use and cook in the things I have...and hoping that someone will do something on at least known things that Wagner put out...(I) have begun picking up Wagner unusual pieces since there is so little Griswold to be found out here, and have not yet gotten into ordering by mail or trying to get the really valuable pieces. Mary Anne S. P.S. I am a lawyer, but a new and certainly not rich one, at least not YET.

Mary Anne: Thanks for your comments. Most of the info I receive is that cast iron cookware in general is scarce in the southwest. There is a reproduction Wagner Ware Catalog available (see ad in KnC) which will give you a pretty good idea of their products. Also, as I have stated, KnC will feature articles on Wagner in this Volume. You might want to consider buying through the mail. I have acquired several major pieces in my muffin pan collection through the mail. It certainly opens up many more opportunities. - ed.

Dave: I recently got a #11 skillet marked MARIAN. It looks a lot like the old Wagner with heat ring to the outer edge. Do you know who made it or any info? It's a nice casting. - Bill R.

Bill: The skillet you have was made by the Marian Stove Company, Marian, Indiana. Many stove companies manufactured Hollow Ware as accessories to their stoves. -ed.

Dave: I have Table Service Pieces with lids, individual steak platters, large platters, etc. made by both Wagner and Griswold that have the name Al Carder on them. I assume it to be another Clows situation, custom made pieces for a restaurant chain of some sort. Do you have any further info? - Craig L.

Craig: Both Wagner and Griswold made serving kettles, steak sizzlers, oval servers, platters, etc. for the Al Carders Catering Co., 82nd St, New York City in the 1930's.

Hello Dave: I just rec'd my copy of Griswold Cast Iron which is being distributed by L-W Sales. (they are terrific people!!). It's Great! Read your editorial and would like to mention that if you're in Avon, OH or Olmsted Falls, OH & find a repro in my booth(s) please tell me. Don't write through my ticket! I am human & definitely can make a mistake. I want to be informed if I error & yes, I may be hurt but...Live & Learn & go on! Griswold prices in Avon, OH are far lower than the price guide & Harned's previous book, at least at retail! There are several shops within the French Creek district & within an hours drive. Griswold seems to be more plentiful here, perhaps due to its close proximity to Erie, PA. (Anyone who cares to write and enclose a LSASE [2 stamps!]...I'd be glad to send literature from area shops). How common is a p/n 704S #8 skillet, or a #6 p/n 699? Both have smooth bottoms. - Nadine Edleman, 138 Meadowfield Ct, Elyria, OH 44035.

Nadine: I promise not to write on your ticket. Thanks for offering info on local shops. A #8 and #6 skillet are the most common of the Griswold skillets. I value them at \$10 to \$15. - ed.

Dear David: Does anyone know where and when "Sensible" iron trivets and irons were made? They seem to have made a wide range of trivets and irons that seem fairly scarce. - Carl R.

Carl: In response to your letter in the previous issue of KnC, Babe Kinnemeyer, an advanced collector of irons, provided the following info: Sensible Irons were made by the Nelson R. Streeter Co. of Groton, N.Y. Streeter held patents from 1876, 1887, and 1908. Sensible Irons were also advertised in a 1917 listing. I don't know how much later they were sold. - ed.

The Difference Between a Kettle and a Pot:

A pot is bulbous and narrowed near the top before flaring out. A kettle has straighter sides that widen at the rim.

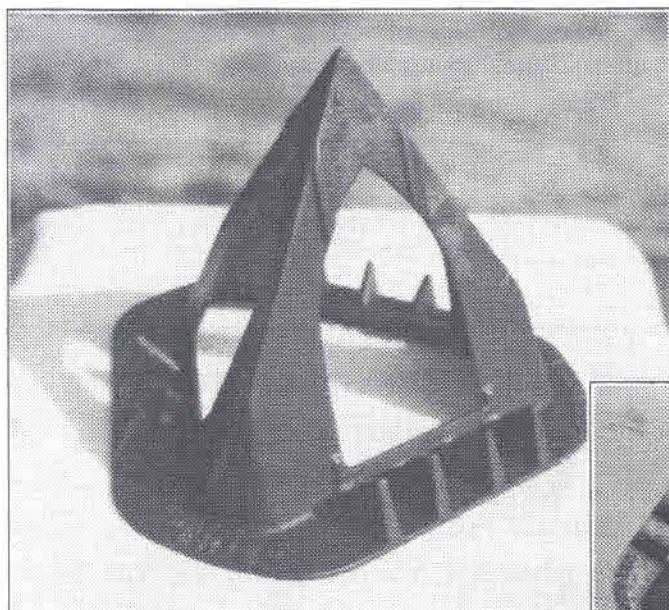
(ref. *Antique Country Furnishings* by Neumann)



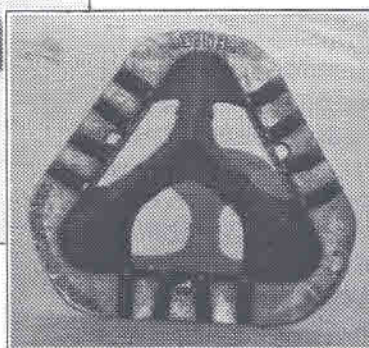
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



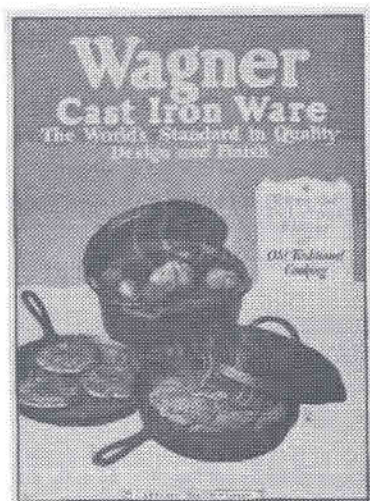
Casting Call



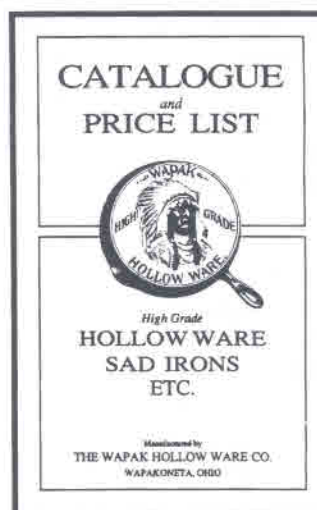
Dome Sad Iron Heater - Cast Iron marked "Erie", "The Griswold Mfg. Co. Erie PA." Size: 8½" dia x 6¾" Tall, Weight 3 lbs. This piece is desirable to both Griswold and Sad Iron collectors. It is extremely rare to find this piece fully signed. Although not so marked, the pattern number for this piece is #1314. *Collection of Gene & Kathy Corral.*



If you have a special piece you would like to share with our subscribers, submit a photo and a few comments about the item.



A quality reprint of Wagner Ware Catalog No. 58, circa 1931. Large 8"x11" format with full color cover. Twenty four glossy pages of Wagner's complete line of cast iron cookware. \$25 including pstg. The Pan Man, Box B, Perrysburg, NY.



55 page, 5½" x 8" reproduction of this Wapak Catalog, circa 1910, is full of illustrations of the complete line of items manufactured by the Wapak Hollow Ware Co. Items include skillets, kettles, muffin pans, waffle irons, sad irons, and even lawn furniture and urns. \$15.95 incl. pstg. The Pan Man, POB B, Perrysburg, NY 14129.

included in the Pattern Number List which was extensively researched by Steve Stephens and presented on pages 158 - 170. I suppose however, now that it has appeared in this Griswold" book, it will be perceived by some as a legitimate piece. On page 110 is a #1 Griswold Skillet (a great piece!) with a glass lid. No,no,no! The bogus No. 15 Popover Pan illustrated on page 101 is apparently an attempt at humor, but it wouldn't be found in an authoritative price guide.

When you purchase a price guide it is reasonable to expect common and popular items to be listed as well as rare pieces. Everyone hopes for the book which includes everything, but of course that is a bit euphoric. Another weakness of this book jumps at you when you look to price a Dutch Oven. Five Dutch Ovens are illustrated but no mention is made of a #6, #7, #9, #10, #11, or #12. If you want to check the value of these, forget it! Oval Roasters are very much in demand and values are rising rapidly, however the only mention in this book of Oval Roasters, is an illustration of two covers!

Price Guides in most cases are controversial. They are viewed from different perspectives. If values are high, they are criticized by buyers. If prices are low, sellers complain, and buyers praise. Values may also vary in different regions of the country. Value errors in this book however, seem to be flagrant. For example, a whole page of Trivets are valued at \$50 each, from the very common Tree Trivet to the very collectible Coffee Pot Trivets. The Tree Trivet is selling in the \$15 range while the Round Coffee Pot Trivets are going for \$65 to \$95. In the Skillet Section a #2 Block EPU, no smoke ring, is valued fifty dollars more than a #2 with a smoke ring. These values must be reversed. A #4 skillet, Block Logo/EPU with a smoke ring is valued at \$150. This value is about half of what it should be. The real danger however with this one, is that a novice might think that all #4 skillets are worth this amount. No explanation is provided that the Block EPU with smoke ring is rare. Other #4 skillets are selling in the \$45 range.

Price Guides should be consistent. This one is not! For example, on page 112, a #15 Oval (Fish) Skillet is valued at \$275. Directly underneath is another photo of a #15 Oval Skillet at \$200. A #3 Slant logo/Erie is valued in the Skillet Chart at \$20-\$30; the illustration of a #3 slant/Erie on page 111 values it at \$50 (wow). A Pup is shown on page 92 for \$200; On page 157 a pup is valued at \$125. In my opinion, the inconsistency of values seriously damages the credibility of this book. How can you trust it? I must say however, it is refreshing to see a #273 Cornstick Pan valued at \$35!

As a price guide, Griswold Cast Iron - A Price Guide definitely lacks credibility. As a reference, this book is valuable with its abundance of clear photos, and charts. Will this book replace the Harned Book?

Unfortunately, no!

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The step ladder utilized to display cast iron cookware, and pictured in the June issue of KnC was sent in by Wayne A. Willard of Satsuma, Alabama. Wayne would probably like to take credit for the idea but confesses it was his wife's idea.



Kettles 'n Cookware Advertising Your Business Card or two inch

Display Ad, camera ready\$8.00
Larger Ads\$8.00
plus \$2.50 per inch or fraction
thereof over 2 inches.
Ads with photo\$6.00 extra

Kettles 'n Cookware is published bimonthly on even numbered months, six issues per volume.

COPYRIGHT 1993 - All Rights Reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

Subscription:

\$15.00 per volume, including all prior issues of the volume, regardless of when you subscribe.

Checks payable to:
Kettles 'n Cookware

Mail all correspondence to:
David G. Smith, Publisher
Drawer B
Perrysburg, NY 14129